



News

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ECONOMY

Chemical Equipment Industry

The Romanian chemical equipment industry covers now more than 70 per cent of the equipment needed by the national economy. There are several enterprises cooperating in the building of such plant, yet three of them - the "Grivița Roșie", "23 August" and "Vulcan" works of Bucharest - are majors in this industrial branch. A large gamut of apparatus - from technological component parts of plant and steam boilers, to complex technological lines - this being at present the guideline in the chemical equipment output - is being built.

The 1968 novelties are telling examples. The "Grivița Roșie" works, for example, is now building technological lines for the production of ammonia and phosphoric acid, and the processing of caustic soda, on a par with the best similar makes in the world. This big works is also building, for the first time in Romania, high-voltage container for ammonia synthesis, and tankers for petrochemical products with capacities of 46, 60 and 90 tons respectively. The "23 August" works is this year building a large gamut of products, especially single specimens in terms of form, size and weight, such as equipment for crude-oil processing, for the cellulose and paper industry, industrial boilers and heat-recovery boilers, containers under pressure, equipment for the manufacturing of alumina, for the non-ferrous chemistry, and for the organic and inorganic chemistry.

The output of chemical and petrochemical equipment is expected to raise this year by 14 per cent over last year. Some of these products are to be exported to various countries the world over.

Handicraft Cooperatives

The fourth Congress of handicraft cooperatives of Romania, organization with an 154,000 membership, took place in Bucharest between March 7 and 9. Specialized in 130 trades the handicraft cooperators work in more than 309 units with 12,000 centres of which 11,000 are servicing centres for the population, which dot the country.

In the 1962-1967 period the production of the handicraft cooperatives has almost doubled, at an annual average growth rate of 14.1 per cent. The highest growth index has been recorded in auto and motorcycle repair, 3.1 times, at wireless and t.v. set repair, over 2 times, and at services in the building domain, some 4 times. In 1967, the volume of exported products was 2.8 times that of 1962.


The servicing net for the rural population has greatly extended. It counts 938 units and 59 mobile workshops.

A characteristic feature of the handicraft cooperatives' activity is the new way of organization, enabling an expeditious adaptation of production to the market's requirements, with small series of products being turned out in diversified assortments.

The average earning of cooperators has gone up by almost 32 per cent over the 1962 level.

By their own system of social insurance, the Romanian handicraft cooperatives have in the last five years spent almost 1.2 thousand million lei on sick benefits, labour safety regulations and children's allowances.

Following the increase of pensions and social allowances, the cooperators benefit by pensions that are by 40 per cent higher, and to which the supplementary pension is added.



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FOREIGN-TRADE

M-461 Jeep-Type Car for Export

One of the Romanian products in ever greater demand abroad this year is the M-461 jeep-type car. Under the contracts concluded, Romania will export 4,580 such cars, which means an about 65 per cent increase as against 1967.

In this branch, the machine-building industry also turns out the "Bucegi" and "Carpați" lorries of 3.5 and 5.5 tons meant for various purposes: transport, loading, unloading, etc.

The features of the M-461 jeep-type cars are sturdiness, increased velocity and low fuel consumption. They are exported to a great number of countries including Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, People's Republic of China, Colombia, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Kuwait, Poland, and Yugoslavia.

Products for Rubber Processing Industry

The Romanian chemical industry delivers abroad, besides the finished rubber products, also a number of products for the rubber processing industry, including the butadiene-styrene synthetic rubbers, Carom 1500 for black items and Carom 1502 for white and coloured items, the synthetic rubber extended with oil Carom 1712, the black and brown regenerated rubbers, the Carbomet-s types of carbon black, the rubbers R-300 and Rebonex-H used as ingredients for the manufacture of great wear-resistance, and the Phenyl-Beta-Naphthyl-Amin antioxidant.

Under the latest contracts, these products are exported to Albania, Austria, Britain, People's Republic of China, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Iran, India, German Democratic Republic, Federal Germany, Sweden and the UAR.

CULTURAL ITEMS

Academy's Prize for 1966 Awarded to Two
Composers

The George Enescu annual prize of the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania was recently awarded to two young and talented Romanian composers: Dan Constantinescu and Andreas Porfetye.

Dan Constantinescu, a lecturer at the composition chair of the Bucharest Conservatoire, where he made his studies, was born in 1931.

The piano concerto, which won him the Academy's prize, has a complex chromatic scale and profound lyricism. The score for piano, sometimes part of the orchestra's score, and sometimes in contrast, results in a vivid dialogue, in interrupted cadence. The concerto reminds the author's bent for chamber music.

The most well-known pieces by Dan Constantinescu include "Toma Alimoș", a ballad for orchestra, inspired from the Romanian folklore, a concerto for piano and strings, a sonata for flute and piano, and variations for violin, viola, cello and piano.

The concerto no. 1 for mezzosoprano, cello and orchestra by Andreas Porfetye is a lyrical burst, inspired from the verses of late Romanian poet Nicolae Labiș. The composer uses a daring musical language, of a complex character, and the tune alternates with the recitative. Porfetye's composition is the first piece to transpose cantata, to chamber music in an original and interesting formula.

A. Porfetye was born in 1927 and is a graduate of the Bucharest Conservatoire. The Romanian public knew him through his compositions - especially chamber music -, a concerto for organ, the second symphony, and the "Serenata" symphony.

One Hundred Contemporary Art Shows

More than one hundred Romanian Contemporary art shows will be opened this year in Bucharest and other towns of this country.

Prominent in the multitude of such events is the Painting and Sculpture Biennial, slated for December, a diverse and suggestive image of the artistic accomplishments during the last three years, that have been appreciated for their innovating spirit and the actuality of their message. Painting, which is dominated by such artistic personalities as Corneliu Baba, Henri Catargi, Alexandru Ciucurencu, and Dumitru Ghiță, has kept evolving during this period towards a humanist subject-matter, implying contemporary significations, and translated by a variety of means of expression, from those of classical nature to the modern ones. In the context of this rich individual stylistic, there is a conspicuous broad orientation towards folk art - in its inward meaning - with popular stylistics being used on an elevated level both in evocations of the past and in treatment of present-day problems. Sculpture, where noteworthy are the contributions of the elder generations at head with Ion Jalea, Ion Irimescu and Oscar Han, generally concentrates on symbols, on forms of marked generalization, towards rendering the substance of things, their philosophical and human tenor. Worthy of stress is also the process of crystallization of young talents and prominent among them the painters Ion Gheorghiu, Ion Bițan and Ion Pacea, and sculptor Gheorghe Apostu, whose artistic syntheses have been appreciated both at home and abroad.

Another artistic highlight is the spring exhibition of painting and sculpture, initiated a few years ago by Bucharest artists, with one entry by each Bucharest artist, original productions with the subject-matter according to the season. The 1968 art diary also announces the "Engraving Month", attesting the growing popularity of this art in Romania, the Republican Drawing Exhibition, the Salon of Humorists, one-man shows and retrospectives like those of painter Schweitzer-Cumpănă, sculptor Vida Geza and graphic artist Vasile Kazar.

TOURISM

Motoring Tourism in Romania

Last year saw the biggest flow of motoring tourists - over 112,000 cars - come to Romania, - 40 per cent more than in 1966. An important contribution on this line was made by the Romanian Automobile Club.

Under its control road squads are granting free-of-charge technical assistance on main tourist routes to all its members, as well as to the members of the foreign automobile clubs with which conventions were concluded to this end. The Romanian club organizes home and international rallies and cooperates with further clubs for the organization of such competitions. The Romanian Automobile Club intends to expand in the future the contacts with the similar clubs abroad. A doubling of the number of motoring tourists as compared with 1967 is envisaged this year.

Facilities for Participants in Hunters' Congress

Besides the entry visa which can be obtained through a Romanian travel agency or directly at the diplomatic offices of Romania abroad as well as at any frontier points, the participants in the 15th General Assembly of the International Hunting Council to take place at Mamaia, Romania, will also benefit other facilities. They can carry with them hunting arms and ammunition with the obligation to declare them when asking for the tourist visa, they also benefit of a 200 per cent exchange bonus for free convertible currency, which means 18 lei for one dollar. Those coming to Romania by car can enter this country by any road frontier point. The insurance policy and the national and international driving licences are valid also in Romania. Mercedes, Fiat and Hilmann cars, with or without driver, can be hired, at request. The cost of accommodation for one person is between 6 and 10 dollars a day.

DIARY

● The delegation of the Socialist Republic of Romania that participated in the Meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member states held in Sofia, was led by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, State Council President Nicolae Ceaușescu. The delegation also included Ion Gheorghe Maurer, member of the Executive Committee and of the Standing Presidium of the CC of the RCP, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Corneliu Mănescu, Foreign Affairs Minister, Colonel-General Ion Ioniță, Minister of the Armed Forces, and Nicolae Blejan, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Romania in Sofia.

● Under a decree of the State Council, Grigore Geamănu was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Romania to Turkey, in place of Ion Drînceagu who was recalled to the Foreign Affairs Ministry centre.

● At the invitation of Pompiliu Macovei, Chairman of the State Committee for Culture and Art of Romania, Dr. Malik Dohan Al Hassan, Minister of Education and National Guidance of Iraq, and his wife, accompanied by senior officials of the Ministry of Education and National Guidance of Iraq, visited Bucharest over March 6.- 9. The Iraqi Minister called on Alexandru Bîrlădeanu, Vice-Chairman of the Romanian Council of Ministers, and had meetings with Pompiliu Macovei, Chairman of the State Committee for Culture and Art, Ion Iliescu, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Union of Communist Youth, Minister for Youth Affairs, and with Professor Dr. Sc. Jean Livescu, Deputy Minister of Education.

