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DEVELOPMENTS IN RUMANIAN COAL, PETROLEUM, METALLURGICAL AND MACHINERY INDUSTRIES, 1953

Summary: The following report discusses some of the main developments in 1953 in four of Rumania's principal industries: coal, petroleum, metallurgy, and machinery.

The section on coal describes the improvements in the miners' living conditions and the resulting increase in production. The section on petroleum discusses the latest improvements in drilling and extraction equipment and reports some of the progress made in the drilling and extraction of petroleum. The sections on metallurgy and machine building report achievements in principal plants in Rumania. These factories are dealt with alphabetically.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.7

I. COAL

With each passing month, new workers' housing units are being constructed for the miners of the Petrosani, Petrila, Lonea, Aninoasa, Vulcani, Uricani, and Lupeni mines, and for all major mining localities in the Valea Jiului area. The appearance of the Lonea mine area has been almost entirely changed by the rows of new houses dotting entire mountain slopes (1); and Uricani has added the 267th apartment to its new housing developments for miners.(2) More than 1,000 new apartments were constructed in Valea Jiului from 1 January to 23 August 1953.(3)

A special construction committee has been set up to control the progress of building and to insure the utmost care in the construction of these houses. The following measures have been adopted by this committee: (a) Engineers must check the ground for any hidden water springs under the foundation; (b) engineers

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must check to insure sufficient cement content in concrete; (c) workers must avoid leaving large cracks between floor boards; (d) wall colors must harmonize rather than clash; and (e) a regular check must be conducted after apartments are occupied to prevent workers from abusing their new homes by writing on walls, marring the fixtures, etc.(1)

Another improvement for the miners of Rumania is the opening of several new medical units at the Valea Jiului mines. Dispensaries and health clinics, each having 15-20 beds, have been set up at most of the mines of that region, besides the three hospitals already in existence. Petrosani and Lupeni have set up dental clinics for miners, and Lupeni and Lonea have established night dispensaries where miners can rehabilitate themselves temporarily. Moreover, the number of underground first-aid stations and dietetic canteens has increased. About 200 full-time doctors are employed in the mines of the Valea Jiului region.(4)

Because of these improved living conditions, production of most coal mines has showed satisfactory progress. Approximately 64 percent of the miners in the Comanesti coal mines are applying advanced methods of labor, and the number of miners applying the cyclic graph method has increased by 23 percent. Miners of the Leorda mine have fulfilled their norms 102.62 percent, and those of the Asau mine have fulfilled their norms 110.14 percent. Some individual brigades have surpassed their individual norms by 12-14 percent. Important achievements have also been noted at the Rafira mine, where the workers are successfully applying the cyclic graph method.(5)

The Jieti-Lonea mine celebrated its biggest victory in 1953, inasmuch as one of its brigades completed its Five-Year Plan. This is the first brigade to have completed the Five-Year Plan in 4 years. The success of this and other brigades was made possible by the intensive aid given by the Soviet Union.(6)

Early in 1953, the miners of the Lupac mine asked that their norms be increased by 20 percent, without having their salaries increased and without having any additional equipment. All pledges of these miners were fulfilled, because they made full use of their working time and applied the latest available Soviet methods. At the same time, their labor productivity increased 23 percent.(7) Their labors were rewarded by the award of the Red Banner of Production for the first quarter of 1953, which was granted for their 120.41 percent plan fulfillment, their 16.45 percent drop in costs, and their 11 percent increase in quality of workmanship, compared with the 1952 figures.(8)

Miners of the Lupeni mine adopted the cyclic graph method, as a result of which each brigade produced 800 tons of coal above the August production plan. At the beginning of September, some miners surpassed their norms by as much as 180 percent.(9) Increasing numbers are surpassing their production norms by as much as 105 percent. Some brigades are completing ten cycles above the plan each month.(10) Almost all workers at this mine are engaged in socialist competitions.(11)

Miners in the Petrila mines are striving to produce more and more coal. The leading brigade is that of Stakhanovite Iuliu Haidu; this brigade started working on the November 1954 quota as early as April 1953. Another brigade has been daily surpassing its norms by 80 percent, and thus it began working on the September 1954 quota as early as the spring of 1953. Other brigades have exceeded their norms 25-86 percent.(12) In September 1953, some workers of the Petrila coal mines surpassed production norms 104 percent, whereas other brigades surpassed the plan 20-50 percent.(13)

Miners throughout the Valea Jiului mines are continually engaged in competitions. With the help of party organizations, the miners are putting Soviet methods of labor to excellent use. The latest such method is that using the mixed brigade system of Soviet Stakhanovite Novgorodtsev, used for the first time in Rumania at the Petrila mine. Several brigades have obtained daily advances of 18 meters above the plan by using this method.

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Another Soviet method meeting with success is the cyclic graph method. At the Lupeni mine, 480 miners used this method during 1953. The Petrila mine also has been using this method, with the result that some brigades surpass their daily norms 60-105 percent. Other Soviet methods in use are the Voroshin, Zhandarova, Kotlyar, and Randin methods. The Aninoasa mine has 290 miners using the Kotlyar method. In all, some 6,000 miners in the Valea Jiului mines are using one or more Soviet methods of labor.(14) Throughout this region, production quotas for the first quarter of 1953 were fulfilled 103.3 percent. The leading mine was Aninoasa, where the miners produced 7,500 tons of coal above the plan during the first 3 months of 1953. One brigade produced 616 tons of coal over the plan during March 1953.(15)

Keeping in step with the increase in the activity of coal mines, mining-equipment factories have also been producing new types of equipment and perfecting existing models. The Petrosani mining-equipment factory carried out improvements on former types and developed a new type of scraper, the TP-1, which is sturdier and can be assembled and dismantled with greater speed. The result was a 30-40 percent increase in the speed of coal transportation.(16)

II. PETROLEUM

Equipment

To aid the expansion of the petroleum industry, petroleum-equipment factories are increasing their production. For example, workers from the Energopetrol factory in Campina completed the 1953 production plan 3 months and 2 days ahead of schedule and started working on the 1954 plan on 23 September 1953. Some of these workers are working on the last norms of the Five-Year Plan. Thus, the electrical repair section is working on its 14 September 1955 norms. Costs were reduced 3.6 percent and economies rose to 229,654 lei. By 7 November 1953, workers were expected to reach the 15 February 1954 norms.(17)

Some 35 lathe operators from the Sovrom-utilaj-petrolifer (Soviet-Rumanian petroleum equipment) factory in Campina have started to work according to the Kolesov method. At the Poiana enterprises, for example, Stakhanovite Ion Mandoianu has reduced the time required for lathing a piece of steel from 35 minutes to 10 minutes. Similarly, there are a number of other workers who can work a steel pipe in 16 minutes rather than the 45 minutes required in the past.(18)

The Sovrom-utilaj-petrolifer factory in Resita has adopted sound technical-organizational measures to assist lathe operators, fraising-machine operators, and other workers to meet their newly established norms. As a result of these efforts, norms have been surpassed.(19) Workers of all sections of the factory are engaging in socialist competitions to reduce the dead time and to increase production. During August, the production plan for the entire shops was surpassed by 4.5 percent. Thus, four pumping units, three compressors of .5 cubic meters each, and other important pieces of equipment were produced above the plan. Some workers are surpassing their individual norms by as much as 70 percent. During the first 7 months of 1953, the shop saved 1,762,915 lei worth of materials and equipment.(20)

Workers from the Sovrom-utilaj-petrolifer factory in Targoviste are using the Kolesov method of rapid cutting of metals. They can machine iron pieces at the rate of 2.2 millimeters per revolution, reaching 301 revolutions per minute and a depth of 2 millimeters. In this manner, a piece can be machined in 2 hours, as compared with the 20 hours required in the past.(18) Since January 1953, the number of Stakhanovites and leaders in production at this factory has risen by 242. Some were working on the 1954 norms as early as October 1953. Approximately 16 proposals and innovations have been made since the beginning of 1953.

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One of these inventions was a process for finishing the bolts used in rotary chains, which resulted in economies amounting to 53,704 lei per year.(21)

To extend the Kolesov method throughout many industries, the ASIT (Asociația Stiintifică a Inginerilor și Tehnicienilor, Scientific Association of Engineers and Technicians) in Ploesti has worked out a schedule for exchanging workers with such industries as Sovrom-utilaj-petrolifer 1 Mai in Ploesti, I.C. Frimu in Sinaia, Gh. Gheorghiu-Dej in Targoviste, Sovrom-utilaj-petrolifer in Poiana, and many others.(18)

Drilling

A new type of mixed assembling and drilling team has been put in operation. This team employs several types of workers and thereby streamlines organizational processes. An average mixed brigade is composed of 26 derrick men, mechanics, and metalworkers, compared with the 37 men that were formerly needed when this work was done by several different brigades. By working in the same brigade, the members of the mixed brigade can make maximum use of the old dismantled pieces from old derricks. For example, the quantity of bolts taken from the supply shop has been reduced by 20 percent and the use of wood and wood pieces has been reduced by 10-15 percent. The mixed brigade saves some 1,500 hours of labor and is able to complete a well 4 days ahead of schedule. The Boldesti field was one of the first to adopt the mixed brigade. The brigade at well No 842 has saved 2,083 lei and has been awarded a prize of 6,978 lei for its successes.(22)

The Boldesti field was also the first to adopt the newly developed Epstein method of drilling, in which a bit is replaced at a specified time, predetermined according to formula.(23) Workers at this field surpassed the drilling plan by 35.8 percent during the first half of September 1953. Wells No 762 and 247 drilled 100 percent above the plan from 1 to 15 September, after the adoption of the Epstein method. Well No 2 surpassed its drilling plan by 112.6 percent.(24) One team even surpassed its norms 475 percent.(23)

Another recent method, adopted at the Baicoi oil field, is known as the Mikhail Nichisin rapid drilling method. This method employs rapid drilling so that the bit penetrates deeper and faster. Because of the speed of the drill, all parts exposed to friction in the process of drilling must be continually oiled. Drillers use all their free moments to grease the derrick, drill bit, blocks, chain, etc. By careful use of the equipment, accidents are being avoided. The application of this new rapid drilling method has meant the achievement of two norms above the plan.(15)

Workers of the drilling office of Trust No 1 of the Campina oil fields have been awarded the Red Banner of Production for their drilling successes. They surpassed the drilling plan for the first quarter of 1953 by 38.18 percent and the extraction plan by 29.58 percent. As a result of the rapid drilling methods in use at the oil fields at present, the drilling speed has been increased by 77.97 percent and labor productivity has risen 39 percent. Costs have been reduced 31.83 percent, compared with the planned costs, and the average wage per worker has increased 29.64 percent.

Among the most outstanding achievements have been those of Well No 707, which was completely drilled 59 days ahead of schedule; Well No 90, completed 57 days ahead of schedule; and Well No 71, completed 29 days ahead of schedule.(25)

Both repair time and accidents have been reduced considerably at the Campina field. Repair time has been reduced by 7.5 percent, compared with 1952, and accidents have been reduced by 0.46 percent per thousand meters drilled. Because they are using new drilling methods, workers started working on the 25 October norms on 13 September, attaining more than 10,000 meters above the norms.

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Well No 445 in Gura Draganestii surpassed the drilling plan for the first 10 days of September 1953 by 200 percent.(26) The number of Stakhanovites at this oil field has risen from 9 to 64 and the number of leading workers has risen from 160 to 240.(27)

The turbodrill method was first used in the Moldavian fields in May 1952. The turbines and all the equipment necessary to put these drills in operation, as well as U-8-3 pumps, were received from the Soviet Union.

This new type of drilling was first used experimentally on Well No 276 of the Moinești oil field. The speed of the drill was increased by 6,22 meters per hour. The well used 1 Mai drilling equipment and four boilers, each of 4 cubic meters' capacity and 25 atmospheres' pressure. The drilling plan for Trust No 1 has been successfully completed as a result of the use of the new turbodrill. Thus, the May 1953 plan was fulfilled 42 percent above the norms, the July plan was exceeded 94 percent, and the August plan was exceeded 117 percent.(28) Other oil wells have reported equally good results. Wells No 861 and 844 surpassed their extraction norms by 125 and 123 percent, respectively. Wells No 896 and 799 obtained equally satisfactory results.(29)

Oil workers of the Moreni field held a meeting to discuss methods for increasing the speed of drilling. Studies were made of the newest method of turbodrilling, which increases the speed and reduces the costs. It was decided that more support should be given to innovators whose inventions contribute to increased labor productivity and reduced drilling costs.

Particular waste has been noted in the use of water at wells employing the turbodrills, because there is an absence of water meters. Measures have been taken to make better use of the potential of each well and to mechanize as many of the steps as possible.(30)

At Office No 2 of Trust No 2, Soviet rapid drilling methods are not applied to a sufficient degree. The blame lies with the administration of the various oil fields, which fail to realize the importance of new Soviet methods. Neither Radu Birlișiu, assistant director of the office, nor I. Pupezescu, chief engineer, has taken any measures to permit the use of rapid drilling methods.

The main drawback to the application of rapid drilling methods is the failure on the part of the technical services of the field to equip the oil wells with the needed materials and tools on time. Frequently the drilling brigades stand idle for days, waiting for a piston, pump, cylinder, or gears. For example, the brigade under Stakhanovite Prunache Timoftei lost 16 days in March and 5 days in April because technicians did not provide sufficient electricity to operate the drill. Under such conditions, it is impossible even to attempt to apply the rapid drilling methods. A close collaboration must exist between the drilling office and the transportation office, whose director is Radu Laurentiu, to insure the necessary conditions for the use of the rapid drilling method. However, Office No 2 frequently must stop drilling for lack of materials. Work was stopped for 3 days, for example, at Well No 429, because a load of pipes did not arrive on time. Both the assistant director of the office and the chief engineer showed complete indifference to work progress and to the application of newer methods. They contented themselves with the fact that the books in the administrative offices recorded 11 brigades and 800 workers as applying the rapid drilling method, even though that was not actually the case.

Part of the blame also falls on Trust No 2, which has both Office No 2 and the transportation office under its jurisdiction. Assistant director Carol Crevanos and the trust's other directors pay no attention to the manner in which the directors of Office No 2 carry out their duties. There is a total lack of direction and advice.(31)

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Shortcomings also exist in regard to methods of transportation in the oil industry. The following is a typical example: During the spring of 1953, the Transportation Office of Petroleum Trust No 2 in Moreni was called upon to transport a diesel-oil tank, with a capacity of about three carloads of diesel oil. The tank had to be taken to a well in Urseiu. However, the tank went no farther than Visinesti Village, where it was left in a ditch. Within a few days, heavy rains fell and water gathered all around the tank, causing it to float back in the direction from which it came. On the way, the tank completely demolished several bridges in the vicinity of Visiseni. Finally, the tank settled on the banks of the river. At present [3 October 1953], many months after the incident, the bridges are still damaged and the tank is still mired on the banks of the river. The Transportation Office of Trust No 2 is entirely to blame for this whole situation.(32)

Extraction and Production

The Sovrompetrol oil field at Boldesti is among the leading oil fields of the regiune. The collective of this field fulfilled its crude-oil quotas 100.96 percent during the first quarter of 1953. During this same quarter, the workers achieved economies amounting to 73,000 lei.

Workers and technicians from Boldesti have pledged the following in honor of 1 May: to surpass the oil production plan for the first quarter of 1953 by 1.10 percent, to increase the productivity of labor for the entire year by 6 percent, and to reduce planned expenses by 1 percent.(33)

The Red Banner of Production has been awarded to the extraction section of the Baicol field for having extracted 3.2 percent more crude oil during the first quarter of 1953 than called for by the plan. Also, production of methane gas was surpassed by 15.81 percent, labor productivity increased by 11.77 percent, and the cost of crude oil was reduced by 4.37 percent and of methane gas by 18.98 percent. All these achievements were made possible largely by the introduction of Soviet methods. From 1 to 30 January 1953, economies at this field totaled hundreds of thousands of lei.(34)

The Campina Oil Field No 1 has reactivated several old oil wells and has achieved good results by its wise use of the oil equipment. Considerable savings in working time were made when broken pieces of pipe and other materials which had been dropped in the shaft were removed by means of magnetic equipment. The reactivation of old oil wells has enabled Campina Oil Trust No 1 to produce 130 tons of crude oil daily above the plan.(35)

Refineries are also reporting good results. For example, Refinery No 3 in Teleajen has taken new measures for processing petroleum. Four new tubings have been installed in the refinery oven, thus making possible an 8-10 percent increase in the distillation rate of crude oil. Moreover, by installing special equipment for absorbing and stabilizing gases, there has been a 15-20 percent increase in the amount of natural gasoline. These improvements enabled the entire refinery to exceed its August plan by 9.50 percent. Refinery No 3 produced 9.95 percent more gasoline, 1.11 percent more oil, 0.95 percent more diesel oil, and 18.07 more petroleum products than called for by the plan.(36)

Employee Benefits

A great number of the oil fields are conducting a wide range of courses for the benefit and improvement of their employees. For example, the Sovrom-utilaj-petrolifer petroleum equipment factory in Poiana-Campina is laying particular stress on the development of new cadres for the oil industry. Several schools are operating at the factory, so that workers may have the opportunity of raising their professional and cultural standing. [As of September 1953], some 580 workers have been graduated from the factory's schools.(37)

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The Intermediate Petroleum School in Ploesti, another school for training workers, emphasizes the technology and geology of petroleum.(33) In addition, the administration of the Uralati oil field is conducting short but concise courses on the efficient and safe handling of equipment. Instruction is often supplemented by educational motion pictures.

All dangerous areas at the Ploesti field are encircled by strong fences to prevent accidents at night. All parts of the field have electricity. Clean wash-rooms, shower rooms, and a drying room where the workers may dry their clothes in inclement weather have been installed. Some 20 special lockers have been set up for storing workers' clothing, and water fountains have been installed in various parts of the field. Men employed in places where there is danger of gas asphyxiation are given special equipment and those in danger of heat prostration receive preventive treatments. All these measures tend to improve the employees' working conditions.(29)

Pensions and improved dwelling units also benefit the workers in the oil industry. Thus, many workers at the Boldesti oil field receive pensions of 500 lei per month, in addition to a regular salary of 700-800 lei per month.(8)

Campina, located near Ploesti, is the most modern city in the petroleum industry. Streets formerly filled with holes and mud puddles have now been paved. In 1953 alone, some 46,249 square meters of streets and sidewalks were repaired, and 7,000 square meters of road and sidewalk were reasphalted. The buildings of Intermediate Petroleum School, No 1, demolished during World War II, are now [3 September 1953] completely remodeled. An open-air theater with 1,500 seats has been constructed in honor of 23 August.(9)

III. METALURGY

The Hunedoara iron and steel combine reports that a number of measures which were taken in preparation for winter fell short of accomplishment. Some sections of the combine are without windows, and other sections have badly damaged roofs and doors. The construction section has no stoves or heater, and the steam pipes of the smelting sections need repairs. Materials needed for these repairs are not available. The repair plan to prepare for winter at this combine was drawn up in a bureaucratic manner, and apparently no one takes any interest in seeing that it is carried out.(24)

Innovations constitute an unending reserve of increased labor productivity and improved workmanship at the IBS (agricultural equipment) factory in Rome. For example, a new innovation was recently instituted in processing the coupling forks [not further identified]. The old method required approximately 100 minutes per fork through forging. However, the new method achieved speedier and better results through fraising. The time was reduced by 68 minutes for each piece, which means that one section alone is saving 150,000 minutes, or 2,500 hours of labor, not counting the economies in fuel. This factory can now use the time saved to manufacture 2,000 plowshares.(39)

The Industria Sarmei factory in Braila has taken numerous steps to mechanize the production of sheet. One important step in the manufacturing process is the unloading of sheet steel. Prior to this time, unloading was done very sporadically, and the rolling mill was left idle for long periods. Improvements have also been noted in the internal transport of goods. Prior to mechanized transportation, wire spools were carried by hand, whereas now all these are transported by means of an overhead crane.(4)

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Attempts have been made at the Metalurgica plant in Sibiu to use the local workers of the factory more fully, by increasing the technical training of the workers. As a result, 5,000 hours of labor have been saved per month.(40)

Socialist competitions are being introduced at the Muncitorul Liber metals factory in Bacau for the production of metal consumer goods such as nuts, bolts, and plowshares. Over 55 percent of the factory workers are using advanced methods of labor, and most of them surpass their norms by 25-30 percent. The August norms for the entire factory were surpassed by 16 percent.

Workers at this factory are also paying increased attention to reducing the percentage of rejected items. A systematic method of control is being employed, replacing the former sporadic checking. Every month the factory produces 3,000 kilograms of finished parts above the plan.(41)

Workers of the Progresul foundry in Braila are engaged in intensive competitions. An increasing number of lathe operators of the factory are adopting the Kolesov and Raskov methods of rapid lathing of metals. Recently, more use has been made of a new Soviet method, i.e., the Matulinets method of preparation of rapid charges, as a result of which workers prepared 30 rapid steel charges above the plan norms during the first days of September 1953.(37)

The Proletarul factory in Turda, which produces refractory materials, exceeded the August 1953 plan by 31.4 percent and achieved economies of 28,828 lei. Some sections surpassed their norms by 63 percent and started working on the December 1953 quotas as early as 16 September.(36)

By giving special attention to labor organization, some sheet-metal workers of the Otelul Rosu factory in Timisoara fulfilled their September 1953 norms 104.4 percent. Workers in other sections of the same factory reduced rejects by 30 percent and achieved economies of 6,322 lei.(17)

By applying the Filipov method on a large scale, workers of the furnace section of the Resita steel factory surpassed the September norms by 0.7 percent. Some brigades surpassed their norms up to 19.4 percent.(42)

Improved organization of the labor force has been noted at the Republica steel plant. Workers at each work site are trying to discover new ways to increase the internal reserves and the production of pipes. Steps have been taken to insure that the rolling mill is kept in perfect condition, and that idle periods are reduced to a minimum. Because of these improvements, sheet-metal workers find it possible to surpass their daily norms by 12-20 percent. The factory's youth brigade won the workers' competition. The sheet-metal section surpassed its plan for the first half of September by 2 percent, and all workers' earnings increased in proportion to their output.(43)

A general meeting of all metallurgical workers and technicians was held in July 1953 for the purpose of improving the quality of goods produced from iron or steel. Workers of the steel foundry of Sovrom-utilaj-petrolifer in Resita are reported to have made major errors in the preparation of steel. In May and June 1953, parts which had been manufactured from nine charges of steel were of very poor quality. For example, in preparing charge No 1,027, workers disregarded instructions and mixed greater quantities of alloys into the steel than prescribed. Conditions in the iron section of this factory are equally bad. There is poor organization of labor and a lack of technical instruction which result in insufficient production and poor-quality materials.(44)

The tool section of the Steagul Rosu factory in Stalin noticed that younger workers did not possess sufficient technical knowledge to allow them to engage in important projects. This meant overworking the older and more skilled workers. Therefore, the factory administration adopted the Soviet Vasilii Birukov method of

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having the older and more highly trained workers teach at least two or three of the younger ones. This method was later adopted in all the other sections of the plant. Over 30 youths in the tool section are now increasing their knowledge in this manner. (17)

Workers in lathing section No 2 of the Steaua Rosie factory pledged to complete the October 1953 plan 5 days ahead of schedule. Some workers surpassed their norms by as much as 101 percent, and others reduced the repair time by 35 percent. (45) The Tehnometal factory in Timisoara was awarded the Red Banner of Production by the Ministry of Industrial Metallurgy. This factory surpassed its norms for the first quarter of 1953 by 10.5 percent and at the same time reduced costs by 3.5 percent. Some 90 percent of the workers were engaged in socialist competitions. (9)

The Timisul local industry enterprise of Lugoj is a growing enterprise, having the following units: a smelting unit, workshops, a carpentry unit, a firestry unit, a lignite mine at Ciresul, a mill, and an ice factory. Many improvements have recently been made. A Decauville narrow-gauge line was installed in the factory, so that parts and equipment need no longer be carried by hand. Wire brushes are being used in cleaning and polishing metal products, thereby saving a considerable amount of workers' time. The Ciresul mine obtained small carts for carrying the lignite. As a result of these and other improvements, the Timisul local industry enterprises completed the 1953 production plan as early as 9 September 1953, at the same time reducing costs by 5 percent. (24)

Some lathe operators at the Vulcan metallurgical enterprises in Bucharest have discovered a method for reducing by 20 minutes the time required to polish the tracks for overhead cranes. Moreover, by using the special Vidia S-1 blade, at a speed of 600 rather than 400 revolutions per minute, an advance of 0.2 millimeter per minute can be reached. By this method, one worker can polish three to four such tracks above the plan per day. (4)

The 23 August factory in Bucharest is now paying more attention to the full use of its internal reserves. The light machinery section was recently provided with high-quality machinery and tools from the USSR. During August 1953, factory workers suggested 50 innovations, 34 of which have been adopted successfully. Economics amounted to 500,000 lei.

However, since the use of machines in the light machinery section has been poorly planned, insufficient use is being made of this machinery. Some machines work only 50-60 percent of their capacity, and others are overloaded all the time. Some machines are left completely idle during an entire shift. Thus, ten machines in the fraising-machine shop were left idle during the entire second shift. Another fault of this section is that the repair time for machinery and tools has not been reduced. For example, a lathe remained idle for more than a week for lack of a simple bearing on the axle. During this time both machine and operator were left idle. Materials are not delivered on time, and workers do not make full use of their 480 minutes of working time per day. (46)

The administration of the 23 August factory, as well as trade unions and party organs, have been chiefly concerned with the problem of adequate protection for workers engaged in hazardous tasks. The 23 August factory in Bucharest is one of the largest in the nation; as such, it allocated 5,100,000 lei in 1953 for the purchase of equipment for workers' protection. This step reduced accidents by as much as 300-400 percent.

A special welfare program has been set up for the workers at the factory. This program covers vacations, employment rights, length of the working day, working conditions of women and minors, protective clothing and equipment, accident-prevention devices, and many other improvements. Of special note is the attempt to eliminate the practice of using 12-hour shifts followed by 24 hours of rest; this practice has been reduced by 80 percent at the 23 August factories.

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Workers in the smelting sections are now issued protective gloves, goggles, aprons, and free carbonated water. Workers in sections where the air is so contaminated that it may have a toxic effect receive free milk. Some sections, noticeably the thermal treatment section, have special units for the purification of contaminated air.(47)

IV. MACHINERY

Over 96 percent of the workers of the Bocsa Romana agricultural machinery factory in Resita are engaged in socialist competitions. Some are surpassing their norms 126 percent and others at least 100 percent.(48)

The Ilie Pintilie factory is now producing a four-blade plow which can be adapted to the KD-35 tractor. This plow is 120 centimeters wide, which is 30 centimeters more than the three-blade plow, and has a resistance of 40 kilograms per square decimeter. The switch from a three-blade to a four-blade plow can be readily made at the factory or, in the case of tractors already in use, at any MTS or state agricultural repair workshop.(17)

To increase agricultural output, workers of the IMS (agricultural equipment) factory in Rome are striving to increase their production of agricultural equipment and spare parts. A recent meeting was held in the mechanical section of the factory for the purpose of increasing its production and discovering major short-comings. It was found that many internal reserves of the factory had been greatly wasted in the past. The factory's production plan was fulfilled 164.08 percent during the first quarter of 1953 and 140.6 percent during August 1953. Costs declined as follows: in April by 7 percent, in May by 10 percent, in June by 12 percent, in July by 19 percent, and in August by 20 percent. As compared with the first quarter of 1953, the average worker's salary increased 10 percent in June 1953, 17 percent in July 1953, and 27 percent in August 1953. This indicates that the internal reserves of the factory are now being utilized more fully.

The level of production can rise still higher. For example, the factory's machinery was utilized only 98 percent in June, 96 percent in July, and 94 percent in August. The duty of every worker is to use the internal reserves of the factory to the fullest possible extent.(39)

Workers at the Semanatoarea factory are continually striving to improve the quality of the agricultural machinery which they produce. During August 1953 the cost plan was surpassed by 10 percent, while the production plan was surpassed by 3 percent. These good results were due to the equipment received from the USSR, such as parallel lathes, drills, and fraising and buffing machines. New prototypes of agricultural machinery have been constructed on the basis of Soviet advanced methods. The first agricultural machine manufactured by the Semanatoarea factory fell far short of expectations because of lack of experience. However, improvements were made shortly thereafter, and the quality of machinery improved greatly.(49)

The Stalin tractor factory has also showed excellent results by using its internal reserves to the fullest. By mechanizing the less important steps in the production processes and by enlarging the supply stocks of the factory, the cost of producing tractors has been reduced by 7 percent.(40) The collective of this factory pledged to surpass the production plan by 15 percent, to reduce rejects by 20 percent as compared to the first quarter of 1953, to reduce costs by 2 percent as compared to August, and to save 20,000 lei on equipment, goods, and materials by 10 October 1953.(30) The collective has also started a campaign to make fullest use of every piece of equipment. From the material saved in this manner, it has been possible to produce 2,400 pocketknives, 1,300 pens, and many other consumer items valued at 30,000 lei.

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The smelting section of this same factory held a meeting recently to determine possible measures for eliminating defects in manufacture and for increasing the use of equipment and manpower.(2) Shortly thereafter, an economy school was organized at the Stalin factory. The school operates in the smelting section and offers a course of 27 lessons on the socialist system of production, factory organization, factors determining cost of goods, methods of reducing expenses, and many other topics. Workers have taken a keen interest in this school and its teachings.(50)

The Stalin railroad car and locomotive workshops are engaged in intense preparations for the winter. One Stakhanovite has proposed that the walls of the shop be painted white to increase visibility. Other workers have proposed increased electric lights. Seventy percent of the repairs on the roof of the main locomotive repair shop have been completed. Repairs on furnaces and other equipment of the factory are also progressing according to schedule.(24)

The Tehnofrig factory in Cluj is one of the leading enterprises of the entire region. As a result of the arrival of Soviet machinery, the factory's 1951 production was 162 percent higher than in 1950 and the 1952 production was 235 percent higher than in 1950. This means an increased production of ammonia compressors, cream separators, refrigerated storage units, and centrifugal pumps. Over ten different types of food-sterilizing and food-preservation machines have been perfected.(49)

MISCELLANEOUS

A new oxygen factory has been in operation since 1953 in Rome. Its production volume is not yet large, but the importance of oxygen to industry as a whole is very great. Many enterprises from Moldova are receiving oxygen from the Roman factory. On 20 September 1953 the factory was working on the 28 November 1953 norms.(1)

Workers and engineers of the Dinamo electric motor factory in Bucharest fulfilled their norms 113.2 percent during the first quarter of 1953. They subsequently pledged to complete the work for the second quarter of 1953 by 22 June, to increase their productivity by 5 percent above the norms, and to reduce rejects by 8 percent. They further pledged to reduce costs by 3 percent and to achieve economies of 100,000 lei.(51)

Workers of the Electroceramica factory in Turda are trying to increase their professional and technical level. During 1953 some 82 workers completed the first- and second-year courses, and many others are enrolled in the Stakhanovite school of the factory.(17) The 21 Decembrie brigade of the Electromotor factory in Timisoara completed its Five-Year Plan quota in April 1953. The brigade is now working on its 1956 quotas. Some persons in the brigade have been working on their 1958 norms because they have been using the latest Soviet methods.

The number of women in Rumania's industries is rising steadily. During 1952 and 1953, a total of 225 women were trained as lathe operators, electricians, wire workers, metalworkers, etc. Also, 33 women are working as shaping machine operators or welders and are surpassing their norms 30 percent, and more than 20 women are employed as skilled polishers.(44)

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