THE IMPACT OF THE 1929-1933 ECONOMIC CRISIS ON THE ROMANIAN CONSTABULARY

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In order to solve the complex social and political problems that appeared in Romania, in 1929 two laws were promulgated regarding the organization and functioning of two institutions of public order and safety, the Gendarmerie and the Police. Thus, starting with April 1, 1929, the Law of the Rural Gendarmerie was implemented, being published in the Official Gazette no. 69 of 29.03.1929. Based on this normative act, the Gendarmerie operated with a General Inspectorate and seven Gendarmeries Inspectorates in Craiova, Bucharest, Chisinau, Iaşi, Cernăuţi, Cluj and Timişoara. Within them there were 72 legions of gendarmes with a total number of 323 officers, 7878 non-commissioned officers, 10820 gendarmes in term and 49 civil servants.
Since 1929 this weapon had various attribution, namely crime prevention, maintaining and restoring public order, collecting state security information and the actions of foreign intelligence services, investigating and tracking offenses provided by law, prosecuting and catching criminals. From the archival documents we find out that in 1929, a budget of 803,204,996 lei was allocated to the Gendarmerie institution and an amount of 4227 payment orders was issued, and, in order to complete the funds for some budget items that were not given enough money, it was requested to supplement the amounts, the amounts being cancelled from other budget items. The necessary funds for the Rural Gendarmerie were provided annually in the budget of the Ministry of Interior and were administered according to the general accounting law of the State and according to the organization and functioning regulations.
Between April and October 1929 some units of gendarmes were abolished and others were transferred to the Ministry of the Army. The number of gendarmerie sections was reduced from 623 to 492, and the positions from 4588 to 2540. Due to the budget cuts, on October 1, 1929, the Bucharest Gendarmes Regiment, 12 Training Battalions as well as the companies of Iasi, Chisinau and Cluj were forced to pass under the Ministry of the Army.
Starting with May 26, 1929, by the Decision of the Minister of the Interior no. 880/929, 1674 horses were given to the army ministry, and 670 horses were left to the Rural Gendarmerie. By the General Circular Order no. 3 of 22.02.1930 it was ordered to keep the troop horses at the sections and positions until the fodder was finished, after which they were to be given to the Ministry of the Army, and only the officers' horses remained at the legions' residence.
In 1930, in the budget of the Ministry of Interior the amount of 798,708,818 was allocated for the General Inspectorate of Rural Gendarmerie. Because the number of the gendarmes from the legions' residence was small, they were increased their food allowance and they were given 50 kg of firewood per day, which were to decrease by balance. For the gendarmes who were working in sections and posts a daily norm of 21 lei of food was fixed.
The Domains Service continued improving some buildings belonging to the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, but also those that were state property. The necessary furniture was purchased for the Inspectorates 4 Cluj, 5 Craiova, but also for the Gendarmes Legions Vlașca, Teleorman, Alba, Iași. The work continued at the headquarters of the General Inspectorate, constructions that started in 1928 at the initiative of General Davidoglu Cleante, former commander of the Rural Gendarmes Corps. In November 1929, the General Inspectorate and the Gendarmes Inspectorate I of Bucharest moved into the new building. In order to this building to be constructed, the amount of 36,000,000 lei was spent. The work performed by military craftsmen, led to an economy of 14,400,000 lei, thus 50,400,000 lei would have been spent. The building is a work of art, Roman-medieval style executed under the supervision of Lt. col. C. Ionescu Beldiman, the head of the Construction and Domains Department of the Rural Gendarmerie, assisted with technical part by the architect I. Mandi and the builder I. Risu. The plans were accomplished according to the instructions of the Inspector General and the Military Domains Service.
The increase of the dissatisfaction of the population, as a result of the economic crisis, but also the intensity of the radical and extremist political activity, determined the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie to increase its number. By the Order of the General Inspectorate no. 2982 from 1932 were established 40 sectors, 14 reserve groups, 3 riding groups, 9 motorcycle patrols, 95 positions with 10 gendarmes, 379 positions with 7 gendarmes, 285 positions with 5 gendarmes and 620 positions with 3 gendarmes.
CONCLUSION

The gendarmerie, a military institution that is part of the system of defense, security and national security and of the public order, has undergone a process of transformation from an organizational point of view during the great economic crisis. The purpose of this data was to highlight the fact that the gendarmes, with all the minuses and material difficulties they encountered, represented a team that contributed to maintaining a climate of public order and safety, demonstrating professionalism in performing all their missions.
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