

Gusztiné Toronyi Judit

Nógrád county's dualism age society in the mirror of the registers

The electoral elite of Nógrád county in dualism age

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I. Research tasks, antecedents

The Hungarian society's description in the dualism age, has meant a continuous challenge to the historical researches until the today's day. What kind of tendencies prevail in the social changes of the era? Is there changing altogether? The period of the development of becoming middle-class in Hungary, or may we rather speak about the old feudal one frameworks living on? For the contemporary thinkers the dualism it is necessary to create a Hungarian society because the pawn of the country's rise was seen in this first. The dualism gets into the centre of the interest, because since 1920-s already for the historians of the posterity society's examination of, since the root of their discontent with the society was seen in the developmental abnormality of the dualism between the two world wars. Whether the Hungarian society came into existence in the age of the dualism altogether arose as a question for the historians, and if yes, how it is possible to describe, then to define. Concha Gyöző, Szekfű Gyula, Hajnal István, Erdei Ferenc and Ungár László works signal the interest for the topic. Hanák Péter and Ránki György pursued a discourse in their studies appearing from 1980-s the society of dualism, and within this about the problems of the middle class.

In my paper about the dualism age in Nógrád I would like to introduce that layer of a county's society arose in the era based on electoral registers and to analyse from a social history viewpoint to analyse.

That group formed his financial and public elite of the county's population according the income and education relations being equal to the censuses prescribed in the electoral law. The time limits of the dissertation run from 1886. to 1914. The bigger time interval give an opportunity to recognise and analyse tendentious processes. I aimed for the accomplishment of the examination in the course of my research, that amongst the capitalist production relations being completed in the age of the dualism how the society's feudal construction which intended to demolish let the infiltration of new elements prevail, and how much old ones lived.

Although since 1848 the excluding character of existing census franchise meant a deprivation of rights with regard to the society's bigger part. The electoral registers arising as a result of the regulations of the law can be treated as a suitable source for the historical researches, since they contain the name who obtained the electoral right, his age, his residence, his occupation and the classification of the entitlement census.

The studies made on the basis of the processing of the electoral registers represent different approaching viewpoints. The analyses that put the emphasis onto the social history exploration of the registers belong to one of the groups, and from the financial and occupational stratification of the social groups managing an active participative entitlement in the public life they would love to give a picture.

We may assign those into the other group, who would like to examine the registers from the viewpoint of the history of politics. At this time the researchers because of the party politics coming into the foreground the certain parties' electors social combination and the authorised electoral behaviour.

I make an attempt for examination of social groups of more ten thousands of magnitude through the basis source and the additional sources in my paper. This analysis carries the opportunity of an exploration, which doesn't doubt the uniformed tendencies of the capitalist development beginning in Hungary in the second part of the 19th century, but calls the attention for the nuances and peculiarities anyway.

II. Examination methods, sources

The electoral registers can be found in the Nógrád County's Archives custody, that contain the name of the county's electors, their age, their occupation, their electoral title and their residence at dualism age Nógrád. Examining the single time segments and comparing the years, we may get information about the era running from the 1886 year to 1914 relevantly to the dualism age Nograd county's public groups getting an opportunity for the practice of rights, so presumably the most active membersy the society in both economic and political fields.

I examine the electoral lists in a period embracing the era from 1886 to 1914, in two time segments. The first analysis viewpoint was the electors' summing up according to a title and the comparison of the received results. That fact facilitates this examination, that in the registers the electors were assigned into a category according to an electoral title. The electoral entitlement based on which somebody may have elected was always indicated beside the electors' name.

I examine the electors of the era based on the occupation which also can be found on the electoral register, and I compare them in the two time segments. To the examination of the

occupational construction I took classifications according to occupational sectors as a starting point used in the contemporary censuses since the occupations indicated in the registers are too diverse to be possible to analyse them according to belonging to the identical type. I applied smaller groupings inside the head sector, so that the peculiarities could be emphasized better. I did the examination and the comparison of both the titles and the occupations on county on constituency and on central level.

To the cognition of the social group with the electoral entitlement. The information given by the electoral registers is not enough. It was necessary to withdraw archival sources that include additional data relevant to the electorates' financial state.

The incomes originating from the estate were one of the opportunities of securing the franchise. For the making a map of how large that estate was in a given parish, after which somebody may have had suffrage, I called the host directory and the cadastral documents helping sky. I looked for data for the possession greatness and the incomes originating from this, in the base of 17 parishes of 1892 electoral register with the method of sampling.

Likewise to that of the 1892 year, with the same sampling method I compared the incomes of the electors on the title of incomes in the county municipal and those of the tax payers of the municipal council of Balassagyarmat and Losonc.

I looked at those individually who figured on both lists. They are called elector tax-payers.

The resulting changes of the electoral titles can be valued as characteristic feature of the society use may get an answer to this question by the analysis of the electors on old title and by the comparison of the electors of the two central settlement. It was not my aim in the course of the research to describe the electors in political history approach.

With the electoral movements' processing based on the press I would have liked to call the attention for the circumstance, that those appears on the electoral registers were describable as the society's upper layer. Furthermore we may receive a picture from a group influencing contemporary press, as the usability of a source.

The franchise keeps his census character until the end of the World War two in Hungary. The law regulating the second franchise accepted in the age of the dualism was the 1913's, on which basis elections were not already transacted. The censuses preceding the elections happened according to the new law however.

The 1874. yearly law was my opportunity to compare the registers of 1914 prepared in the manner of 1874 regulations with the electoral register of 1917 prepared according to the 1913's law in Salgótarján large village. On the two registers the electors' comparison

according to staff numbers and an occupational construction is meant to reveal the new law regulation's jogspreading effect. The time limits of the paper expand until the 1917 in a way, but the looking out examines the electors only in one parish's case, does not expand on the whole county's area.

III. The construction of the dissertation

In the first part of the dissertation (Ist–IIInd chapter) inside the marked time limits I digest the data provided by the sources accosaing to the electors title and this tooth lodge construction on a county, on constituency and on central constituency level. The IIIrd chapter I make an experiment to approach the electors with a personal level with the vadastral and virilis (he man who paid the biggest tax in his county) of registers.

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Approachin Nógrád county electorate social group from the distribution of the electoral titles I experienced that during 28 years' period parallel tendencies shown with the economic and social changes. One of the tendencies is affecting big construction changes on county level is the decreasing of the old right and estate share entitlement, and the increase of the incomes and an intellectual category in number. The decrease of the proportion of the estate has still not the a rate, that number or the proportion of electorate of any other titles would come close to it.

The examinations done on the district level cleared the picture in the tailsgot in the county summing up. The resulted in different concentration of income opportunities created by the county natural conditions and the historical traditions occupational branches, that has an effect on the distribution of electorate entitlement.

In the area of Balassagyamat filling a county's administrative and economic centre and Losonc the growth of the electors' number is perceptible according to the due to the change the considerable part of which is already from by not the land living person, but by those obtaining incomes from trade, industry and public administration.

On the 1886 and the 1914 electoral registers' it is possible to reveal about electorate occupational structure, that even at the end of the era their incomes significantly derive from the primary production. Inside the head sector in both years the yeomen continents assigned into an occupational category form the 70 % of it the county electoral staff.

The industry, the trade and credit and the civil service and self-employment occupational branches follow the primary production considering the electorate staff numbers and his proportions. We experience considerable staff number elevation in all three sectors, but all three sectors are behind with good one compared to the agricultural area.

The results received in the single constituencies compared to the data with a county level already reflect the regional peculiarities in the electors' occupational construction. The agricultural cultivation dominates on the county's southern part while the industry and trade play an important role in the constituencies lying on the top Nograd areas. The occupational categories of the mining and metallurgy though unambiguously can be bound to the fülek circumference, while the civil service and that of the self-employment to the Balassagyarmat one. In this manner the electorate occupational combination develops adequately to these circumstances.

As it differs inside of the constituency centres the combination of different occupational types has influence on the concentration or the deficiency of occupations inside a settlement. The characteristic features that characterize the of the constituencian centre he observed on settlements fulfilling a different central function in the electors' occupational construction having taken shape during the centuries.

In the county seat, Balassagyarmat its administrative clerks', the county's city with the only ordered council in Losonc in the industry employed electors' tall number and his proportion. Nógrád remained the centre of the agriculture his electors' deciding proportion gets out from the head sector of the primary production on a district central level as well.

We may summarise Nógrád county's electors' occupational construction, that the dualism tendencies coming forward throughout the country signaling the age social and economic structural change are observable here. In this manner inside the county even, if with the constraint to the place, we are witnesses of the information of the electors' occupational construction from the agricultural side the industry and trade.

On the electoral registers examining one of the titles category the history of old rights we may have got an answer to that question, whether a hierarchy existed among the suffrage categories, if somebody may have made a choice on more titles. It was determining, a what kind of settlement of the county we examine and what role it plays in the social division of labour, because in the county seat Balassagyarmat supplying the administrative centre's function, the proportion of the old right did not attain the county's average in 1886, while in Szirák living on agriculture it was threefold.

I found examining the electors on the right of an estate in the dualism age Nógrád county, that the natural conditions, the large estate and the presence of the industrial production influence the electors' staff numbers and their possession structure in a different manner. The differences supported by data are demonstrable with the help of the source group of the

cadastral documents, at the time of the application of the sampling the contexts could be revealed.

Examined in the selected settlements in his majority dumping necessary census for the electoral entitlement was insured by part of the land $\frac{1}{4}$, and incomes originating from the land, and the elector owners' staff numbers were higher in those parishes, where on good soil small holders or medium landowners ran a farm, and the large estate was not present in the village's surroundings.

I experienced comparing electors on the electoral registers that the county virilis register contain relevant tax data with about for the 15-16% of electors since almost the 75 % of the virilis elector in the county examined during the two years had their suffrage rights on their land as middle or large estate owners.

The case of Balassagyarmat and Losonc it can be related, that although electors on the incomes based on intelligentsia dominate in the municipal council, since there are not electors on old right or estate, or their number is insignificant among the virilis, but the staff numbers around 10-15 are very little slice of the electors. On a county and constituency central level we may say that we managed to reach a group of a small number of electors' only a thin layer on the virilis registers. The source data are after all important from the viewpoint, that it added an opportunity to the exploration of an elite's elite. It drew a picture about the occupational, entitlement and income relations of the persons playing an active, determining public role actually.

Examining the electoral movements in the mirror of press we can observe in the behavior of the electors, because that making the free opinion and objective division impossible the answer of the electors' majority is nonattendance.

The 1913 electoral law jogspreading effect on two Salgótarján electoral registers that characters' numerical increase is significant on the 1917 register compared to the 1914 register. It on the other hand yet always very slight proportion, that let us be allowed to talk about the law right extension in a merit. For the large majority of the village population is left out from the opportunity of the practice of the public rights as the majority of the contemporary Hungarian society's.