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## **From Trade to Agribusiness. Kálmán Nádosy's Entrepreneurial Career in Southern Transdanubia During the Era of Dual Monarchy**

### **Abstract**

The Hungarian agricultural sector developed significantly in the second half of the nineteenth century. This was the time when the Western technologies and innovations were introduced to the domestic agriculture. However, it was important that trained professionals were working on the domestic large estates of whom had extensive knowledge of the Western manufacturing operations and were up to date on agricultural practices. Our study shows a case like this. Kálmán Nádosy (1832–1913) was coming from a middle-class family. In 1861 he – together with his brother István – leased the bankrupted estate of Szentlőrinc owned by the Prince Esterházy family. While leasing the estate he modernised its operations. His marriage with Mária Jeszenszky helped him to socially integrate into the community of landowners in Somogy and Baranya Counties. Nádosy played a leading role in many business organisation and he was the founder of many of them. After the leasing contract ran out he acquired a part of Helesfa village from the prince, north of Szentlőrinc. Later he also acquired lands in Tótkeresztúr and Görösgal from the heirs of Gusztáv Biedermann. By the end of the nineteenth century his estate comprised more than 2400 hectares of land.<sup>290</sup> He achieved results in viticulture, winemaking, livestock management and forestry. He won numerous street and trade fair awards. He was a great supporter of the Southern Transdanubian Lutheran Church where he worked as a leader for a long time; in the meantime, he also donated to schools and churches.

**Keynotes:** manor, entrepreneur, Southern Transdanubia, development, innovation

### **Introduction**

The Hungarian agriculture sector developed quickly in the second half of the nineteenth century. After the start in the Reform Era mostly the years between 1850 and 1873 brought quick growth and the golden ages of agriculture, and after the breakdown of the 1880s intensive farming gained popularity. This was the period when domestic medium and large estates turned to the markets more often, and owners reorganised their properties in rational and profit oriented ways.<sup>291</sup> However, not only the traditional aristocratic class participated in this process, but other people coming from different industries. In our study we examine a case like this, when heirs of a successful textile merchant from Budapest appeared in Southern Transdanubia, where they invested in large leasehold estates and succeeded. Later one of them acquired 2475 hectares of estate and practised exemplary land management. Our paper also relates to the old question

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<sup>290</sup> In the paper I use hectare (ha) to measure agricultural area. In Hungary katasztrális hold (kh) was used to measure different areas until the end of the 1960s. 1 kh is equal to 0,575 ha.

<sup>291</sup> Orosz, I. (1989): 821-831.

in theory of Economics that deals with the origin of the Hungarian entrepreneur class, and the role of merchant capital in the development of other industries. In the social and economic analysis of The Nádosy family, we try to answer the following questions: 1 How quality farming was possible on a large leasehold estate; 2 How could a successful tenant become a wealthy land owner of medium size property in Somogy and Baranya Counties in the Dual Monarchy Era; 3 How his work was related to his ever-expanding public activity

### **Leased large estates in the Southern Transdanubian region**

As capitalist market mechanisms grew stronger, it also became clear that the administration of the Hungarian large estates, the merchant and investment activity related to it was more and more problematic without specific knowledge. It was no accident that the number of leases on Hungarian large estates grew quickly in the last thirty years of the nineteenth century.<sup>292</sup> The 20-30 year long leases were fixed income for the land owners. Along with tenants, there often came a new business oriented land administration which took steps towards the introduction of intensive farming. The public opinion on the activity of tenants – often because of the latent or open antisemitism – was overwhelmingly negative. In the public's view tenant farming was equivalent of destruction and plundering of the land that owners suffered due to foreigners. We must emphasise though that all of leased estates which we know in Southern Transdanubia were usually well operating farms. Very famous families engaging in wide range of social activities well beyond tenancy appeared in the area. We only mention a few of them. Well-known was Henrik Meller, who first leased the estate of Vasvár, and later the estate of Csurgó from Prince Tasziló Festetics' entail.<sup>293</sup> Meller moved to Csurgó in 1908 where he had a castle built. He supported the local high school, the Church and the erection of the Kossuth statue. His livestock was famous far and wide and in the 1930s his large-scale farm was among the twelve best awarded farms due to its meat pig breeding programme.<sup>294</sup> He administered the estate until his death in 1935. The 8056 hectares Estate of Siklós was leased by Károly Kremzír, Lipót Khón and Adolf Khón.<sup>295</sup> Later Kremzír leased the estate of Barcs from Count Széchenyi and in 1866 he also bought a part of it, namely the Belcsa-puszta land, where he had a castle and a distillery with enormous capacity built. Samu Kántorjánosi Mándy leased the humongous estate of Alsólendva and Lenti from the Esterházy family and acquired the estate of Szentlőrinc in 1891. The growing wealth of the tenant is illustrated by the fact that he also bought the estate of Simongát, which was once the land of Count Hunyadi, later land of Sina, and finally the possession of Prince Ypsilanti.<sup>296</sup> Mándy lived in the castle of Szentlőrinc, later became member of parliament, and sat on many parliamentary committees along with being board member in numerous banks and corporations. Factories and corporations appeared among tenants too. In the series of leased large estates was the estate of Szentlőrinc owned by Prince Esterházy Family which was leased in 1861 by Kálmán and István Nádosy.

<sup>292</sup> See Puskás, J. (1962)

<sup>293</sup> See Gazdacímtár (1911)

<sup>294</sup> <http://www.csurgo.hu/hu/hirek/1-hirek/369-hazak-es-lakoik-a-meller-kastely>

<sup>295</sup> Czeininger, T. (2001): 22.

<sup>296</sup> Parlamenti Almanach (1926): 320–321.

### The Nádosy Family: origin and rise

The Nádosy Family was originally from Trencsén County under the name Tersztyánszky. (Their name appears in various forms: as Trsztyánszky and Tersztyánszky too. Tersztye means reed bed – nádas - in Hungarian, hence the family's nobileitary particle: nádasi.) They were once members of the landed gentry but later became only commoners and the family underwent a rapid social adaptation. Many of them operated as merchants and tradesmen in Győr, but family members were found in the administration of Transdanubian and Upper Hungarian counties. The rise of one side of the family is related to merchant István Nádosy (1794-1866) who moved from Győr to the quickly developing Pest in the 1820s, and opened a textile (baize) store which later became a successful business. In 1840 he earned the right to use the nobileitary particle "Nádasi". He was the friend of Széchenyi and Kossuth; organiser and board member of Pest Craftsmen's Corporation. He was also involved heavily in charity: he was regarded as a great patron of the Lutheran Church. His wife was from the Lutheran Purgly Family from Józsa, and their marriage produced thirteen children.<sup>297</sup>

István Nádosy administered his merchant business and then left it on his children. As a result of the division of family wealth the eldest son György, became the manager of the store at Pest while István Jr. and Kálmán moved to Southern Transdanubia in 1861 where they leased the 6186 hectares estate of Baranya-Szentlőrinc (located between Pécs and Szigetvár) for twenty-nine years.<sup>298</sup> This could have taken place because the mismanagement of the twenty-nine estate complex of Prince Esterházy was close to bankruptcy in the early 1860s. The estate complex was placed under receivership between 1861-65 and different receivers prepared numerous proposals to increase income and repay debts. Between 1861 and 1865 many estates were permitted to be sold, and in the meantime, estates were leased in order to secure significant long-term revenues. Naturally, mostly those estates and lands were sold which performed well and costed more than yielded. In this period the Estate of Léva, Ipolypásztó, Buják, Végles, Szádvár, Biccse, Sztrecsény, Derecske and Kisvárda were sold, as a result, the previously enormous 393875 hectares princely estate complex shrank down to 268313 hectares.<sup>299</sup> This opportunity was seized by the Nádosy brothers, who made the lease agreement in 1861. (We have an unconfirmed source, which states that István Nádosy Sr. secured the agreement, but gave the contract to his sons.) The Nádosy brothers used to reside in Szentlőrinc first, but a few years later they had a manor built in Helesfa on the northern side of the estate. Among them István was a well-known agriculture expert who published multiple articles in the 1850-60s in journals like Gazdasági Lapok, Falusi Gazda and Kerti Gazdaság.<sup>300</sup>

Among with the Estate of Szentlőrinc, István and Kálmán Nádosy together with their in-laws, István and Béla Karczagh leased the estates of the Prince Batthyány Entail in 1871 too. (The wife of István Nádosy was Hermina Karczagh.) The owner of the entail - Prince Fülöp Batthyány - died in 1870 and the new heir, Prince Gusztáv Batthyány - who lived in London permanently – did not intend to have his property fragmented; therefore, he rather had all the four estates (Körmend, Kanizsa, Ludbreg and Inta) - altogether 16113 hectares - leased. The lease was for twenty-five years. Based on the inventory made at that time, the leased

<sup>297</sup> Vasárnapi Újság 19.06.1864. 1–2.

<sup>298</sup> Nyulászyné Straub, É. (1976): Appendix.

<sup>299</sup> See Nyulászyné Straub, É. (1976)

<sup>300</sup> Szinnyei Merse, P. (1903): <https://mek.oszk.hu/03600/03630/html/index.htm>

estates consisted of good manors and significant livestock.<sup>301</sup> However, an unexpected event disturbed the uprising career. The elder brother, the forty-eight years old István Nádosy Jr. died unexpectedly in 1876, and since his elder son was not of age, Kálmán could not manage the two leases together; therefore, Kálmán Nádosy ended his tenancy of the Entail of Batthyány and administered the Estate of Szentlőrinc only.

### **Kálmán Nádosy and the administration of the lease in Szentlőrinc**

Kálmán Nádosy (1832–1913) became a renowned farmer and an expert in agriculture in Baranya and Somogy Counties, who engaged in wide range of economic activities in the third part of the nineteenth century. Despite the fact that he had no business education – unlike his brother. Kálmán original intended to be a soldier, he was trained in artillery school, became a captain in the hussar regiment, but was given medical discharge due to his broken leg and ended up being an entrepreneur. As it was described in an article later: “he switched his sword to sickle”.<sup>302</sup> His marriage helped his social integration into the Southern Transdanubian society. He married in 1866: his wife was Mária Jeszenszky (1844-1920) who came from a landed gentry family of Bükkösd and Megyefa estate near the Estate of Szentlőrinc.<sup>303</sup> They had three sons and four daughters. The family planned to remain in the area for a long time (illustrated by the twenty-nine year-long lease agreement). By marrying off their children the Nádosy family got related to most of the local landed gentry families including the Jeszenszky, Fornszek, Thassy, Krammerer, Folly and Kacsokovics families. Nádosy consciously had their sons taught. He knew precisely that high level of education and professional degrees were requirements to economic progress. Amongst his sons, Elek studied at a business academy in Germany, Imre became a jurist in Budapest, while Kálmán’s niece István (III.) studied at a business academy too in Hohenheim, Germany.<sup>304</sup>

The Nádosy brothers were obviously motivated by the agricultural boom of the 1850s: in those two decades prior to the crash of 1873 there was a significant demand for agricultural product in the Habsburg Empire. The Estate of Szentlőrinc had particularly good potentials. Its centre, Szentlőrinc functioning as a district seat while being a market town, situated halfway between Pécs and Szigetvár on a rather busy road going to the west. But it was even more important that the Pécs-Barcs Railway had a station in the market town (opened in 1868), which provided access to Déli Vasút (Southern Railways) in the dynamically developing town, Barcs.<sup>305</sup> It was just as important that in 1881–82 the Kelenföld (Budapest) – Szentlőrinc line was opened, which gave direct access to the nation’s capital not only to the tradesmen, but to other entrepreneurs.<sup>306</sup> The population of Szentlőrinc was 1250 in the mid-1860s,<sup>307</sup> but it almost doubled (2554) at the turn of the century.<sup>308</sup> The lands belonging to the estate were located

<sup>301</sup> HU-MNL-OL P 1313. Fasc. 138. 1871. Fasc. 139. Nr. 374.; Nr. 535–549; 374.; HU-MNL-VaVL VII–1/d/bb. Fasc.17. III. 26/117/1882.

<sup>302</sup> Vasárnapi Újság 1888. Nr. 33. 538.

<sup>303</sup> Sonkoly, K. (1995): 199-254.

<sup>304</sup> Based on the written statement of Péter Mattyasovszky-Zsolnay

<sup>305</sup> See Szabó, M. (2021)

<sup>306</sup> Erdősi, F. (1986): 393-398.

<sup>307</sup> Fényes, E. (1866): 39.

<sup>308</sup> Népszámlálás (1900): Band 2. 186.

alongside seventeen villages, all of those situated in a fifteen kilometer radius, only Istvándi was thirty kilometres away from Szentlőrinc.<sup>309</sup> The estate was relatively small among the Prince Esterházy Entail's lands in Southern Transdanubia, considering that the Estate of Lendva being around 36254 hectares, the Estate of Kaposvár was 23018 hectares and the Estate of Dombóvár with Ozora were around 56971 hectares.<sup>310</sup> The estate was mostly south of the Mecsek hills, therefore it was exposed to heavy rainfalls and floods running down from the Mecsek and Zselic Hills, which required the construction of significant amount of floodgates and damming. In 1866 the estate comprised of 2868 hectares of ploughland, 431 hectares of meadows and 2270 hectares of forests.<sup>311</sup> The economic-geographical aspects were suitable for all sort of cultivation since there were high quality ploughlands, meadows alongside the Bükkösd stream, and vast areas of forests on the western slopes of the Mecsek Hills. Contrary to the common practice, the forests were part of the lease too.

As a result of significant improvements and investments, Kálmán Nádosy developed the estate into a demonstration farm. The profitability of the estate kept increasing which is illustrated by the continuously increasing lease price: in 1866 it was only 40000 Forints; however, at the end of the 1890s it rose to 86000 Forints.<sup>312</sup> The tenant was an ambitious, energetic entrepreneur seeking and implementing innovations. Taking advantage of the agricultural boom lasting until the early 1880s, he achieved remarkable result in many industries. We would like to point out two of these. Nádosy made considerable achievements in viticulture and wine-making. The wines he nominated to markets or trade fairs were excellent. His products reached even the most remote areas with the help of Országos Közpince. According to the catalogue of National Exhibitions of 1885 the wines of Nádosy which were sold in bottles had stamps on them, showing their place of origin as Helyesfa (contemporary name of the village Helesfa). These wines won medals at trade fairs in Vienna, London, Calcutta, Paris, etc...<sup>313</sup> It is important that they were not only taking care of their own wines, but encouraged local winemakers to produce quality wines too. This is well illustrated by having twenty-four wine producer from Baranya County present their wines in 1879 at the national trade fair, "most of them are from Helyesfa (simple peasants) whom were inspired by Mr. Nádosy to participate at the trade fair".<sup>314</sup> Since the mid-1880s Baranya County was reached by the Phylloxera epidemic, which spread through the region in a few years. As a result, most of the vineyards had to be terminated and then replanted with new vine species. Kálmán Nádosy was leading in the restoration work: his own sixteen hectares of vineyard had visible results thanks to the conscious use of pesticides.<sup>315</sup>

His other outstanding activity is observable in the field of animal husbandry. His long-lasting achievements were cattle and horse keeping endeavours. With his brother, István they founded the English, half-blood stud and the breeding programme was personally directed by Kálmán Nádosy. The foundation of the stud was given by horses bought from studs of Kladrubi, Lipica and Szigetvár (previously Czindery), but horses coming from Somogy and Tolna Counties were added too, which were further improved by famous English thoroughbred stallions. Their offsprings produced forty-two foals per year in the middle of the 1880s. The aim was to achieve

<sup>309</sup> HU-MNL-OL S 16. Nr. 0520.

<sup>310</sup> Kaposi, Z. (2014): 246.

<sup>311</sup> Nyulászyné Straub, É. (1976): Appendix 3.

<sup>312</sup> Nyulászyné Straub, É. (1976): Appendix 9.; HU-MNL-OL S 16. Nr. 0520.

<sup>313</sup> Kiállítási Katalógus (1885)

<sup>314</sup> Pécsi Figyelő 21.06.1879. 2.

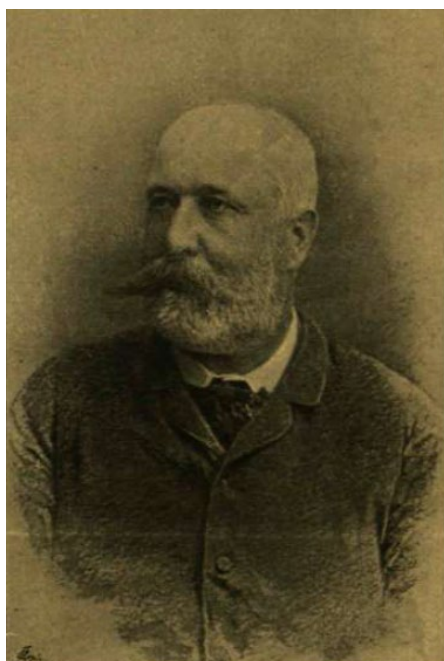
<sup>315</sup> See Borászati Lapok 12.09.1897. 562.

easy to handle, strong-boned stallions along the workhorses used for pulling carriages and ploughs – these horses were market in large numbers.<sup>316</sup>

### Purchasing land and farming independently

At the time when the Esterházy lease ran out (1891) Nádosy was sixty-one years old. It was an interesting feature of the contemporary business philosophy that he searched for peace and for the possibility of a financially secure, peaceful old age. Obviously, to achieve this a former large estate leaser had to own a land of his own. We know numerous cases of European and Hungarian entrepreneurs, who invested in secure assets – mostly buying lands or large estates – after a long, risky business career.<sup>317</sup>

Figure 1 Kálmán Nádosy



*Source: Vasárnapi Újság 1 August 1888*

In case of Nádosy it was possible to have the potential land in an area that he already knew well, and that he previously administered. Nádosy moved to Budapest in 1891 for a short time.<sup>318</sup> This was most likely necessary because his brother, who managed the textile store died, and it is likely that there were questions regarding the inheritance. He later returned and purchased land from Prince Esterházy in Helesfa. This was possible because the Estate of Szentlőrinc was not part of the entail - meaning that different piece of the entail could be sold freely; in addition, the new tenant did not intend to lease the whole estate. After this, he could purchase from the Estate of Mozsgó owned by the widow of Gusztáv Biedermann.<sup>319</sup> In 1892 he bought the lands of Tótkeresztúr (Almáskeresztúr today) not far from Helesfa in Somogy

<sup>316</sup> Vadász- és Verseny-Lap, 25.06.1885. 276.

<sup>317</sup> See: Kaposi, Z. (2019/b)

<sup>318</sup> Pécsi Figyelő 16.05.1891.

<sup>319</sup> Kaposi, Z. (2019/a): 138.

County. Later on he also acquired a part of Görösgal-puszta in Somogy County, an administrative part of Kis-tamási, which was possibly pieced together with other small land parcels. He could do that relatively easily, because on this side of the country (Kistamási, Molvány, Nemeske, Görösgal, etc...) owners kept coming and going since most of the area were comprised of small and medium sized lands (maximum few hundreds of hectares), often quickly sold by their owners.<sup>320</sup> Together the Helesfa and Görösgal lands were 2434 hectares, which was way larger than the neighbouring owners' lands combined.<sup>321</sup>

Figure 2 Manor house of the Nádosy family in Görösgal



*Source: MVV. Somogy (1914): 143.*

Kálmán Nádosy had an 815 hectares estate in Helesfa. The settlement laid on the southern slopes of the Mecsek Hills; therefore, it was no surprise that it consisted of 727 hectares of forest and 67 hectares of ploughland.<sup>322</sup> Forests were versatile sources of income at that time through up to date forest management that included timber extraction and sales, but hunting opportunities could give a lot to the owner too. The love of nature and its conservation can be observed in the work of Nádosy, and numerous examples of it are still visible today. One example is the well in the village of Gyűrűfű dedicated to God, and the memorial stone next to it which was placed there by the Nádosys. It is written on the stone: “Strider should thirst find you here, in these vast forests, stop here at the Well of God, and relieve your thirst you shall under this tough beech. Take your canteen into your hands and praise your poor Hungarian homeland. Wine warms up, water vitalises, but wine has a price, while water is provided by nature free of charge 1862.”<sup>323</sup>

The peculiarity of the estate was the twenty hectares park of the castle which had special plants in it. The Nádosy brothers mostly lived in Szentlőrinc but in 1864 they had the manor house built in Helesfa on the hilltop far away from the village (Nádosy-telep).<sup>324</sup> This one floor, nine rooms building with whitewashed walls was the place where Kálmán Nádosy lived at the turn of the century. The manor house was the focal point of gatherings and social events. The white

<sup>320</sup> See Kaposi, Z. (2019/a)

<sup>321</sup> *Gazdacímtár* (1897): 73. and 109.

<sup>322</sup> *Gazdacímtár* (1897): 73.

<sup>323</sup> <http://baranyatermeszetbarat.hu/index.php/lexikon/58-del-zselic-lexikona>

<sup>324</sup> *Nemzeti Újság* 27.05.1928. 10.



marble lion statue erected to the memory of their father created by István Ferenczy was placed in the park in 1876.<sup>325</sup> The other speciality was Nádósy's own sixteen hectares vinery and winery. (It worth mentioning that his brother's son, István (III.) had his own 40-46 hectares vineyard in Helesfa which he administered in the 1890s.)

The Görösgál centred estate was 1619 hectares in 1895. This estate was used by Kálmán Nádósy together with his son Elek, who later inherited most of it. The conditions here were more favourable for agriculture: they grew crops on 463 hectares. They employed thirty servants permanently on the estate. There were 97 hectares of meadows and 71 hectares of pastures for raising animals while the vast 956 hectares of forests covered fifty-nine percent of the estate. Thought it was not uncommon on the Southern Transdanubian lands to have large proportion of forests. The unique feature of the Görösgál estate was the animal husbandry: in 1895 there were 190 cattle, 57 horses and 343 pigs.<sup>326</sup> Their markets were Szigetvár and Pécs. This obviously required investments: intensive animal farming created a need for brick buildings and silos, while taking care of so many swine assumed large pig farms. In the late 1890s, the elderly Kálmán Nádósy involved his son Elek Nádósy more and more into the administration of his estate.

### Expansion of public activities

Kálmán Nádósy's social integration was aided greatly that he expanded his public activity in Baranya and Somogy Counties. This is shown by buying a house in Pécs with his wife in 1877 for 28000 Forints: the house (located at 12 Széchenyi Square) was previously owned by the Ország family from Dezsér, their former neighbour.<sup>327</sup> This was necessary, because his work mostly tied him to the dynamically developing city, which was a city with county rights but also the centre of Baranya County. Nádósy was the member of Baranya County council for a long time, and in 1887 (while being a tenant at Szentlőrinc) he was second largest tax payer.

He played an important role in the Baranyavármegyei Gazdasági Egyesület (Baranya County Economic Association) which was founded in 1872. At first, Nádósy was vice president, and between 1877 and 1892 he was the president of the entity. In 1875 they started publishing the *Gazdasági Néplap* (Economic Paper for People) which was edited by Béni Liebbald and printed by Ferenc Taizs. After the death of István in 1876, Kálmán Nádósy kept doing the work alone until 1892.<sup>328</sup> He advocated for changing the one-sided plough-based agriculture and the application of new methods. The ploughing matches he organised were well-known in the county, where small-scale farmers could learn modern farming methods. He was the president of Baranya County Horsebreeding Association. While he administered his estate, he also published a few professional articles in domestic journals. Nádósy was also a founding member of National Forest Association.<sup>329</sup> He was inherently interested in expanding his merchandise activity. Therefore, in 1894 he offered 10000 Forints on the first meeting of the future company that was formed to construct the Szigetvár-Kaposvár railway line.<sup>330</sup> This amount was obviously mostly symbolic compared to the gigantic landowners' (Biedermann, Széchenyi,

<sup>325</sup> Pusztai, L. (1981): 292-293.

<sup>326</sup> *Gazdacímtár* (1897): 109.

<sup>327</sup> See Madas, J. (1977)

<sup>328</sup> *Pécsi Figyelő* 03.04.1896. 5.

<sup>329</sup> *Erdészeti Lapok* 03.1913.

<sup>330</sup> Erdősi, F. (1983): 223.



etc...) pledged amounts, but no more could be expected from a landowner of medium size with a few thousand hectares of land.

The first industrial expo of Pécs was held in 1888, which also served as the national one. The idea of the expo went back to the circles of Baranya County Economic Association and Pécs Chamber of Industry and Commerce. The first was presided by Kálmán Nádosy, and the latter by Károly Zárny; they together did the most for hosting the expo. Nádosy was the president of the 1888 Pécs National Expo Executive Committee.<sup>331</sup> The expo was preceded by considerable organisational efforts. There were 923 participants. The distinguishing feature of the expo was that in line with contemporary European exhibitions the prominent participants built nice, fairy tale-like, and easy-to build and remove pavilions with the intention of creating a magical charm for the visitors. It is a fact that there were 3000 visitors on the first day.<sup>332</sup> According to the national practice medals were awarded – mostly won by entrepreneurs from Pécs. Though the lack of wine products due to the phylloxera epidemic casted a shadow on the event, altogether, the Pécs exhibition was successful.<sup>333</sup>

Nádosy recognised that at the end of the nineteenth century there was an increasing need for deepening the vertical connections of agriculture and to connect it to other industries. This was made possible by a unique economic feature of the Southern Transdanubia region. Both alongside the Dráva River and in Slavonia pig farming was the number one income source of the population for a long time. Pig farming spread quickly in Hungary in the second part of the nineteenth century, this was the “mangalica era”. It is well illustrated that in 1870 there were 124756 pigs in Baranya County, while in 1884 there were 131260.<sup>334</sup> Those businesses that dealt with buying up, fattening and saling swine could raise their profits. The largest merchandising company dealing with swine came to life in Kőbánya, while merchants from Sopron sold hundreds of thousands of Transdanubian pigs in Austria and Germany. The entrepreneurs from Baranya and Pécs wanted to have their share of this enormous pie, especially after railways were constructed providing access to the most important markets.

Pig farming in the downtown was banned by the city council of Pécs on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 1879. As a result, raising and processing pigs were pushed to the outer parts of the 25000 soul settlement. After this, the idea of a large pig fattening company inside the city was conceived. After gaining the necessary administrative permits the Szontagh and Partners Pécs Swine Advances Company was founded in 1884, with twenty participants including Kálmán Nádosy. The pig farm kept growing in size and increasing number of investments (pens, steam mil, high performance artesian well, etc...) made it possible to raise more animals. To preserve competitiveness, advance and expand, the business had to be reorganised as a public company. The limited partnership business became the Pécs Swine Fattening and Goods Store publicly traded company in 1890.<sup>335</sup> Kálmán Nádosy as the founder and president took the lion’s share in managing the company. The business became successful: in 1884-1908 it generated a profit of 382952 Kronas, while paying an average yearly dividend rate of 4.5%.<sup>336</sup> The company’s assets kept growing. The business sold 1500-2000 pigs per year in Germany in the 1890s, but

<sup>331</sup> Vasárnapi Újság 12.08.1888. (Nr. 33.) 1–2.

<sup>332</sup> Bezerédy, Gy. (1996): 37.

<sup>333</sup> Bezerédy, Gy. (1996): 38-39.

<sup>334</sup> Várady, F. (1896): 552.

<sup>335</sup> Sertéshizláló (1909): 38.

<sup>336</sup> Sertéshizláló (1909): 47.

after the tightening German import regulations Austria remained the main foreign market.<sup>337</sup> Nádosy wrote the first twenty-five years of the company in 1909, which was published as a book. (The management of the company ordered a portrait of him after his death and kept the painting in the room of the board of directors.)

His social involvements aided his integration into the Southern Transdanubia society. Like his father and his elder brother he supported the Lutheran Church. He was the secular head of the Augustan Confession Lutheran Church's Pécs parish in 1876-1901.<sup>338</sup> During his tenure he helped the church both financially and managerially. His social activities were crowned with two awards: in 1879 the king awarded Kálmán Nádosy, member of the judicial committee the Imperial Order of Franz Joseph Knight's Cross for his achievement in the field of economics.<sup>339</sup> In 1889 he was given the title "royal counsellor" in recognition of his public activity.<sup>340</sup>

### The inheritance and its fate

At the turn of the century the almost seventy years old Kálmán Nádosy retired and he lived in Helesfa in his single floor, twelve room manor house with his wife and his older unmarried sister Ida,<sup>341</sup> but he kept managing the Görösgal estate with his son; therefore, he sometimes stayed in his old baroque style manor house. Kálmán Nádosy died in 1913 in his Görösgal manor house.<sup>342</sup> Naturally, there was little chance to keep his estate together since Kálmán Nádosy had seven children and numerous grandchildren. In addition, there was the question of István's (II.) descendants, since Kálmán bought lands in the 1890s together with his brother and his niece István (III.). Based on our limited sources a rather complicated inheritance problem arose, but the core of it was the separation of inheritance claims of descendants of István (II.) and Kálmán.

One of these problems concerned Helesfa, where a manor house was built in the early 1890s, most likely for the descendants of István (II.). This implies that this land was shared. Later István (III.) sold his share. What remained for Kálmán's descendants was the previously mentioned vineyard with a manor house and the park. After Kálmán's death his share of the estate was inherited by his widow and after her death in 1920 it passed on Kálmán's older sister, Ida. In 1923 Imre Nádosy - the second son Kálmán Nádosy - inherited that part of the estate, and he later became the Commissioner of Budapest Police. Imre Nádosy inherited the house on Széchenyi Square after 1913, which he quickly sold in 1917. The second part of Imre's estate was administered by his elder brother Elek, since Imre lived in the capital.<sup>343</sup> The heirs intended to lease out the 1035 hectares estate at Tótkeresztúr in 1914, and they repeatedly advertised it before WW I. However, there was most likely no interest for it; therefore, its ownership was reorganised too.<sup>344</sup> Most of this estate became the property of Mária Nádosy, daughter of Kálmán Nádosy born in 1868. Mária's husband was Ferenc Kammerer, a landed gentry and later

<sup>337</sup> Ágh, T. (1894): 240.

<sup>338</sup> Baldauf, G. (1926): 43–45.

<sup>339</sup> Pécsi Figyelő 15.11.1879. 2.

<sup>340</sup> BFL. K 20. Nr. 69151. 1889.

<sup>341</sup> Based on the written statement of Péter Mattyasovszky-Zsolnay.

<sup>342</sup> Pécsi Napló 02.03.1913.

<sup>343</sup> Pécsi Napló 06.01.1926.; Dunántúl 02.03.1913.

<sup>344</sup> Köztelek 09.05.1914.

the estate belonged to the Kammerers. There was a manor house at Tótkeresztúr (Elek-major) which still exists today. In addition, Elek Nádosy inherited 70 hectares of land from the Tótkeresztúr estate near Almamellék. Furthermore, Kálmán Nádosy's two grandchildren (children of Kálmán Jr. born in 1876) Dóra and Kálmán (III.) who were not of age before the war, inherited 110 hectares near Almamellék and 192 hectares near Mozsgó.<sup>345</sup>

Out of Kálmán Nádosy's sons only Elek followed his economically successful father's footsteps. Most of Görösgal became his property which meant a whole good quality land. In the middle of the 1920s after the Nagyatádi Land Reforms, which diminished property sizes, the estate consisted of 469 hectares of land, which was made up of 311 hectares of ploughland and 108 hectares of meadows.<sup>346</sup> It is obvious that he mostly grew crops and raised animals. Elek Nádosy was the member of the judicial committee of the county and he became member of parliament in 1928 for Szigetvár constituency.<sup>347</sup> The other heirs were not successful in business. Commissioner Imre Nádosy - after he was released from prison due to his involvement in the Frank counterfeit scheme - did not intend to deal with farming or politics, and he spent the rest of his life with film distribution and other activities. On the other side of the family István (III.) Nádosy (1854-1926) leased a land in Slavonia after his tenure ended, and later he farmed on the land of his wife (Zsuzsanna Fornszek) at Boldogasszonyfa.<sup>348</sup> He left this land on his son in 1910 and moved to Pécs where he died in 1927. His son István (IV.) inherited the estate at Boldogasszonyfa, which later went into bankruptcy, while Margit received the manor house and the vineyard at Helesfa. She married in 1910: her husband became Tibor Mattyasovszky-Zsolnay, and the couple had the manor house rebuilt to its current form prior to WW I.<sup>349</sup>

### Summary

As the previously mentioned cases showed us entrepreneurial lives could take really interesting trajectories. Kálmán Nádosy came from a merchant family in Pest, became a large estate leaser together with his brother, and after being a tenant farmer for thirty years he ended up being a wealthy and renowned agricultural expert and landowner of medium size estate. There are multiple examples showing that the arrival of newcoming entrepreneurs benefited the Southern Transdanubia agriculture through bringing rational thinking and profit-oriented attitudes, which changed the local environment fundamentally. Nádosy is associated with quality farming, high level of organisational skills paired with his altruism, and strong connection to his identity and his church. Through his decades-long work he contributed greatly to the development of the agriculture of Somogy and Baranya Counties.

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<sup>345</sup> See *Gazdacímtár* (1911), *Gazdacímtár* (1925).

<sup>346</sup> *Gazdacímtár* (1925): 283.

<sup>347</sup> *Dunántúl* 01.09.1934.; *Kis Újság* 09.03.1928.

<sup>348</sup> *Pécsi Napló* 21.07.1926.; *Újság* 21.07.1926.

<sup>349</sup> Based on the written statement of Péter Mattyasovszky-Zsolnay.

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