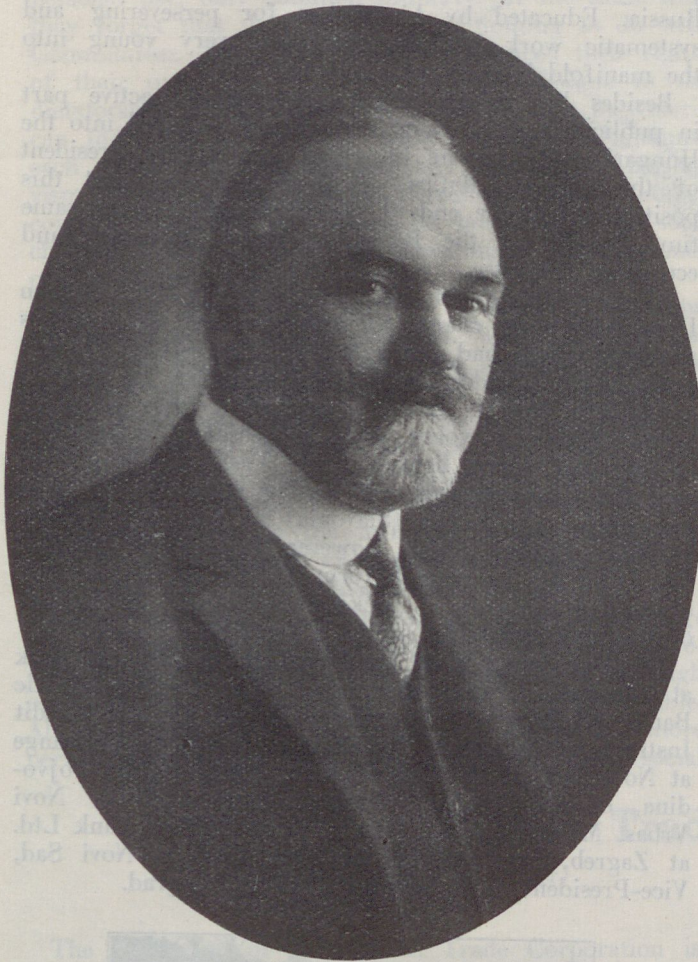


The Milling Industry of Jugoslavia.

In the group of industries which consume the Agrarian products of Jugoslavia the milling industry occupies one of the first and most important places, both considering the number of plants as well as the capacity and modern installation. This is explained above all by the fact that Jugoslavia is in the first instance an agrarian State, in which agriculture, stock breeding and forest culture are the chief sources of income for more than 80% of the people, on the other hand by the fact that Jugoslavia has been allotted parts of the



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former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in which the milling industry had been remarkably developed. A few statistic figures on the output of the country will state the agrarian basis of this industry.

The total area of Jugoslavia is 24,884,828 hectares of which about 11,350,000 were under plough in 1913. On 1,623,982 of these wheat had been grown, on 373,951 barley, on 193,860 corn, on 385,807 oat, on 1,943,525 maize, besides hemicarp, millet, rice and other cereals. In 1923 the total output on wheat, the most important grain for the milling industry, amounted to 16,620,147 q, i. e. a main output of 9,3 q per ha, which

however did not represent by far the maximum of the attainable yield. It must be born in mind on the contrary that in Jugoslavia the land is not cultivated as in countries where agriculture is industrialized; nevertheless it can be stated that in the agricultural production gradual, if slight, progress is to be noted in spite of the detrimental consequences of the agrarian reform carried out or still in execution in Jugoslavia since the war.

Although the output on wheat on an average only reaches 9,3 q per ha and is very much short of the main-output of the western states of Europe, the milling industry of Jugoslavia is highly developed, there are many plants of the newest type with the most recent innovations chiefly in Vojvodina, Croatia-Slavonia, but also in Serbia and Slovenia. In the country there are, apart from quite small village mills, such with a daily output of half a truck-load up to 30 and more; part of these mills are of older origin, the majority however built on a technically perfect basis some years before and also after the war. The daily output of the whole milling industry is estimated at about 9000 tons, which means a capacity of 2,700,000 tons a year (of 300 work-days). If the consumption of the population of 12,000,000 is calculated at 1,500,000 tons roughly (a great portion of the people is living on maize) there would still remain 1,200,000 for export. It is to be presumed however that the home consumption of flour and wheat for cultivation is still smaller, which can be derived from the fact that even at an output of 1,600,000 tons very important quantities of wheat and flour are exported.

The yearly capacity of the Jugoslav milling industry of roughly 2,007,000 compared with the yearly harvest of about 1,600,000 tons proves that this industry is much more developed than the present agricultural production. The consequence of this state of affairs and the fact that in the last years different experiments have been made with prohibition of and taxes on exportation, as well as the preference given to the export of wheat against that of flour, created a difficult situation for the Jugoslav milling industry which has been overcome, however, thanks to the efficiency of the men directing the most prominent mills of the country. The rising agricultural production allows favourable auspices for the milling industry and it is to be expected that, as the most important and most difficult impediments for this activity are removed, this industry will see the development which will again give it, at home and on the world market, where its products enjoy a very good reputation, the position due to its importance.