

SEREDSKÁ ĽUDOVÁ BANKA

The Seredská ľudová banka (Sered' People's Bank) at Sered' was established on 27th August 1911 at a founding general meeting. A branch in Trnava was founded a year later. The initial share capital was set at 50,000 crowns, divided into a thousand shares registered in name worth 50 crowns each. An extraordinary general meeting on 23rd June 1912 increased the share capital to 150,000 crowns, a further increase to 300,000 Czechoslovak crowns (Kč) followed in 1921, and in 1923 the amount of share capital reached 500,000 Kč.

The first statutes of the bank were issued on the day of its foundation and approved on 15th October 1911. According to the statutes, the aim of the company was savings, banking and commercial activities. The bank aimed especially at receiving deposits, granting mortgages on property, taking over problematic receivables and issuing guarantees for public deliveries. Finally, it granted pre-payments on opened inheritance and their settlement. It participated in establishing factories and commercial companies, the buying and selling of securities and property. It secured the construction of buildings for subsequent sale or rent. Additional activities included purchase and sale of agricultural machinery, coal, timber, artificial fertilizer and so on.

According to § 38 of the statutes, the net profit had to contribute to the general reserve fund and other activities: 4% of the profit was to be used for charitable purposes, 3% for rewarding members of the board, 10% for the management. The rest of the net profit was to be used to pay dividends, which varied in the range 4 – 12% during the existence of the bank. Interest was not paid on uncollected dividends. Dividends not collected within 6 years following the payable date went to the reserve fund.

The founders of the Seredská ľudová banka were Ferdinand Juriga, Florián Tománek, Emil Skyčák, Jozef Godály, Štefan Páleník, Michal Sisák and others. The first chairman of the board of directors was the Roman Catholic priest Florián Tománek, the deputy chairman was Štefan Páleník, the treasurer was Emil Skyčák and the accountant was Jozef Selecký. The supervisory committee included František Skyčák member of parliament and Václav Kunz director of the Bratislava branch of the Úverná banka of Ružomberok. The nationality of the functionaries was Slovak and only partly Hungarian. The Sered' General Sa-



vings Bank with a management composed of Hungarian and Jewish businessmen, landowners and manufacturers, also operated in Sered'. The Seredská ľudová banka originated as an alternative for the general population.

The period of the First World War did the bank little harm, but during the post-war years it had

to resist especially the excessive growth of loans. This was solved by financial surpluses deposited in other banks. An audit was undertaken at the bank in 1927, both at the headquarters and the Trnava branch. The report stated that the audit went well and all the audited activities were in order. On 9th July 1930, an extraordinary general meeting changed the name of the company to "Krajská ľudová banka úč spolok v Trnave" (Regional People's Bank Joint Stock Company of Trnava). The centre of the company moved to Trnava, with a branch in Sered'. From that year, the Krajská ľudová banka of Trnava was affiliated with the Dunajská banka of Bratislava, and Florián Tománek again became chairman of the board. The annual report for the commercial year 1934 states: "The economic crisis continued with all its unfavourable results, but in spite of this, we endeavoured to satisfy the needs of our clients and conscientiously cared for preserving the activity of our institution, being supported in this by our patron institution the Dunajská banka. This is shown by our net profit in the amount of 3,920.45 Kč." As a result of bank concentration ordered by the decree of the Ministry of Finance from 22nd December 1941, the Krajská ľudová banka of Trnava and its branch at Sered' went into liquidation on 1st January 1942. The Sedliacka banka of Bratislava was entrusted with the liquidation of the bank. Jozef Rybár, Ing. Ján Havlík, Arnošt Bella, Dr. Andrej Pázmán, Andrej Čižmárik, František Kovár and Vojtech Líška were appointed as its first liquidators. In 1947, Platon Paulíny Tóth director of the Sedliacka banka, Jindřich Kotyk, Andrej Jablonka and Ladislav Styk were appointed as liquidators. The Slovenská banka national enterprise of Bratislava was entrusted with liquidation of the Krajská ľudová banka of Trnava and its Sered' branch in 1948. The Krajská ľudová banka in liquidation of Trnava merged with the Slovenská všeobecná úverná banka national enterprise in liquidation of Bratislava on 1st January 1949. It definitively disappeared by removal from the commercial register in 1950.

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