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HISTORY AREA

**THE CITY OF TÂRGU-JIU DURING THE PERIOD OF
REGULATIONS (1832-1848)**

-Abstract-

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CRAIOVA

2021

SUMMARY

The most significant changes based on modern principles which took place in the town of Târgu Jiu, were implemented after the 1st of July 1831 in the Romanian County and after the 1st of January 1832 in Moldavia the Organic Regulations was put into practice. Even if the text of these regulations were different for the two countries, the reforms which stayed at the basis of these were identical.

In this period of time the in town of Târgu Jiu a lot of special events took place and they marked the history of the town having an important transformation towards modernisation in this locality by putting the basis of some administrative, judge and cultural institutions based on modern principles.

From the content of the first chapter of the paper entitled „The leadership and the inhabitants of the town of Târgu Jiu in the period of the Organic Regulations 1831-1848” we learned concrete data regarding to the development of the first democratic elections which took place in this town when the inhabitants could elect for the first time leaders who led their destinies to a more modern life, based on democratic principles even if, sometimes, the organized elections were canceled because the new law papers were not studied and known enough.

Just from the beginning of this period the interest for power prevailed and when these elections took place, all kind of plots were created between the persons who candidated.

One of the most important modification brought to the local administration was the establishment that the towns to be led by Town Advices the equivalent of the town halls of today. They consisted of a number of four members for the capitals of the counties and five members for Bucharest. These members were elected by the deputies from suburbs for a period of a year and one of them was elected president. Later, the number of the members was modified. Thus, these administrative structures had a president, two full members, two members and a cashier.

The deputies from suburbs were, at their turn, elected from the inhabitants who had the right to vote for a period of three years and the conditions they had to fulfill for to be elected were the value of their fortune and a certain age.

Much more elaborated was the text of „The Town Regulation” which was applied beginning with the first of January 1833 and it established by the articles from one to twelve,

the principles and the way of development for the elections of the town deputates and the Town Advices both for the city of Bucharest and for all the towns from the Romanian Country.

Due to the new modifications brought to the Organic Regulations concerning the organization of the town administration these were hardly understood and asimilated by the elected persons who were elected by the citizens to lead their destinies, but, by time, they proved they were good administrators and good leaders. Their tasks were to organize the administration but especially the administration of the incomes and the expenses of the town. They fulfilled even the tasks of judges for easier conflicts. Both the deputates and the members or the presidents of the magistrate, during the period of regulations fought for the organization and the flourishing of the town Târgu Jiu they had special preoccupations for repairing and consolidating the roads and the bridges.

But there were many misunderstandings between the two social classes which led town at that time; local landowners and rich merchants, most of them arrived on these lands with affairs imediately after putting into practice of the Organic Regulations due to getting of some privileges and between the so called familial klans who had different advantages because some members of them got important administrative jobs.

The power was always divided between the families of the great boyards who dominated the Gorj County in that period because many of them were members of the leadership of the town for years. The families of the merchants were in disadvantage because they rarely could send a member in this leadership. They, who were elected in the leadership of the town were the boyards or their sons from the families Sărdănescu, Sâmboteanu, Bâlțeanu, Măldărescu or Broșțeanu.

One of the most controversial mandate was that of Gheorghe Magheru, elected as president of the magistrate on the 10th of October 1840. He took in his team the profesor Constantin Stanciovici and Dumitrache Măldărescu. After the elections were over, a lot of local personalities (among them Matei Șișescu, Vasile Mongescu) clamed that during the organization of this election the stipulations of the rules were not observed. Nevertheless, on the 18th of October 1840 Gheorghe Magheru was named president of the magistrate by the Departament ot Inside and the appeals for the canceling of the elections remained without result.

Among the most important rules established by the Organic Regulations was the constituting of the civil register for the putting down of the newborns, for those who married and for the deaths which had to be filled by the priests of the churches from the town.

The presented study in this paper concerning the population of the town of Târgu Jiu, born, married and died in the period 1832-1848 was based on the 43 civil state register identified in the Collection „Civil State Registers” – the town of Târgu Jiu which are kept by the Gorj County Service of the National Archives. We mention that for this period, especially for the first 3-4 years these registers were not given to the National Archives for safe keeping, but based on the existing registers we could write a relevant study concerning the population of the town from this period learning that 599 births, 254 marriages and 741 deaths were registred.

Because the magistrate didn't have subordinated structures, he was the only administrative organ which had to fulfill all the tasks according to the Town Regulation even if this consisted of few number of persons. Among the tasks there were the insuarence of the public illumination the guarding of the town, during the day and night, creating of the fire command of the town in order to protect it against the fires, setting up and mentaining of the jail, employing of chimney-sweepers who had to take care of the citizen's stores an chimneys.

For preventing and distroyng the fires they set up fire commands on the first of November 1833 after a demand from the Departament of inside concerning the improvings and adornings which were necessary to be done in the town of Târgu Jiu. In the list written by the magistrate of the town were a hose with two pipes and twelve lorries with wheels. After long changes of letters and some disputes between the magistrate and the police concerning a good organization of the fire commands, this was set up but, during the period of regulations, the local authorities reglected continuously this service, and wanted to abandon it appreciating that it was not useful for the town.

For the punishment of the infractors the Organic Regulations had a special chapter for setting up an administration of the jails, and the leadership of each town had to assure the necessary expenses for the mentenance of the building, for food and clothes for the prisoners and the money had to be gathered from the work of those who were punished.

Beside other duties of the common people of the town in this period the inhabitants were obliged to feed the soldiers of the Romanian army recently created, but in spite of these material and financial shortcomings the commanders of the military units had good words to the address of the population, but not to the address of the boyards who didn't want to house them.

A very important chapter for the history of the town Târgu Jiu is dedicated to the public education marked by the financial shortcomings of the local authorities and of the inhabitants who had to contribute with money both to the payment of the rent for the buildings where the education took place and for the construction of the first building destined to education.

The first school courses started on the 17th of April 1832 and took place in Uța Măldărescu's house from the lane Târgului, today Tudor Vladimirescu street and the first teacher of this school was Constantin Stanciovici, an outstanding personality of the town in the XIX century. This school began the activity with 50 pupils but year by year the numbers of them increased very much.

The didactic activity developed to the Public School from the town of Târgu Jiu in the period of the Organic Regulations was a success because from here very many personalities rose up. We can enumerate: Barbu brothers, Grigore Gănescu, Constantin Otetelișanu, Ghiță and Niță Magheru, Dimitrie Frumușanu and many others.

Even if this school progressed during this period, mainly due to the skillfulness and devotion of the teachers, because of the bad conditions existing in the classrooms it was closed several times the reasons being different. For example, during the winter the pupils were cold and had to stay more at home and when they put fire in the stoves a thick smoke came out and it was impossible to stay in the classrooms.

Till they built a proper building for school, the courses took place in private houses rented with money from the inhabitants of the town. The sums of money were imposed by the magistrate according to their incomes.

They rented, in turn, Uța Măldărescu's house and then Gheorghe Bâlțeanu's house who was Manolache Lascăr's father-in-law, Lăudat Frumușanu's house and Barbu Gănescu's houses. All these houses, at the date of renting needed mendings more or less according to the degree of usage, the expenses being very often supported by the inhabitants of the town.

All the inhabitants of this town were imposed to participate financially at the school building whose project started in 1833 but, because of a precarious financial situation, this building was finished, with great efforts, in the autumn of the year 1844. After this date the school building needed permanent repairs because of the materials of bad quality on a hand and because of the builders who were not skillful to build such an edifice, on the other hand.

Beginning with 1840 the first library came into being in this school building. By this occasion they took measures for making a special wardrobe where the books and the newspapers sent from Bucharest, were kept. At the beginning professor Constantin Stanciovici got nearly 90 volumes and a lot of didactic materials like maps, globes and others.

The most representative church from the town of Târgu Jiu was the church with the celebration Saint Princes situated in Victoria Square. This church was declared historical monument in 1991 and it was the most important church from the town. Until the Organic Regulations to be applied, in the auxiliary buildings of the church functioned a school where the

archpriest Andrei's son, Nicolae, taught the pupils. Here, in the period 1832-1848 the following priests functioned: Nicolae Bican (1832-1838), Ion Bălan (1835-1837), Matei (1839-1843), Ioan Pânișoară (1844-1848) and Gheorghe Săvoiu (1844-1848).

In the period of regulations this church was confronted with many shortcomings because it was subsidized, mainly, by the three yearly fairs which took place on the territory of the town, due to public donations and the incomes of some properties which were donated by some local landowners and merchants. Rarely, this church received different sums of money from the mastery, and the magistrate of the town was named bishop of this church. It was also subsidized with small sums of money from the local budget.

In the first half of the XIXth century the inhabitants of the town of Târgu Jiu, because of the material shortcomings, were in a precarious healthy state, the first medicines used for treating different diseases were brought here by Frederick Drexler when he established himself in Târgu Jiu in the year 1832. He also facilitated the bringing and the establishing of an Austrian physician and created a pharmacy. The first physician started his activity at the end of the month January of the year 1838 and he permanently developed his activity with a special devotion remaining in the inhabitants' memory as a savior of them.

After many efforts of the local authorities and the inhabitants of the town, in Târgu Jiu, was employed as a physician Friț Morîț Enihen who, from the first days of his activity, for to prevent spreading illnesses in the town, drew out regulations, demanding to be published in the town. It had inside strict rules concerning the food, the hygiene and even the burial of the dead inhabitants.

The first measure taken by this physician was the obligation for checking the meat from each sacrificed animal to the existing butchers in Târgu Jiu and the butchers were obliged to bring pieces of meat to the physician's house. Another cautious measure was to forbid the marketing meat which came from ill animals. The dead animals had to be presented to the police. It was forbidden to throw them, especially in the rivers. They had to be buried under ground. He also forbade the witch women to try to cure the inhabitants using all kind of medicines made by themselves and to smoke the people. The houses had to be aired and cleaned weekly. The ill animals had to be separated it was forbidden to bury dead people sooner than 48 hours from the date of the death until a certificate was delivered by the doctor (physician).

Beginning with the year 1843 in the town of Târgu Jiu came also into being a county hospital where the young physician Dimitrie Culcer was employed who, at his turn, by the accumulated knowledge in the years of study, had an important role in curing the diseases, which the inhabitants of the Gorj county suffered.

For the eradication of the venereal diseases which were very often met in the country, in the autumn of the year 1843, the Administrative Advice of the country decided that in all the towns, capital of counties to be urgently written by the police lists with all „public women” (prostitutes) and the local authorities to create special hospitals for venereal diseases with 15 beds and to allocate from the local budget the sum of one leu a day for every ill person.

After numerous correspondences with the central authorities for about three years, on the 28th of April 1846 the Magistrate of the town Târgu Jiu announced the leadership of the county that beginning with the first of May they could hospitalize the ill inhabitants of venereal diseases asking the leader to order the police that together with dr. Dimitrie Culcer to consult, secretly the inhabitants supposed to suffer of venereal diseases and to put them in hospital in the limit of the 15 beds.

This hospital functioned, with special financial efforts from the local authorities, till the date of 17th of December 1847 when the venereal diseases were eradicated, in Gorj county.

One can see that modern medical system was implemented in the Romanian Country in the period of regulations when they put the bases of the modern medicine practised by physicians who studied at famous universities from Europe.

The development of the communities in the period of regulations didn't resume to administration, education or health. They also had in view the modernisation and the development of the infrastructure, both the cities and the villages knew a new level of development consisting of the modernization of the roads and bridges. The villages and the streets were aligned because they had a chaotic structure.

In the town of Târgu Jiu, the streets were aligned and their maintenance was assured. The bridges were remade because they were wooden bridges and they were quickly ruined.

The process of modernization of the streets and bridges from the town lasted more time because this task was fulfilled by the inhabitants and most of them were poor, without material means. This activity was directed by the magistrate and during the period of regulations they made many documents consisting of estimations, lists, contracts and others for the improvement of the structure of streets, putting in the discussion even the stone pavement. Among the most implied in the modernization of the ways of communication of the town was Gheorghe Magheru in the period when he was president of the magistrate.

Initially the authorities decided to pave the streets with stone and sand, but after many debates and correspondence with the central authorities, these works were made partly by the inhabitants, and on the 15th of April 1840, three important boyards of the town, namely Gheorghe Magheru, Zamfir Broșteanu and Grigore Bâlțeanu advanced a new suggestion to the

leadership of the county, that of to pave the streets with rocks but it was not taken into consideration because the lanes were recently repaired and expenses were too big.

Even if we can't speak about a developed industry, but only about small factories which produced products of manufacture. They were stimulated by the advantages awarded by the Organic Regulations, in this period Frederick Drexler, after he accumulated much money from different professional activities, especially pharmacy and medicine, plus many other big affairs, built a factory of ceramic products with an industrial character.

This small local industry brought many benefits both to the inhabitants of the town and to those who lived in the county. They were employed in the factories and didn't pay taxes to the state, but, the development of this industry had a big importance by marketing of those ceramic products which were sold in the county and in the country.

In the period of regulations the town of Târgu Jiu passed through many profitable transformations. They came from the idea of modernism and were implemented by certain boyards who visited larger and advanced cities from Romania and from abroad and when they elected leaders of Târgu Jiu they tried to implement here different projects based on high principles of urban development. In this sense, for a long period of time they debated the problem of the street illumination which were supported by the merchants who were obliged to assure the working and the maintenance for the lamps which were in front of their shops. An other preoccupation of the local authorities was that of assuring the guarding of the town. By so doing the citizens were not robbed by the thieves from the town or from neighbourhood.

An other useful service for the town was „the fire command” created in this period with very many sacrifices. Some of the magistrate's leaders thought that this service was not so important but, after the fire which took place in 1846 in Târgu Jiu and the fire from Bucharest in the next year, the local authorities realized that this service was important and accepted the idea that it had to be maintained.

For preventing the fires, beginning with January 1835 the central command asked the leaders of the counties to create a new job chimney-sweepers and they were directed by the magistrates and the police. Actually the police had to create this new job. These sweepers had to sweep the stoves and the chimneys from the town. At the end of January the police announced the local authorities that the inhabitants of this town were not accustomed to pay the sweepers for sweeping chimneys as it happened in other cities. In the village Vădeni there were a few brick-layers led by a leader and they were asked to send a brick-layer, who was helped by two prisoners brought by the police, to sweep the chimneys from all the town.

Many years, even if there was the risk of fires most of the inhabitants didn't obey the decision of the authorities to pay the sweepers and when a brick-layer from Vădeni was brought to sweep the chimneys they tried as much as they could not to pay, inventing all kind of excuses.

Very often they apply for creating the guard of the town which was assured by the inhabitants too according to some notices written by magistrate, but, a period of time this guard was assured by persons employed with contract. They were called „guardians” and they were directed by the police.

A very rich (intense) correspondence concerning the guard service of the town in this period refers both to the way in which it had to be practised and to the establishing of the sectors, because this activity was a very difficult one. The employed persons had to fight against the infractional phenomenon, and to reduce it.

Being considered a modern historical period of the Romanian Country, the period of regulations when they did their best to implement new principles based on the difference between the social classes because, for example, in the town of Târgu Jiu the inhabitants from the low class, the paying inhabitants, carried the difficult part of these changes. They had to pay the money for the rent of the school building and for the construction of the first public school building. They also had to pay the physician's salary, the night guardian's salaries, the sweeper's services, and to take part to the construction and to the modernization of the roads and bridges.

The boyards and the mercants participated to these expenses but their contribution was very small in comparison with their incomes.

Nevertheless we consider that the implementation of the legislative stipulations of the Organic Regulations in the Romanian Country opened the way to a new level for developing the Romanian society by the new reforms brought in our legislative administrative, economic and juridical system.

As representative personalities of the period of regulations, in the present paper, we tackled the family and the personality of the professor Constantin Stanciovici and the activity developed by Frederich Drexler who put the bases of the first factory for ceramic products in this town. Beside these we had to mention other personalities like Grigore Bâlțeanu, Gheorghe Magheru, Nicolae Otetelișanu, Christian Tell and many others, but they rarely fulfilled jobs in this town. Data about their life and activity can be found in this paper.

Professor Constantin Stanciovici distinguished as a complex personality. During his activity, by skilfulness and devotion he put the bases of a modern education in this town. Later he followed a remarkable political career being the first mayor of the town of Târgu Jiu. Even

though he had two marriages and very many children, he had enough time to fight for the progress of the education on these lands and to develop a long political activity.

After a life dedicated to his family and especially to the town which he adopted, professor Constantin Stanciovič was, and remained in the memory of the inhabitants a remarkable personality a model citizen of the town making material and physical efforts for to build a modern, clean and civilized town.

At the beginning of the period of regulations in the Romanian Country the industry nearly didn't exist, the inhabitants practised the agriculture especially and a small part practised craftsmanship. In this context when the Organic Regulations was applied on the Romanian territory some enterprisers appeared and they had enough knowledge to create factories where, usually, they brought workers from abroad and sometimes they employed local workers.