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REPORT

CD NO.

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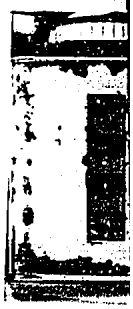

COUNTRY	Rumania
SUBJECT	Economic - Ferrous metallurgy
HOW PUBLISHED	Daily newspapers
WHERE PUBLISHED	Bucharest
DATE PUBLISHED	12 - 26 Jul 1952
LANGUAGE	Rumanian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952

DATE DIST. 19 Jan 1953

NO. OF PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

INCREASED PRODUCTION FOR RUMANIAN METALLURGICAL PLANTS

Summary: Sovrommetal and other metallurgical enterprises in Rumania are taking measures to increase the output of steel and steel products. Soviet methods were introduced at Resita. A new blast furnace was announced at an unspecified location. Miners of Teliuc carried on a drive to increase production of ferrous metals. In addition, conferences were held to discuss steel and machinery production.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

Sovrommetal of Resita is making every effort to supply industry with steel. Steel is needed particularly in the machine-building industry and for the manufacture of agricultural equipment, according to Traian Iancu, chief of the Siemens-Martin Steel Section of Sovrommetal, Resita. Sovrommetal has introduced competitions to increase output to meet this need. In the first quarter of 1952, workers and technicians of the Siemens-Martin Steel Section produced 5 percent more steel than planned. This was achieved not only through competitions but also with the aid of new equipment and Soviet methods.(1) Stakhanovites and leading workers throughout Resita attained outstanding results. Some produced up to four times their assigned norms. Thus, for example, lathe operator Ion Ungherman, a Stakhanovite, is working on his 1955 quota with the aid of the Antonina Zhandarova method. Lathe operator Tudor Peia, also a Stakhanovite, leading lathe operator Vasile Stangu, Dumitru Enascu, and others are working on 1954 quotas, using the Baykov-Bortkevich method. Twelve smelting and loading teams, including those under Vucu Stangu and Vasile Benea are working on 1954 quotas. In Sovrommetal, Resita, as a whole, 73 men are working on 1953 quotas, 37 on 1954 quotas, and 11 are terminating their entire Five-Year Plan quotas.(2)

Production was not steady at the Siemens-Martin section, however. Steel output was 14 percent above the plan for the period 15 February - 31 March, but 8 percent below in the first half of February. In the first 15 days of January, production was 7 percent below the quota. This failure to maintain steady production is due to the poor organization of work in the Siemens-Martin section, the steel section, and other parts of the combine. Technicians are too conservative to grasp the importance of rising capacity and increased production.

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Traian Iancu recently visited the Makeyevka and Dneprodzerzhinsk steel combines in the USSR and is therefore qualified to point out errors at Resita. He declared that the uneven production was not due to the insufficient capacity of the smelting plants, but rather to the defective organization of furnace sections. Insufficient attention was given to the maintenance of the furnace after each charge. Time required for reheating was 10.7 percent greater in the first quarter of 1952 than the 1951 average. Tools and equipment were not reconditioned properly at the beginning of 1952. The idle time of cranes was far beyond the admissible limit. The smelting plant did not devote enough attention to cleanliness and neatness. Many times overhead cranes and bridges were not ready, so that smelting could not be performed according to the cyclic graph. These factors contributed to an unpermissible increase in the cost of steel. Other mistakes prevalent in the Siemens-Martin section were the failure of the plant railroad to make cars available on time, and the poor scrap-iron supply which resulted in steel of lower quality than desired.

To improve this situation, the collective of the section took measures to reorganize work at the smelting shops. A stricter liaison was established between the scrap-iron yard, the plant railroad, and the furnaces. The Soviet Matulinets method of rapid charges was introduced. The time of furnace maintenance was cut down, and the plan for the utilization of furnaces was revised. The results of these measures were soon apparent. In the first half of February 1952, more teams surpassed quotas. The team of first smelter Radivoi Taranu, for example, overfulfilled its March quota 27 percent, that of first smelter Ion Popa, 20 percent. Teams of first smelters Ion Garas, Laurentiu Kostner, and Constantin Morariu cut the time for preparation of charges and were thus able to produce hundreds of tons of steel above the plan. Heaps of wastes, slag, and brick were removed from the smelting shops. The preparation of charges was coordinated with smelting and production was further increased. In March, labor productivity rose 12.2 percent. Significant economies were achieved in June. The cost of production was cut 2.82 percent by the rational use of raw materials and by better use of electrical energy.

The success of these methods demonstrates the need for extending them to all furnaces.(1)

To publicize new methods in steel and steel-products, competitions between Stakhanovites, leading workers, technicians, and lathe operators were organized on 12 - 13 July by the Ministry of Metallurgical and Chemical Industries, the Ministry of Electrical Energy and Electrical Equipment Industries, and the Federation of Metal-Chemical Unions. In addition, conferences were held during July at large metallurgical enterprises. At these conferences leading lathe operators discussed methods of reducing the number of processing steps and thus the cost of production. An important conference for metalworkers was attended by Carol Loncear, Minister of Metallurgical and Chemical Industries, Gherasim Popa, Assistant Minister of Metallurgical and Chemical Industries, Dumitru Simulescu, Assistant Minister of Electrical Energy and Electrical Equipment Industries, Mairovici (fnu), secretary of the Federation of Metal-Chemical Unions, and numerous enterprise managers.

Loncear, in the opening speech of this conference, declared that Soviet experience and methods constituted the principal means for reducing the number of steps required in metal-processing. He also called for the spread of advanced methods used in the 23 August Metallurgical Plant of Bucharest, the Electroputere (electrical equipment) of Craiova, and Sovrommetal of Resita. A brigade leader of the 23 August Metallurgical Plant described methods used by a Stakhanovite brigade in his plant. This brigade, consisting of 33 Stakhanovites, leading workers, and engineers, used Soviet smelting methods. By reducing the number of steps required in forging a wheel they cut production time 10.6 percent and saved thousands of kilograms of steel per year. Other speakers included the chief of the smelting section of Electroputere and Engineer Hugo Hegel of Sovrommetal, Resita.

Principal problems of the metallurgical industry were described as the need for trained personnel, the reduction of rejects, and the curtailing of idle time. It was suggested that a research shop be set up in each enterprise to study new models and to adapt them for production.(3)

A research shop was set up at Progresul Machinery Plant, Braila. This shop studied suggestions and innovations for the increase of production and labor productivity and for cost reductions. The plant management supplied the shop with lathes, vises, and other necessary equipment. A recent rationalization suggested by boilermaker Gheorghe Alexandru led to a saving of 8,500 lei. Master metalsmith Vasile Avedic submitted a suggestion for the use of automatic water equipment to loosen mold sands.(4)

It was announced on 16 July that a new blast furnace [location not indicated] had been placed in operation to increase the supply of steel. Workers, engineers, and technicians of Sovrommetal, Resita, of the 23 August Metallurgical Plant, Bucharest, of Flamura Rosie Railroad Car Plant, Arad, and other metallurgical enterprises participated. The rapidity of construction was credited to the use of Soviet machinery and the supervision of Soviet specialists. To complete the furnace on schedule, electric and autogenous welding teams under Ion Traiestaru worked 5 days almost without interruption on the welding of pipes. A team of electricians under Stefan Hora fulfilled norms 300 percent. Metal workers under Victor Rogatenco reduced the time of installation of gas purification equipment 50 percent. The construction of the furnace was made possible by the first domestic production of blowers, made by 23 August Metallurgical Plant, leveling cars made by Flamura Rosie Railroad Car Plant, Arad, and of other equipment. Four hundred technicians working on the project were trained according to the Kotlyar method as masons, steelworkers, ironworkers, cement workers, electric and autogenous welders, and carpenters.

The furnace was expected to produce hundreds of tons of steel daily toward the fulfillment of the equipment needs of mining, petroleum, agriculture, and industrial enterprises.(5)

The supply of minerals was expected to increase as a result of a drive carried on by miners of Teliuc. Using Soviet methods, workers and technicians succeeded in increasing output 4.75 percent in June. This was accomplished by better organization of work areas, and by full use of machines and aggregates. The cost of production was reduced 16 percent in July while labor productivity increased 3.75 percent above the plan.(4) The production of Teliuc was reported to be 563 tons above the plan as of 14 July.(6) In view of such encouraging results, the miners started a campaign to fulfill the 1952 plan in 11 months. Thus between 1 - 17 July, miners produced 12.6 percent more minerals than planned. Among the leading mining teams producing double the daily norm were those under Gheorghe Vasiu, Andrei Samoila, Simion Lucaci, Avram Lupulescu, and Ion Pus. Excavators Nicolae Samoila and Ion Vitez were ahead of schedule.(4)

SOURCES

1. Scanteia, 12 Jul 52
2. Ibid., 26 Jul 52
3. Ibid., 15 Jul 52
4. Ibid., 20 Jul 52
5. Ibid., 16 Jul 52
6. Viata Sindicala, 18 Jul 52

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