

Máté Szabó

Social Relations in the Region along the River Drava in the Age of Dualism

Abstract

In my research, I examine how the population lived in the area of the manors along the river of Drava, which I have already examined in terms of their economic and operational characteristics, changed and transformed during the era of dualism. This period was a specific and interesting period in Hungarian history in many ways, since, in addition to rapid economic development and population growth, serious social structural changes also took place. The study focuses on the population and social structure of the population living there. I point out that the population of the settlements along the Drava grew relatively quickly during this period, so it did not cause a problem that the inhabitants have migrated in masses, to the American continent or to the Slavonia region.) My study of the occupational structure established that the region changed slowly. This region largely preserved its traditional social model, which was largely based on peasant farming. Apart from some changes in Barcs and a few other settlements, agriculture remains the basic characteristic of the region.

Keywords: population, Drava, manor, dualism, society

Introduction

My study deals with what changes can be observed in the population of the Drava region during the age of dualism, when the growth of the Hungarian economy accelerated spectacularly and the Hungarian agriculture, including the management of the manors, was significantly transformed. Furthermore, if there are any, what differences can be shown between the population of each settlement. It is important to point out that in this study by "along the Drava" I refer to only the present-day Hungarian side, and within that mainly the coast of Somogy County, although there is no doubt that the owners of the Hungarian side at that time (Somssich, Jankovich, Schaumburg-Lippe, Draskovich, etc.) were often owners on the Croatian-Slavic side as well, and by definition their management was not separated into Hungarian and Croatian sides.⁷⁰⁴ This region was the home of large estates, where the manors occupied a large proportion of the area of the villages along the river. The management of these large estates and other effects of their operation strongly left their mark on the village society of the region.

If we look at the agricultural conditions of Somogy County based on the data from the end of the 19th century, we can see fundamental changes compared to the past. The large agricultural plants, and partly also the peasantry, were able to take advantage of the agrarian economic boom that appeared in the second half of the 19th century, and especially the increase in grain prices,

⁷⁰⁴ See: Kaposi, Z. (2020): 1-2. 1-24.

so that by the end of the century, half of the county's agriculturally utilized land was occupied by arable fields.

Table 1. The agriculturally utilized lands of Somogy county (1895, hectare)⁷⁰⁵

Field	Garden	Meadow	Vineyard	Pasture	Forest	Reeds, barren field
332.720	6297	57.171	10.813	65.399	137.186	54.593
Percentage (%)						
49,58	0,92	7,84	2,15	10,13	21,09	8,29

Source: Agricultural statistics, 1895. Volume 1; and based on data from Hirsch (1903).

The rise in grain prices lasted until the mid-1880s. The high demand and secure markets encouraged farmers to create more and more arable land through significant deforestation, draining swamps, regulating rivers, breaking up meadows and pastures and bringing them into cultivation. The era was also a period of mechanization and productivity increases on the large estates, the technical transformation was quite advanced (irons, steamers, iron harrows, seed drills, etc.), on the other hand, the pressure system still prevailed in peasant farming, which until then had not meant competitive farming.⁷⁰⁶ Due to overproduction in the world economy, towards the middle of the 1880s, the momentum of the development of grain production was broken, but this still remains the most significant branch of cultivation, as most parts of the grain fields was occupied by industrial and fodder crops, or other types of grains. The 1880s were also a turning point in viticulture, as the phylloxera epidemic appeared in Somogy, which caused many vines to be grubbed up, and replanting could only start a few years later, with different varieties. The region along the Drava was an agricultural one where there was hardly any significant industrial capacity, from this point of view only Barcs and Csurgó stood out on the countryside of Somogy. From an industrial point of view, the traditionally agricultural area, had also been dominated by the timber industry, based on large and high-quality forests, as well as the mill industry, which was important for manorial production, and some other food industry branches also stood out.

The population of the region along the Drava and its changes (1870-1910)

The population size and its density

Regarding the changes in the Hungarian population after the serf emancipation, we can find relatively accurate data from the 1851 and 1857 censuses, but for the assessment of the structure of the labour force, changes in the sectoral composition of wage workers can only be accurately identified for the last decades of dualism. The census of 1857 found a civilian population of 13.7 million in historical Hungary (including Croatia-Slavonia), but the first census of 1869,

⁷⁰⁵ In the study we use hectare.

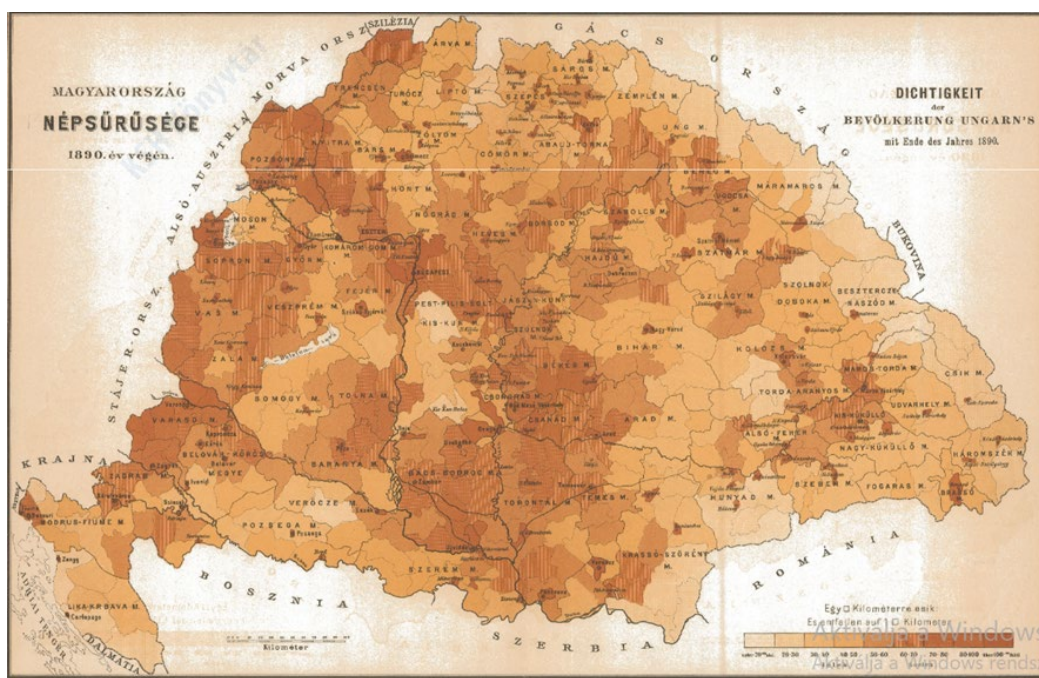
⁷⁰⁶ See: Király, I. (1984)

carried out by the Hungarian Statistical Office, found 15.5 million people. According to the last census before World War I., by 1910 the total population had increased to 20.9 million.⁷⁰⁷

The annual population growth rate between 1857 and 1910 was 0,8%. The number of wage earners increased from 7.3 million to 8.9 million between 1869 and 1910 (their proportion therefore decreased from 47.2% to 42.9%). The faster rate of growth of dependents in an agrarian society –although it depended strongly on who the statistical enumeration considered to be a helping family member, or dependent – was primarily a consequence of the increased average age and rapid natural reproduction.⁷⁰⁸

The distribution of this rapidly growing population varies greatly. Population density depends partly on natural and partly on state and social conditions.⁷⁰⁹ Among these, the role of mountainous regions, flood plains, swamps and other limiting factors can be highlighted, as well as the consequences of uneven settlement following the Turkish occupation.

Figure 1. The population density of Hungary at the end of 1890



Source: https://library.hungaricana.hu/hu/view/NEDA_1891_01/?pg=56&layout=s

Based on the map, we can see that the population density of the settlements in the region of the river Drava is roughly in line with the national average. (I also marked the location of the examined settlements with a red line on the map.) So, the question arises: what changed in the southern Transdanubian region? I numerically examined the population data for the years 1869, 1880, 1890, 1900 and found that these settlements were among the "developing" settlements in

⁷⁰⁷ Hanák, P. (1978): 403.

⁷⁰⁸ Kaposi, Z. (2002): 262-263.

⁷⁰⁹ Zombory, I. (1905): 18.

this period, because the population increased everywhere. However, the rate of growth varied greatly.⁷¹⁰

Table 2. Changes in the population of the settlements examined

Settlement	1869	1880	1890	1900	Change (%)
Barcs	2111	3080	4427	5388	255
Csokonya	1596	1792	1905	2082	130
Rinyaújlak	458	507	509	561	122
Visonta	1121	1020	958	957	85
Homokszentgyörgy	953	1132	1218	1382	145
Kálmánca	1229	1266	1191	1411	115
Darány	1698	1477	1443	1443	85
Komlósd	495	481	478	461	93
Pálfalu	459	623	879	1152	251
Péterhida	536	626	619	604	113
Somogytarnóca	n.d.	814	1163	1237	152
Szentes	769	421	585	709	92
Szulok	1841	1945	1996	1851	101
Lakócsa	1300	1312	1328	1211	93
Potony	489	612	700	760	155
Szentborbás	291	311	458	412	142
Tótujfalu	638	614	605	654	103
Drávatamási	651	627	606	596	92
Babócsa	1754	2251	2443	2622	149
Újnép	417	516	408	391	94
Heresznye	546	528	693	726	133
Kivadár	n.d.	450	395	497	110
Bélavár	640	652	766	753	118
Beleg	558	652	725	669	120
Vízvár	1204	1294	1471	1527	127
Alsok	815	821	821	803	99
Berzence	2686	2980	3594	3653	136
Csurgó	3017	3231	3672	3945	131
Órtilos	646	716	744	821	127
Porrogszentkirály	791	828	823	817	103
Udvarhely	1562	1646	1735	1885	121
Zákány	845	1018	1116	1206	143
Gyékényes	2052	2203	2205	2238	109
Surd	917	1042	1059	1043	114

⁷¹⁰ T. Mérey, K. (1990)

Kastélyosdombó	524	475	571	654	125
Altogether:	37190	41678	46095	48940	131

Source: Census (1880), Census (1890), Census (1900)

Based on the data in the table, it can be established that between 1869 and 1900, a significant increase in overall population can be observed regarding the 35 settlements that I examined. The population of the examined settlements increased from 37.190 to 48.940 inhabitants, so the growth rate of the settlements was 31%. In case of the largest settlement in the region, Barcs, outstanding data can be seen, as its population increased to 5388, two and a half times the initial number in 30 years. For the sake of comparison, I would like to mention that Nagyatád, which has a similar legal status, had 3441 inhabitants and Szigetvár had 5601 inhabitants at that time. In case of Barcs, the increase was clearly due to the boom in industrialization and trade, many people moved into the village. If we compare the population changes along the Drava with the county data, we can see that between 1869 and 1900 the total civil population of Somogy county increased from 287.555 to 344.194 inhabitants, so the growth rate was 19.69% in the examined period.

The process of the population migration

In the 19th century, almost all of Europe moved: around 43.6 million people left the continent, and half of them went to the USA.⁷¹¹ Hungary was also a part of this, from where approximately 1.5 million people left the country. Strong emigration processes in our country started in the last third of the 19th century. The most important centers of emigration were also the most significant emitting zones of internal migration, so above all, the five highland counties (Zemplén, Ung, Sáros, Szepes, Abaúj-Torna), where the presence of economic repulsive factors was the clearest. In addition to the rapid natural reproduction, the population density was relatively high compared to the scarce and poor soil, and in addition to the traditional and declining industries, no sectors were created that could absorb the surplus labor.⁷¹² Over 50% of immigrants to the United States were agricultural servants and day laborers.⁷¹³ This group of the agricultural population became dominant in the international migration at the turn of the century. Contemporaries also stated that in the years before World War II, labor export became Hungary's most important export item. There is some truth in this, even if we know that the majority of emigrants did not leave with the aim of staying abroad, but rather wanted to buy land at home, in most cases, with the money they earned abroad, and it should also be taken into account that about a third of the emigrants later returned home.

But in addition to emigration, internal migration has also become increasingly important. The birth place data of the censuses show that in 1910, 69% of the population could be found where they were born. There were actually three main directions of internal migration: migration from the mountains along the river valleys to the Great Plain, from villages to cities, and migration to the countryside (farms, steppes).⁷¹⁴ Villages formed the backbone of the settlement network

⁷¹¹ Berend, T. I. – Ránki, Gy. (1987): 24.

⁷¹² Kaposi, Z. (2002)

⁷¹³ Hanák, P. (1978): 413.

⁷¹⁴ Kaposi, Z. (2002)

throughout the era. It is always characteristic how the ratio and relationship between the villages and the wastelands and majorities connected to the great estates develops. It is noteworthy that the number of registered inhabitants of villages and majorities tripled between 1840 and 1865 in the area of Southern Transdanubia.⁷¹⁵

For the population of the area along the Drava, in addition to reaching the Western world, there was also the possibility of mobilization towards the Slavonian territories. This process was also embraced by the Hungarian state, since the “hungarianization” of the Slavonian region was an important political and cultural endeavor at the turn of the century. Several of the villages in Somogy county along the Drava were already part of Ormánság (Drávakeresztúr, Felsőszentmárton, Drávafok, etc.). It is an area that famously suffered a lot from the fact that during the several stages of the regulation of the river in the 19th century the additional lands gained were usually not opened up to the local peasantry, but were rather acquired by large landowners. This phenomenon naturally increased the value of the areas beyond the Drava in the eyes of the population on the Hungarian side.⁷¹⁶ At the same time, it appears from our data that the level of migration from this region was not massive either towards America or Slavonia during the examined period. Of course, there were exceptions. For example, Drávatamási, where the Thassy family had a medium-sized estate, lost 8.45% of its population during this examined period. This was mainly due to emigration from the settlement. We also know of a case where 300 farmers from Kiskanizsa decided to move beyond the Drava because of the difficulty of making a living.⁷¹⁷ At the same time, it is a fact that over time there was always migration along the two banks of the river, people went to Slavonia and back from there. The Hungarian, German and pro-Hungarian Croatian landowners living beyond the Drava settled servants from Hungary in their estates, whose labor power, expertise, economic knowledge and, last but not least, their discipline surpassed the descendants of the Croatian border guards. Among the large landowners who installed it, we can mention Count Mailáth, Count Draskovich, Count Eitz, Duke Odescalchi, Count Pejacsevich, Bésán Jankovieh and finally the Jankovich families of Pribérd and Vuchin.

The latter were among the pioneers in terms of installation. Since the enslavement of the Croatian villages was minimal, but at the same time they had considerable free land, the manors beyond the Drava with thousands of acres and small population welcomed servants from their estates in Somogy. Settlers from the counties of Somogy, Tolna, Baranya and Veszprém arrived in the village of Gacsiscse, which was the central location of one of the Jankovich estates, as early as 1843.⁷¹⁸ They also brought Hungarian settlers to the villages around the Cabuna manor in the years between 1857-1865, mainly from South-Transdanubia.⁷¹⁹ Újgrác was established in the 1850s by settlers from Somogy. Szokolovác can also be considered a Jankovich settlement, which was founded in 1865, where the Hungarian population arrived in 1867-1868, many of whom moved from Somogy. But many Hungarians also settled on the Jankovich estate in Daruvár and in the surrounding villages, such as: Pakrác, Filopovác, Lipik, Kiisza, Izidorháza and Dobrovács.⁷²⁰ Hungarians came to Belovár county mainly in the 1960s and 1970s. The

⁷¹⁵ T. Mérey, K. (1994)

⁷¹⁶ See: Kaposi, Z. (2002): 231.

⁷¹⁷ Barbarits, L. (1929): 70.; Kaposi, Z. (2014): 115.

⁷¹⁸ Margitai, J. (1936): 109.

⁷¹⁹ Same, 111.

⁷²⁰ Same, 272.

Hungarian servants of the Tüköry estate moved across the Drava from the counties of Somogy, Tolna and Baranya in the 1860s.⁷²¹

Nationality distribution of the population

In the course of historical development, Hungary became an area where a significant part of the population was considered a minority. Population migration can be detected in the Carpathian Basin from the time of the conquest to the present day. The changes following the expulsion of the Turks and the Tatars, the persecution of Protestants, the settlement of South Slavs, Romanians, Jews and other population groups, the settlement of Germans, the emigration after the defeat of the war of independence of 1848-49 in the 1860s, the Slavonian emigration from the sixties of the 19th century, and the American emigration from the last third of the century not only had demographic consequences, but also determined the national and ethnic map of the country and the county.⁷²²

In the counties of South Transdanubia, where there was a huge population decrease during the Turkish occupation, the settlement process took place in the 18th and 19th centuries and it was almost permanent and extremely dynamic. The Germans especially excelled in this area. From the beginning of the 18th century until the 1850s, the settlement of Germans, who were attracted to the county by the provision of discounts by large landowners, took place.⁷²³ The Czinderys brought German settlers from Tolna and Komárom counties to Némethlad in 1739.⁷²⁴ The glass hut in Némethlukafa was founded by settlers from the Sudetenland, whose descendants later migrated to Slavonia. In the middle of the 18th century, German settlers arrived in Boldogasszonyfa, Nagyhárságy, Kishárságy, Szulok, Bószénfa and Szulimán.

On the southern borders of the county, you can see settlements inhabited mostly by Croats. Their ancestors fled here from the Turks even before the disaster of Mohács, and even after the expulsion of the Turks from Hungary, the direction of their migration remained. We do not find a significant number of Serbs in Somogy, but a significant number of Slovenians (Vends) settled in Tarany. Although the Drava geographically separated Croatia and Slavonia from Hungary, it also connected them as a waterway, providing both countries with the advantages of cheap and fast transportation. Ships brought the goods to the ports of Vízvár, Heresznye and Barcs, from where they were transported to the areas beyond the Drava via Sztára, Dörnye, Légrád and Kakonya. This commercial transit route functioned profitably in both directions.⁷²⁵

Table 3: Population of the settlements along the Drava by nationality (1900)

Settlement	Hungarian	German	Slovakian	Romanian	Croatian	Serbian	Other	Knows Hungarian
Barcs	3588	1433	16	131	166	2	60	5035
Csokonya	2070	8	1		1		2	2081

⁷²¹ See: Hegedűs, L. (1905)

⁷²² Rácz, I. (1980)

⁷²³ Vargha, K. (1979); Szita, L. (1979)

⁷²⁴ Kaposi, Z. (2012): 64.

⁷²⁵ Szili, F. (1991)

Visonta	951	6			1			958
Rinyaújlak	561							561
Homokszentgyörgy	1378	4					1	1383
Kálmánca	1395	7	2				11	1407
Darány	1439	8			1		1	1449
Komlósd	457			1	1		2	460
Pálfalu	785	315	1	34	14		3	1062
Péterhida	598				4		2	604
Somogytamóca	1185	33			10		9	1224
Szentes	676	8			2		25	706
Szulok	239	1615					1	1423
Lakócsa	327	9			876		3	945
Potony	173	2	1		584			587
Szentborbás	121	1			290			252
Tótujfalu	83			35	536			351
Drávatomási	594	2			1			596
Babócsa	2162	21			392		52	2536
Újnép	389				1		1	391
Heresznye	110	2			614			498
Bolhó	418	1			1400			1604
Bélavár	427	1			325			710
Beleg	663	2			4			669
Vízvár	591	8			930	1	1	1342
Alsok	802	1	1		1			805
Berzence	2826	19	1		815		4	3561
Csurgó	3862	38			48	1	6	3937
Kastélyosdombó	652						2	654
Altogether:	29522	3544	23	201	7019	4	184	37791
Proportion (%):	72,9	8,8	0,1	0,5	17,3	0,01	0,5	93,3

Source: Census (1900)

Based on the table, it can be concluded that – as expected – people belonging to the Hungarian nationality formed the largest group in the examined settlements. The total population of the settlements I examined was 37.791 people, of which 72,9% were of Hungarian nationality. The population of Kastélyosdombó, Kálmánca and Csokonya, for example, was almost 100% Hungarian. A significant proportion was represented by Croats and German-speaking people, who mainly settled in large numbers in the villages of the Lakócsa manor (Szentborbás, Potony, etc.) (Lakócsa is still an important Croatian ethnic center in the county), but also in western villages (Berzence, Vízvár, etc.). The majority of the Croatian population present in Somogy county lived in the villages along the Drava. Based on the statistics of 1900, 3.4% of the people living in the county were of Croatian nationality, while the proportion in the villages along the Drava was 17.3%. (In Bolhó and Lakócsa, the proportion of Croats was over 70%.)

Based on the statistics of 1900, 5.8% of the inhabitants of Somogy county were of German nationality. The most German village was Szulok, where 87.2% of the population said they were German, due to the previous settlements of the Széchenyi. Szulok was a real Swabian

village, with all its farming and ethnographic characteristics. Its farming specialty was the traditional German grain production, animal husbandry, and grape and wine production, as well as tobacco cultivation.⁷²⁶

It is important to note that, in connection with the classification of nationalities, a significant number of the Jewish population was probably classified as belonging to the German nationality. In relation to the Germans, we can highlight the significance of the large village of Barcs, where a quarter of the population was German, and which was a very important commercial and industrial hub for the region. The region showed a diverse and colorful picture in terms of nationalities during the period under review. (It is important to note that statistical data for the settlements of Órtilos, Porrogszentkirály, Udvarhely, Zákány, Gyékényes and Surd were incomplete on the topic, so they are not included in the table.)

The distribution of professions among the population

The economic system of 19th-century Hungary was dominated by agriculture and rural characteristics.⁷²⁷ There is no doubt, however, that in the period before the bourgeois revolution the traditional serf, bourgeois, noble, and clerical classification were pretty clear. However, along with them we can already see an ever-increasing number of legally more difficult population classification, contract workers, seasonal workers, servants, wage earners, summer harvesters, so it was more difficult to fit social elements into the traditional feudal legal groups.⁷²⁸

In the second half of the 19th century, industry grew dynamically, and with it, urbanization and population migration also began. Where the population density was high in addition to land constraints, there was little or no opportunity to expand the peasant lands, which is why the flow towards the city soon began. At the same time, the population that remained in the area also increased, so in case of the village masses, the increase within households or the suppression of population growth remained. There was a very important restructuring process of intellectual groups, workers in the public service system, trade and credit, transport, mining, etc. since the rapid increase in the number of workers undoubtedly transformed the Hungarian society by the beginning of the 20th century.⁷²⁹

The transformation was fast, but it was territorially uneven. Fundamental questions could be how visible this transformation was in the settlements along the Drava. and what peculiarities can be observed in terms of the distribution of wage earners.

⁷²⁶ See: Ander, B. (2005): 39-84.

⁷²⁷ Hanák, P. (1978): 432.

⁷²⁸ Vörös, K. (1980)

⁷²⁹ Hanák, P. (1978); Kövér, Gy. (1998)

Table 4: The distribution of professions among the population of the examined settlements in 1900

Settlement	Total ernaling population	Agriculture	Pr.	Industry	Trade and credit	Trans port	Public service	Defense force	Day laborer	Housemaid	Other
Barcs	2286	647	11	619	224	303	117	8	91	177	89
Csokonya	1169	919	5	131	24	15	14			37	24
Visonta	636	595		24	5	1	3	1		7	
Rinyaújlak	324	296	2	18		2	3				3
Homokszentgyörgy	686	605	7	34	7	2	6	1		12	12
Kálmánca	640	515	5	46	6	1	8	4	21	19	15
Darány	914	753	2	68	20	20	6	6	31	7	1
Komlósd	199	180		9	3		4			3	
Pálfalu	449	255		95	37	17	11		2	20	12
Péterhida	238	203	8	16	5		3			3	
Somogytarnóca	451	344	7	37		12	7			38	6
Szentes	372	327	2	29	5		2	2	3	1	1
Szulok	1169	996		89	5		16	4	25	16	18
Lakócsa	494	396	6	43	5	2	8	4	14	14	2
Potony	372	361		6			2		1	2	
Szentborbás	224	214		4			1		1	3	1
Tótujfalu	208	151	3	29	1		4		14	4	2
Drávamási	260	160	3	59	4		3	1	23	6	1
Babócsa	1009	751	3	125	22	15	12	5	2	47	27
Újnép	253	239	2	8			2				2
Heresznye	255	187		14	3	1	2		41	6	1
Bolhó	762	702	3	33	5	2	5			6	6
Bélavár	290	244	1	27	3	7	4		1	1	2
Beleg	260	217	1	20	2	14	2			3	1
Vízvár	658	526	15	40	12	14	6	4	25	14	2
Alsok	432	383		25	2	1	7	2	1	6	5
Berzence	1469	1077	4	137	27	24	26	12	91	44	27
Csurgó	1695	666	23	434	77	68	112	10	39	152	114
Órtilos	279	252		14		6	2		1	4	
Porrogszentkirály	476	441	1	16	2	1	4	2	2	6	1
Udvarhely	1137	1073	7	32	6	2	3			7	7
Zákány	522	383		24	8	59	10	5		28	5
Gyékényes	1208	1003	4	62	11	41	8	1	52	19	7
Surd	592	553	3	15	1	1	8			8	3
Kastélyosdombó	310	250		24	3	2	6		8	11	6
Altogether:	22.698	16.864	128	2406	535	633	437	72	489	731	404
Its ratio compared to all		74,3	0,6	10,6	2,4	2,8	1,9	0,3	2,2	3,2	1,8

earners (%):											
Somogy county (%):		75,3	0,4	10,4	1,8	1,3	1,8	0,9	3,3	3,3	1,6

Source: Census (1900)

It can be seen that the proportion of people employed in agriculture was somewhat higher than the county average of 74.33% in almost all of the examined settlements, and values above 80% were shown in almost all cases regarding the 35 settlements. Exceptions were Barcs with 647 (28.3%) and Drávatamási with 160 (61.54%) persons earning their living in agriculture. The vast majority was, of course, village-dwelling peasant earners, but it is also important to note that the majority of permanent agricultural workers in Hungary was employed by large farms of more than 100 acres.⁷³⁰ This was also the case in the region. From the data of the agricultural holdings in the 1895 farm directory, as well as from the manor overview of 1914, it can be seen that quite a few manors operated in the region, in which the number of servants was very significant. In 1895, for example, 184 servants were employed in the Berzence estate of the Festetics and 123 in the estate of Count Géza Széchenyi in Csokonya, but even on the smaller, medium-sized estates we can see a significant number of agricultural employees.⁷³¹

It can also be seen that in some settlements there were quite a large number of people engaged in industry. From the point of view of industry, Barcs had outstanding data: the large village's industry provided significant and regular job opportunities for the population of the region. It was the dominant industrial, infrastructural and cultural center of the region during this period. As an example, among the most important plants in Barcs, we can mention the Eugén Smith and Partner Company, as a timber merchant and sawmill owner in Barcs, the French company Société d'improation de Chene based in Paris,⁷³² and the Engel Adolf from Pécs had a parquet factory there, too.⁷³³ Engel's wood industry enterprises were not only of local importance. At the regional level, it was one of the largest enterprises dealing with wood industry activities in and around Southern-Transdanubia.

The other village with significant industry was Csurgó, where the proportion of industrial workers was also high, 25.6%. The largest industrial company here was Wood and Stick Factory Ltd. It transferred its headquarters to Berzence in 1911. The factory produced raw cane handles, semi-finished and finished walking and umbrella sticks, walking sticks and shoe heels. At that time, 200 workers worked in the plant. Furthermore, this company took over Kreisler's rod factory in Berzence and the rod factory in Pakrác, which it sold to Slavonian Wood Industry Ltd. in 1908. We should highlight the small Pálfalu (Drávapálfalu, now part of Barcs), where the Kremsier family built the county's largest distillery on their property, first rented from the Széchenyies, and later purchased by them.⁷³⁴

Babócsa, the manor center of the Somssich's, Berzence, the estate center of the Festetics family, Szulok and Csokonya, among the already mentioned Széchenyi estates, also had significant number of industrialists.

⁷³⁰ Kolossa, T. (1962): 474.

⁷³¹ Gazdacímtár (1895): 100-101.

⁷³² T. Mérey, K. (2007): 142.

⁷³³ Engel, A. (2009)

⁷³⁴ Kaposi, Z. (2020): 4.

The process of marketization is also shown by the increase in the number of people working in transport. Since the railway was built in this area already in 1868 (Zákány – Barcs – Szigetvár – Pécs), a significant number of earners can be observed in the transport sector, also due to the larger stations. Barcs stands out in every aspect, as the 303 people there were interested not only in rail and road transport, but also in river transport. By the beginning of the 20th century, the settlement had become an important railway and shipping hub in the country as well. In addition, Darány as a railway center (Középrigóc) had an important role, and similarly, Csurgó, Zákány and Gyékényes employed a significant number of railway workers. In terms of traders, it was impossible to compete with the settlement of Barcs, the 224 people there accounted for 42% of the trade earners in the entire region.

Nevertheless, there was also a labor shortage in the region, especially in case of summer harvest work, seasonal workers were greatly needed. As a result of this lack of workers, the larger estates were forced to obtain the necessary labor from other regions. In most of the manors I examined, it is clear that there was not enough local labor during the peak periods. The foreign workers were mostly obtained from the counties of Nyitra, Trencsén, Hont, Bars, Nógrád, Tolna, Zala and Békés.⁷³⁵ The lack of labor was one of the reasons why some of the larger farms gave up intensive economic activity in order to get rid of the trouble and fatigue caused by the constantly unfavorable working conditions. However, the expensive labor force also had the consequence that, wherever possible, farmers were happy to use the cheaper hoeing, mowing, reaping and other gear tools and machines that replaced manual labor. The labor shortage was also reinforced by the increasingly challenging one-child system around this time, which could be observed in a significant part of the region along the river Drava.

Summary

It can be seen from the analysis that the population of the settlements along the Drava showed significant differences compared to other areas of the country, but even compared to the rest of the county. In this region, the structure of the economy that has developed over many centuries has not changed much, that is, agriculture has remained the dominant factor. There is no doubt that large-scale agricultural plants underwent significant development in this era, and large-scale changes occurred in their operational and production characteristics. But this hardly affected the occupational structure of the traditional villagers. In the examined settlements, we could hardly see signs of significant industry, commerce, and other traffic-related signs. At the same time, the population clearly increased, its population density increased, and this trend was not broken even by the small number of emigrants. No major ethnic conflicts arose in the region, since the vast majority of the population was Hungarian, and only in smaller areas did the Germans or the scattered Croats become dominant. At the same time, we see that the world along the river was not completely still: the labor demand of large agricultural plants, the slowly developing industry and other sectors, and external influences undoubtedly brought new colors to the life of the region.

⁷³⁵ Ujváry, I. (1914):

References

- Ander, B. (2005), Szulok mezőgazdasága és agrártársadalma a 19-20. század fordulóján a Barcsi járás statisztikai adatainak tükrében, in Mészáros, Á. (ed.), *Gyökerek. The study volume of the Drava Museum*. Barcs. 39-84.
- Barbarits, L. (1929), *Nagykanizsa*. Monograph of Hungarian cities IV., Nagykanizsa
- Berend, T. I. – Ránki, Gy. (1987), *Európa gazdasága a 19. században*, Budapest
- Engel, A. (2009), *Életem*, Pécs
- Hanák, P. (1978), Magyarország társadalma a századforduló idején, in Mucsi, F. (ed.), *Magyarország története 1890-1918.*, Budapest. 403-555.
- Hegedűs, L. (1905), *A dunántúli kivándorlás és a szlavóniai magyarság*, Budapest
- Kaposi, Z. (2002), *Magyarország gazdaságtörténete 1700–2000*, Budapest-Pécs.
- Kaposi, Z. (2012), A nagybirtok modernizációjának lehetőségei a 19. századi Dél-Dunántúlon, in Kaposi, Z. – Lendvai, T. – Oroszi, S. (eds.), *A tudomány és az oktatás vonzásában*, Pécs. 52-85.
- Kaposi, Z. (2014), Nagykanizsa gazdasági fejlődése (1850–1945), in Kaposi, Z. (ed.), *Nagykanizsa. Városi monográfia III. (1850–1945)*, Nagykanizsa. 99-250.
- Kaposi, Z. (2019), *Uradalmak, földbirtokosok és birtokforgalom a 19. században* (Studies in Agricultural History 14.), Budapest
- Kaposi, Z. (2020), A Dráva menti uradalmak gazdasági változásai a Trianon körüli időkben, *Agrártörténeti Szemle* 61. (2020) 1-4. 1-24.
- Király, I. (1984), Somogy megye uradalmainak fejlettsége az első világháború előtt, in Kanyar J. (ed.), *Somogy megye múltjából. Archival Yearbook 15.*, Kaposvár. 213-243.
- Kolossa, T. (1962), Adatok az agrárnépesség összetételéhez az Osztrák – Magyar Monarchiában 1900 körül. II. rész, *Agrártörténeti Szemle* 4. (1962) 3-4. 447-536.
- Kövér, Gy. (1998), Magyarország társadalomtörténete a reformkortól az első világháborúig, in Gyáni G. – Kövér, Gy., *Magyarország társadalomtörténete a reformkortól a második világháborúig*, Budapest. 13-168.
- Margitai, J. (1936), *A horvát- és szlavónországi magyarok sorsa, nemzeti védelme és a magyar-horvát testvériség*, Budapest. 386-387.
- Rácz, I. (1980), A paraszti migráció és politikai megítélése Magyarországon 1849-1914, in Gunst, P. – Hoffmann (eds.), *Agrártörténeti Tanulmányok 8.*, Budapest
- Reiszig, E. (1914), Somogy vármegye községei, in Csánki D. (ed.), *Magyarország vármegyéi és városai. Somogy*, Budapest. 30–179.
- Sándor, P. (1958), *A XIX. század végi agrárválság Magyarországon*, Budapest
- Szabó, M (2019), Az 1879. évi erdőtvény hatása a Dráva menti uradalmi erdőgazdálkodás és faipar fejlődésére. *Agrártörténeti Szemle* 60. (2019) 1-4. 147-157.

- Szabó, M. (2020), Nagyüzemi agrárgazdálkodás a Dráva mentén az első világháború előtt, *Köztes Európa: Társadalomtudományi Folyóirat* 12. (2020) 1. 39-57.
- Szili, F. (1991), Kivándorlás Somogyból Horvátországba és Szlavóniába (1850–1880), in Kanyar J. (ed.), *Somogy megye múltjából. Archival Yearbook 22.*, Kaposvár
- Szita, L. (1979), Újabb adatok a Zselic faluinak nemzetiségi betelepüléséhez, in Vargha, K. (ed.), *Zselici dolgozatok IV.* Pécs. 30-34.
- T. Mérey, K. (1990), A mai határmenti dunántúli kisvárosok a dualizmus idején, *Vasi Szemle – Dunántúli Szemle* 44. No. 2.
- T. Mérey, K. (1994), A településhálózat változása és ennek okai a Dél-Dunántúlon (1850–1914), in *Századok* 128. (1994) 3-4. 650-673.
- T. Mérey, K. (2007), Somogy megye gazdasága és társadalma a dualizmus korában, in T. Mérey K., *Település – megye – régió*, Pécs. 119-172.
- Vargha, K. (1977), Adatok a zselici németek betelepítéséhez, in T. Mérey, K. (ed.), *Dunántúl településtörténete 1767-1848. II/1. PAB-VEAB Értesítő*, Pécs. 315-326.
- Vörös, K. (1980), A magyarországi társadalom (1790–1848), in Vörös K. (ed.), *Magyarország története 1790–1848.*, Budapest. 473-600.
- Újváry, I. (1914), Mezőgazdaság, állattenyésztés, szőlőművelés, erdészet, in Csánki D. (ed.), *Magyarország vármegyéi és városai. Somogy*, Budapest. 301–344.
- Zombory, I. (1905), Magyarország dunántúli részének népsűrűsége az 1900. évi népszámlálás alapján, *Geographical notices 1905. I.* Theses.

Statistics

- Census (1870), *A Magyar Korona országaiban az 1870. év elején végrehajtott népszámlálás eredményei a hasznos háziállatok kimutatásával együtt*, Pest. 1871.
- Census (1880), *A Magyar Korona országaiban az 1881. év végén végrehajtott népszámlálás főbb eredményei megyék és községek szerint rendezve II.*, Budapest. 1882.
- Agricultural statistics (1895), *A Magyar korona országainak mezőgazdasági statisztikája 1.* Budapest, 1897.
- Gazdacímtár (1895), *A Magyar korona országainak mezőgazdasági statisztikája 2.* Gazdacímtár, Budapest, 1897.
- Census (1900/2), *Az 1900. évi népszámlálás. 2. rész. A népesség foglalkozása községenként*, Magyar Statisztikai Közlemények. Új sorozat 2., Budapest, 1904.
- Census (1900/7), *1900. évi népszámlálás. 7. rész. A népesség foglalkozása a főbb demográfiai adatokkal egybevetve*, Magyar Statisztikai Közlemények. Új sorozat 15., Budapest, 1906.
- Census (1900/10), *1900. évi népszámlálás. 10. rész. Végeredmények összefoglalása*, Magyar Statisztikai Közlemények. Új sorozat 27., Budapest, 1909.