

Article

Bukovina during the Great Depression (1929-1933)

Alexandrina POPESCU-CRUCLEANU¹

Citation: Popescu-Crudeanu A. (2023). Bukovina during the Great Depression (1929-1933). *Network Intelligence Studies, Year (volume) XI, Issue (21)*, 15-27

Received: 22 April 2023

Revised: 28 May 2023

Published: 29 May 2023



Copyright: © 2023 by the authors. Published by *Network Intelligence Studies*.

This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Abstract: The state's role in the prevention and control of unemployment rate and the various problems reported by local communities and administrations was, during the Great Depression, quite active, through the establishment of some special commissions for helping the persons who did not have the possibility to find a place to work, and the possibilities to help them financially and materially. The aim of this study is to research, especially in archival documents, the main issues related to labor market and different problems, as they were reported in Bucovina during this period, and also the manner in which the authorities tried to solve these problems. The results highlights the severe economical situation of the commune's inhabitants, fact owed both to the natural and human causes, such as natural hazards, the reduction of commodity markets for industrial and manufactured products through the restriction of imports and exportation, restrictive legal measures in the exploitation of different resources, like the forestry ones, etc.

Keywords: social movements; labor market; restrictive legal measures; prevention measures;

¹ "Stefan cel Mare" University of Suceava

INTRODUCTION

The economical crisis, experienced in the Romanian space, both in the urban area, especially in the working class, and in the rural area among the inhabitants whose existence depended on a single agricultural branch (the cultivation of plants in the fields and the breeding of animals in the mountainous areas and the hills), will influence, the same, the way of reference of local communities and administrations to the numerous social problems, as well as the increase of unemployment, the reduction of commodity markets for industrial and manufactured products through the restriction of imports and exportation, restrictive legal measures in the exploitation of different resources, like the forestry ones, etc. (Iatencu, 2010; Mareci-Sabol, 2010; Durandin, 1995).

The statistical data offer numerous information about the working conflicts, declared strikes, the number of strikes, of the days lost and the causes of strikes at the private companies, etc., phenomena that start to be experienced, in the Romanian space, a little before the beginning of the economical crisis at international level. Observed variables, in the extractive industry; metallurgic and mechanics industry; of food products; clothes and dressing; wood and furniture; leather goods, furs and animal products; pottery, lime and glassware; constructions; commerce and commercial enterprises (Table no. 1). In commerce and commercial enterprises, the number of strikes registered in 1927 was relatively low, and of the staff involved, too (Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 1927).

Therefore, the industry of food products, leather goods, furs and animal products, as well as the book industry, are the most affected by these social movements, and the main declared causes of strikes are especially connected to obtaining certain payments that could assure the employees a satisfactory living, the reduction of the working hours, with maintaining or rising the wages, as well as different complaints regarding the work regulation (Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 1927; Scurtu & Buzatu, 1999, Scurtu et al. (1995), Saizu, 1991).

The basic occupations of the population of Bucovina differed depending on the geographical area, the existing natural resources, the ethnic affiliation of the inhabitants, so that we encounter quite large discrepancies from one area of the province to another, a fact that will automatically lead to a different standard of living for the inhabitants of this historic province. Residents are also beginning to be dissatisfied with the increase in unemployment, the increase in bank debts, the tax collection system,

triggering numerous strikes and protest movements, most of them short-lived and unorganized (Stoenescu, 2018; Purici, 1997a,b).

In the town and urban localities where the phenomenon of unemployment was registered, it could be observed an active implication of the local authorities, through the proposal and active implication in different helping actions, especially, material, of the unemployed and the persons being at the limit of sustenance. Local contractor and the local community joined the local administration, through the creation of some facilities and discounts in purchasing food products and strictly necessary things, actions that managed, at least for a certain period and for a certain number of vulnerable persons, to offer a temporary solution for the prevention and even the disappearance of the phenomenon of unemployment.

PREVENTION MEASURES FOR THE UNEMPLOYED PHENOMENON IN BUKOVINA DURING THE GREAT RECESSION

As we observe, especially in archival documents, the state's role in the prevention and control of unemployment was, during the whole period of economic crisis, quite active, through the establishment of some special commissions for helping the persons who didn't have the possibility to find a place to work, and the possibilities to help them financially and materially. Thus, in the archive documents, we find a norm emitted by the Ministerial Directory II, Chernivtsi, Ministerial Work Service, on the 24th of November 1930, to the Prefect of Suceava county, through which it is demanded the report regarding the constitution of committees for control and help of unemployed people (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 2).

In another edited document, addressed to the Ministerial Directory-The Work Ministry, The Work Directorate, The Service of Migration, regarding the necessity to assure a financial fund for the unemployed, especially for the workers who can't find a place to work, because of the lack of working places. It is recommended the finding of some multiple sources of finance and sponsorship of the unemployment fund, both for the year in course and for the next one, given the more difficult situation that Bucovina goes through. It is recommended the constitution of some committees only in the most important industrial centers, in order to be helped only the workers who don't have other existence resources but their job, not the day-laborers/seasonal workers, and the help should be

offered under the form of food products, fuel, food for the social canteens, etc. (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 3).

Another form letter, addressed to more counties in Great Romania, recommends the establishment of some social canteens for the workers who won't have a place to work the next winter. It is also recommended that the help should be only under the form of a cheap meal, in these canteens, not financial support, and also the constitution of some organizations for helping the unemployed, in the manner mentioned above (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 4).

A holograph document, copy after leaf 5, is adapted to the situation from Suceava county, for the industrial areas: Iteani Station, Cacica and Solca, considered the industrial centers in which the workers can be exposed the most to unemployment (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 6). Another official document, sent by the Ministry of Work, Health and Social Protection, to the Prefect's office of Suceava, through the address number 36801/1930, regarding the problem of unemployment, as well as the intention to support the solving of this phenomenon (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 7). There is also a message of the address mentioned above, regarding the committees for helping the unemployed, with the mention that only the ones with no place to work should receive help, not also the day-laborers/seasonal workers (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 8).

Another document, but holograph, addressed to the mayors from Iteani, Cacica and Solca-also with reference to the constitution of committees for the situation of the unemployed, it is precised the fact that these should be established only where it is necessary, "where there is absolutely necessary", and, of course, "the main duty of these committees to be the finding of working places for the unemployed and only if this is not possible, the material support should be offered. "Besides these indications", it must be avoided the helping of those managing to work in summer and autumn or in the present." The norm ends with the same initial indication, that is, these committees should be established only where the situation totally imposes it (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 12-18).

Also from a form letter from the 9th of March 1931, emitted by the Ministerial Directory II Chernivtsi, for the Prefect's office of Suceava county, it is announced the fact that these helping committees will function only under the prefect's presidency, even if they can also have residence in the Town Hall, without allowing the creation of other committees. It is also demanded the weekly report of the situation of the unemployed, their number,

income, spending, donations, distributions, etc. (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 31).

The response of the town halls in view is, yet, different. Thus, through an edited document, of the town hall of Solca town, to the Prefect's office of Suceava county, the request is "to dispense with" the weekly reports regarding the situation of the unemployed in this locality. It is also announced the fact that the town doesn't have unemployed people, given the fact that there are no industrial enterprises, except one beer factory, but the working collective of which is quite limited, and, on the whole, the town's inhabitants have, in general, enough material and financial resources in order not to be in the situation of asking for unemployment (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 9).

In another document, from the 17th of January 1931, the Prefect's office of Suceava is informed that in Solca town the creation of help centers for the unemployed is not necessary, because "there are no unemployed strictly speaking" (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 16). The response of Burdujeni commune, to the prefect of Suceava county, to the order 303 from the 30th of January 1931, is similar to the one of Solca town. This informs that, after the researches made by the town hall representatives, there are no qualified unemployed (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 20). At the date of 7th of May 1931, Solca town communicates to the Prefect's office of Suceava county that "this locality doesn't register unemployed, given the fact that the most of the inhabitants work in agriculture and have small personal properties ("a little house and land") (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 40).

Through a holograph answer, of the town hall of Iteani Station, the prefect is informed that, in this locality there are no unemployed, all the workers being employed in factories and working at the bridge being built over the river Suceava (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 43), and through an edited response of the town hall of Iteani, the Prefect's office is informed that in this locality there are no qualified unemployed, and, therefore, "no action for preventing unemployment was necessary" (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 44).

Nevertheless, there are town halls that identify the necessity for the creation of these helping centers, and which start to report their situation in their area. Among them there are the town hall of Cacica commune and the town hall of Suceava town. Thus, a holograph report of the town hall of Cacica, regarding the statistics of unemployed in this locality, point out a number of 181 unemployed, from which: 117 in the forestry industry, 31 in the constructions industry, 12 in the metallurgic-mechanics industry and 21 in the clothes industry,

hairdresser's industry (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 19, 25), (Figure no. 1).

The answer, edited, of the town hall of Suceava town, to the Prefect's office of Suceava county, reports at the 24th of February 1931, a number of 309 unemployed, from which: 15 merchants, 108 bricklayers, 10 house painters, 19 shoemakers, 55 tailors, 2 hairdressers, 32 commercial travelers, 12 coachmen, 3 butchers (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 22) (Figure no. 2).

Through a holograph report of the town hall of Cacica to the Prefect's office of Suceava, it is announced the situation of unemployed in this locality, being mentioned the fact that, although the town hall undertook all the measures for preventing unemployment, the unemployed are quite in a large number, given the fact that many workers in the locality who had worked at a factory in Campulung were dismissed, extending, thus, the number of unemployed that the town hall of Cacica can't help from lack of capital, but who expect material support from the Prefect's office (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 30).

Thus, a coherent and clear program starts, of the organization and functioning of these helping committees, as well as of the private initiatives for the fund raising. In this sense, through an edited form letter, of the Ministerial Directory II, the Ministerial Work Service, to the Prefect's office of Suceava county, the helping committees are demanded to comply with the provisions regarding the report of statistical situations about the unemployed in this county, without the Prefect's office soliciting statistical data from the town halls in the county, because these helping committees must function at the Prefect's office where the evidence is registered (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 23).

A first step in this sense is the one of establishing the helping commissions in Suceava town, at the 22nd of February 1931, formed of the prefect of Suceava county, the president of the county delegation, the town's mayor and 4 communal councilors (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 28). In the same meeting, the prefect informs the members of the commission the directives emitted by the Ministerial Directory Chernivtsi and the Ministry of Work, as well as the measures that can be taken in order to help the unemployed in the locality.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs disposed for the sending of 4 wagons of maize for the poor population of Suceava county, but one of the councilors proposes that "instead of maize, the equivalent in money should be asked from the state, because the maize in the county is cheaper, and through buying maize on the local market, the local

peasantry can also be helped", point of view totally approved by the other members of the commission. After the discussions during the meeting, the commission has in view the following measures:

- to collect a voluntary tax, by the authorities, through postage-due stamps, when issuing different certificates and transactions for different goods.
- to lay, on each entry ticket at shows, special stamps of 1 and 2 lei for the unemployed
- to appeal, through the helping commission, to the big owners and wealthier persons, in order to offer, for the unemployed, cereals, that the mills in Suceava should grind for free.
- to appeal to the sugar factory Itcani, in order to offer the unemployed a quantity of sugar and then, to sell to the commission a wagon of sugar with the price of cost.
- to ask help from the banks to contribute to the fund for helping the unemployed.
- the helping commission to appeal to the law courts, that, at different transactions in penal issues, there should be stipulated the payment of a sum for the unemployed, payment transferred to the town hall for the special commission.
- the mayor will find, from the town's budget, funds for helping the unemployed and those without resources to be paid in kind, such as food products, wood and not in money (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 28). There were also private initiatives for raising funds for the unemployed, in general under the form of artistic manifestations, concerts, etc., and the success of which seems to have been, in most cases, quite big, as the existent reports and archive documents show.

Such an example is the request initiated, at the 10th of March 1931, by the Girls High School "Mrs. Maria", through which the Prefect's office of Suceava county is asked to appeal to the Ministerial Directory II of Instruction, Cernauti, regarding the approval to organize the festival for the unemployed and in an edited document, from the 18th of March 1931, the Prefect's office is being thanked because it permitted the organization of the literary-musical-dramatic festival for the benefits of unemployed, at the 12th of March 1931, festival "having an unexpected material and moral success" (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 32-33).

Once with the increase of helping measures, through these special commissions, the ways of report, monitor and prevention of the phenomenon also increase. Thus, through the Order 137773, from the 4th of April 1931, from the Ministry of Work, Health and Social Protection, to the inspector of the helping committee, a detailed report is demanded, regarding:

- the local and specific causes of unemployment (Table no. 2);

- the fields of activity affected the most by this phenomenon and why;
- the number of unemployed on localities or regions and on fields of activity, as well as the number of persons totally deprived of existence resources;
- the measures taken for the prevention and control of unemployment;
- the activity of the counties, communes, the work inspection organs, the public offices of placement, of other public authorities, of the professional organizations of owners and employees, of the charity Societies, etc.;
- the funds raised for helping the unemployed, specifying the funds from the Ministry of Work, the Prefect's offices of the counties, the town halls, through subsidy, donations, subscriptions, unemployment stamps, contributions in kind, etc.;
- the number of unemployed helped/head of family and members;
- the way of helping the unemployed, through canteens, food products and in money, wood, clothes and shoes articles, through opening of public or private works, hostels for the unemployed, support for transport, etc.;
- the sums spent and their use for helping the unemployed;
- the funds still available and those stipulated or which will be cashed, in the view of continuing the charity in the benefit of the unemployed;
- the troubles that the organs having the task to prevent and control unemployment and helping the unemployed had, the measures that must be taken for eliminating them, the tendencies that foresee the issue of unemployment;
- any other observations, observations and proposals regarding unemployment (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 34).

Cacica locality is among the first localities that try to offer a report and a quite exhaustive answer, to the order of the Prefect's office of Suceava county, number 1808/28.04.1931, such as, according to this:

- the general cause of unemployment is due to the general economic crisis that included also Romania, and the local cause of unemployment is a consequence of the fact that the Romanian Orthodox Church Found stopped the forests exploitation, activity in which the most active population was engaged (timber and firewood), as well as the suspension of free delivery notes for the transport of wood for the army, which had provided itself wood until 1929. The number of unemployed working in the forest industry and timber factories is of 111, and of those totally deprived of any kind of help, of 29.
- no definite measures were taken for the

prevention of unemployment, or for helping the unemployed. In this sense, the Prefect's office of Suceava was called for help, providing food products, more exactly 50 kg of maize for each unemployed, help accorded during the month of April 1931.

- except the commune's activity and that of the Prefect's office, no other helping activity from other authorities was observed.
- there was no financial fund raised for the unemployed, neither by the commune, nor by any other authority.
- through the distribution of maize 113 head families in unemployment were helped. No financial support, clothes or other forms of help were offered.
- from the commune's town hall no sum of money was spent for helping the unemployed, because the town hall didn't raise money in this sense.
- the available funds weren't meant for helping the unemployed

In the following, some recommendations are made for the prevention of unemployment:

- a) the obligation of all factory owners and industrial institutions to employ only the persons deprived of any material sources, not the wealthier ones. For example, the Singer Company, which, only at the intervention of the police force "accepted to employ only the persons in need".
- b) the obligation of all enterprise owners, that in case of unemployment, the workers with no income to work only three days a week, so that a quite big number of workers "should earn all the necessary stuff".
- c) the supervision by the work inspectorate of the owners of industrial establishments, so that they shouldn't take profit of the high unemployment rate and to reduce the wages of employees.
- d) the obligation of big owners from the Old Kingdom to employ only the ones totally deprived of any life sources, being given as example situations from precedent years, when there were employed also persons owning 2,3 hectares of land, and whose real estate remained not exploited (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 41-42).

The town hall of Suceava elaborates an answer and a report to the number 1808/28.04.1931, through an account, from the 28th of March 1931, regarding the prevention of unemployment. According to this:

- the general economic crisis was deeply felt, especially by the craftsmen and merchants from Suceava town, in the context in which the town represents an important commodity market for the county's agricultural productions, as well as a place for provisioning with industrial articles necessary for the life of farmers.

- the lower prices for the cereals, even under the cost price, diminished a lot the purchasing and consuming power of the farmers, determining, thus, an almost complete stagnation of the circulation of goods, fact leading to the stoppage of work of craftsmen and workers who live only working with their own hands. This phenomenon was especially felt in the summer and autumn of 1930, reason for which all these craftsmen and workers were in the situation that, at the beginning of winter, not having any supplies of food, clothes and a minimum source of income
- the situation is harder and harder, as the biggest number of qualified workers is that of bricklayers who normally work during the summer, distributing their income during winter. Given the existent context, they couldn't work during summer, and, thus, couldn't obtain a minimum income for their existence.
- given this situation, the communal council and the mayor of Suceava county undertook a series of measures for the prevention of unemployment. The first was the constitution of a commission which, at the 22nd of February 1931, decided the following:
 - to appeal to the big owners from the county for offering food supplies, especially cereals
 - selling special stamps, in value of 1 leu, for the unemployed, laid on the bills, at the restaurants and public shows.
 - the organization of shows, the profit of which should be used for helping the unemployed
 - the intervention to the Government for the financial support of the unemployed
 - besides these measures, the communal council voted, in the budget of Suceava county, the sum of 60.000 lei for helping the unemployed (File 47/1930, NAS, tab 49).

After these measures and actions, there followed an important mobilization for helping the unemployed, both from the employers and land owners, and from the local communities. Thus:

- the land owners donated 400 kg of wheat and the sum of 2700 lei
- after the festival from the 12th of March 1931, an income of 9472 lei resulted
- a quantity of 3 wagons and a half of maize was received, from the Central of import-exportation, through the Confederation Upper Moldova from Cernauti, maize distributed to the unemployed, on credit, from the sum of 3.000.000 lei, given by the Government for supporting Bukovina
- a quantity of 100 kg of sugar was also donated by the Factory of sugar Ițcani, quantity being distributed to the students and unemployed

The commission for helping the unemployed considered that it was better to offer this support in kind, and not in financial support, so that “the support should satisfy the real needs and not to have another use.”

After a list of unemployed *apriori* established and with the involvement of one representative, 10.000 of coupons of 5 lei were distributed, being spent, thus, 50.000 lei, in four weeks. The rest of the financial capital is deposited at the town's Savings bank.

Besides these support actions, the Town Hall of Suceava also distributed, from the fund established in the budget for the unemployed and the population in need, about 14 wagons of firewood, during the winter. On the eve of Christmas and Easter 2000 kg of wheat flour were distributed to the same social categories.

For helping the unemployed in the locality, important sums for urban works were stipulated in the budget, such as: buildings reconditioning, building bridges, streets, etc., where only local workers are employed.

The actions undertaken by the Commission were sustained, even if in a lower degree, by the local communities.

In the end of the report the Commission concludes that an important step in the prevention of unemployment should be the initiation of a far-reaching public work which should engage a big number of unemployed.

The funds available in the Commission, at the moment of ending the present report, are: 10.360 lei, deposited at the bank, 12.695 lei from the fund provided from the Town Hall for helping the unemployed, as well as about 400 kg of wheat, from the Weitmann Mill. Starting with the month of May, the number of unemployed should be reduced, fact due to the re-start of urban works.

The Commission considers, however, in the end of the report, that these actions, both in the present and in the future, would not change, significantly, the situation of the unemployed, if the general economic situation does not improve.

ISSUES REPORTED BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES FROM BUKOVINA DURING THE GREAT RECESSION

Numerous requests registered in the archive documents manage to offer a quite accurate image of the main problems with which the local communities from the interwar Bukovina's space are confronted with. In the following, we give some examples, considered by us, the most representative.

A request of the inhabitants from Moldovita, from the 22nd of March 1930, addressed to the Prefect's office of Campulung county, through which it is demanded that the Prefect's office should intercede with the Romanian Orthodox Church Foundation for providing pasture spaces for the inhabitants' animals. They denounce the fact that the Church foundation, through some functionaries, restricted their access to these pasture spaces, especially after the county and communal elections, after which the National Peasantry Party won. The functionaries would have declared that "at summer they will send the people with the cows to pasture at the National Peasantry Party", reason for which the inhabitants of Moldovita became worried, given the fact that this activity-the breeding of animals-is their main activity of sustenance, and being deprived of these spaces would determine them to sell, at a ridiculously low price, their animals, and thus, to reach poverty (File no. 28/1930, NAS, tab 3).

Another complaint, of the inhabitants and mayor of Doroteia regarding the peculation of a sum of money representing the tax for pasture for the mountain Baesescu, by the one responsible with collecting this tax and transferring it to the Agricultural Council from Campulung. Therefore, the inhabitants demand the legal proceedings for the one being responsible for this situation, so that grazing shouldn't be restricted, in Baesescu mountain, by the agricultural council, having been in leasing, for decades, by the inhabitants of Doroteia, either from the church foundation capital, in the past, or from the agricultural council, in the last years (File no. 28/1930, NAS, tab 3.).

Also in Doroteia there was registered a request for solving a lawsuit regarding grazing in Baesescu mountain and other mountains, which, until the summer of 1930, were in leasing to Doroteia commune, but in the present were in leasing to Ostra commune, leaving, thus, Doroteia, without enough surfaces for the animals' grazing in the commune (File no. 28/1930, NAS, tab 4).

An account of Dorna Candrenilor Town Hall for Campulung Prefect's office, presents the situation of surfaces for grazing in this locality and the small village Poiana Negrii, which, not having a very clear delimitation, will present a similar situation for the two localities. In the document it is specified the fact that, until 1929, Dorna Candrenilor had its own grazing spaces in Sipotele Sucevei, called Sarata and Jarovita and starting with 1928 had also a surface of 163 ha for grazing in Suhard mountain, situation perpetuated in 1929, too, when the Campulung county's Prefect's office is presented the situation of agricultural exploitation of the surfaces for grazing (File no. 28/1930, NAS, tab 5).

From a report addressed to Campulung county Prefect's office, from the Town Hall of Capu Campului, from the 5th of March 1930, we find out the severe economical situation of the commune's inhabitants, fact owed both to natural and human causes. The natural ones are mainly determined by Moldova river which limits the commune at the north and which, through the changes of the superior river bed, erodes, constantly and irremediably the arable land, used by the inhabitants, until the previous years in agriculture. The arable land offered them the possibility to provide themselves a minimum of resources for everyday existence.

Thus, over 300 ha of arable land are removed from the agricultural circulation, reason for which the inhabitants are forced to find other ways for obtaining the necessary resources, both for the personal foodstuff, and for the animals. One of the solutions found by some of the inhabitants, was that of working the land, in part, but in other localities, quite far away, such as Falticeni or Iasi, but neither this solution could be adopted by all the inhabitants, given the big distance and the lack of animal traction from some farmers. The grazing of cows is also a problem for the inhabitants, because neither the village people, nor the locality have but only a reduced common for only 50 animals, and through the agrarian Law they couldn't be put in possession of land, because of the lack of land (File no. 28/1930, NAS, tab 14, 15).

The human causes that led to this lamentable condition of the inhabitants from Capu Campului, are connected to legislative directions, and which generated severe economical difficulties. A supplementary source of income was also the commerce with wood from the forest of the Church foundation, and because the exploitation conditions of wood were radically changed, the simple inhabitants didn't have access or didn't afford to participate at the activity of wood exploitation, fact owed, on one hand, to the big taxes for exploitation, and on the other hand, to the modification of legislation which offered the right of wood selection and shaping only to the forest administration or to the church foundation. Not even the throwing downs by the wind could be exploited by the inhabitants, even if the necessary steps were taken in this sense. Given the conditions and factors which determined the dramatic reduction of the level of life of the inhabitants from Capu Campului, through the report to the Prefect's office, the requests are:

- the selling to the inhabitants of the commune the accidental wood mass (from the throwing downs by the wind)
- to have the possibility to select and shape the wood and

- the price to be fair, as the merchants offer, not at high price.

Through these facilities, the inhabitants of the commune could have the possibility to obtain an income that should offer them a decent lifestyle, a minimum of material existence (File no. 28/1930, NAS, tab 15).

ISSUES REPORTED BY THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION FROM BUKOVINA DURING THE GREAT RECESSION

From the proceedings of the meeting of the Prefect's office Council, from the 28th of October 1928, having on agenda the following debates and problems (File no. 28/1930, NAS, tab 24-28):

- the country chief of the small rural district Moldova brings into discussion the fact that some communes don't receive the share from the additional taxes paid by the Administration of the Church foundation, fact leading to the impossibility of payment for some compulsory spending
- the country chief of the small rural district Dorna demands for respecting the working hours/schedule of the commune's cashiers and to avoid the unjustified extension of the time of payment of different sums when they are called to the tax-gatherer's office
- the country chiefs from the county declaim the bad conditions on the roads from the county, such as the commune road that connect Vatra Moldovitei and Ciurmarna localities, the national road between Saru Dornei and the county road, as well as between the communes Stulpicani and Negrileasa.
- the observation of the county's doctor and the report to the Region by the administrative Inspector of Storojinet county, which reveals the fact that in the county there are used too many "milk separator devices", in order to produce, in industrial quantities, butter and cheese. Given this fact, the inhabitants' children from the rural area have to drink a "sour-cream like" milk, that is very low in calories, fact leading to a malnutrition of these children, and, more severely, to the increase of infant mortality rate. Thus, it is imposed that the case should be transferred to the Hygiene Council, as well as the reduction of the number of devices used for this procedure, so that children shouldn't drink such a low calories product
- A brief report of the stage of embanking of Moldova river, is demanded, on the territory of Capu Campului and Valea Seaca communes
- the country chief of the small rural district Moldova also brings into discussion the situation of the communes that are forest owners, but which can't

comply with the formalities for wood valorization because of the transport spending and the anticipated taxes required and imposed by the forest administration. The county's Prefect declares that he knows about this case, and that he also made a complaint to the Ministry to solve the problem

- the prefect informs the present participants about the future sanitary investments in Campulung county, through the county's Hygiene and Protection Council, all in value of about 5.500.000
- regarding the jobs, the prefect desires that the old crafts should be re-introduced, both in the villages and in the towns, in order to rise the inhabitants life standard.
- for the national protection, the prefect informs about the law of the Army's Ministry for the enrollment of women in the "country's service" and about some courses for women who want to join the army. The prefect appeals to the present ones to transmit the information in the territory, so that sanitary courses for about 20 women in the county should be organized.
- with reference to the merchants that celebrate/have free on Saturday and their shops closed, they should be reminded that these stores are considered public places and, therefore, should be open these days, for public access and public organs, and the owners have to be present, but without "being obliged to sell if this doesn't fit to their religious conscience".
- another problem brought into discussion is the one related to the repression of the legionary propaganda, demanding for an accurate information, especially in schools and high schools, where there were registered (supposed) cases of legionary adepts, but which the instance found not-guilty, but the school where they studied decided to expel them. Thus, prudence and avoiding to make a great show of zeal, are demanded, from the persons having managing functions and who could perpetuate such unfavorable situations to those proving to be innocent. An example is the situation of some students in Manastirea Humorului commune, who, even if acquitted by the instance, were expelled from the school, from over zeal. Therefore, it is questioned his right "to a commander of legion guard to assume the right to discuss in public the prerogatives of justice", according to the principle "*dura lex, sed lex*" "*The law is hard, but the law*". "The country is in danger, but for the simple people the important thing is the nation's permanent interest", according to the principle "*salus res publicae supraema lex esto*" "*The safety of the state shall be above the law*" (File no. 28/1930, ANS, Campulung County Prefecture Fund, tab 24-28). Other initiatives regarding the reduction of public

spending, concern the public functionaries. A form letter from the 25th of June 1930, to the Prefect's office president, informs about the numerous orders and decrees which had in view the reduction of spending with the public functionaries, indicating a series of measures for accomplishing this fact, among which, the reduction of the number of functionaries, through their selection on the base of a report of competences and performances. The checking of their record is also recommended and those who "made false declarations on the studies titles, obtaining illegal functions and promotions, should be dismissed" (File 11/1930 NAS, tab 4).

CONCLUSIONS

Being a phenomenon with economical and social implications, unemployment met different forms and degrees of manifestation, depending on the environment in which it was felt, as well as on the reaction of the authorities and communities regarding this situation.

Present especially among the working class from the rural area, the phenomenon of unemployment will be a constant preoccupation for the state, the local authorities and civil society, in general, both in the period of economical crisis, and in the interwar period, and the involvement of which will have as a result the establishment of some special Commissions for helping the unemployed and vulnerable persons, charity actions for raising funds for this cause, different tax stamps, etc.

Of course, not all the towns and localities which register industrial activities of any kind, will report or register unemployed, as in the case of Solca and Burdujeni towns, and, thus, will not consent to participate at the actions of the helping commissions or at any other action undertaken by the authorities or the community, from the simple reason that this phenomenon, both social and economical, was not registered in those urban localities.

Therefore, the industry of food products, leather goods, furs and animal products, as well as the book industry, are the most affected by these social movements, and the main declared causes for strikes are especially connected to obtaining certain payments that could assure the employees a decent lifestyle, the reduction of working hours, with the maintenance or rising of wages, as well as various contestations regarding the work regulation.

Among the requests signaled by the local authorities there are the ones referring to providing grazing spaces for the inhabitants' animals, after the restriction of the access to these spaces, by the Orthodox Church Foundation, not satisfied with the

results of the elections, in which the National Peasantry Party wins; different lawsuits between neighboring communes regarding the right to pasture; attempts to misappropriate taxes for pasture.

The appearance of some environmental problems are also signaled, which restrict the agricultural activity, as well as the change of the rivers' superior river bed which eliminates from the agricultural circulation significant arable surfaces; the modification of conditions of wood exploitation and valorization from the Church Foundation, by the local community, etc., all having as a result the severe reduction of the inhabitants' level of life.

Among the problems signaled by the local administrations, the most obvious are the ones connected to the quality of infrastructure and the necessity of new material and financial investments, so that the communication among localities should be realized more easily; the situation of some communes that can't exploit the wood in possession, because of the forest notifications and very big transport taxes; the desire and necessity to re-introduce at villages and towns, the old crafts, in order to supplement incomes and the inhabitants' level of life.

Beside these, some representatives of local administration reclaim the existence of too many "milk separator devices" which, put into commerce a milk very low in calories, and its consumption by the children leads to malnutrition and, more severely, to the increase of infant mortality rate.

REFERENCE LIST

- [1] Anuarul Statistic al Romaniei [Statistical Yearbook of Romania] (1927), Bucuresti, fila 275.
- [2] Dosar nr. 28/1930, Arhivele Nationale ale Statului (ANS), Arhiva Judeteana Suceava, Fond Prefectura Judetului Campulung, fila 3 [File no. 28/1930, National Archives of the State (NAS), Campulung County Prefecture Fund, tab 3].
- [3] Dosar nr. 28/1930, ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Campulung, fila 3 [File no. 28/1930, NAS, Campulung County Prefecture Fund, tab 3].
- [4] Dosar nr. 28/1930, ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Campulung, fila 4 [File no. 28/1930, NAS, Campulung County Prefecture Fund, tab 4].
- [5] Dosar nr. 28/1930, ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Campulung, fila 5 [File no. 28/1930,

- NAS, Campulung County Prefecture Fund, tab 5].
- [6] Dosar nr. 28/1930, ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Campulung, fila 14, 15 [File no. 28/1930, NAS, Campulung County Prefecture Fund, tab 14, 15].
- [7] Dosar nr. 28/1930, ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Campulung, fila 15 [File no. 28/1930, NAS, Campulung County Prefecture Fund, tab 15].
- [8] Dosar nr. 28/1930, ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Campulung, fila 24-28 [File no. 28/1930, NAS, Campulung County Prefecture Fund, tab 24-28].
- [9] Dosar 11/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Campulung, fila 4 [File 11/1930 NAS, Campulung County Prefecture Fund, tab 4].
- [10] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 2 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 2].
- [11] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 3 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 3].
- [12] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 4 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 4].
- [13] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 6 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 6].
- [14] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 7 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 7].
- [15] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 12-18 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 12-18].
- [16] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 31 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 31].
- [17] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 9 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 9].
- [18] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 16 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 16].
- [19] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 20 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 20].
- [20] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 40 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 40].
- [21] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 43 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 43].
- [22] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 44 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 44].
- [23] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 19 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 19].
- [24] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 22 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 22].
- [25] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 25 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 25].
- [26] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 30 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 30].
- [27] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 23 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 23].
- [28] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 28 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 28].
- [29] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 32-33 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 32-33].
- [30] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 41-42 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 41-42].
- [31] Dosar 47/1930 ANS, Fond Prefectura Judetului Suceava, fila 49 [File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 49].
- [32] Durandin C., (1995). *Istoria romanilor* [The history of the Romanians], Iasi, Institutul European.
- [33] Iatencu R. (2010). Consideratii privind cercetarile sociologice din Bucovina in perioada interbelica [Considerations regarding sociological research in Bucovina during the interwar period], *Analele Bucovinei*, Volume 17, No.2, 493-519.
- [34] Mareci-Sabol H. (2010). Bucovina ca teritoriu imaginar [Bucovina as an imaginary territory], *Analele Bucovinei*, Volume 17, No. 2, 397-405.
- [35] Purici S. (1997a). Aspecte ale problemei minoritatilor nationale in Bucovina istorica intre anii 1918 și 1940 (I) [Aspects of the problem of national minorities in historical Bucovina between 1918 and 1940 I], *Analele Bucovinei, București, IV, No.1, 131-145*.
- [36] Purici S. (1997b). Aspecte ale problemei minoritatilor nationale in Bucovina istorica intre anii 1918 și 1940 (II) [Aspects of the problem of national minorities in historical

- Bucovina between 1918 and 1940 II], *Analele Bucovinei*, IV, No. 2, 411-425.
- [37] Saizu I., (1991). *Modernizarea economiei contemporane (perioada interbelica)* [Modernization of the contemporary economy (interwar period)], Bucuresti, Editura Academiei Romane.
- [38] Scurtu I., Buzatu G. (1999). *Istoria romanilor in secolul XX (1918-1948)* [The history of Romanians in the 20th century (1918-1948)], Bucuresti, Paideea.
- [39] Scurtu I., Mocanu C., Smarcea D. (1995). *Documente privind istoria Romaniei intre anii 1918-1944* [Documents regarding the history of Romania between the years 1918-1944], Bucuresti, Editura Didactica și Pedagogica.
- [40] Stoenescu, C-G. (2018). Romania during the Interwar Period: an Economic Approach, *The Romanian Economic Journal*, Volume 21, No. 70, 80-93.

LIST OF TABLES & FIGURES

Table No. 1
Strikes at the state, county and commune enterprises, in 1927

the number of strikes that affected only one enterprise	34 strikes, from which, the most in the textile industry and of wood
the number of strikes that affected more enterprises	12 strikes
the total of strikes	46 strikes
the total of enterprises	203, from which, the food products industry, leather goods, furs and animal products, as well as the book industry, are the most affected by these social movements
the number of employees in the enterprise at the moment of the beginning of strike	9.399 employees, the most in the book industry, than the textile one and the wood and furniture industry, as well as in the metallurgic and mechanics industry
the number of employees participant at the strikes	5.518 employees -similar to the previous indicators
the number of employees trade unionists existent in the factory, before the beginning of the strike	3.886 employees
the number of employees trade unionists participant at the strike	3.360 participants
the number of unemployed forced to attend the strike	429 in pottery, lime and glassware, extractive, wood and furniture; metallurgic and mechanics
the number of the days lost because of the strikes	47964 days

Source: *The data processing was carried out following the information obtained from Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 1927, Royal Court Printing Office, 1928, page 275.*

Table No. 2
Causes for calling the strikes, at the state, county and commune enterprises, in 1927

requests for wage rise	14 strikes
against the wage cuts	6 strikes
requests for reducing the working hours with maintaining or rising the wage	5 strikes
different complaints regarding the working regulation	10 strikes
for imposing or being against the introduction of work piece by piece	2 strikes
complaints about the workshop regulations	3 strikes
requests for reintegration of the fired employees	4 strikes
requests for the limitation of the number of apprentices and establishing their admission conditions	1 strikes
requests for vacations	2 strikes
requests for the dismissal of some employees	1 strikes
various	4 strikes

Source: *The data processing was carried out following the information obtained from Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 1927, Royal Court Printing Office, 1928, page 275.*

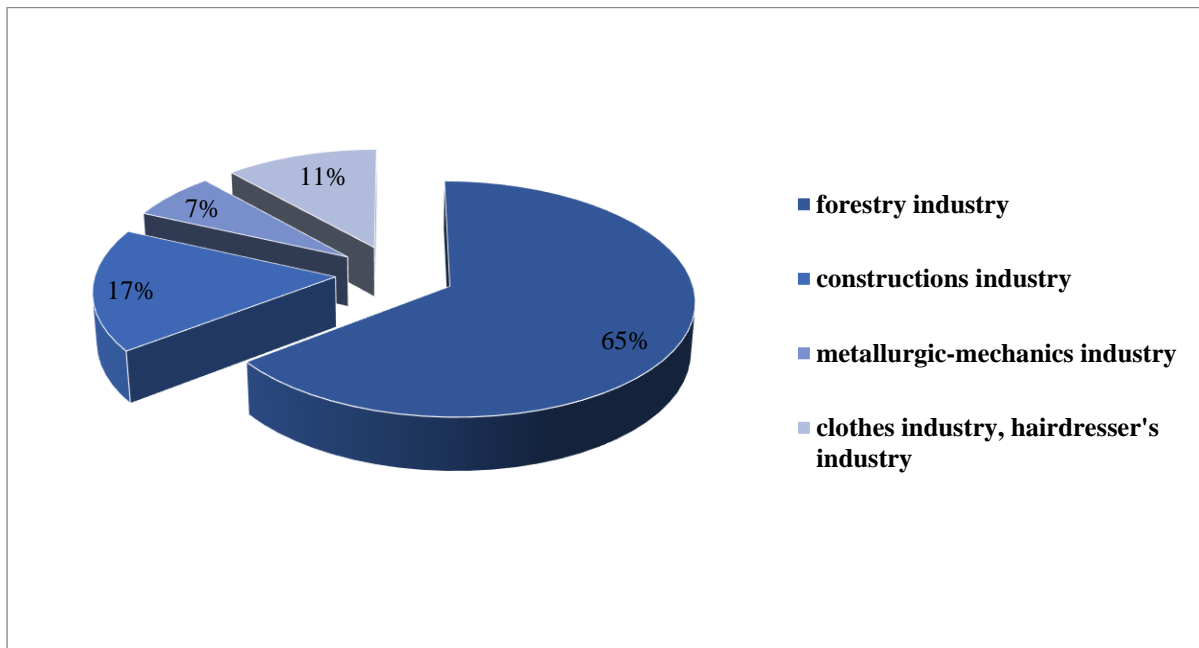


Figure No. 1

The phenomenon of unemployment in Cacica Locality in 1930

Source: The data processing was carried out following the information obtained from the File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 19.

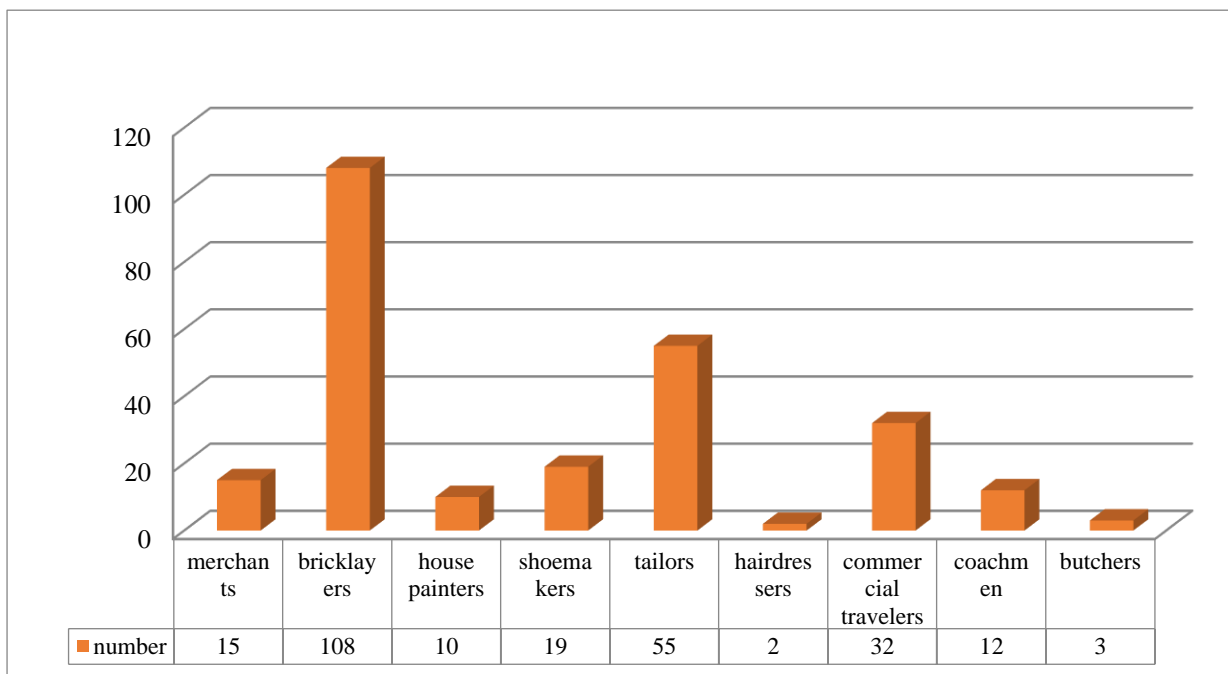


Figure No. 2

The phenomenon of unemployment in Suceava town in 1930

Source: The data processing was carried out following the information obtained from the File 47/1930 NAS, Suceava County Prefecture Fund, tab 22.