

## THE COMMISSARY OF THE APUSENI MOUNTAINS AND ITS PLAN FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN THE REGION (1934-1936)

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The history of the liberal programme for economic recovery of the Apuseni Mountains Region starts with Ion I.C. Bratianu, who had contacted the Moti Country even before the Great Union with the aim to get to know their life, customs and ancient virtues. The attachment of the great man from the Kingdom towards the *moti* (inhabitants of the Apuseni Mountains) urged him to move as early as 1907 Horea's church from Albac to "Florica"<sup>1</sup>, thus saving the historical monument from certain destruction. A continuator of political traditions inherited from his father, Ion I.C. Bratianu understood that the *moti* were entitled to a share of the reward in the great construction of the Great Romania and that they should regain their *ab antiquo* rights for which so much blood had been shed during riots and revolutions.

In order to get acquainted with all aspects of the painful drama of the *moti*, Bratianu called the most authentic *mot*, Amos Francu, the man that had been a spiritual leader for more than four decades, a sturdy and uninterested defender, a fearless fighter and the most devout supporter of their cause. In a well outlined and condensed memoir based on historical and legal arguments, the former tribune of the *moti* revealed the abuses of the agrarian reform and indicated practical solutions to all problems, whether of general or special interest. Out of the proposed solutions, we mention the following: drawing up a law to acknowledge the *moti's* properties according Horea's requests to Emperor Joseph II and the memoir of Avram Iancu and Popa Balint to the Governor Carol Schwartzenberg in 1853; appointing a royal commissioner to find the solution to all economic, agrarian, administrative, social, and cultural issues; establishing a county of the Apuseni Mountains; urgently giving the *moti* forests and pastures from both the lands belonging to the State and those belonging to private persons, particularly Banffy, Urmantzy, Tischler, Kemeny and eliminating the foreign companies exploiting wood ("Calatele", "Regatul Mare", "Raul Alb", "Mica", and so on); delegating the Ministry of War to establish at their own expense warehouses to provide for the *moti* in Gilau, Huedin, Campeni, Abrud, Zlatna, Brad, and Vascau<sup>2</sup>.

After this memoir, Ion I.C. Bratianu instituted in 1924 a commission made up of *moti* members of Parliament and leaders of superior authorities in the capital of the Ardeal under the leadership of Ion Russu-Abrudeanu, senator of Alba, a good connoisseur and supporter of the *moti*. The commission requested the Ministry of Agriculture and Dominions to accept and do the following: revoking all woods exploitation authorities in the Huedin region; "restitutio in integrum" and revoking all decisions of the Agrarian Commission; sanctions against all bodies that had broken the law through the agrarian reform. The activity of this commission was interrupted and the steps taken through the administrative bodies bore no result.

After the fall of the liberal government in 1926, under the governance of General Averescu, the former mayor of Targu Mures, Dr. Emil Dandea, great grandchild of Ionut Dandea, one of Horea's captains, was appointed commissar of the *moti*. The new commissar studied the problem through a thorough field investigation. The conclusions were put together in a big report that he forwarded to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and proposed some solutions. From the ministry, the report was sent to the Superior Administrative Council that approved of the following suggestions: establishing the Apuseni Mountains County comprising all localities inhabited by the *moti*; forming a commission to prepare the elaboration of the law project to establish the new county; an amount of 50 million lei was allowed by the State budget for the expenses of the commission for the year 1927<sup>3</sup>.

For unknown reasons, the Averescu Government did not continue the action, so that the issue reached a dead end. Under the circumstances, the Government commissioner, considering his mission finished, resigned and forwarded all the documents to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Under the second liberal government, Ionel Bratianu, upon the *moti* request, decided to personally look after the whole situation and he took the responsibility through a telegram sent from Bucharest on June 28th, 1927, in which he wrote: "The Government and I personally will examine the memoirs and the requests of the *moti* and we will find a just and lawful solution with all the love I have for the brave population of the Apuseni Mountains"<sup>4</sup>. As a consequence of this responsibility, he appointed Alexandru Lapedatu, the minister of Religions, Gheorghe Cipaianu, State Undersecretary at the Dominions, and D. Tatarescu, State Undersecretary at the Internal Affairs to study the whole ensemble of issues of the *moti*, then to make concrete proposals at the Council of Ministers in order to solve them. The three started to work right away, as the chief of the Government requested and they presented the following proposals to the Council of Ministers:

*Agrarian issues:* a) correcting all errors committed by the agrarian reform due to which the forests, which were indispensable to the *moti* existence, were not expropriated; b) correcting all errors committed with the communal woods and pastures.

*Economic issues:* a) setting up strong industrial centres and factories in all important wood-related centres. Within the same concerns, there will be a set of regulations for the use of private saws guiding their organisation on cooperative basis; b) establishing central delivery and economic selling cooperatives in Huedin, Gilau, Campeni, Abrud, Zlatna, Vascau, Beius, and Brad; c) rationally organising the *moti* work, establishing a vocational school with all specials relating to wood industry in Huedin, Gilau, Campeni, Abrud, Zlatna, Brad, Vascau, Beius, and Bratca; d) special treatment of mining industry in the region of the Apuseni Mountains concerning both mining law and mining products trade; the issue of discount for the explosives used in such mining enterprises should be solved according to the requests of the *moti* working in the field.

*Financial issues:* In important centres in the Moti Country strong popular banks should be established; through them, the credits needed by rural and mining population should be organised. The Central Hall of Popular Banks should provide a special treatment to support these banks. One single

federal, the Moti Federal, would connect the popular banks.

*Sanitary issues:* Considering the difficult situation of the *moti* from a sanitary point of view, as 40% of them were contaminated with sexual diseases and tuberculosis, establishing mobile hospitals for the treatment of these diseases. Mobile teams would be doubled in important centres that would be to comprise the most isolated hamlets in the Apuseni Mountains.

*Means of communication:* Besides the strategic road in Vidra, an industrial railways would be firstly built from Cluj-Gilau to Racatau-Belis and return to Campeni through the Aries Valley, thus reaching all wood massifs in the region that have not yet been exploited. They would also fix the road Abrud-Zlatna, as well as other important roads in the Apuseni Mountains.

*Cultural issues:* Allowing the funds from the Ministry of Education to build schools and to organise mobile education, as the material situation of the *moti* could not complete the accomplishment of local initiatives in this respect<sup>5</sup>.

This work to save the *moti* that was begun by the great liberal political man in September 1927 was suddenly interrupted by his death on September 24th of the same year and by the fact that his party fell in the autumn of the year 1928. The programme was continued once the National Liberal Party returned to governance. As early as I.G. Duca governance began, he sent the following letter to the "Cross Brotherhood" in the Moti Country: "The Government of the national-liberal party will make a point of honour to continue and achieve the initial work of the great Ion I.C. Bratianu in 1927 for the social, economic, and cultural evolution of the Apuseni Mountains inhabitants through all possible means. The action to fix the wrongs and to effectively support the *moti* constitutes for the current government of the national-liberal party one of the great duties of these days"<sup>6</sup>.

As we know, I.G. Duca was killed by the legionaries. Ion I.C. Bratianu's will, as well as the codicil added by I.G. Duca was put into practice by Gh. Tatarescu. The presence of the ministers Lapedatu and Cipaianu in the Government was also a guarantee that they would start to fulfil the will of the great forerunners to "raise an hour earlier the *moti* people, a people attacked in their natural existence by diseases, robbed by loan sharks, with their souls poisoned by the lies of demagogues and starved by the lack of means of living and work opportunity". Due to the initiative of Alexandru Lapedatu, on April 13th, 1934, the representatives of the counties inhabited by the *moti* (Alba, Arad, Bihor, Cluj, Hunedoara, and Turda) met in Cluj. On this occasion, they decided to draw up a list of all *moti* issues. The list was forwarded to the Council of Ministers on April 25th, 1934. When they analysed the situation of the population in the Apuseni Mountains, the Government went to Campeni and Huedin on May 3-4, 1934, where they observed and made the following decisions:

*Woods issue:* All woods property of the State in the Apuseni Mountains would not be given to private companies; they would only be given to the population either through exploitation cooperatives or individually. A commission appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Dominions with a view to finish the works to hand over the commune forests and pastures resulted from the agrarian reform would work in the centres of the six counties in the Moti Region on May 7 - June 15, 1934. The commission would have

full power to solve all issues on the spot. They decided to finish the works referring to the agrarian reform and to finish all trials and litigations. They would urgently measure and divide the expropriated lands and would give them to the communes and the ones that were entitled to them. All State reserve lands at the western border would be meant for *moti* colonisation.

*Exploitation, tax and rent for woods:* a) They decided to reduce the *moti* rent for saws, including the ones on the State lands, to 600 (from 3,000-5,000 lei, as they had required); b) Taxes for joint and urban woods and inefficient woods were abolished. The guard tax for the same woods was reduced to 1 leu/yoke, and the control tax for efficient woods was half reduced. The back payment before January 1st, 1934 was to be reduced, too; c) A commission would be appointed to study the situation of the communes with no mountains.

*Road issue:* The Government approved of a 20 million lei credit to fix the roads Turda-Campeni-Abrud-Alba Iulia and Abrud-Brad, as well as the construction of new roads Albac-Belis and Rasculita-Vidra. The works would start in June 1934. For all goods and cereals charges crossing the Apuseni Mountains Region, there was a 50% discount on C.F.R.

*Taxes:* As far as peasants' mills were concerned, they were exempt from turnover tax, while small traders and industrialists benefited from a tax discount. They made the decision for the fiscal bodies to urgently investigate all cases of agricultural lands income overrating, in order to re-establish a rightful settlement of both income and taxes. The same bodies were to investigate tax back payments so that all errors caused by exaggerated assessment or law breaking could be right.

*School:* Pastures and lands were requested for schools and public institutions; for lack of available land, this could not be fulfilled. They only decided that they should receive wood for free. Aiming at improving education, they decided to establish some canteens for the pupils in mountain communes with poor population and far from the school. The schoolmasters requested to become part of the "cultural area", so that they could benefit from the 50% pay raise; they were promised that their request would be introduced in the new law through an amendment. They also decided to establish a school for industrial apprentices at Campeni.

*Health:* They decided that the Ministry of Health should increase the capacity of hospitals in Baia de Aries and Brad and to establish a new central hospital at Campeni, as well as medical cabinets, equipping all sanitary institutions with medicaments and materials. The medical circumscriptions were to increase, so that they would no longer be made up of more than 6 to 10,000 inhabitants.

*Mines/mining:* The following decisions were made: re-establishing at Zlatna, besides the State plants, an office to exchange gold (concentrate); the possibility to send dynamite and explosives to Brad and Baita, and setting up an explosive storage in Zlatna; selling explosives to small native mine owners with a 50% discount; changing art. 81 in mining law; reviewing the validity of exploitation rights and a new investigation of the exploitation perimeters; exploiting the Mount "Cetatea" in Rosia Montana as soon as possible, which would provide jobs for about 1,500 inhabitants; setting up a

gold credit to fund small exploitations made by the native *moti*, in order to strengthen gold exploitation.

*Cooperatives:* They decided to establish cooperatives to provide the population with cereals, wood and mining products, and so on, by guiding the Central Directorate of the Popular Banks to take immediate steps to support the existing ones and to establish new cooperative units<sup>7</sup>.

The next step was to elaborate the law project concerning the establishment of the Apuseni Mountains and Maramures Commissary seated in Cluj with the mission of being in charge with economic, sanitary, and cultural recovery of the Region of the Apuseni Mountains and Maramures. According to the project, the Commissary would be run by a delegate of the Government with wide attributions granted through delegation to each minister in charge with carrying out the economic recovery plan. The Government delegate was to attend the meetings of the Council of Ministers when decisions were made concerning the Region of the Apuseni Mountains and Maramures. He would be helped by a Council made up of the chiefs of the inspectorates subordinated to the following ministries: Agriculture and Dominions (for forests), Communications, Finances, Internal Affairs, Education, Industry and Commerce and Labour, Health and Social Security. The Ministry of Agriculture and Dominions would delegate a General Agronomist Inspector that would belong to the Council and work permanently at the Commissary as a deputy of the Government Delegate, when the latter was not present. All the others were honorary counsellors that were compelled to work at least 5 hours a week for the Commissary. The Council would meet whenever needed to investigate and elaborate an economic recovery plan for the regions mentioned above, as well as to approve of the execution of this plan.

The offices of the Commissary would be led by a Secretary General with a degree in Law, either BA or PhD, and at least 5 years experience in public services to be in charge with the chancery, archives, and mail and with the minutes of the Commissary Council meetings. Both the Government Delegate and the Secretary General would be paid from the budget of the Council of Ministers.

The prefectures of the counties of Cluj, Turda, Alba, Hunedoara, Arad, Bihor, and Maramures would delegate an administrative or special clerk at the Commissary according to the needs settled by the Government Delegate; they would be paid from the budget of the counties concerned.

For the economic recovery of the Apuseni Mountains and Maramures, the Commissary would elaborate an economic plan for a period of 10 years that would be first approved by the Council of Ministers. The financial means to carry out the general economic plan would be at the disposal of the Commissary through the Presidency of the Council of Ministers that would write in the State annual budget for 10 consecutive years an amount appropriate to the real needs and according to the public works to take place in the general economic plan approved by the Government. The counties belonging to the region would write down in their budgets an amount corresponding to the number of inhabitants and the territory belonging to the Commissary action plan that they would send before May 1st of each

budget exercise. This amount would be used only for public interest works in that county. Each year, the Commissary would draw up a report on the achieved recovery action to be sent to the Council of Ministers for approval.

The professional chambers in the region were compelled to coordinate their economic activity with the activity of the Commissary by using the amount received exclusively to carry out the general economic recovery plan.

The Apuseni Mountains Region, on which the economic, sanitary, and cultural recovery action was focused, had the following limits: from Alba Iulia, on the right bank of the Mures, through Deva-Ilia, to the limit between the counties of Arad and Hunedoara; from here, on the limit of the borough of Halmagiu and the borough itself, then the limit of the counties of Arad and Bihor; from here to Astileu near the Crisul Repede; from Astileu to Huedin, and from Huedin on the national road Gilau-Turda-Aiud-Alba Iulia and the entire Maramures County<sup>8</sup>.

Through the new law project, the decisions of the Council of Ministers made at Campeni and Huedin on May 3rd and 4th, 1934, were ratified and became laws, as well as the decisions made by the Minister Manolescu-Strunga during the conferences held with the chiefs of the authorities belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture and Dominions in Cluj, Huedin, Gilau, Campeni, and Jara de Jos on June 6th, 7th, 12th, and 13th, 1934<sup>9</sup>.

Due to the field surveys and investigations and a thorough analysis of the official and unofficial documentation, in the autumn of 1934, the Commissary of the Apuseni Mountains forwarded the Government a budget project accompanied by a series of reasons and a memoir widely describing the situation and the measures to be taken as part of the action of economic recovery of the region. The project was divided into several chapters and issues, as follows:

A

*Subsidies to purchase seeds.* The seeds used in this region are completely destroyed. For this reason, the harvest is poorer and poorer. Consequently, we need to change the cereal, potato, hemp, and linen seeds. The action should start at the same time in at least 10 communes by changing the types of seeds used so far. They will provide for other communes from next year's harvest. Assuming the subsidy of 1,000 ha with 500 lei, we will need 300,000 lei to purchase the seeds starting this winter. In the budget of the year 1935/1936, we will have to allow 500,000 lei for this scope.

*Subsidies for chemical fertiliser.* The stable fertiliser produced in this region is not enough from the quantitative and qualitative points of view. It barely covers 30% of the needed quantity. This is due to the poor cereal, hayfield, and pasture harvest. For this reason, we should encourage the use of chemical fertilisers to get a better harvest. In its turn, this will provide better-fed cattle and a greater production of fertiliser, thus increasing the fodder harvest and thus the milk production. To encourage this action and to purchase the fertilisers for hayfields and model-pastures, as well as the cereal crop, we will need 300,000 lei this winter, and 500,000 lei in the next year budget.

*Subsidies to build fertiliser planks.* Taking care of the stable fertiliser is completely unknown in the region. More than 65% of the fertiliser power is

lost by the fact that it is not well taken care of, as there are not even the most primitive fertiliser planks. The damage is enormous, almost inestimable. If we consider the borough of Campeni and its 11 communes, we may draw the conclusion that the fertiliser production of the 20,000 cattle is 1,000,000 m/m, while the 65% loss is equal to the value of at least 300 cereal wagons. To encourage the construction of systematic planks in the best households with the best dairy and breeder union communes, we need 200,000 lei this winter, and 300,000 lei in the next year budget.

*Subsidies to purchase agriculture machines.* Agricultural machines and tools are almost inexistent, whereas the existing ones are very primitive. As a subsidy to purchase them, we calculate 50,000 lei for this winter, and 200,000 lei for next year's budget.

*Establishing tree nurseries.* Fruit farming is little developed, although soil and climate are favourable in most communes. In order to provide a new source of income and more food for the inhabitants by encouraging fruit farming, we need to establish more State tree nurseries and thus grow the appropriate trees in the region. In order to do that, we need 50,000 lei this winter, and 200,000 lei in next year budget.

*Encouraging herbs crop and ingather.* This crop would be a new source of income, so it should be encouraged with 50,000 lei each year.

B

An improvement of the economic situation in the region cannot be imagined without a large contribution from the State to rationally organise cattle, horse and sheep breeding and to systematically encourage milk economy. With this aim, the communes are to be first of all endowed with milk cows and breed bulls, then with mountain horses and breed sheep. The contribution of the State would consist of the following subsidies:

*Subsidies to purchase commune bulls.* Bull farms and planned unions would not bear positive results for a few years. Before they may produce the needed reproducers, they have to be purchased from other regions. In order to cover the lack of bulls, which is acute, the subsidy must be 400,000 lei this winter, and 500,000 lei for the budget year 1935/1936.

*Subsidies to build private stables.* The existing stables are in most of the cases completely unfit to the aim. In parallel with the new organisation, these should be changed into hygienic stables. In this respect, the results could only be reached with a special care from the State. Therefore, the State should stipulate 400,000 lei in the next year budget.

*Establishing bull farms.* The annual lack in the region is of about 200 bulls. This considerable livestock must be covered through an internal production in the region. Consequently, we need to establish both State farms and private breeder unions. According to our calculations, we will need 8 State farms with 40-50 cows each that would provide a production of 100-140 bulls. The rest could be provided from unions' production. This action would need 1,000,000 lei to cover 8 years.

*Making studs.* In order to regenerate the mountain horse that is almost completely degenerated nowadays we must make studs to serve both private and army interests in the region. Therefore, the amount of 1,000,000 lei should be allowed in next year budget.

*Making sheep farms.* In all regions of the country we have village sheep farms. However, they are completely inexistent in the Apuseni Mountains. This explains the degeneration of the sheep breed here. We need at least 5 sheep farms in the region. The current livestock counts 300,000 sheep. These sheep farms should be endowed with at least 400 breed sheep, so that the villages may have the needed rams. They will also be a shepherd school to guide them in producing ordinary cheese. In order to set them up within 5 years, we need 400,000 lei this year and 600,000 lei for each of the following years.

*Subsidies for cattle breeder unions.* For cattle regeneration, we need as many breeder unions as possible. But they need, at least in the first years, a subsidy from the State. We suggest the amount of 300,000 lei for the next year.

*State contribution to a reimbursable fund to purchase milk cows.* In order to evolve from the present-day primitive mountain economy to a national one combined with milk cows and considering the total degeneration of cows, we first have to make sure that the inhabitants improve or change their cows with breed cows and a bigger milk production. Considering the poverty of the population in the region, we cannot reach this result unless we create – according to the general plan – a reimbursable fund to provide the credits the inhabitants need. However, the State should support this action with a subsidy of at least 25-30%, which means an annual amount of about 5,000,000 lei besides the 10 yearly echelons.

*Subsidies for cooperatives for milk selling.* Commune cooperatives should be encouraged by State subsidies with the amount of 500,000 lei necessary to purchase jars and small machines/separators/coolers.

*Establishing "plants" for milk industry.* Milk industry should be made in central dairies under the State property. They have to be established at the same time as the development of commune cooperatives for each group of 10-15 communes, each having enough capacity to process the milk coming from these communes, which would cost 2,000,000 lei.

*Creating a model-apiary and subsidies to apiaries.* The development of beekeeping in the region would provide a new income source. We need to create a model-apiary to encourage it and to provide subsidies to the schoolmasters and priests that will embrace this culture. We need 100,000 lei this year and 400,000 lei for the year 1935/1936.

## C

*Subsidies to create artificial hayfields.* Fodder crop is not sufficient to improve cattle breeding and milk production. We therefore need to introduce artificial hayfields at a large scale. The subsidies should start right away, in order to purchase the seeds for next spring. We need 150,000 lei and 300,000 lei for next year. This amount could be used for about 500 hectares, if we calculate a 600 lei subsidy for a hectare.

*Subsidies for land improvement.* The lack of crop lands in the Apuseni Mountains is well known. Nevertheless, a great part of the unproductive lands could be used for crops through land improvement; particularly moors could become high-quality hayfields. A subsidy for these improvements would greatly increase the crop land in the region. 400,000 lei would be enough to begin with. However, once the milk production increases, the



annual subsidy should increase, too.

*Subsidies to purchase harrows for hayfields and pastures.* To increase hayfields and pastures production, we have to grow them rationally. To purchase the harrows for model-hayfields and to subsidy the best householders, we need 120,000 lei now and 150,000 lei for the year 1935/1936.

*Making hayfields and model pastures.* According to the general programme, we need to make more hayfields and model pastures. To purchase the seeds and the material for this action, we need the amount of 80,000 lei and 300,000 lei for the year 1935/1936.

*Subsidies for pastures improvement.* Mountain pastures are the main income source for the inhabitants. However, the production is very low. The lack of skill and the poverty of the inhabitants is the main reason for the present situation of the pastures. We have to follow the example of the alpine states and to do our best to increase pastures productivity. A support in this sense from the State would bear very good results. An amount of at least 1,000,000 lei should be allowed for this action.

*Subsidies to build model-runs and pasture stables.* If we embrace, according to the general plan, the increase of milk production and a more rational cattle breeding, we have to make sure that the cattle has shelters on the pastures, and to make rational runs for milk production. One cannot imagine mountain economy without them. The first condition for the flourishing of mountain economy would be building stables and runs on pastures. This action should develop at the same time as the creation of cattle breeder unions and milk cooperatives. It needs each year a 1,000,000 lei subsidy.

D

In order to provide new guidelines for *household industry*, we have allowed 500,000 lei for this year and 500,000 lei for next year. We have to stress the fact that wood craftsmanship is developed at a large scale in these regions and we should create carpentries and toys workshops. The latter could provide an unsuspected income to the moti. We have a whole plan that could contribute to the promotion of toy industry. Furniture for schools and other State institutions could be made in carpentries.

It is well known that in the Apuseni Mountains, sheep breeding is mainly focused on wool production. It is absolutely necessary to provide guidelines to sell and use this product. By following a well-structured plan to produce stakes, card-machines, looms and other parts, we suggest a subsidy of 400,000 lei for this year and 500,000 lei for next year budget.

E

*School for mountain economy.* We do not have in our country any school concerned with mountain economy, although our mountainous regions cover about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the country. In the Apuseni Mountains, where the lack of culture and skill is even more obvious, we consider it necessary to establish such schools. For the time being, we could adapt the vocational school for agriculture in Campeni with a section for mountain economy, where the sons of the best householders could attend 3-6 month courses, particularly those embracing milk production, hayfields and pastures culture, and so on. In order to adapt the school mentioned above, we should allow 100,000 lei for

next winter and 900,000 lei for next year.

*Special courses at school in Campeni.* Pupils attending school will have to be supported just like the ones attending vocational schools – for free. Assuming a number of 30 pupils with a 20-lei allowance per day for food, as well as other living expenses, we need a budget of 300,000 lei.

*Mobile courses.* In order to spread knowledge amongst the villagers through mobile courses, particularly in communes with milk production and rational cattle breeding, we need 50,000 lei for next winter and 100,000 lei for next year.

F

*Subsidies for production, purchase and sells of agricultural, wood, and household industry products.* Cooperative can be considered as inexistent in the region, and this is precisely where it is most needed, considering that the hardships of the Apuseni Mountains inhabitants are more obvious then anywhere else. For this reason, we have to support them by allowing 500,000 lei for next year budget and 100,000 lei for next winter.

G

*Research and experiments concerning the increase of agricultural production.* In this respect, nothing has been done in mountain regions. Here, we still do not know the most basic things concerning types of cereals, potatoes, and fodder plants to increase production. In this respect, we are still in the dark. Without healthy research and experiences, we will not reach any result. For this reason, we consider that an action in this field is highly needed. The State should allow 100,000 lei now and 200,000 lei next year.

H

*Peopling rivers with trout and other types of fish.* We should not forget about pisciculture that could be a collateral income source for the inhabitants. All waters in the region should be peopled. An amount of 200,000 lei should be allowed in the next year budget.

As far as *forestry* is concerned, the State should allow important amounts for forest recovery, as follows:

*Tree nursery.* Creating 16 nurseries on a total surface of 56 hectares would cost about 600,000 lei, maintaining them 250,000 lei, autumn works and overhead 250,000 lei; a total of 1,050,000 lei out of which 200,000 lei for current year and 850,000 lei for next year.

*Picking seeds:* 2,000 kg acacia, 200 kg spruce fir, 80 kg Austrian pine, 180 kg durmast, 100 kg ash tree, 50 kg different seeds, 80,000 lei.

*Planting* 1,200 ha of degraded soils with seedling plants of acacia, Austrian pine, cytizis lamburnum, durmast, ash tree, hazel tree, lime tree, spruce fir, fir tree, and so on; considering 1,450 lei per hectare, the amount would be 1,740,000 lei.

*Torrent corrections.* Transversal building in river beds of dams and stone beaming in dry masonry (about 1,500 cm for 120 lei), dams and beaming in zinc-coated wire holes (about 2,000 cm for 260 lei), as well as building small fences near bluffs and steep slopes (about 200 linear meters) would need about 940,000 lei. On the whole, expenses relating to forestry would cost 3,810,000 lei, out of which 500,000 lei would be used next winter and 3,310,000 lei in the budget year 1935/1936.

## I

*Miscellaneous.* Chancery, furniture, heating, lighting, telephone, travel and daily expenses, and so on, 100,000 lei for this year and 400,000 lei for next year.

The program, undoubtedly a realistic one, could have contributed to the economical straightening of the Apuseni Mountains area. Its putting in application was implying time and money, but both of them were missing to Tătărescu's government. Its falling down in 1937, the degradation of the internal situation and, especially of the international one, have changed the priorities' agenda of the Romanian State.

### **COMISARIATUL MUNȚILOR APUSENI ȘI PROGRAMUL SĂU DE REDRESARE ECONOMICĂ A REGIUNII (1934-1936)**

Istoricul programului liberal de redresare economică a Regiunii Munților Apuseni începe cu Ion I. C. Brătianu, care, în 1924, a instituit o comisie formată din parlamentarii moți, sub președinția lui Ion Russu-Abrudeanu, senator de Alba, care a cerut Ministerului Agriculturii și Domeniilor „restitutio in integrum” pentru moți și sancțiuni împotriva tuturor organelor care au luat parte la încălcările de lege săvârșite prin reforma agrară în zonă. În a doua guvernare liberală, Ionel Brătianu a însărcinat pe Alexandru Lapedatu, ministrul Cultelor, Gheorghe Cipăianu, subsecretar de stat la Domenii, și D. Tătărescu, subsecretar de stat la Interne, ca împreună să studieze întreg complexul de probleme ale moților, iar apoi să vină în fața Consiliului de Miniștri cu propuneri concrete în vederea rezolvării acestora. Opera începută de marele om politic liberal a fost brusc întreruptă prin moartea sa fulgerătoare la 24 septembrie 1927, și prin plecarea de la guvernare a partidului său, în toamna anului 1928.

Programul a fost reluat o dată cu revenirea la guvernare a Partidului Național Liberal, fiind transpus în practică de către Gh. Tătărescu. Din inițiativa lui Alexandru Lapedatu, la 13 aprilie 1934 s-au reunit la Cluj reprezentanții județelor locuite de moți (Alba, Arad, Bihor, Cluj, Hunedoara și Turda), cu care prilej s-a luat hotărârea de a se întocmi un referat asupra problemelor moților, referat înaintat, la 25 aprilie 1934, Consiliului de Miniștri. Pasul următor a fost înființarea Comisariatului Munților Apuseni, cu sediul la Cluj și cu misiunea de se ocupa de refacerea economică, sanitară și culturală a Regiunii Munților Apuseni, regiune având următoarea delimitare: începând de la Alba Iulia, malul drept al Mureșului, prin Deva-Ilia, până la liziera dintre județele Arad și Hunedoara, de aici pe liziera plasei Hălmagiu, cuprinzând în întregime această plasă, apoi pe liziera județelor Arad și Bihor, de aici până la localitatea Aștileu lângă Crișul Repede, de la Aștileu la Huedin, iar de la Huedin pe șoseaua națională Gilău-Turda-Aiud-Alba Iulia.

Pe baza studiilor, anchetelor făcute pe teren, precum și a unei minuțioase analize a materialului documentar oficial și neoficial, în toamna anului 1935 Comisariatul Munților Apuseni a înaintat guvernului un proiect de buget, însoțit de o expunere de motive și un memoriu în care este descrisă pe larg situația existentă și măsurile ce trebuie luate în acțiunea de salvare

economică a regiunii. Planul era eșalonat pe 10 ani, mijloacele financiare pentru executarea lui urmând a fi puse la dispoziția Comisariatului prin Președinția Consiliului de Miniștri, care urma să înscrie în bugetul anual al statului, în 10 ani consecutiv, o sumă potrivită cu necesitățile reale și conform lucrărilor publice ce se vor executa din planul general economic aprobat de guvern.

Programul, fără îndoială realist, ar fi putut contribui la redresarea economică a zonei Munților Apuseni. Implementarea lui presupune însă timp și bani, dar ambele au lipsit guvernului Tătărescu. Căderea acestuia, în 1937, degradarea situației interne, dar mai ales a celei internaționale, au schimbat agenda de priorități a statului român.

## Note

<sup>1</sup> In the year 1907, Ion I. C. Bratianu and his wife visited the Moti Country. In Albac, he found out that the 18th-century church, where "Horea and his worthy companions had received the Eucharist" was to be destroyed, as the authorities decided to dismember it and sell as old wood. Together with the priest and schoolmaster in Albac, Bratianu planned to save the church that he bought in the autumn of 1907; in the winter of the same year, he moved it on sleighs to Turda and from there to Florica in special wagons, where master Nicolae from Sohodol rebuilt it on the opposite side of the slope where Ion I.C. Bratianu's grave lies. Father Piso from Brad gave the church the imperial gates of Closca's church from Carpinis and the cherry wood cup from the church of Mestecanis, where Crisan had pledged lest "they should separate the memories of those who had been united in faith and fight to martyrdom". Ion I. C. Brătianu, *Din Țara Moșilor amintiri*, București, Imprimeriile „Independența”, 1924, pp. 9-12

<sup>2</sup> Arhivele Naționale - Direcția Județeană Bihor, *Fond Prefectura Județului Bihor*, dos. 68/1934, f. 18

<sup>3</sup> *Ibidem*, f. 19

<sup>4</sup> *Ibidem*, f. 20

<sup>5</sup> *Ibidem*, f. 21

<sup>6</sup> *Ibidem*, f. 22

<sup>7</sup> *Ibidem*, f. 22-23

<sup>8</sup> The region was made up of 6 counties, with 20 boroughs, 63 communes, and 539,644 inhabitants. The Alba County comprised the boroughs of Abrud, Aiud, Zlatna, Teius, and Alba Iulia, a total of 67 communes and 89,315 inhabitants; the Arad County comprised the borough of Halmagiu with 45 communes and 27,073 inhabitants; the Bihor County comprised the boroughs of Beius, Vascau, Ceica, and Alesd, a total of 193 communes and 151,442 inhabitants; the Cluj County comprised the boroughs of Huedin and Gilau, a total of 81 communes and 76,714 inhabitants; the Turda County comprised the boroughs of Valea de Aries, Campeni and Iara with 52 communes and 68,034 inhabitants; the Hunedoara County comprised the boroughs of Avram Iancu, Brad, Geoagiu, Ilia and Deva, a total of 195 communes and 122,060 inhabitants. *Ibidem*, f. 49-155

<sup>9</sup> *Ibidem*, dos. 14/1936, f. 208-211