



Ferenc Nemet, Anica Dragančić, Maria Sladi

**ELEKOVA FABRIKA
ELEK'S FACTORY**



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ELEKOVA FABRIKA
ELEK'S FACTORY

ELEKOVA FABRIKA 110 GODINA ŠEĆERANE ELEK'S FACTORY 110TH ANNIVERSARY

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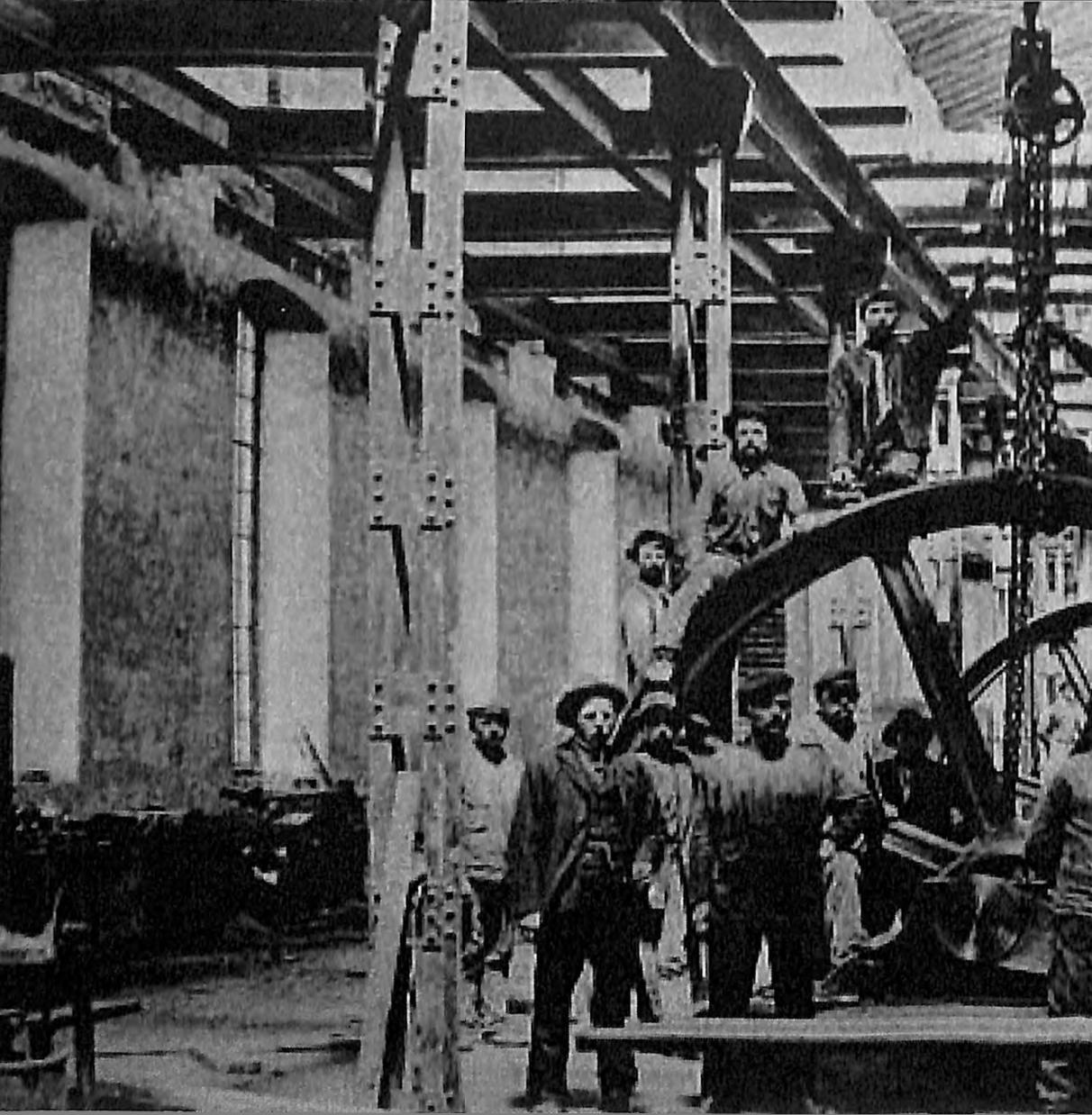


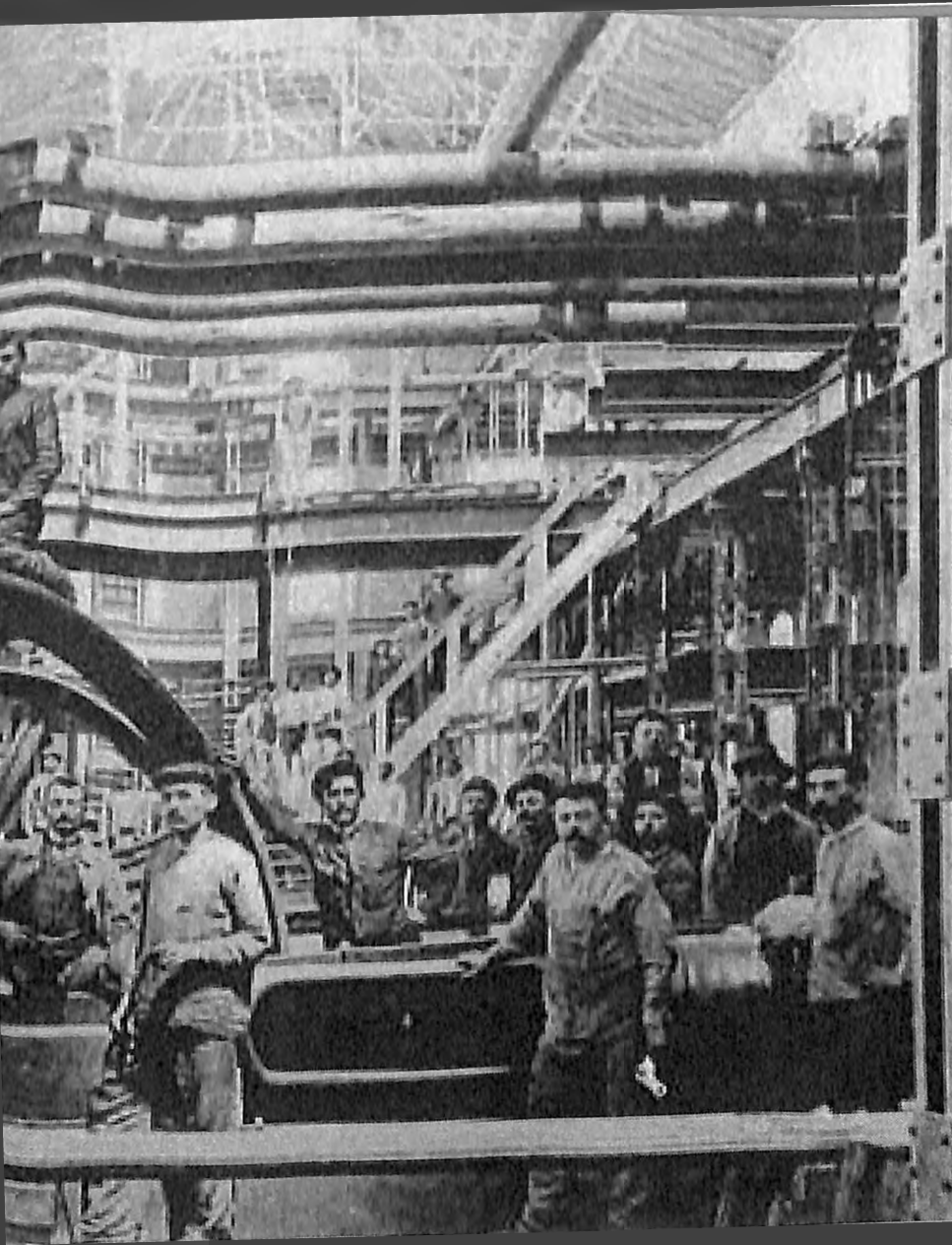
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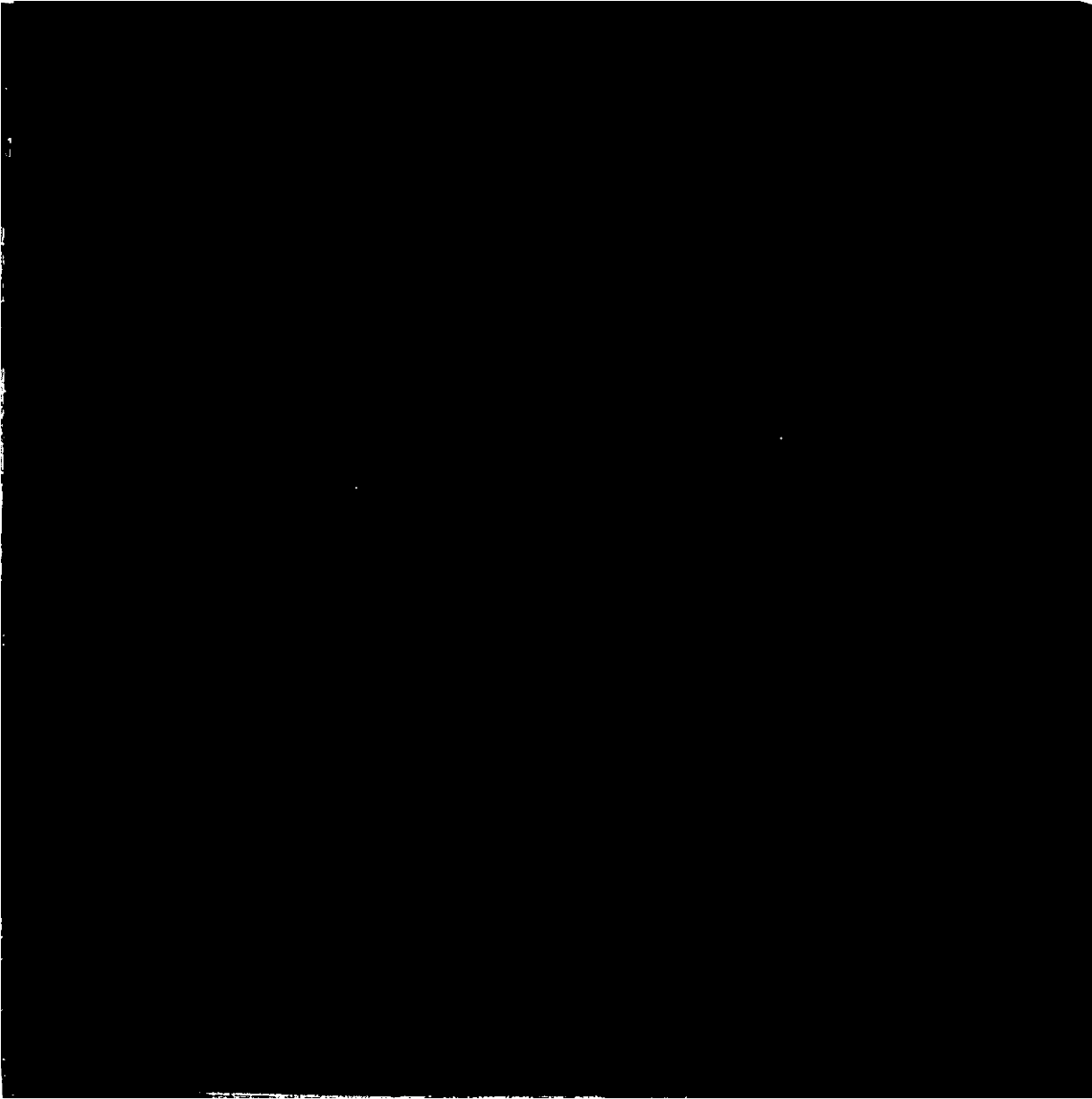
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Ferenc Nemet

**ISTORIJSKI I DRUŠTVENI KONTEKST
HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL CONTEXT**



VIKTOR ELEK



Viktor Elek u kompleksu šećerane_Viktor Elek in the Sugar factory complex_Ferenc Nemet

Vrstan stručnjak za gajenje šećerne repe i njenu preradu, češki Jevrejin, Viktor Elek (Elek Viktor) u Veliki Bečkerek (Nagybecskerek) je pristigao 1911. godine,[1] pre 110 godina, na poziv osnivača Fabrike šećera, kako bi svojim radom osnažio tim stručnjaka koji se već formirao oko nove fabrike u izgradnji. Marljivim i stručnim radom ubrzo je došao na čelo ovog industrijskog preduzeća, te je među bečkerečanima postao sinonim za šećeranu, koju su ubrzo prozvali Elekovom fabricom.

Rođen je u mestu Skalice u Češkoj, 19. aprila 1873. godine, u siromašnoj jevrejskoj porodici, od oca Samujila i majke Ernestine, rođene Kulka.[1] Nakon završetka školovanja iskustvo u proizvodnji šećerne

Viktor Elek, a Czech-Jewish expert in sugar beet growing and processing, came to Veliki Bečkerek in 1911,[1] invited by the founder of the Sugar factory to join a team of experts gathered around the new factory under construction. Thanks to his diligent professional efforts Elek quickly became a director and synonymous with the Sugar factory, which citizens of Veliki Bečkerek soon started calling Elek's factory.

Elek was born on 19 April 1873, in Skalice, in Bohemia, in a poor Jewish family. His father's name was Samuel and his mother's name was Ernestine, at birth Kulka.[1] After finishing school, Elek gained practical experience in sugar beet growing in Diószeg, on the prop-

repe sticao je u Diosegu (Diószeg), na imanju tamošnje šećerane, dok se sa procesom prerade šećerne repe upoznao u samoj fabrici šećera.[2] Tamo je marljivo radio 18 godina (između 1892. i 1910),[1] te je sa svojim višegodišnjim iskustvom 1911. godine došao u Veliki Bečkerek, gde su pri izgradnji šećerane i pokretanju procesa proizvodnje njegova stručnost i iskustvo bili dragoceni.[2] Oženio se 15 godina mlađom Elom Goldštajn (Goldstein Ella), rodom iz Beograda.[1]

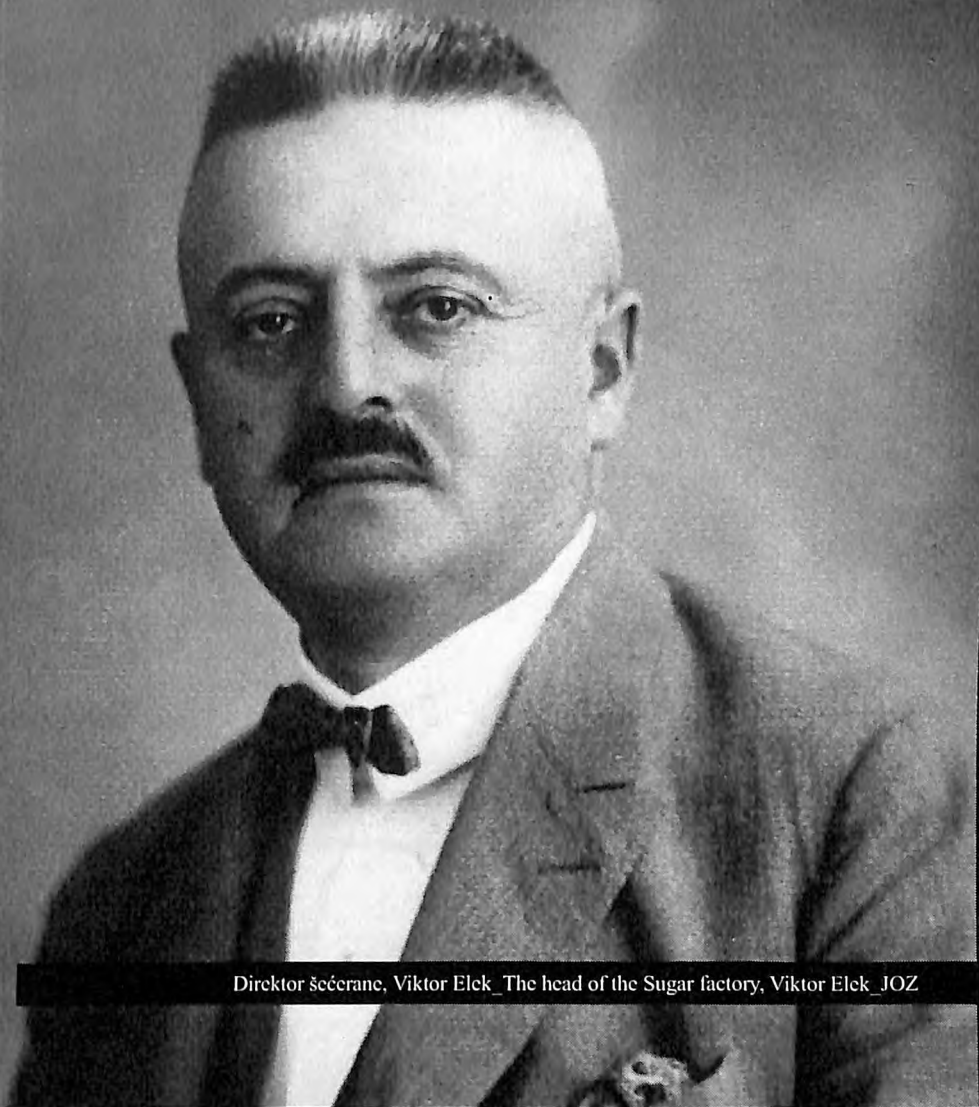
Najpre je postavljen za šefa organizacione i komercijalne službe. Svojim radom i zalaganjem, koji nisu prošli nezapaženo, ubrzo je postigao da 1914. godine bude postavljen za pomoćnika direktora, dok je ratne 1915. godine kao direktor preuzeo upravljanje fabrikom, koju je vodio sve do svoje smrti, odnosno pogubljenja, aprila 1941. godine.[3]

Tokom tri decenije provedene u Velikom Bečkereku, Elek se uklopio

erty belonging to a local sugar factory, where he also got familiar with sugar beet processing.[2] Elek worked there for eighteen years (1892-1910),[1] before arriving in Veliki Bečkerek where his expertise and experience proved valuable in launching sugar beet production.[2] He married Ella Goldstein, originally from Belgrade, 15 years younger than him.[1]

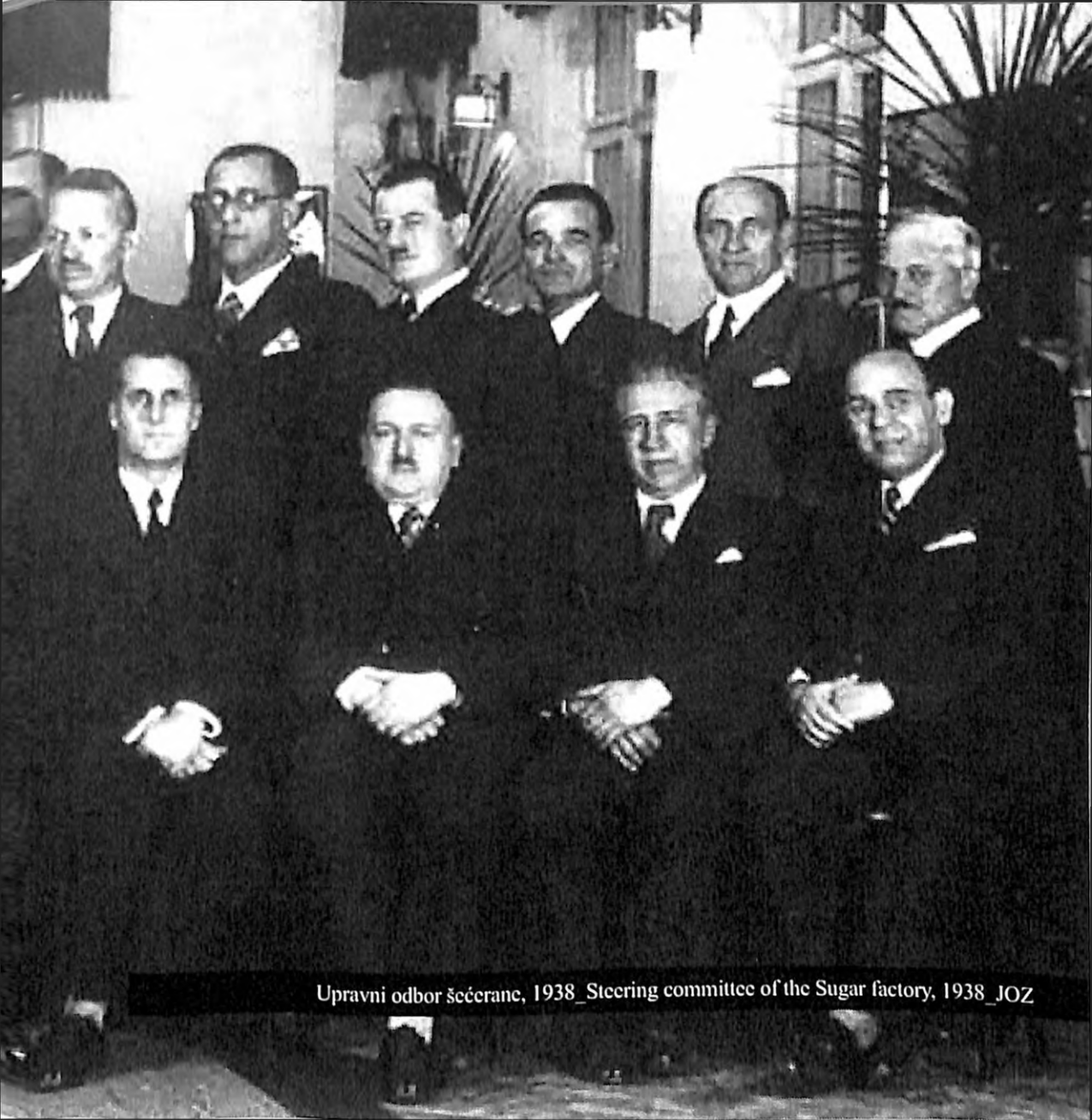
Elek was first appointed head of the organizational and commercial service of the Sugar factory in Veliki Bečkerek, but soon afterwards, in 1914, he became an assistant manager, and in 1915 he took over management of the factory, which he ran until he died in 1941.[3]

During three decades spent in Veliki Bečkerek, Elek had completely integrated himself into a local Jewish community, actively participating in public life. The citizens of Veliki Bečkerek remember him as a great patron of sport and culture.[2]



Direktor šecérane, Viktor Elek_The head of the Sugar factory, Viktor Elek_JOZ





Upravni odbor šećerane, 1938_Steering committee of the Sugar factory, 1938_JOZ



Viktor Elek u kompleksu šećerane_Viktor Elek in the Sugar factory complex_IAZ F 45

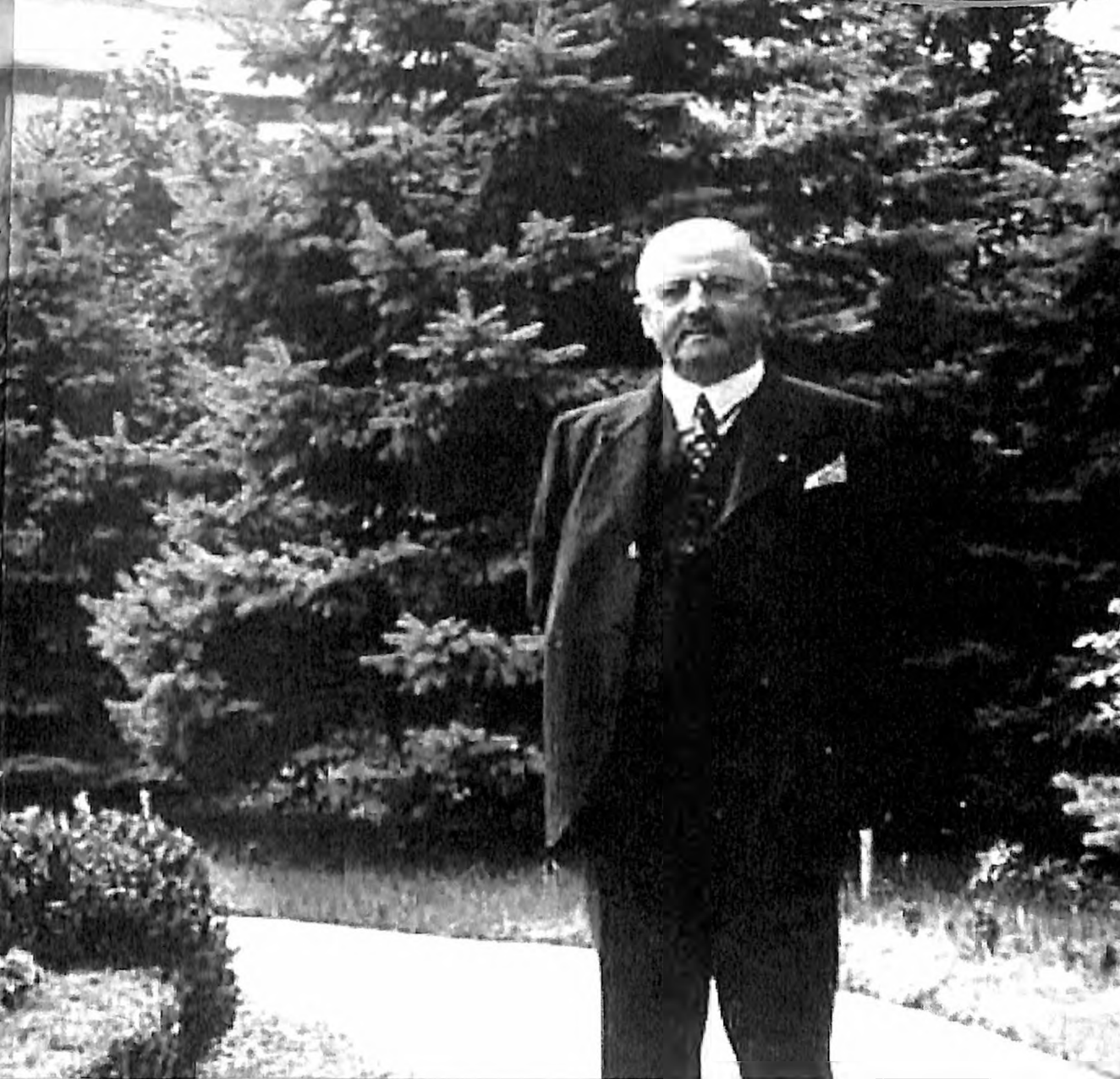
u jevrejsku zajednicu grada na Begeju i uzeo učešća u javnom životu. Bečkerečani ga pamte kao velikog mecenu sporta i kulture.[2]

Viktor Elek je upravljanje nad šećeranom preuzeo u veoma teškom periodu, dok je još besneo Prvi svetski rat, ali je svojim umećem i zalaganjem uspeo da održi proizvodnju i u teškim vremenima. Nakon raspada Austrougarske monarhije i formiranja Kraljevine Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca, Elek je nastojao da obezbedi kontinuitet u radu fabrike, ali i kontinuitet u proizvodnji sirovine – šećerne repe. Trebalo je dosta truda, zalaganja i rada na terenu kako bi se obezbedila i po kvalitetu i po obimu adekvatna sirovinska baza. Naime, po okončanju Prvog svetskog rata došlo je do velikih promena u vlasničkoj strukturi obradivog zemljišta, budući da su ukinuti veliki posedi, a zemlja je podeljena sitnim posednicima i kolonistima. U novonastalim okolnostima seljake je trebalo ne samo uveriti

Viktor Elek took over management of the Sugar factory in a very turbulent period, during the First World War, however, he succeeded in keeping the production flow going. After the collapse of Austria-Hungary and the creation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Elek tried to ensure continuity of manufacturing activity and sugar cane production. It took a lot of effort to ensure sufficient quantity and quality of sugar cane. In fact, in the aftermath of the First World War, there had been significant changes in land ownership structure, as large estates were abolished and the land was divided into small parcels held by many owners, including colonists. In new circumstances, peasants needed to be reassured about the cost-effectiveness of sugar cane production and taught how to grow it. Elek recognized the importance of the fieldwork and, together with his colleagues, he often



Viktor Elek u kompleksu šećerane_Viktor Elek in the Sugar factory complex_JOZ



u isplativost uzgajanja šećerne repe, već i praktično podučavati o načinu uzgoja. Elek je prepoznao važnost rada na terenu, pa je sa svojim saradnicima zalazio među seljake, držao predavanja o gajenju šećerne repe i davao praktične savete o pravilnom uzgajanju ove industrijske biljke. Taj pristup je uskoro urodio plodom i Elekova fabrika je uspela da obezbedi dovoljne količine za preradu, te nije prestala sa radom.[2]

Sve dok je na čelu šećerane bio Viktor Elek, odnosno do početka Drugog svetskog rata, bila je to fabrika za uzor.[4]

Po ulasku Nemaca u grad (tada Petrovgrad), aprila 1941. godine, Elek se, kao Jevrejin, uz to i imućan industrijalac, našao na njihovoj meti. Bio je izložen maltretiranju, zajedno sa svojim sunarodnicima. Prve žrtve nemačkih okupatora (njih 17), uz prisustvo većeg broja domaćih Švaba, streljane su na Bagljašu 19. aprila 1941. godine oko 10 časova. Tim po-

visited peasants, teaching them how to grow sugar cane. It turned out to be a winning approach, as Elek's factory managed to secure enough sugar cane, thus avoiding the company closing down.[2]

As long as Viktor Elek was the head of the Sugar factory, that is, until the beginning of the Second World War, it was a model factory.[4]

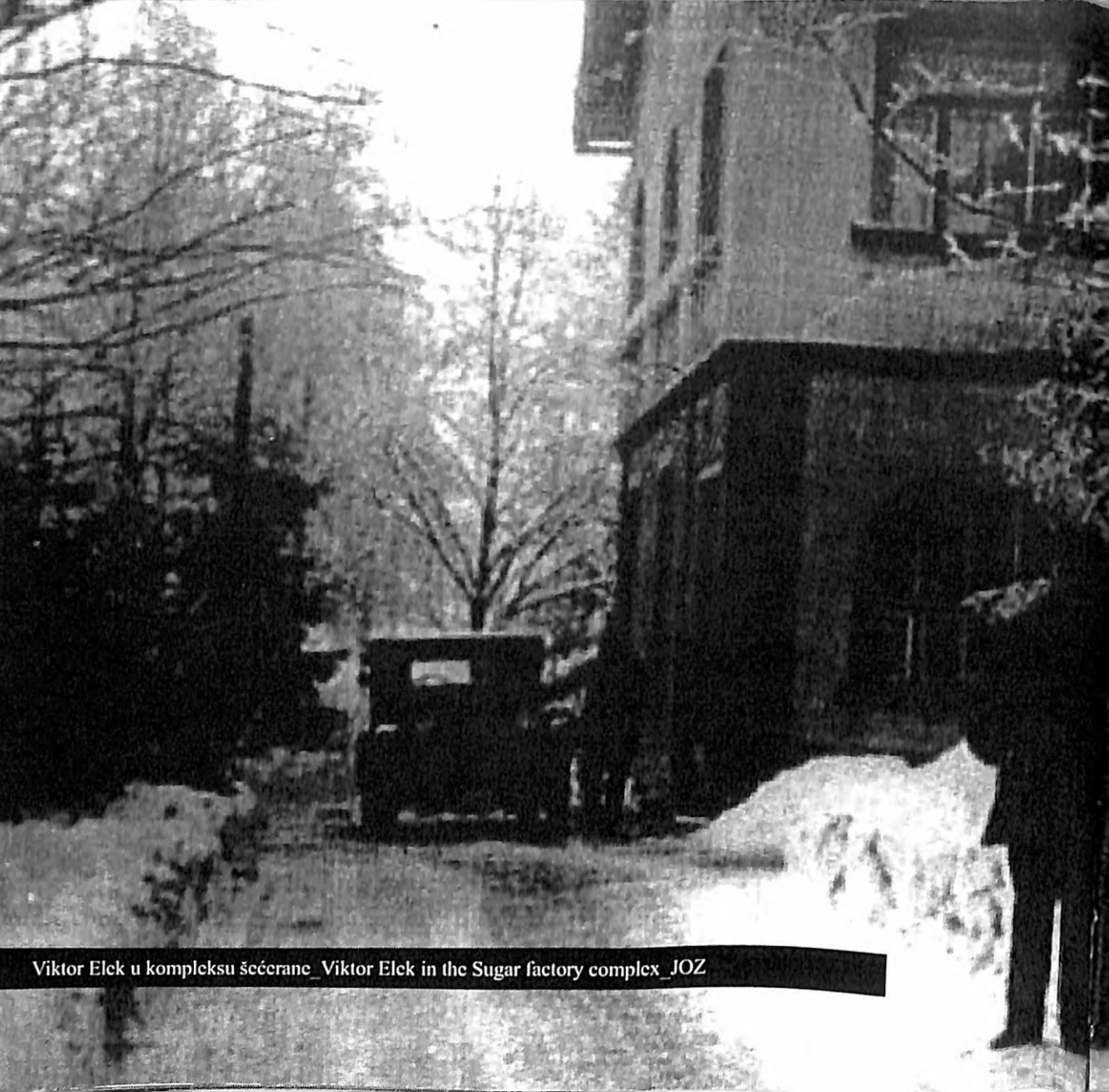
After the Germans entered the city (at the time called Petrovgrad) in April 1941, Elek, as a Jew and wealthy industrialist, became the victim of harassment. On 19 April 1941, around 10 a.m., 17 Jews were killed in Bagljaš, in the presence of many local Germans. Soon afterwards, Germans decided to arrest Elek, thus hoping to come into possession of foreign capital invested in the factory. Using threats and violence, they managed to extort from him several million crowns and then, when he runs out of money, they killed him.[4]

vodom je vojna komanda okupatora izdala saopštenje na nemačkom, mađarskom i srpskom jeziku. Neposredno posle ovog događaja, u želji da prigrabe inostrani kapital investiran u Fabriku šećera, Nemci su odlučili da uhapsu Eleka. Pretnjama i nasiljem uspeli su od njega izvući nekoliko miliona kruna, a potom su, kada nije imao više novca, rešili da ga ubiju.[4]

Njegovo ubistvo nije bilo slučajno, budući da je bio jedan od najpoznatijih stanovnika grada i predstavnik krupnog kapitala u svojstvu direktora jednog od najvećih proizvodnih preduzeća u zemlji. Time se vršio pritisak na ostalo stanovništvo, kao i zastrašivanje šire populacije.[3] U jednom izvoru čitamo da je "Elek pogubljen pod izgovorom da je imao loš odnos prema nemačkim i mađarskim radnicima u šećerani, dok je u pozadini njegove likvidacije – osim činjenice da je bio Jevrejin – stajala namera okupatorske uprave da preuzme kontrolu

By killing one of the most renowned citizens of Veliki Bečkerek, who was also a representative of big business, being director of one of the most important factories in the country, the Germans wanted to put pressure and intimidate the local population.[3] An article from that period says that "Elek was executed under the pretext of treating badly German and Hungarian workers at the Sugar factory, but in the background of his execution – besides the fact that he was a Jew – there was the intention of the occupiers to take control of an important company".[5]

After Elek's execution, the German command issued a brief statement saying: "Following the judgement of the court-martial of 24 April, one Jew, Viktor Elek, and one Serb from Arad, Sava Cukić, were hanged".[3] On that tragic day, posters about his execution, which took place in Bagljaš, were displayed in the city.[3] A renowned



Viktor Elek u kompleksu šećerane_ Viktor Elek in the Sugar factory complex _JOZ



nad ovim važnim privrednim subjektom.”[5]

Povodom njegovog pogubljenja Nemačka komanda je izdala vrlo kratko saopštenje bez navođenja ikakvih motiva: “Prema presudi Ratnog suda od 24. aprila t. g. vešan je Jevrejin Viktor Elek i Srbin Sava Cukić iz Aradca streljan.”[3] Tog tragičnog dana u gradu su na vidnim mestima istaknuti plakati o njegovom pogubljenju, koje se odigrao na Bagljašu.[3] Poznati zavičajni istoričar Dragoljub Čolić kazuje nam i neke detalje vezane za njegovu egzekuciju: “Za vreme i posle izvršenog vešanja Viktora Eleka, koji je bio stariji čovek, i koga je navodno osudio Ratni sud na kaznu smrti vešanjem, padale su od strane izvršitelja zločina, nadzornih organa i nekih prisutnih, neukusne primedbe i šale na račun obešenih. Dželat Peter Luc, neposredno pre vešanja, dobacio je Eleku: »Sad ćeš da paseš travu«. Drugi dželat, Bela Sekereš, posle izvršenog veša-

historian Dragoljub Čolić tells us some details of Elek’s death: “During and after the hanging of Viktor Elek, who was an older man, the perpetrators of the crime, the authorities, and some of those presents were making distasteful remarks and jokes on victims. The executioner Peter Luc, just before the hanging, said to Elek: “Now you will graze the grass.” Another executioner, Bela Sekeres, after the hanging, picked up a flower and put it in the lapel of his coat with a “witty” joke – to have something to smell in the other world.”.[3]

That’s how an excellent economic expert and intellectual died only because he was Jewish.

nja uzbrao je jedan cvet i zadenuo obešenom Eleku za rever kaputa uz »duhovitu« šalu, da ima šta da miriše na onom svetu.”[3]

Tako je, uz ponižavanja, na zverski način stradao jedan izvanredan privredni stručnjak i intelektualac, samo zbog toga, što je bio Jevrejin.



Dircktor šććerane, Viktor Elck_The head of the Sugar factory, Viktor Elck_JOZ

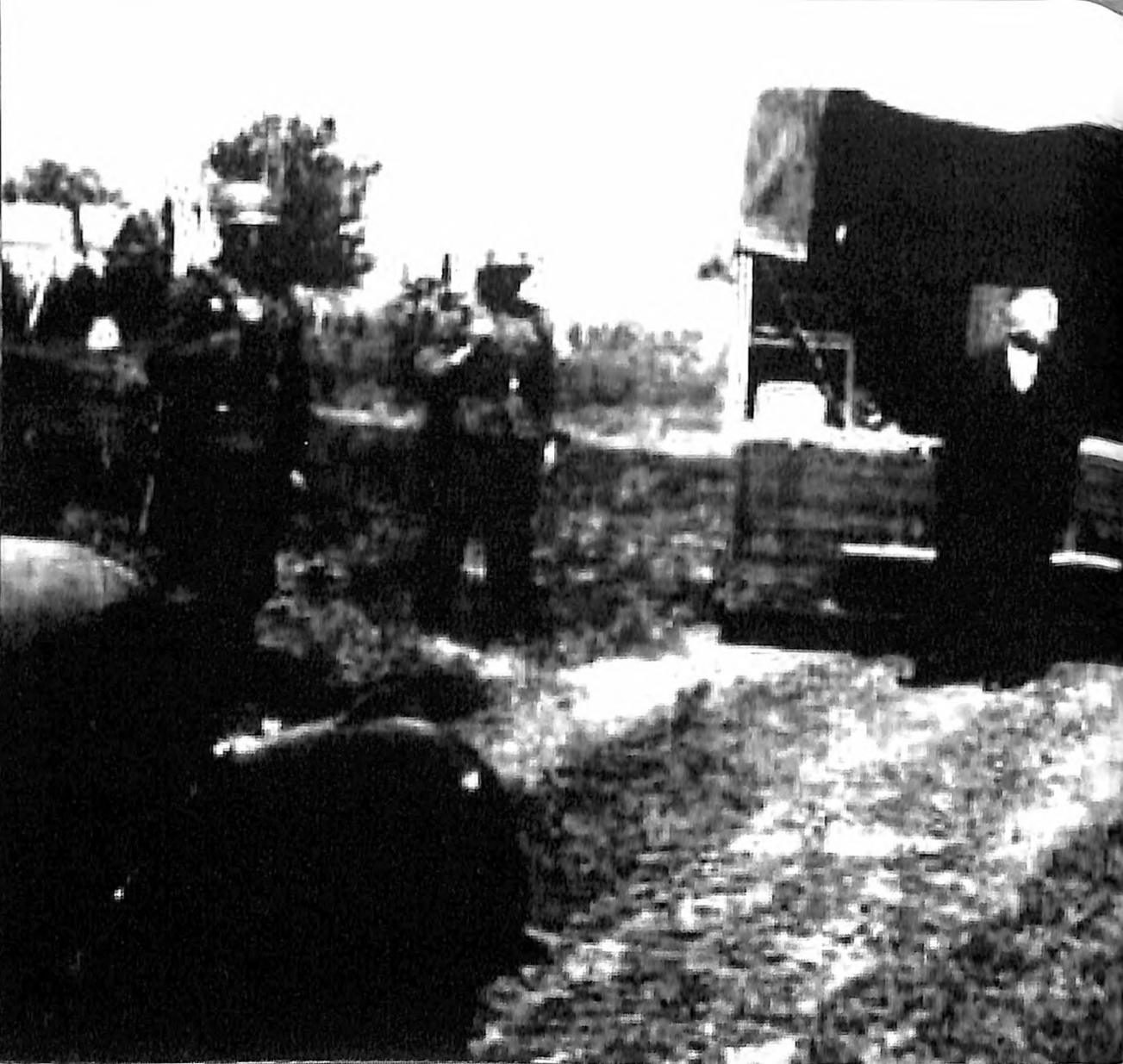


Direktor šćerane, Viktor Elek_The head of the Sugar factory, Viktor Elek_JOZ





Viktor Elek sa suprugom u vili_Viktor Elek with his wife in the villa_JOZ

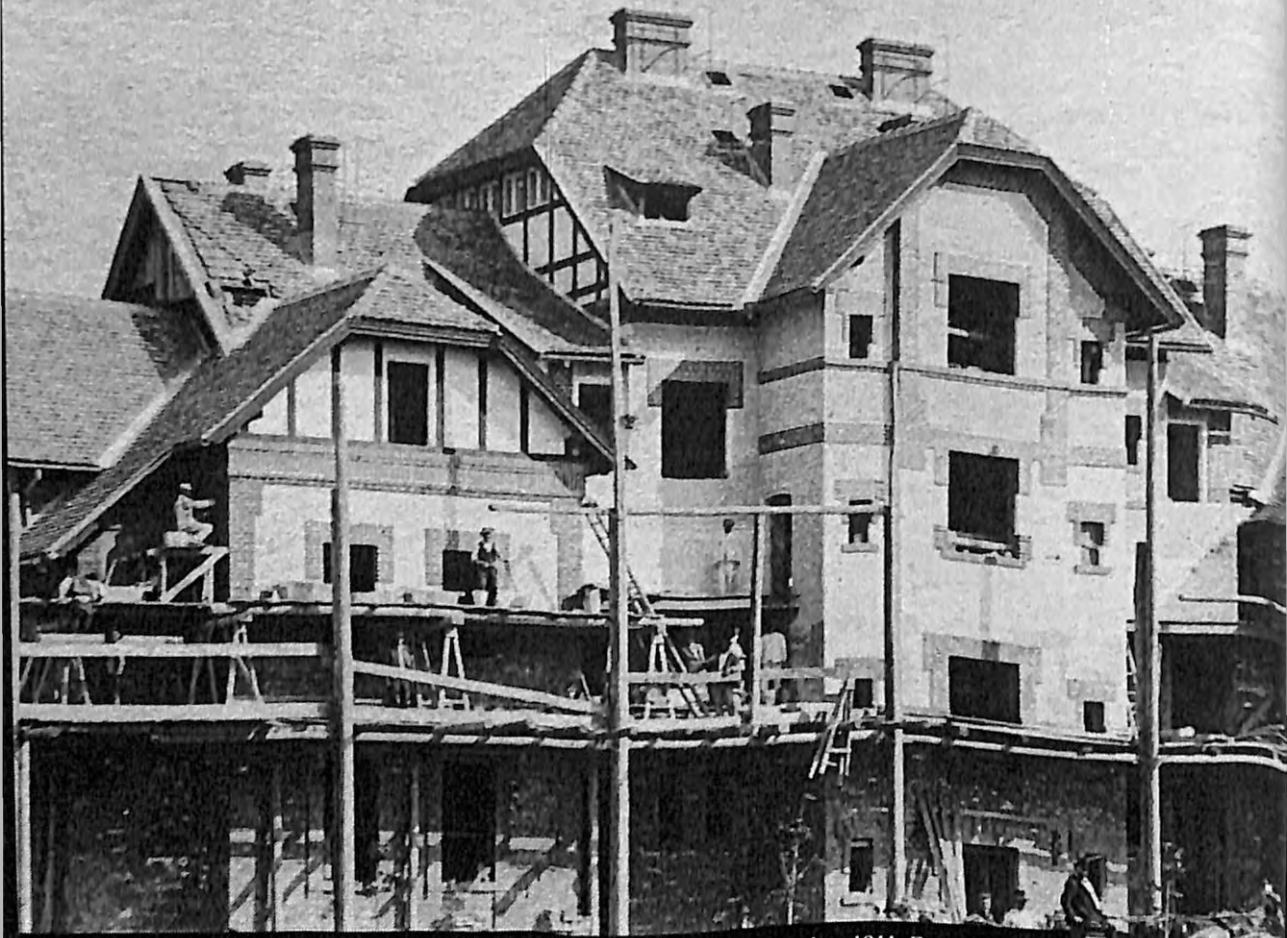




Pogubljenje Viktora Eleka, 1941_Viktor Elek's execution, 1941_IAZ F 45



ŠEĆERANA U ZRENJANINU
SUGAR FACTORY IN ZRENJANIN



Izgradnja kompleksa šćerane, 1911 _ Construction of the Sugar factory complex, 1911 _ Ferenc Nemet

Ideja o izgradnji fabrike šećera u Velikom Bečkereku javila se još 1880. godine, tačno tri decenije pre njene izgradnje, dok je kasnije inicirana još nekoliko puta. Konačno je 29. aprila 1899. godine, nakon dve godine priprema, na sednici Stručnog odbora Torontalskog poljoprivrednog udruženja (Torontálmegyei Gazdasági Egyesület) odlučeno da se u Velikom Bečkereku osnuje fabrika šećera.[7] [8] O toj važnoj odluci izvestio je i dnevni list Torontál (Torontál), naglašavajući da je na sednici, kojom je predsedavao grof Endre Čekonjić (Csekonics Endre), i koja je održana u Kikindi (Nagykikinda), “konačno odlučeno, da će se u Velikom Bečkereku izgraditi šećerana”.[9] Sastanku je prisustvovao i dr Šándor Lederer

The idea of building a sugar factory in Veliki Beckerek appeared in 1880, exactly three decades before its construction, while it was later initiated several more times. Finally, on April 29, 1899, after two years of preparation, at a meeting of the Expert Committee of the Torontal County agricultural association, it was decided to establish a sugar factory in Veliki Beckerek. [7] [8] The daily Torontál wrote about this important decision, emphasizing that during a meeting, held in Kikinda and chaired by the count Endre Csekonics, “was finally decided to build a sugar factory in Veliki Beckerek”.[9] Also attending the meeting was Sándor Léderer from Budapest who agreed

(dr. Léederer Sándor) iz Budimpešte (Budapest), s kojim je udruženje postigao sporazum o finansiranju izgradnje ovog industrijskog objekta. Bečkerečani su pozdravili ovu vest, a list Torontal je tom prilikom izrazio nadu, da će buduća fabrika imati "izuzetno važnu ulogu u privrednom životu županije".[9] Kako je Andor Marton (Márton Andor), vrstan privredni stručnjak i sekretar udruženja u jednom svom članku naveo, u to vreme na poljoprivrednim gazdinstvima Torontalske županije veličine preko milion i dvesta hiljada hektara, šećerna repa se gajila na svega 5-10 hiljada hektara, što je bilo nedovoljno za sirovinsku bazu. Drugi problem predstavljala je relativno mala potrošnja šećera od strane stanovništva, a treći visok porez na promet šećera. Sve te prethodne prepreke trebalo je otkloniti pre izgradnje fabrike, kako bi ona mogla da funkcioniše na zdravim privrednim osnovama.

to finance the construction of the factory. The citizens of Veliki Bečkerek welcomed the news, and the daily Torontál expressed hope that the new factory could play "an important role in county's economy". [9] As Andor Márton, a prominent economic expert and secretary of the association, said, in one of his articles, with over one million and two hundred thousand hectares of agricultural land, sugar beet was grown on 5-10 thousand hectares, which was insufficient raw material. The second problem was the relatively low consumption of sugar by the population, and the third was the high sales tax on sugar. All these previous obstacles had to be removed before the construction of the factory so that it could function on a good economic basis.

At the above-mentioned meeting, it was discussed whether the city of Veliki Beckerek met all requirements for hosting such facility,



Izgradnja kompleksa šećerane, 1911_Construction of the Sugar factory complex, 1911_Ferenc Nemet





Izgradnja kompleksa šećerane, 1911_Construction of the Sugar factory complex, 1911_Ferenc Nemet

Na pomenutoj sednici poduze se raspravljalo i o tome da li Veliki Bečkerek ispunjava sve uslove za izgradnju jednog takvog industrijskog postrojenja, tačnije, da li je Banat pogodan za uzgajanje kvalitetne šećerne repe, može li grad obezbediti da se u krugu od 60 kilometara, na bar 5–6 hiljada hektara uzgaja šećerna repa, ima li pogodnog mesta u Bečkereku za izgradnju jedne takve fabrike, te da li se planira izgradnja tzv. poljoprivredne ili industrijske šećerane. Neki učesnici izrazili su bojazan da će uzgajanje šećerne repe ići na uštrb proizvodnje pšenice u Banatu, ali su te dileme kroz raspravu otklonjene.[9]

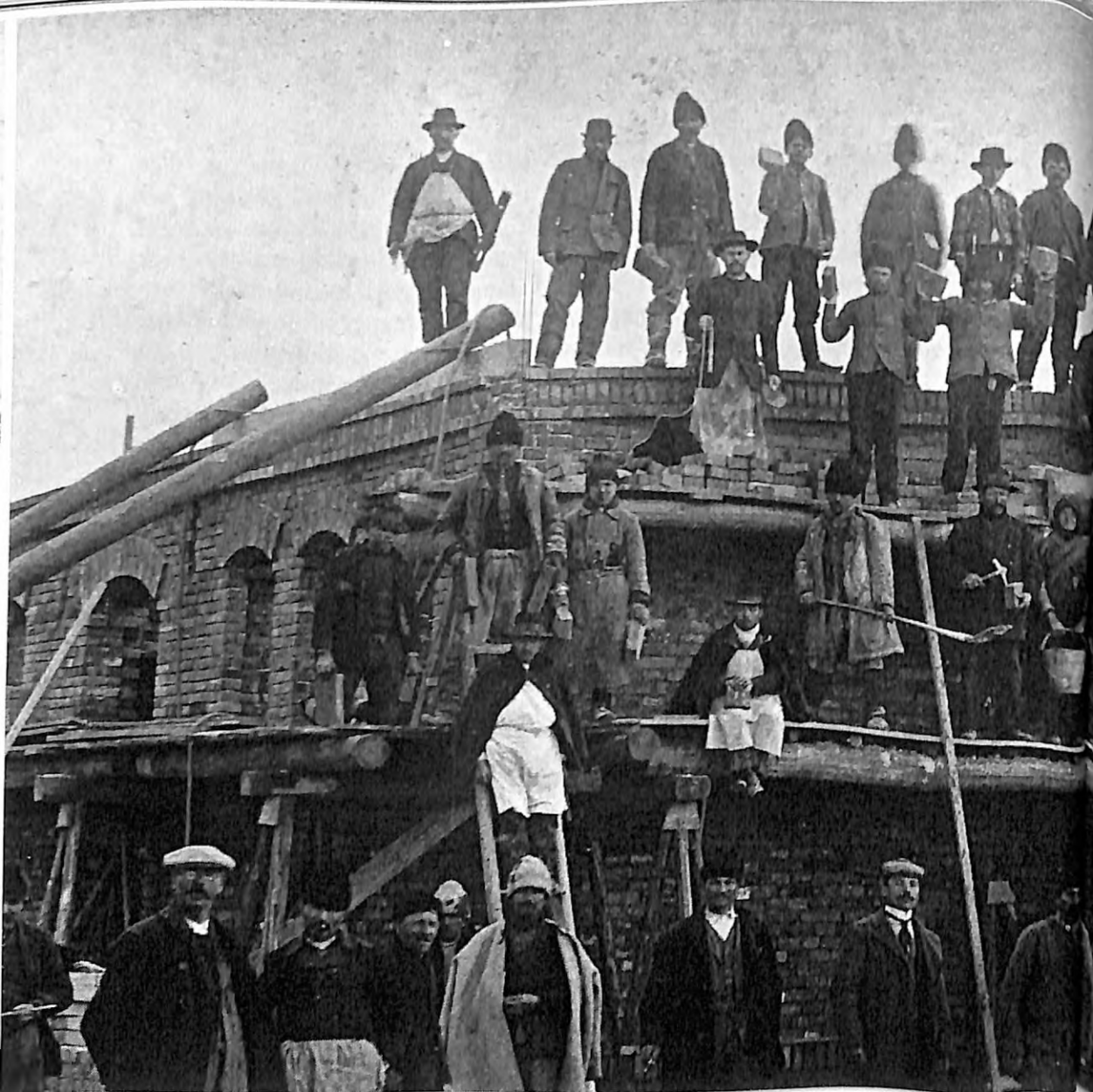
Budući da je konstatovana ispunjenost svih uslova, finansijer dr Šandor Lederer izložio je svoju zamisao i finansijski plan realizacije ove značajne investicije. Po njegovoj proceni, buduća fabrika bi svoju proizvodnju bazirala na dnevnoj preradi 6–7 hiljada kvintala šećerne repe. Po Ledererovom viđenju, šećerana bi se

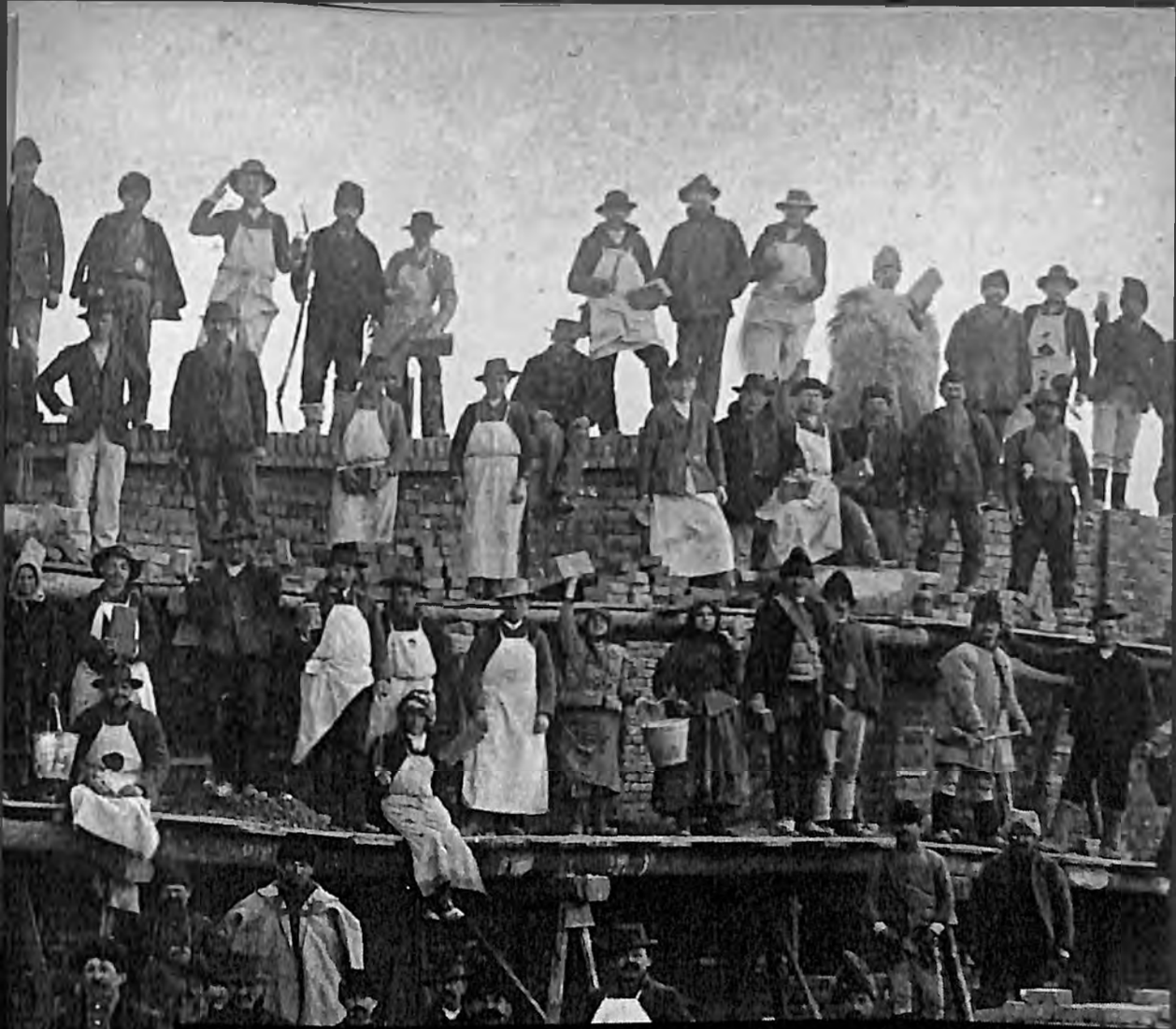
whether the Banat region was suitable for sugar cane growing, whether Veliki Bečkerek would be able to secure 5-6 hectares of land within 60 km radius for sugar cane growing and whether in Veliki Bečkerek there was a suitable location to build a factory. Some participants expressed concern that sugar cane production could have a negative effect on wheat production, but those concerns were quickly overcome.[9]

Since all the conditions were met, the financier Sándor Léder presented his idea and financial plan for the realization of this important investment. According to his estimate, the future factory would base its production on the daily processing of 6-7 thousand quintals of sugar beet. According to Lederer, the Sugar factory would only deal with the production of raw sugar, and would not process it (because its refining would require significant additional

bavila samo proizvodnjom sirovog šećera, i ne bi ga prerađivala (jer bi njegovo rafinisanje zahtevalo značajne dodatne investicije u opremu), pa bi vrednost ove investicije po njemu iznosila 1.200.000 forinti. Od tog iznosa bi, prema predračunima, izgradnja i opremanje fabrike sa potrebnim mašinama koštali 900.000 forinti, dok bi obrtna sredstva iznosila 300.000 forinti. Ključno pitanje je bilo, kako obezbediti potrebna sredstva, pa je Lederer predložio da on, kao investitor, obezbedi 700.000 forinti, dok bi 500.000 forinti trebalo da obezbede poljoprivredni proizvođači šećerne repe, tako što bi štampali 5.000 komada menica od po 100 forinti, čiju bi cenu, proizvođači mogli izmiriti i šećernom repom. Na sastanku je odlučeno da će se uputiti poziv poljoprivrednicima za upis akcija, da će biti objavljen predlog pravilnika buduće šećerane, kao i uzorak tipskog ugovora koji bi se zaključivao sa poljoprivrednicima,

investments in equipment), so the value of this investment would be 1,2 million forints. Of that amount, according to estimates, the construction and equipping of the factory with the necessary machines would cost 900.000 forints, while working capital would be 300.000 forints. The key question was how to provide the necessary funds, so Lederer suggested that he, as an investor, provide 700.000 forints, while 500.000 forints should be provided by agricultural sugar beet producers. They would print 5.000 bills of exchange of 100 forints each, the price of which producers could pay with sugar beet. It was decided at the meeting that the farmers will be invited to subscribe for shares, that the proposed rules of the future sugar factory will be published, as well as a sample of the standard contract that will be concluded with the farmers, together with the form for subscribing shareholders.[9]





Izgradnja kompleksa šećerane, 1911_Construction of the Sugar factory complex, 1911_Ferenc Nemet

zajedno sa formularom za upisa akcionara.[9]

Zbog raznih tehničkih poslova oko nove fabrike, poziv na upis akcija usledio je tek dve godine kasnije, maja 1902. godine. Dnevni list *Torontal* je 22. maja 1901. godine na prvoj strani objavio u celini poziv na upis akcija šećerane. Po tadašnjim kalkulacijama fabrika bi predstavljala investiciju od ukupno 2.400.000 kruna, pri čemu bi polovinu tog iznosa obezbedili investitori, a drugu polovinu (kupovinom 12.000 akcija od po 200 kruna) poljoprivrednici-akcionari. Prema planovima, nova šećerana bi zapošljavala 30 činovnika, 100 stalnih i 500 sezonskih radnika. Grad Veliki Bečkerek je, odzivajući se pozivu, upisao akcije u vrednosti od 200.000 kruna.[8]

Proces za izgradnju šećerane je u nekoliko navrata pauziran, da bi 1905. godine ponovo došao na dnevni red, ali se i ovaj put izjalovio zbog nedovoljnog kapitala, odnosno zbog

Due to technical issues, the call to subscribe for shares was published only two years later, in May 1901. On 22 May 1901, the daily *Torontal* published on its front page the integral version of the call to subscribe for shares of the Sugar factory. According to the estimates, the investment was supposed to amount to 2,4 million crowns, half of the sum to be provided by the investors and the other half by farmers-shareholders. According to the plan, the factory was supposed to employ 30 employees, 100 permanent workers and 500 seasonal workers. The city of Veliki Bečkerek, responding to the invitation, subscribed for shares worth 200,000 crowns.[8]

The construction of the factory was postponed several times, coming again onto the agenda in 1905 but it was once again postponed due to insufficient financial support, that is due to a small number of shareholders. Those years were

malog broja upisanih akcija. Tih godina dolazi i do poljoprivredne krize, štrajkova i velikog iseljavanja stanovništva, što je dodatno usporilo realizaciju ove investicije.[8]

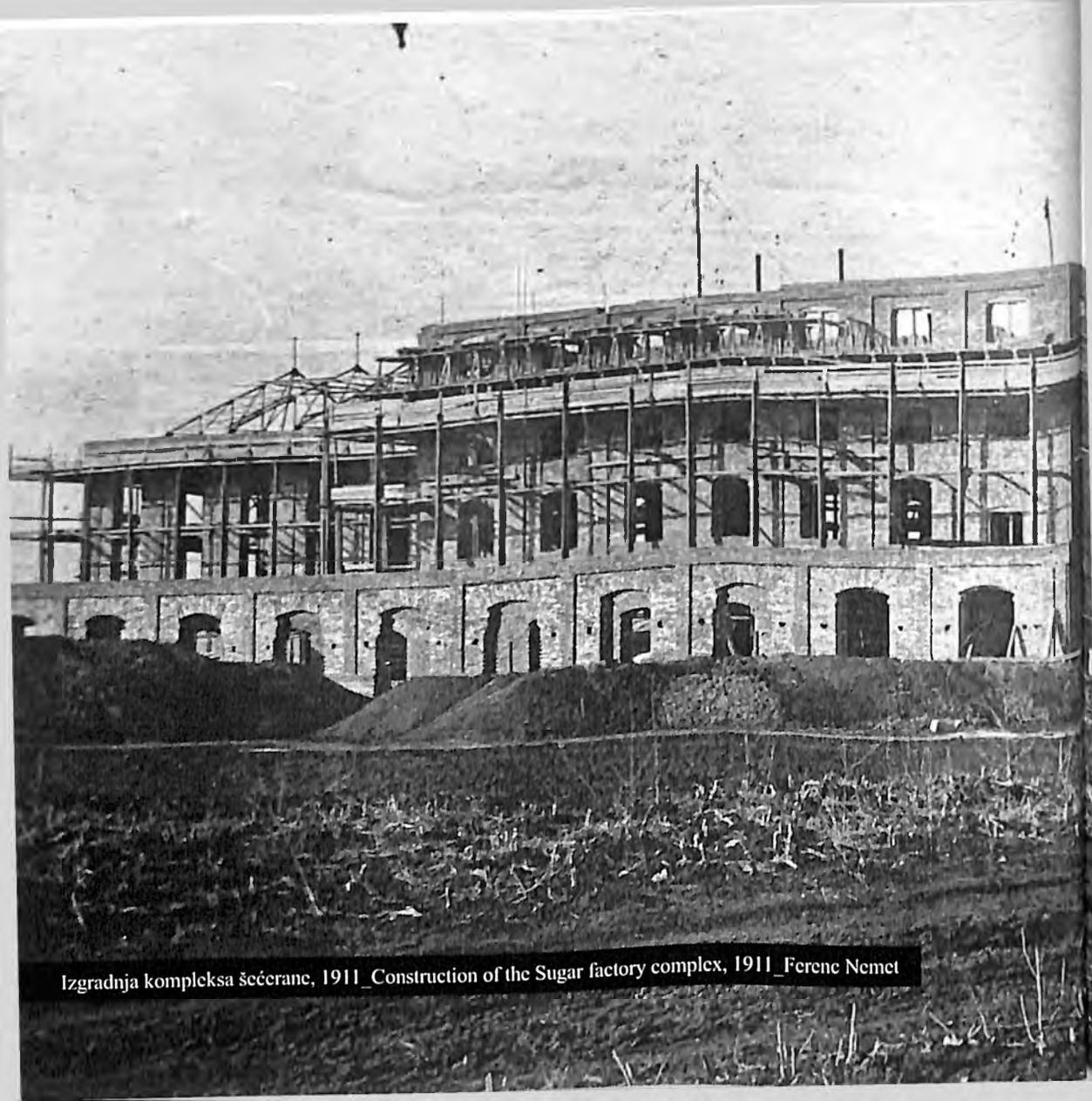
Glavni zagovornici izgradnje fabrike bili su veliki banatski zemljoposjednici, pre svih grof Endre Čekonjić i dr Geza Pap (dr. Papp Géza), koji su u izgradnji tog industrijskog preduzeća videli unosan posao i veliku zaradu.[8]

Posle višegodišnjeg odugovlačenja, čiji su uzroci bili i ekonomske i socijalne prirode, januara 1910. godine proces izgradnje fabrike krenuo je ubrzanim tempom, sa kapitalom od tri miliona kruna. Najpre je 16. januara 1910. održana važna sednica kojoj su prisustvovali čelnici grada i županije, kao i predstavnici banatske privrede, ali i poljoprivredni proizvođači u velikom broju. Na sednici je dr Geza Pap informisao prisutne da je obezbedio inostranog investitora za izgradnju fabrike, te je detaljno obrazložio plan

also characterized by an economic crisis, strikes, and mass emigration, which further slowed down the realization of the factory.[8]

The main supporters of the project were big landowners from the Banat region, above all Count Endre Csekonics and Géza Papp who in the factory project saw a profitable business and the possibility of earning a good income.[8]

After much delay, due to economic and social issues, in January 1910 the construction finally took the plunge with a capital of 3 million crowns. An important meeting was held on 16 January 1910, attended by city and county leaders, as well as by representatives of the economic sector and agricultural producers from the Banat region. During the meeting, Géza Papp informed those present that he found a foreign investor willing to finance the building of the factory, and he described the implementation plan



Izgradnja kompleksa šećerane, 1911 Construction of the Sugar factory complex, 1911_Ferenc Nemet



realizacije ove investicije (tada) vredne 5.000.000 kruna.[8] Posebno se osvrnuo na isplativost gajenja šećerne repe, koja je po njegovim rečima bila iznad svih ostalih poljoprivrednih kultura. Po tadašnjim predviđanjima, šećerana je trebala da otpočne sa radom avgusta 1911. godine, s tim da su budući kooperanti fabrike, šećernu repu trebali da zaseju u proleće 1911. godine. Fabrika bi kvintal šećerne repe otkupljivala po 2 krune i 10 fillera, a uslov investitora bio je da se proizvodnja šećerne repe (kao sirovinska baza) obezbedi bar na 8.000 hektara (što je kasnije, tokom pregovora smanjeno na 5.000 hetara).[8] Pap je pozvao prisutne da podrže izgradnju fabrike šećera, naglašavajući da se radi o velikoj i značajnoj investiciji, koja će osetno doprineti razvoju privrede grada i regiona.[8] Potom je 26. januara 1910. usledila sednica gradske skupštine Velikog Bečkereka, na kojoj je odlučeno da se sprovede što šira propagandna aktivnost među sta-

worth 5 million crowns.[8] He especially underlined the cost-effectiveness of sugar cane growing, superior – in his words – to other agricultural crops. According to estimates, the crops were supposed to be planted in spring 1911 and the factory was supposed to begin manufacturing in August 1911, buying one quintal of sugar cane for 2 crowns and 10 fillers. The condition of the investor was that the production of sugar beet (as a raw material base) be provided at least on 8.000 hectares (which was later, during the negotiations, reduced to 5.000 hectares).[8] Papp invited those present to support the construction of the factory, emphasizing that it was an important investment that could significantly contribute to the economic development of Veliki Beckerek and the entire region.[8] At the session of the city assembly held on 26 January 1910, it was decided to conduct a massive public

novništvom (ne samo u gradu već i u okolnim mestima), u vezi izgradnje šećerane, i pristupi popisivanju budućih kooperanata fabrike, koji su voljni da gaje šećernu repu.[10]

Marta 1910. godine je osnovan odbor od deset članova gradske skupštine, sa zadatkom da koordinira izgradnju tog industrijskog objekta.

Na sednici skupštine grada 30. juna 1910. godine doneta je odluka da se za potrebe izgradnje fabrike obezbedi prostor od 50–60 hektara, čiju bi polovinu grad besplatno ustupio investitoru. Takođe je doneta odluka da se buduća šećerana na 15 godina oslobodi plaćanja svih lokalnih proreza na sav materijal koji se uveze i izveze iz fabrike, te da korišćenje vode iz Begeja bude besplatno.[8]

Kao završna faza pripremnih aktivnosti, usledila je potom osnivačka skupština šećerane, održana 12. septembra 1910. godine u Budimpešti, pod predsedništvom Mikše Beka (Beck Miksa), generalnog direktora

information campaign on the project (not only in Veliki Beckerek but also in neighbouring cities) and to start censoring potential cooperators willing to grow sugar cane.[10]

A committee composed of ten members of the Veliki Beckerek assembly was founded in March 1910 with the task of coordinating the realization of the project.

At the session held on 30 June 1910, it was decided to provide 50-60 hectares of land, half of which to be granted free of charge to the investor. It was also decided to grant to the factory the 15-year exemption from paying taxes on imported and exported goods and to allow it to use the water from the Begej river free of charge.[8]

The founding assembly of the Sugar factory, as a final phase of preparatory activities, was held in Budapest on 12 September 1910, chaired by Miksa Beck, general manager of Hungarian discount



Izgradnja kompleksa šećerane, 1911_Construction of the Sugar factory complex, 1911_Ferenc Nemet



Mađarske eskontne banke (Magyar Leszámitoló és Pénzváltó Bank Rt.). Doneta je odluka o imenu preduzeća (Južnougarska fabrika šećera a.d.) (Délmagyarországi Czukorgyár Rt.), a kao osnivači (s ukupnim iznosom osnovnog kapitala od 3.000.000 kruna) upisani su: Mađarska eskontna banka iz Budimpešte, Lender banka (Länderbank) iz Beča, potom, sa manjim iznosima Mađarska banka i Trgovačko a.d. (Magyar Bank és Kereskedelmi Részvénytársaság), grof Endre Čekonić, grof Jene Karačonji (Karátsonyi Jenő), dr Geza Pap i još nekolicina banatskih veleposednika. Postignuta je i saglasnost o tome da proizvode buduće šećerane plasira Mađarska eskontna banka, te da se izgradnji industrijskog objekta pristupi odmah, kako bi šećerana već 1911/12. mogla otpočeti proizvodnju.[11]

Nakon toga se ubrzano pristupilo gradnji.[12] Fabrika je izgrađena u predgrađu Velikog Bečkereka, između Begeja i železničke stanice "Fa-

bank. It was decided to name the company "The South Hungarian sugar factory Jsc" and its founders (with start-up capital of 3 million crowns) were: Hungarian discount bank (Budapest), Länderbank (Vienna), Hungarian bank, Trading joint-stock company, count Endre Csekonics, count Jenő Karátsonyi, Géza Papp, and several other landowners from the Banat region. At the meeting, it was agreed that the goods produced by the Sugar factory would be put on the market by the Hungarian discount bank and that works should begin as soon as possible to start production by 1911/1912.[11]

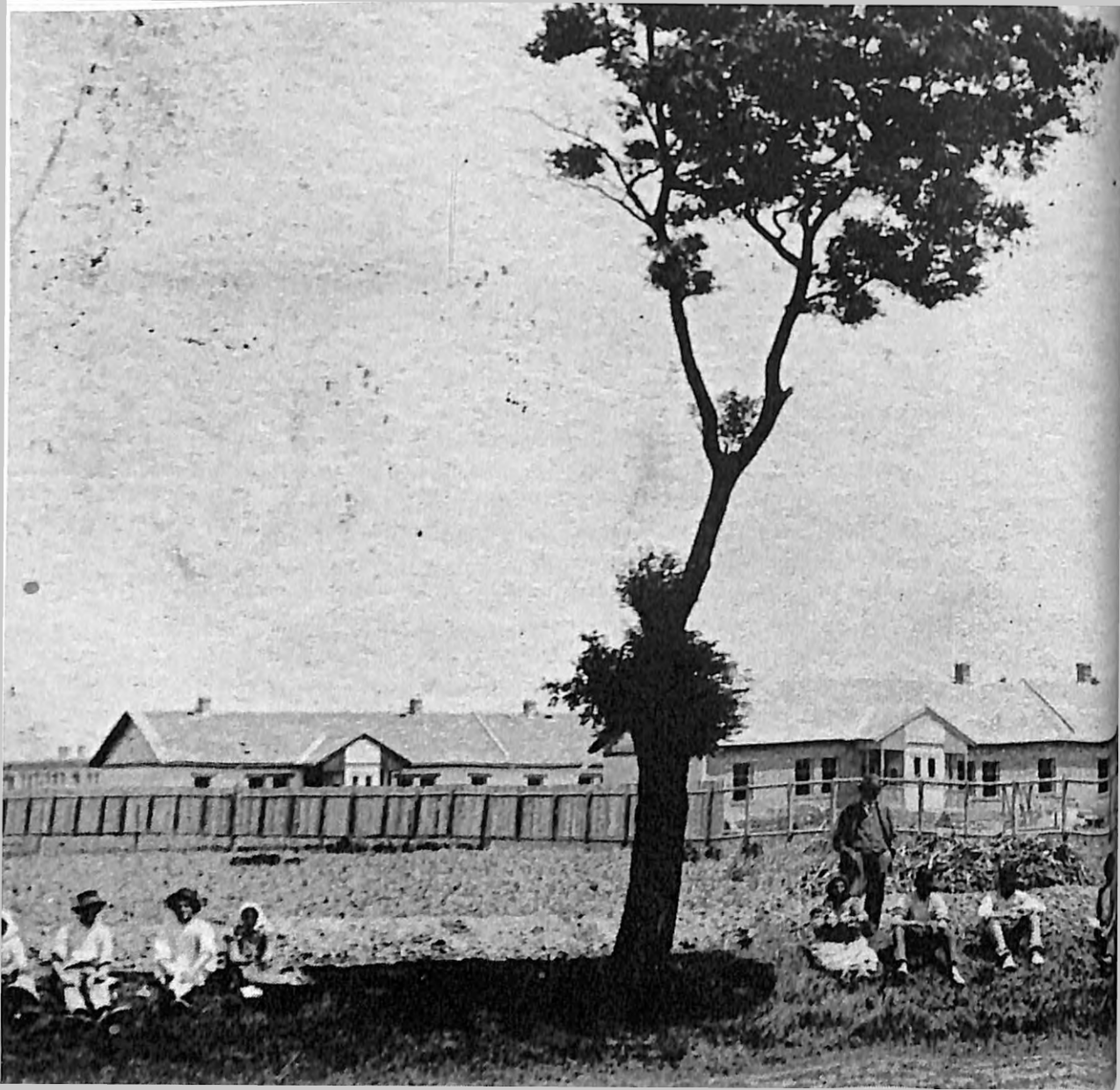
After that, construction started quickly.[12] The factory was built in the suburbs of Veliki Bečkerek, between the Begej river and "Fabrika" train station, on a plot of 1 sq. km. The construction was completed in only nine months, and the plant was originally intended to produce cris-

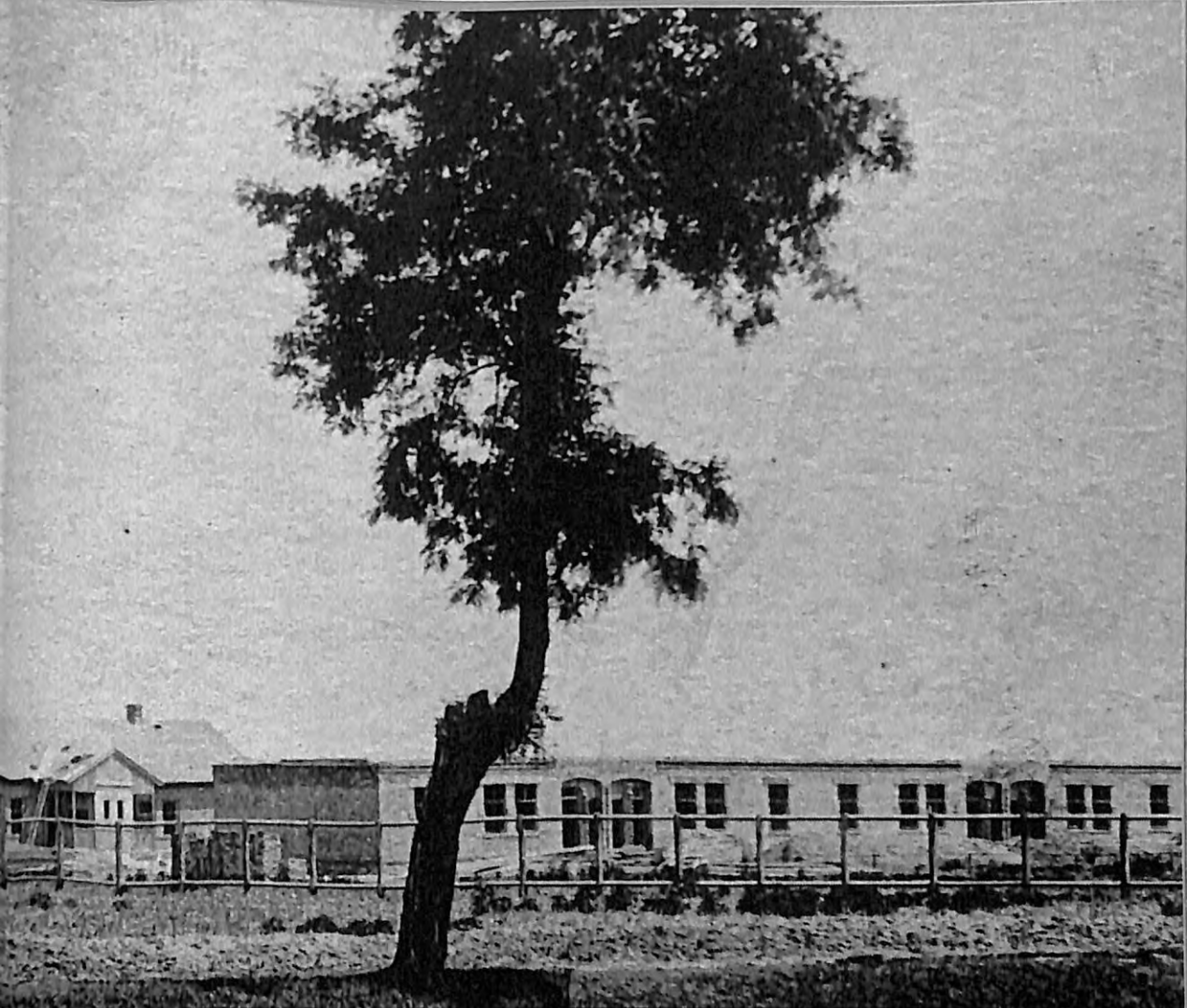
brika" (Cukorgyár), na prostoru od oko jednog kvadratnog kilometra. Izgrađena je za svega devet meseci, prvobitno za proizvodnju kristalnog šećera, sa sopstvenim industrijskim kolosekom, sa kapacitetom prerade 10.000 metričkih centi repe za 24 sata.

Po ovlašćenju osnivačke skupštine, izgradnja šećerane poverena je praškom arhitekti i preduzimaču, Viktoru Benešu koji je izradio projekat izgradnje. Građevinski radovi izvođeni su pod rukovodstvom inženjera Hramoste i Bakše (Chramosta, Baksa), dok je glavni nadzornik izgradnje bio Karolj Kluge (Kluge Károly), inženjer Velikobečkerečke vodne zadruge.[8] Početkom oktobra 1910. godine na gradilište buduće fabrike počeo je da pristizhe građevinski materijal, te se 10. oktobra pristupilo kopanju temelja glavne fabričke hale, površine 2.400 kvadratnih metara. Već početkom januara 1911. hala je stavljena pod krov, dok je 7. februara industrijski kolosek (za dopremu si-

tal sugar. It had its industrial track and was able to process 10.000 metric cents of sugar beet in 24 hours.

The construction was entrusted to Czech architect and entrepreneur Viktor Beneš who designed the building. The construction works were supervised by engineers Chramosta and Baksa, while Károly Kluge, an engineer working for water the Veliki Bečkerek water cooperation, was a chief construction supervisor.[8] In early October 1910, building materials began arriving at the construction site, and on 10 October workers started digging the foundations of the main factory hall of 2.400 square metres. As early as the beginning of January 1911, the roof was set over the main hall and on 7 February the production track was connected to the customs office and "Fabrika" train station.[8] Throughout 1911 other necessary structures were built, such as canals, limestone, boiler room, sugar





Izgradnja kompleksa šećerane, 1911_Construction of the Sugar factory complex, 1911_Ferenc Nemet

rovina i otpremu gotovih proizvoda) spojen sa Carinarnicom (Vámház) i stanicom Fabrika.[8] Tokom 1911. godine izgrađeni su i ostali potrebni objekti: repni kanali, krečana, kotlovnica, magazin za šećer, magazin za materijal, upravne zgrade, itd.

Veći deo potrebnog građevinskog materijala nabavljan je u Velikom Beckereku, odakle je i angažovana većina radne snage. Na gradilištu je konstantno bilo angažovano 1.200 radnika koji su radili od šest časova izjutra do šest časova uveče, a imali su dozvolu i za rad noću i praznicima. [8] Montiranje instalacija i mašina otpočeto je 6. marta, a završeno je 25. septembra 1911. godine, pod rukovodstvom tehničkog direktora, Bernarda Hipša (Hübsch Bernát) (negdašnjeg direktora šećerane u Helaku (Höhlak)). Juna 1911. otpočela je izgradnja fabričkih stanova i kantine. Redovna proizvodnja je otpočela 27. septembra 1911. godine, s tim da je u početku dnevno prerađivano 75

warehouse, material warehouse, administration buildings, etc.

Most of the necessary construction materials were procured in Veliki Beckerek, from where the majority of the labour force was hired. The construction site constantly employed 1,200 workers who worked from six in the morning until six in the evening, and had a permit to work at night and on holidays.[8] Installation of equipment and machines began on March 6 and was completed on September 25, 1911, under the direction of the technical director Bernát Hübsch (former director of the Höhlak sugar factory). The construction of apartments and canteen started in June. The regular production began on 27 September 1911. Initially, 75 wagons of sugar beet were processed daily,[13] but in only 20 days the production capacity increased so the factory was able to process 120 wagons of sugar beet daily. Due to

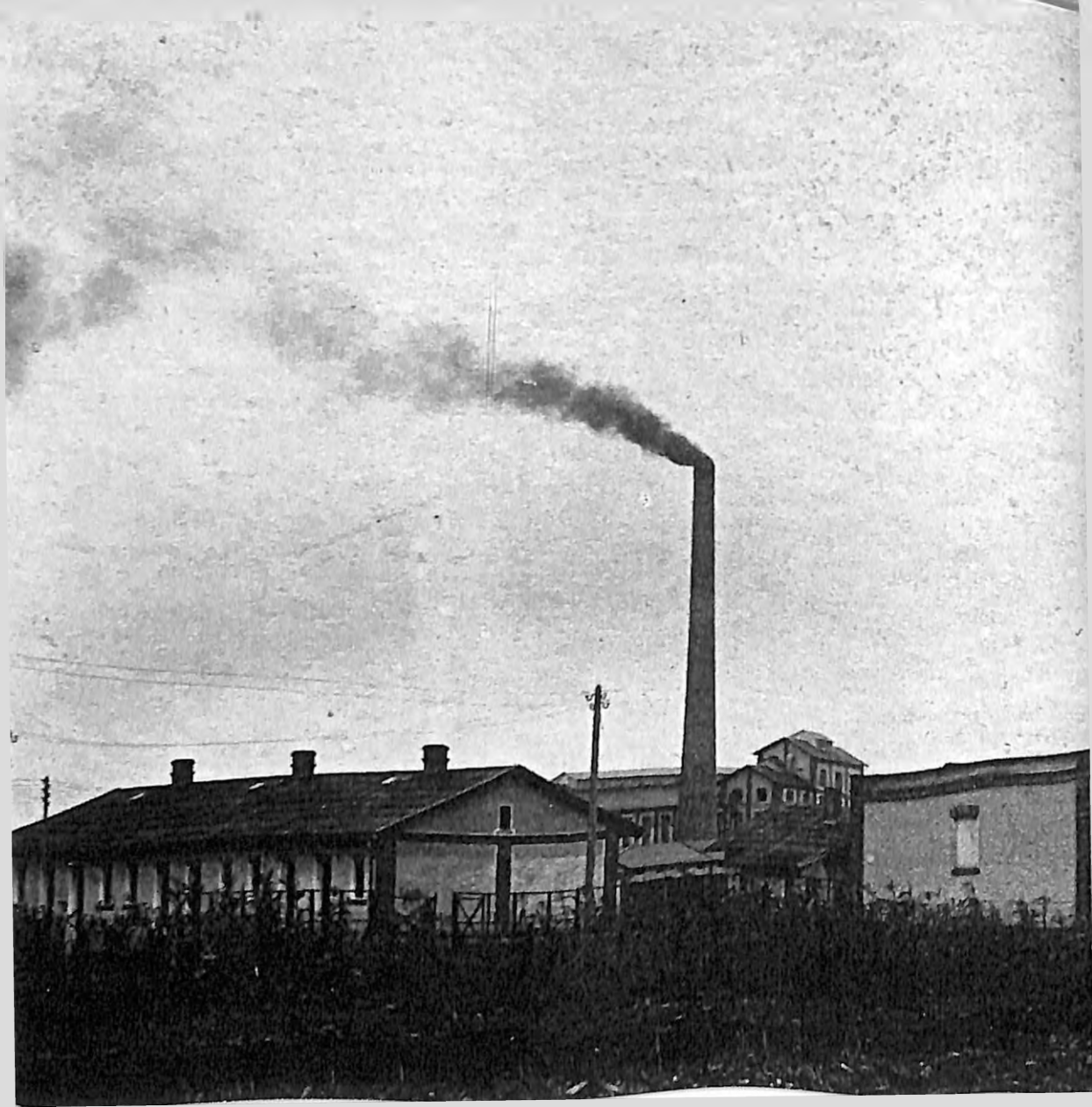
vagona repe. [13] Tek dvadeset dana kasnije je kapacitet prerade povećan na 120 vagona. Zbog povećanog obima dopreme šećerne repe na preradu ukazala se potreba za proširenjem dve železničke stanice: proširena je stanica Fabrika, koja je postala redovna železnička stanica, dok je kod Carinarnice napravljeno stajalište, zarad jednostavnijeg utovara šećerne repe.[14] Repa, ali i prateći materijal za proizvodnju, dopremni su uskotračnom, vicinalnom železnicom, ali i brodovima. Godišnje je brodovima u Veliki Bečkerek, za potrebe šećerane pristizalo 13.000–14.000 vagona uglja, 850 vagona kamenog kreča, 80 vagona koksa, itd.[15]


Fabrika je proizvodila sirov i kristalni šećer (ali je imala i nusprodukte, rezance, melasu itd.). Šećerna repa za preradu je pretežno nabavljana iz Torontalske (Torontál vármegye), a manjim delom iz Tamiške županije (Temes vármegye). Interesantan je podatak da je u Austrougarskoj mo-

the increased volume of production, the “Fabrika” train station was expanded and another standpoint was built near the customs office.[14] The sugar beet and other supporting materials were delivered by trains, using vicinal rail track, but also by boats. Around 13-14.000 wagons of coal, 850 wagons of limestone, and 80 wagons of coke were delivered annually by boats.[15]

The factory produced raw and crystal sugar, as well as beet pulp, molasses, and other items. The sugar beet used for production mostly came from Torontal county, and in smaller quantities from Tami county. It is interesting to note that in 1908 in Austro-Hungarian Monarchy there were 223 sugar factories,[8] and a large part of sugar produced was exported. The Veliki Bečkerek sugar factory also exported sugar, mostly in England and East India, in 100kg bags.[8]

It is also worth noting that the





Izgradnja kompleksa šećerane, 1911_Construction of the Sugar factory complex, 1911_Ferenc Nemet

narhiji 1908. godine ukupno radilo 223 šećerane,[8] a dobar deo proizvedenog šećera išao je u izvoz. I šećerana iz Velikog Bečkereka je izvozila šećer, većim delom u Englesku i Istočnu Indiju, u džakovima od 100 kilograma.[8]

Pažnje je vredan podatak, da je u šećerani bilo stalno zaposleno 18 činovnika, 100 zidara i nadzornika, kao i 140 radnika. Pored toga, za vreme kampanje prerade šećerne repe dodatno se upošljavalo još 60 činovnika i 600 radnika. Industrijski kompleks, koji se prostirao na 74 katastarska jutara, nakon izgradnje je brojao pedeset, glavnih i pomoćnih, objekata. Imao je i sopstvenu električnu centralu, 10 parnih mašina, 12 parnih kotlova (iz fabrike Ganc i Danubius) (Ganz, Danubius), 300 metara dugu žičanu železnicu tipa "Blajhert" (Bleichert) za odvoz mulja, sistem za transportovanje rezanaca dug 100 metara, a raspola-gao je i sa sopstvenom kovačnicom,

Sugar factory employed 18 employees, 100 masons and construction supervisors, and 140 workers. During sugar beet processing campaigns another 60 employees and 600 workers were employed. The industrial complex was composed of fifty buildings and it had its power station, 10 steam engines, 12 steam boilers (from Ganz and Danubius factories), a 300 metres long wire track for transporting mud (Bleichert), a 100 metres long track for transporting beet pulp, as well as blacksmith, carpentry, and locksmith workshop, which were supplied with electricity, water supply and sewerage, as well as electric lighting.[8] The complex was supplied water from four wells 80-123 meters deep. The apartments for workers were built following the most modern techniques and they were furnished: four houses for employees and five houses for 32 workers' families. A spacious work-

bravarskom i stolarskom radionicom koje su bile snabdevene električnom energijom, vodovodom i kanalizacijom, kao i električnim osvetljenjem. [8] Vodom je bio snabdeven iz četiri bunara dubine 80–132 metara. Stanovi za zaposlene bili su najsavremenije izgrađeni i uređeni: četiri kuće za činovnike i pet kuća za 32 radničke porodice. Pored navedenog, izgrađena je i jedna prostrana "radnička kasarna" za 300 radnika sa spavaonama, kuhinjom i vešernicom. U sezoni prerade repe fabrika je o svom trošku organizovala i narodnu kuhinju, a zaposleni su imali i svoju bolnicu i lekara, dok su lekovi za njih bili besplatni.[8]

Dakako, i nakon početka rada šećerane, nastavljena je dogradnja potrebnih kapaciteta: sušara sa magacinom suvih rezanaca (1912), dvospratna rafinerija i magacin materijala (1922), novi magacin šećera i laboratorija (1924), itd. [8]

ers' barrack was also built, including dormitories for 300 workers, a kitchen and a laundry room. During the beet processing season, the factory organized food preparation for employees at its own expense. The complex had its hospital, and workers were able to get medicines free of charge.[8]

Some facilities were built after production began, including a drying facility with a dry beet pulp warehouse (1912), a two-storey refinery and material warehouse (1922), a new sugar warehouse and a laboratory (1924), etc.[8]

With the construction of the Sugar factory in Veliki Beckerek, the number of sugar factories in Hungary increased to 25.[16]

The construction of the Veliki Beckerek sugar factory was a part of a broader investment campaign given that at the same time other sugar factories were also built in Töketerébélyes, Baranyavár, Vr-

Izgradnjom šećerane u Velikom Bečkereku, broj šećerana u Ugarskoj povećao se na 25.[16]

Ako sagledamo širu sliku, zapažamo da je izgradnja šećerane u Velikom Bečkereku bila deo jedne šire investicione kampanje podizanja šećerana, jer je negde u isto vreme sa bečke-rečkom fabrikom građena i šećerana u Teketerebelješü (Töketerébélyes), Baranjavaru (Baranyavár), Vrbasu (Verbász), Zemunu (Zimony), Požegi (Pozsega) i drugim mestima.[17] [18] U tom investicionom zaletu, međutim, nije se vodilo dovoljno računa o mađarskim privrednim interesima (što je tadašnja štampa nadležnima ozbiljno zamerala). Naime, izgradnja tadašnjih, novih fabrika bila je skoro isključiv češki monopol, koji je ignorisao mađarske privredne interese, pa je ne samo stručna, već i obična radna snaga angažovana iz Češke. Tako je bečkerečku šećeranu (kao i onu u Teketerebešu) gradila češka firma "Beneš", uprkos tome što je (prema

bas, Zemun, Požega, and in some other cities across Hungary.[17] [18] In that investment rush, however, not enough attention was paid to Hungarian economic interests (which the press seriously resented the authorities). Namely, the construction of new factories was an almost exclusive Czech monopoly, which ignored Hungarian economic interests, so not only professional but also ordinary labour force was hired from the Czech Republic. Thus, the Sugar factory in Veliki Beckerek (as well as the one in Töketerébélyes) was built by the Czech company "Beneš", despite the fact that (according to the testimony of the press) their price was 40% higher than the domestic one. According to the press, that was really humiliating, and we find several texts in which he complains about such a practice.[19] [20] [21] In one of them we read that during the construction of the

svedočenju tadašnje štampe) njihova cena radova bila 40% skuplja od domaće. To je, prema pisanju tadašnje štampe, zaista bilo ponižavajuće, te nalazimo više tekstova, u kojima se negoduje zbog takve prakse.[19] [20] [21] U jednom od njih čitamo da je prilikom izgradnje velikobečkerečke šećerane Lender banka svu opremu naručila iz Češke: "Velikobečkerečka šećerana nije samo svoje kazane i pumpe, već i zidarske i tesarske radove naručila od Čeha. Građevinski preduzimač, Čeh, izvesni Beneš, je čak i građevinske skele i zidare angažovao iz Češke." [21] Tražila se i reakcija nadležnih državnih organa, ali je ona jednostavno izostala.

Prva kampanja u šećerani počela je 27. septembra 1911. godine i tom prilikom je prerađeno 58.224 tona šećerne repe (od čega je 5.781 tona dopremljeno brodom). Najveće površine šećernom repom zasejali su banatski velesposednici, grof Čekonjić, baron Daniel (Dániel), grof Hamonkurt

Sugar factory, Lender bank ordered all the equipment from the Czech Republic: "The Sugar factory in Veliki Bečkerečk not only ordered its boilers and pumps, but also masonry and carpentry work from the Czech Republic. A Czech construction contractor, certain Beneš, even hired scaffolding and masons from the Czech Republic." [21] The requested reaction of the competent state bodies was not received.

During the first production campaign at the Sugar factory in Veliki Bečkerek, which began on 27 September 1911, 58.224 tons of sugar beet were processed (of this 5.781 were delivered by boats). The largest areas of sugar beet were sown by Banat landowners, Count Csekonics, Baron Dániel, Count Hannoncourt, Draxler and others, while a smaller part of the factory was supplied by agricultural producers from Jarkovac, Žitište, Klek, Torda, Jaša Tomić and other places. Sug-



Kompleks šćécrane, 1910-ih The Sugar factory complex, 1910s Ferenc Nemet

(Hamoncourt), Draksler (Draxler) i drugi, dok su manjim delom, fabrike snabdevali poljoprivredni proizvođači iz Jarkovca (Árkod), Žitišta (Béga-szentgyörgy), Kleka (Bégafő), Torde, Jaše Tomića (Módos) i drugih mesta. Digestija šećera kretala se, u zavisnosti o sorti semena (Eggeling, Knoche, Kile, Mette, Rubbetge itd.), kretala u proseku između 14,2 i 20 odsto. U toj prvoj kampanji proizvedeno je 7.584 tona sirovog šećera prve, i 1.115 tona sirovog šećera druge klase, kao i 1.970 tona melase. Ostvareni dobitak iznosio je 653.497,11 kruna.[8]

U drugoj kampanji, u jesen 1912. godine prerađena je znatno veća količina šećerne repe, ukupno 131.448 tona. Od toga je proizvedeno 14.922 tona konzumnog šećera, 2.048 tona sirovog šećera, i 4.722 tone melase. Tada su već i novine najavljivale da će, zbog ostvarenog profita, akcionarima biti isplaćeno 4,5–5% dividende.[22]

1914. godine izbio je Prvi svetski rat koji je, na kratko, prekinuo uzla-

ar digestion, depending on the seed variety (Eggeling, Knoche, Kile, Mette, Rubbetge, etc.), ranged on average between 14.2 and 20 percent. 7.584 tons of first-class raw sugar and 1.115 tons of second-class raw sugar were produced, as well as 1.970 tons of molasses. The earned income amounted to about 653.497 crowns.[8]

During the second campaign, which began in autumn 1912, 131.448 tons of sugar beet were processed (producing 14.922 tons of table sugar, 2.048 tons of raw sugar, and 4.722 tons of molasses). At that time, the newspapers already announced that due to the realized profit, 4.5-5% of the dividend would be paid to the shareholders. [22]

The First World War briefly interrupted ascending production trend at the Sugar factory which, due to circumstances, was not able to ensure a sufficient quantity

znu liniju privređivanja. Zbog ratnih (ne)prilika, šećerana nije bila u mogućnosti da obezbedi dovoljne količine repe za preradu, a znatno je otežan i transport sirovina zbog blizine ratnih područja. Sledeće godine došlo je do izrazite nestašice šećerne repe, ali i radne snage (koju su pokušali nadomestiti angažovanjem ruskih ratnih zarobljenika), pa je fabrika čak u tri navrata prestajala sa radom. Skraćeno je i vreme kampanje. Dnevna prerada repe opala je na 300 do 400 tona dnevno, [8] te je ostvaren samo minimalan dobitak. Slična situacija je bila i 1916, 1917. i 1918. godine.

Za vreme Prvog svetskog rata šećerane Ugarske (kojih je bilo 31) udružile su se u kartel, o čemu se malo zna, a sve u cilju prevazilaženja problema privređivanja u ratnom stanju. Član tog kartela bila je i velikobečkerečka šećerana.[23]

Interesantan je podatak, da su za vreme Prvog svetskog rata, zbog

of sugar beet and transport of raw materials from war-torn areas was particularly difficult. In addition to a huge shortage of sugar beet, in 1915 there was also a labour shortage, and on several occasions, the factory was forced to stop production. Campaign duration has also been shortened. The daily amount of sugar beet processed dropped to 300-400 tons.[8] The same situation persisted throughout 1916, 1917 and 1918.

It is less known that during the First World War all sugar factories in Hungary (31 in total), including the one in Veliki Bečkerek, joined a cartel trying to overcome difficulties in production.[23]

Another interesting fact is that during the war the Sugar factory in Veliki Bečkerek exported dry beet pulp to military can factories in Nagyszeben and Nagykanizsa which used them to produce coffee surrogates.

velike nestašice, suvi rezanci iz bečkerečke fabrike isporučivani vojnim fabrikama konzervi u Nadsebenu (Nagyszeben) i Nađkaniži (Nagykanizsa), gde su ih koristili za proizvodnju surogat-kafe.

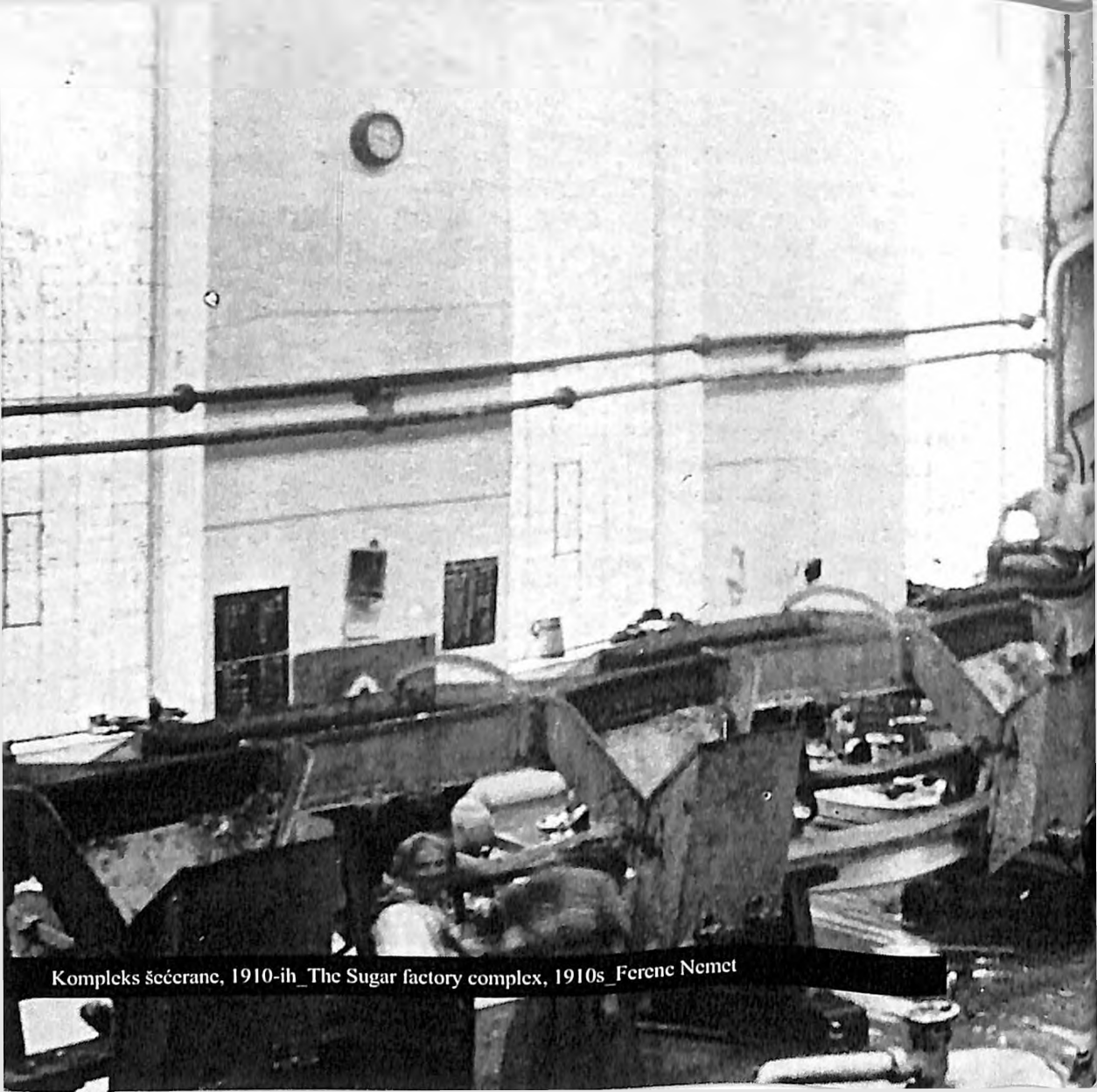
Kao zanimljivost možemo spomenuti i činjenicu da su za vreme Prvog svetskog rata u šećerani u većem broju radili i italijanski ratni zarobljenici, koje je (kao tumač) predvodio izvesni Gvido Notari (Guido Notari), italijanski knez sa Sicilije, koji je, zajedno sa svojim drugovima, pao u zarobljeništvo.[24]

Rad bečkerečke šećerane je, kao što je po njenom osnivanju i predvideo Šamu Borovski (Borovszky Samu), u Banatu umnogome promenio strukturu poljoprivredne proizvodnje, i to na uštrb pšenice i kukuruza. Naime, znatno su povećane površine pod šećernom repom, te su se na tu industrijsku biljku preorijentali i banatski poljoprivredni proizvođači.[25]

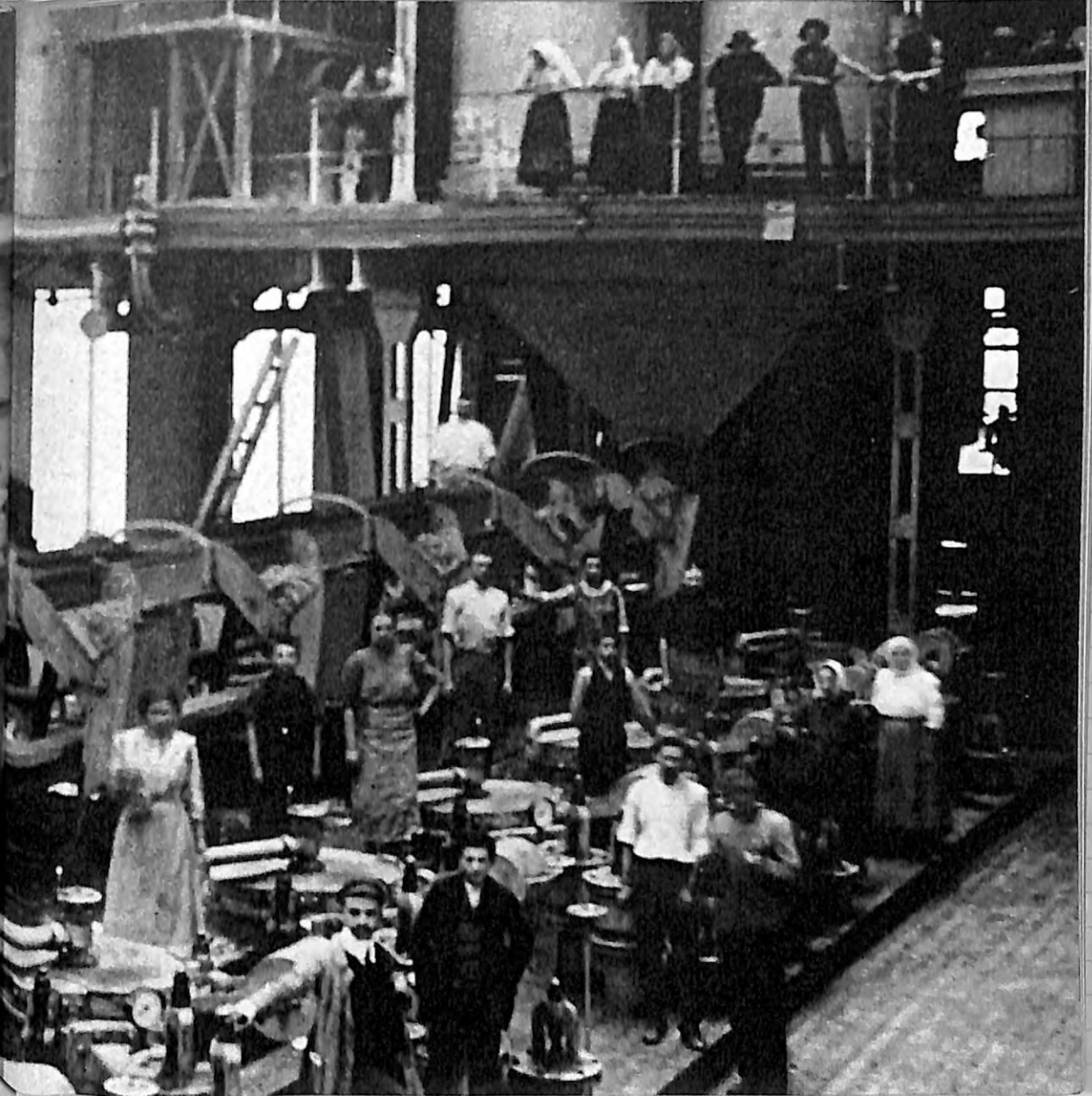
It is also interesting to note that during the war years many Italian war prisoners were employed at the Veliki Bečkerek sugar factory, among whom Guido Notari, a prince from Sicily, served as an interpreter.[24]

The Sugar factory in Veliki Bečkerek, as predicted by Samu Borovszky, greatly changed the structure of agricultural production in the Banat region, at the expense of wheat and corn production. Namely, the areas under sugar beet have significantly increased, and Banat agricultural producers have reoriented to this industrial plant. [25]

The first post-war campaign, in the autumn of 1919, was one of the most difficult, partly due to the lack of sufficient quantities of beets, which caused a delay in processing, partly due to poor quality of low-digestion raw materials, which contributed to lack of coal and bad



Kompleks šećerane, 1910-ih_The Sugar factory complex, 1910s_Ferenc Nemet



Prva posleratna kampanja, u jesen 1919. godine, bila je jedna od najtežih, delom zbog nedostatka dovoljnih količina repe, što je izazivalo zastoje u preradi, delom zbog lošeg kvaliteta sirovina sa niskom digestijom, čemu su doprineli nedostatak uglja i vremenske nepogode.[8] Tek od 1920. godine proizvodnja je polako krenula uzlaznom linijom, i to u novim političkim i ekonomskim okolnostima. Sve dok je na čelu preduzeća bio Viktor Elek, to jest do Drugog svetskog rata, bila je fabrika za uzor.

U međuratnom periodu Aleksandar Stanojlović opisuje ovo najveće industrijsko preduzeće u Banatu na sledeći način: "Raspoloženo sa modernim fabričkim zgradama, magacinom za 1.500 tona šećera, kancelarijskim prostorijama za 50 činovnika, radionicama sa mašinskim pogonom za bravarske, stolarske, kolarske, drvodeljske, limarske, kovačke i bakarske poslove i radionicom za popravku poljoprivrednih sprava. Ima velike ma-

weather.[8] It was not until 1920 that production slowly restarted in a new political and social context. As long as Viktor Elek was in charge of the Sugar factory it was a model company.

In the interwar period, Aleksandar Stanojlović writes about the biggest industrial facility in Banat: "There are modern production facilities, a warehouse for 1.500 tons of sugar, offices for 50 employees; locksmith, carpentry, carriage repair, tinsmith, blacksmith, copper-smith, and agricultural machines repair workshops. There are huge warehouses for iron and wooden materials, a facility for drying sugar beet pulp, sheds for wagons, cars, and all other necessary facilities built in the most modern style. The factory complex also contains five modern equipped villas-houses for employees and about 30 smaller buildings for lower official and professional workers. Six big

gacine za železni i drveni materijal, odeljenje za sušenje rezanaca od repe, šupe za vagonete, kola, automobile i sve potrebne prostorije u najmodernijem stilu. U kompleksu fabričkog imanja podignuto je pet moderno uređenih vila-kuća za činovnike i oko 30 manjih zgrada za niže činovnike i stručne radnike. Za slaganje sirove repe izgrađeno je šest velikih kanala sa zapreminom od 1.000 vagona repe. Za manipulaciju sirovinom raspolaže preduzeće sa sopstvenim vagonima, kolosecima, dizalicama i parobrodom. Pogon održava 14 parnih kotlova od 3.500 kvadratnih metara ogrevne površine i mašinerija, pre svega električna mašina od 2.200 konjskih snaga, kao i sav ostali uređaj za preradu repe u šećer za potrošnju... Za vreme kampanje zapošljava oko 2.000 radnika. Kapacitet iznosi jedan i po do dva miliona metričkih centi godišnje... U pogledu gazdinstva i reda može se, mirne duše reći da je ovo preduzeće najurednije i najlepše

canals, able to receive 1.000 wagons of raw sugar beet, were also built. The factory has its wagons, rail tracks, cranes, and steamboat necessary for transporting raw materials. The production plan is supplied with energy by 14 steam boilers with a 3.500 square meters heating surface and several, and there are several machines, in particular an electric machine of 2.200 horsepower, and other devices necessary for sugar beet processing... During the production campaign it employs about 2000 workers. It can process 1,5-2 million metric cents of sugar beet a year. As far as the property is concerned, we can freely say that this is the tidiest and the most beautiful company in the country. For 27 years now the company is headed by Viktor Elek. He is known as strict but righteous chief, being very generous with all national, cultural, and economic groups." [26]

DÉLMAGYARORSZÁGI CZUKORIPAR RÉSZVÉNYTÁRSASÁG

RÉSZVÉNY

KÉTSZÁZ KORONÁRÓL

melynek alapján az alulírott részvénytársaság a bemutatónak mindazon jogokat biztosítja, melyek az alapszabályok értelmében a Délmagyarországi Cukoripar Részvénytársaság minden egyes részvényesét megilletik.

Nagybecskerek, 1911

DÉLMAGYARORSZÁGI CZUKORIPAR
SÜDUNGARISCHE ZUCKERINDUSTRIE

SÜDUNGARISCHE ZUCKERINDUSTRIE ACTIENGESSELLSCHAFT

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BEZUGSPHILIPPI
1923
Ausg. 501

május hó 15.

AR RÉSZVÉNYTÁRSASÁG

IE ACTIENGESSELLSCHAFT

Doonice Sečéranc, 1911_The Sugar factory shares, 1911_Ferenc Nemet

150

u državi. Preduzećem upravlja već 27 godina direktor Viktor Elek. Poznat je kao ispravan ali vrlo pravedan starišina, i veoma darežljiv prema svim nacionalnim, kulturnim i privrednim društvima.”[26]

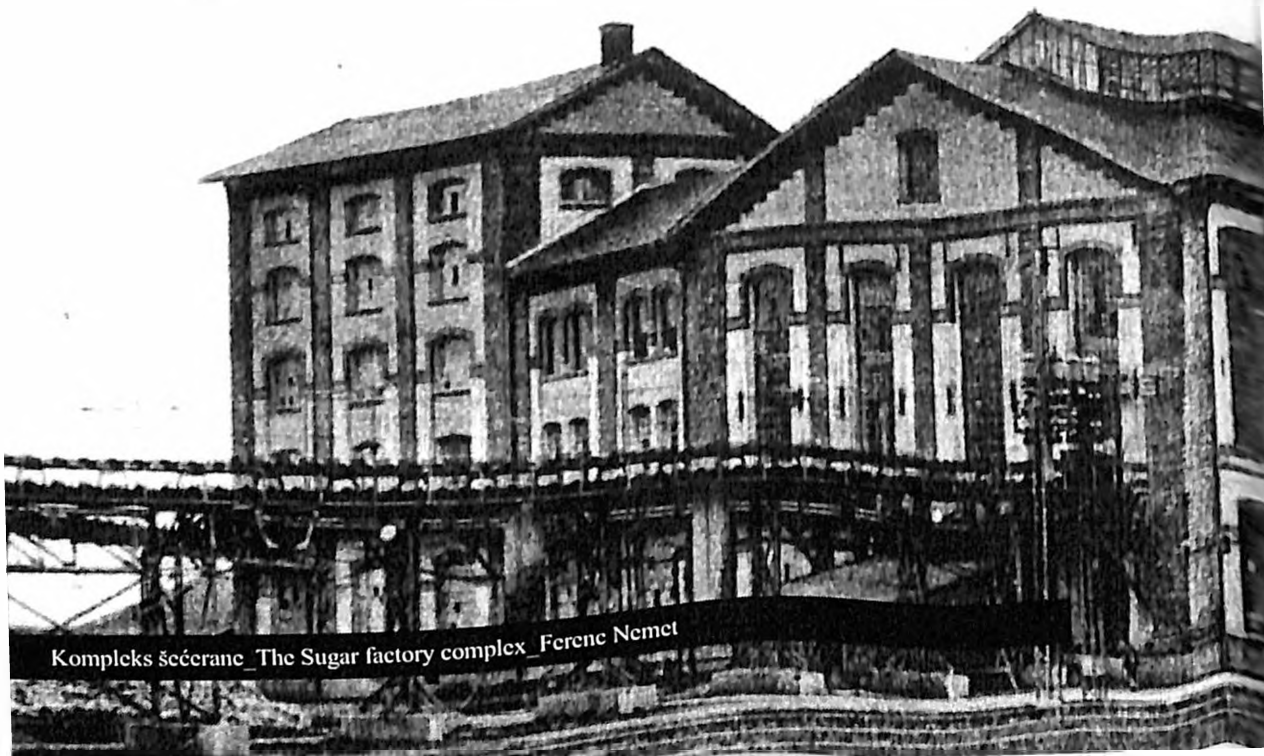
Svakako stoji konstatacija da je fabrika šećera prvi veliki industrijski pogon, ne samo u Velikom Bečkereku, već i u Banatu, koji je bio najambiciozniji privredni poduhvat u gradu pre Prvog svetskog rata, tačnije pre 110 godina. Njegovi, do danas sačuvani industrijski i poslovno-stambeni objekti su vredan dragulj industrijskog nasleđa Zrenjanina.

What is certain is that the Sugar factory complex, in addition to being the first big industrial facility in Veliki Bečkerek and all Banat, was the most ambitious industrial project designed before the First World War. Its preserved production facilities and residential buildings are a precious pearl of the industrial heritage of Zrenjanin.



Kompleks šećerane, 1910-ih The Sugar factory complex, 1910s Ferenc Nemet

Bas



Kompleks šćerane The Sugar factory complex Ferenc Nemet



и илѣ укроненъ Маркѣ

Anica Draganić, Maria Siladi
URBANISTIČKI I ARHITEKTONSKI KONTEKST
URBAN AND ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT



Kompleks šećerane, 1910-ih_The Sugar factory complex, 1910s_Ferenc Nemet

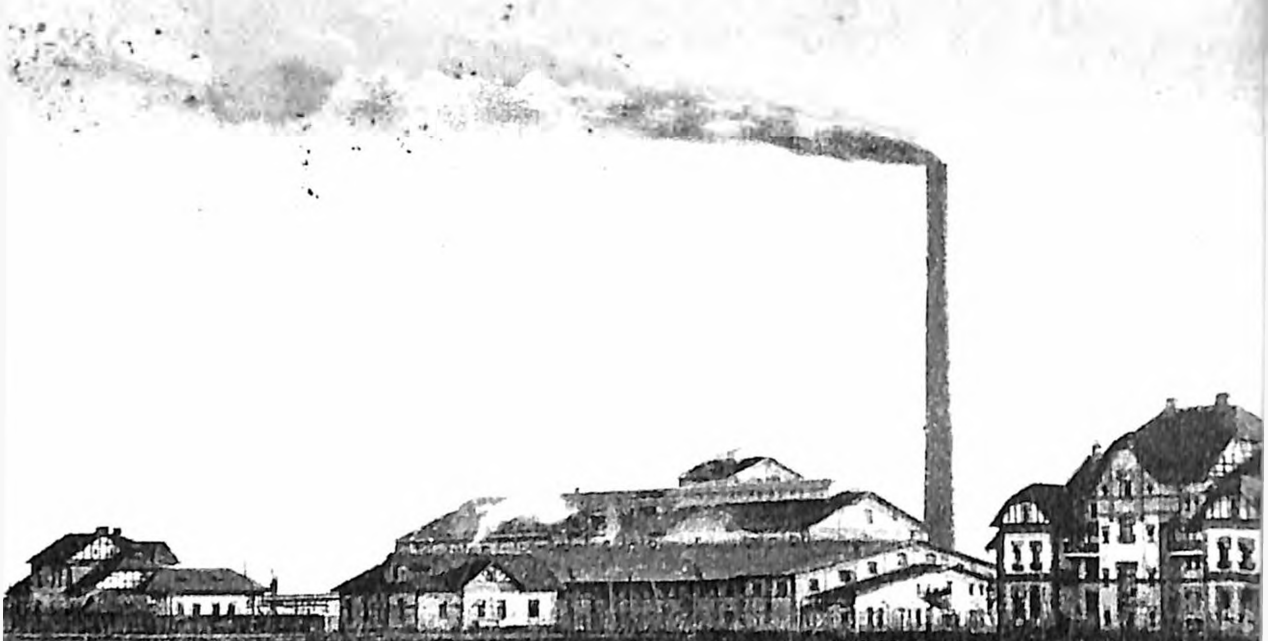
Kompleks Fabrike šećera u Velikom Beckereku izgrađen je 1911. godine, prema ambicioznom projektu renomiranog češkog arhitekta Viktora Beneša, na perifernom potezu između reke Begej i železničke stanice Fabrika. Sledeći najaktuelnije urbanističke ideje onog vremena, Beneš je kreirao izuzetnu prostorno-funkcionalnu celinu, postavljajući veoma visoke programske, tehnološke, estetske, pa i ekološke, standarde u oblasti projektovanja industrijskih preduzeća. Beckerečka šećerana, u svakom pogledu koncipirana u skladu sa ondašnjim evropskim trendovima, važila je za najmoderniju fabriku u regionu tokom nekoliko potonjih decenija.

The Sugar factory complex in Veliki Beckerek was built in 1911 according to an ambitious plan by renowned Czech architect Viktor Benes in a peripheral area between the Begej River and Fabrika railway station. Inspired by the most progressive urban planning ideas of his time, Benes designed an extraordinary spatial and functional structure, setting very high technical, aesthetic, and environmental standards of industrial building planning. Designed in all respects in accordance with the European trends of that time, for several decades after its completion the Beckerek sugar plant was considered the most modern industrial facility in the region.

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**URBANISTIČKA KONCEPCIJA KOMPEKSA
THE URBAN PLAN OF THE COMPLEX**

Czukorgyár. Zuckerfabrik.



Kompleks šćecerane, 1910-ih _The Sugar factory complex, 1910s _Ferenc Nemet

Intenzivniji razvoj železničkog saobraćaja u Ugarskoj početkom 20. veka omogućio je odvajanje industrijske proizvodnje od vodenih tokova, njeno dislociranje iz urbanog jezgra i izgradnju prostranih proizvodnih kompleksa, po paviljonskom modelu, na periferiji grada. Pionirski primer takvog urbanističkog koncepta na ovim prostorima upravo je bila Fabrika šećera u Velikom Bečkereku.

U dnevnom listu Torontal (Torontál), od 1. juna 1912. godine, kompleks Fabrike šećera opisan je kao ograđen prostor sa vilama, koje ostavljaju utisak modernog grada sa "vrtom", te da "samo ogroman odžak odaje da se na tom mestu nalazi fabrika." [27]

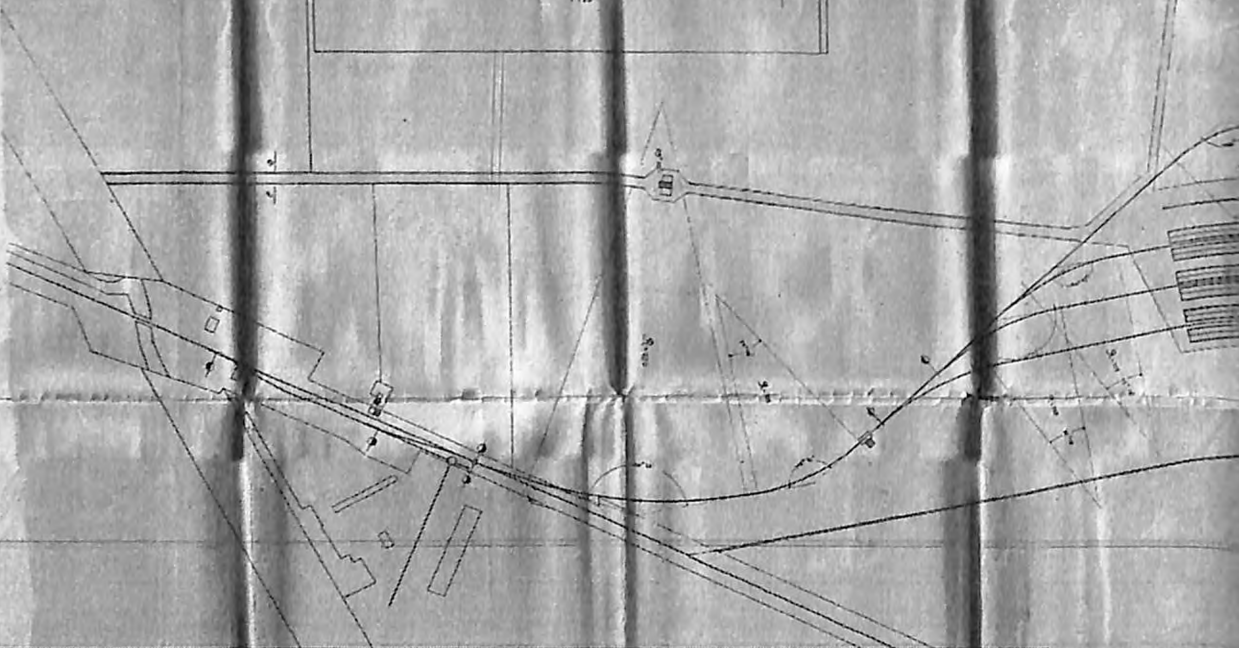
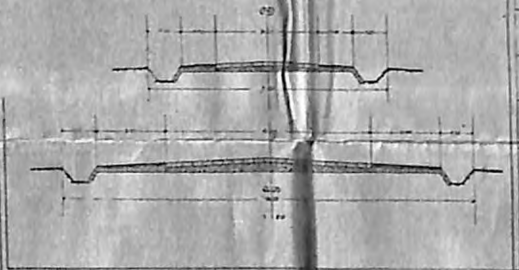
Beneš je studiozno razradio urbanistički koncept industrijskog kompleksa srednje veličine (po evropskim merilima), pažljivim povezivanjem principa Garnijeovog (Tony Garnier) industrijskog grada [29] sa elementima Hauardovog (Ebenezera Howard)

At the beginning of the 20th century, thanks to the intensification of the development of railway transport in Hungary, it became possible to separate industrial production from the waterways, to move it out of urban centres and build vast industrial complexes in the urban periphery, following a pavilion model. The Sugar factory in Veliki Beckerek was a pioneering example of this type of urban planning in South-East Europe.

The daily Torontal of 1 June 1912 describes the Sugar factory complex as a fenced area scattered with villas, giving the impression of a modern city with a "garden", so that "the huge chimney is the only element suggesting that there is a factory in that area". [27]

Beneš scrupulously elaborated the design for a medium-size industrial complex (according to European standards), carefully combining the principles of Tony Garnier's industrial city [29] with the elements of Ebenezer Howard's Garden city. [30] He

Alföldsztruktúra.



Situacija kompleksa, 1910 Site plan of the Sugar factory complex, 1910 IAZ N 69

Nagybacsócs 1910. évi novemberé.

szintajz.



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Készítési költség: 1000
 Állami Nyomda
 Budapest, 1924

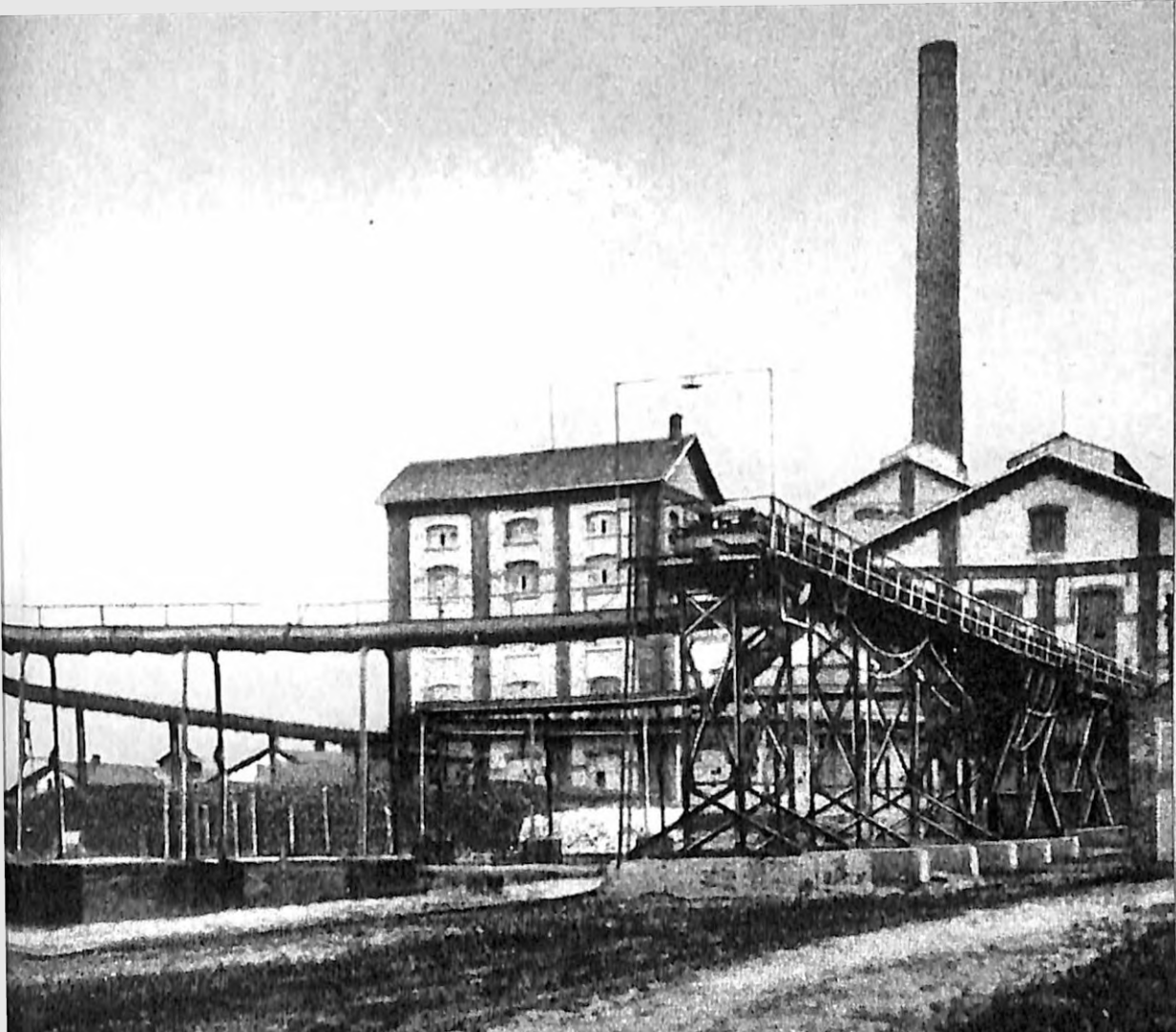
A Nemzeti Színház építési terv.
 Budapest, 1924.

vrtnog grada.[30] Jasno je definisao dve glavne funkcionalne zone, radnu (industrijsku) i stambenu, koje je razdvojio javnim sadržajima posvećenim zaposlenima i parkovskim površinama. Posebnu pažnju posvetio je pejzažnom uređenju kompleksa, što se prvenstveno čita kroz oblikovanje vrtova u rezidencijalnom delu, ali i moćne drvorede kojima je oivičio kompleks i naglasio pojedine komunikacione pravce.[28]

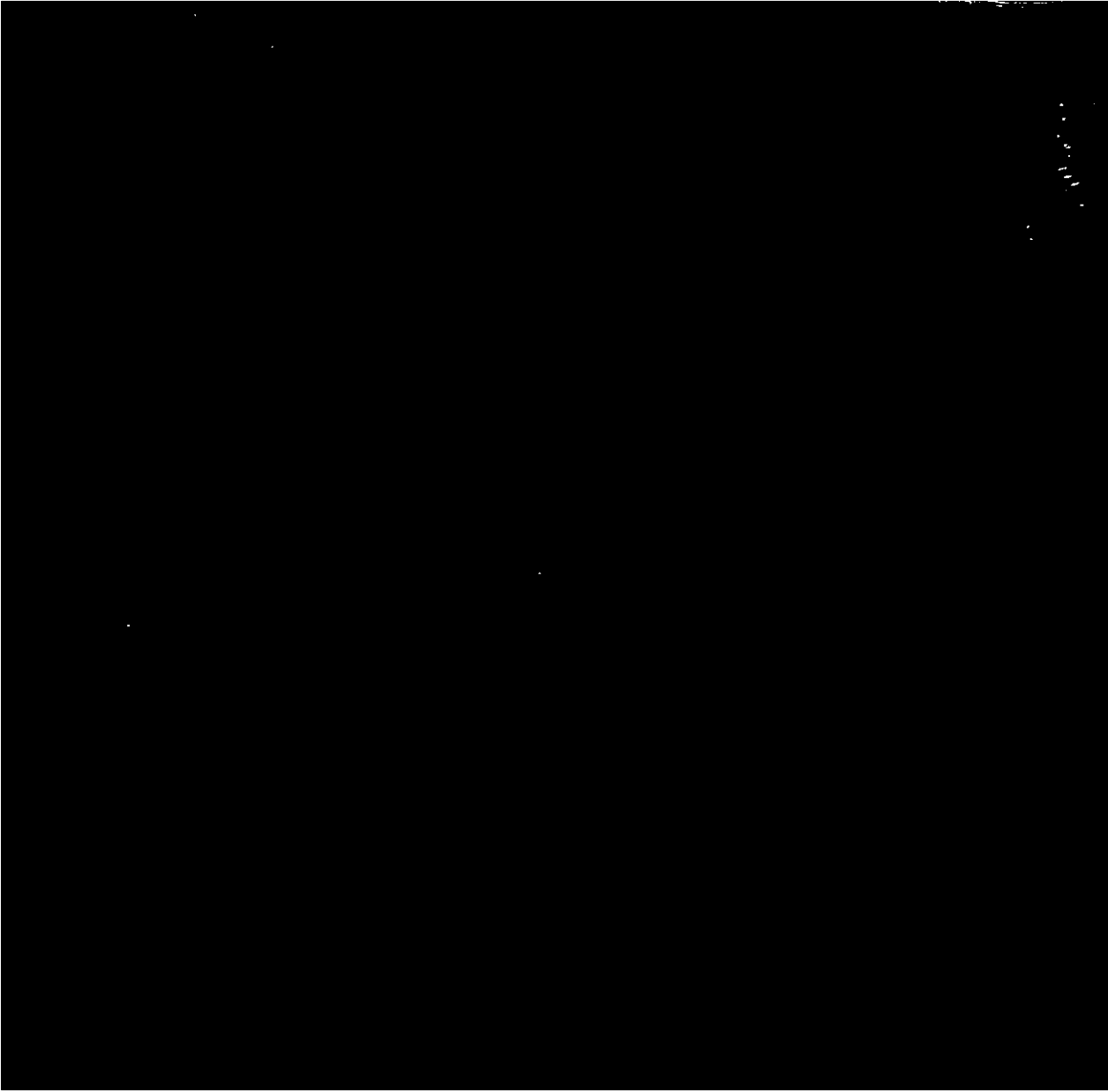
Infrastrukturna opremljenost kompleksa bila je na veoma visokom nivou, o čemu svedoče električno osvetljenje, sopstvena električna postrojenja, vodovodna i kanalizaciona mreža, pruga normalnog koloseka, vicinalna pruga, dva kanala do Begeja (za dovod i odvod vode), itd.[27]

clearly defined two main functional areas – working (industrial) area and residential area – separating them from one another by spaces for social interaction of employees and green areas. Benes accorded particular attention to the landscaping of the complex, as suggested primarily by the shapes of parks in the residential area and by mighty treelines used to encompass the complex and to highlight certain lines of communication.[28]

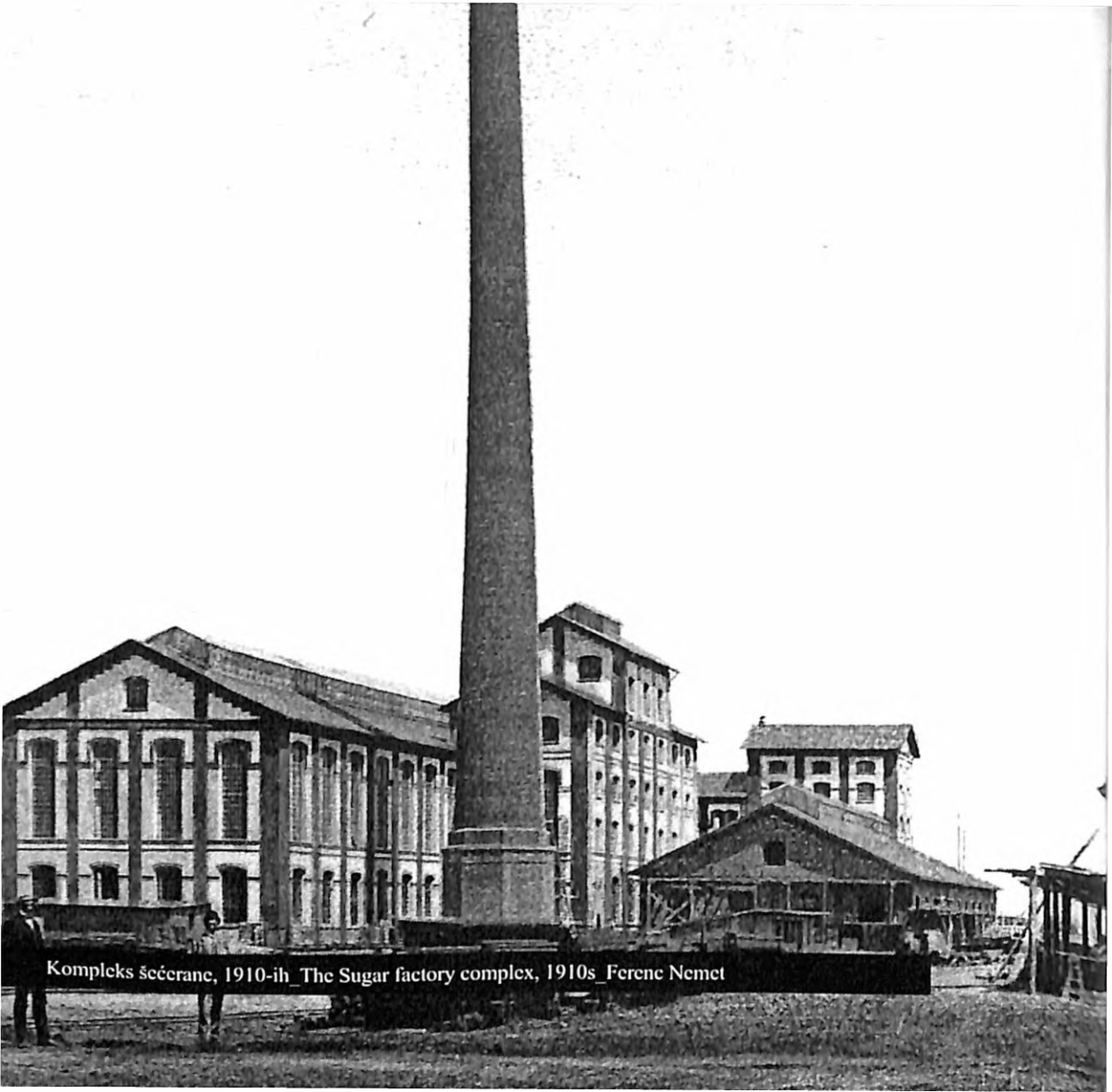
The factory complex had a very advanced infrastructure, including its power plants, electric lighting, water and wastewater network, standard gauge railway, vicinal railway, two canals linking the complex to the Begej River (water-supply canal and drainage canal), etc.[27]



Kompleks šećerane, 1910-ih The Sugar factory complex, 1910s Ferenc Nemet



**PROSTORNO-FUNKCIONALNA ŠEMA
SPATIAL AND FUNCTIONAL PLAN**



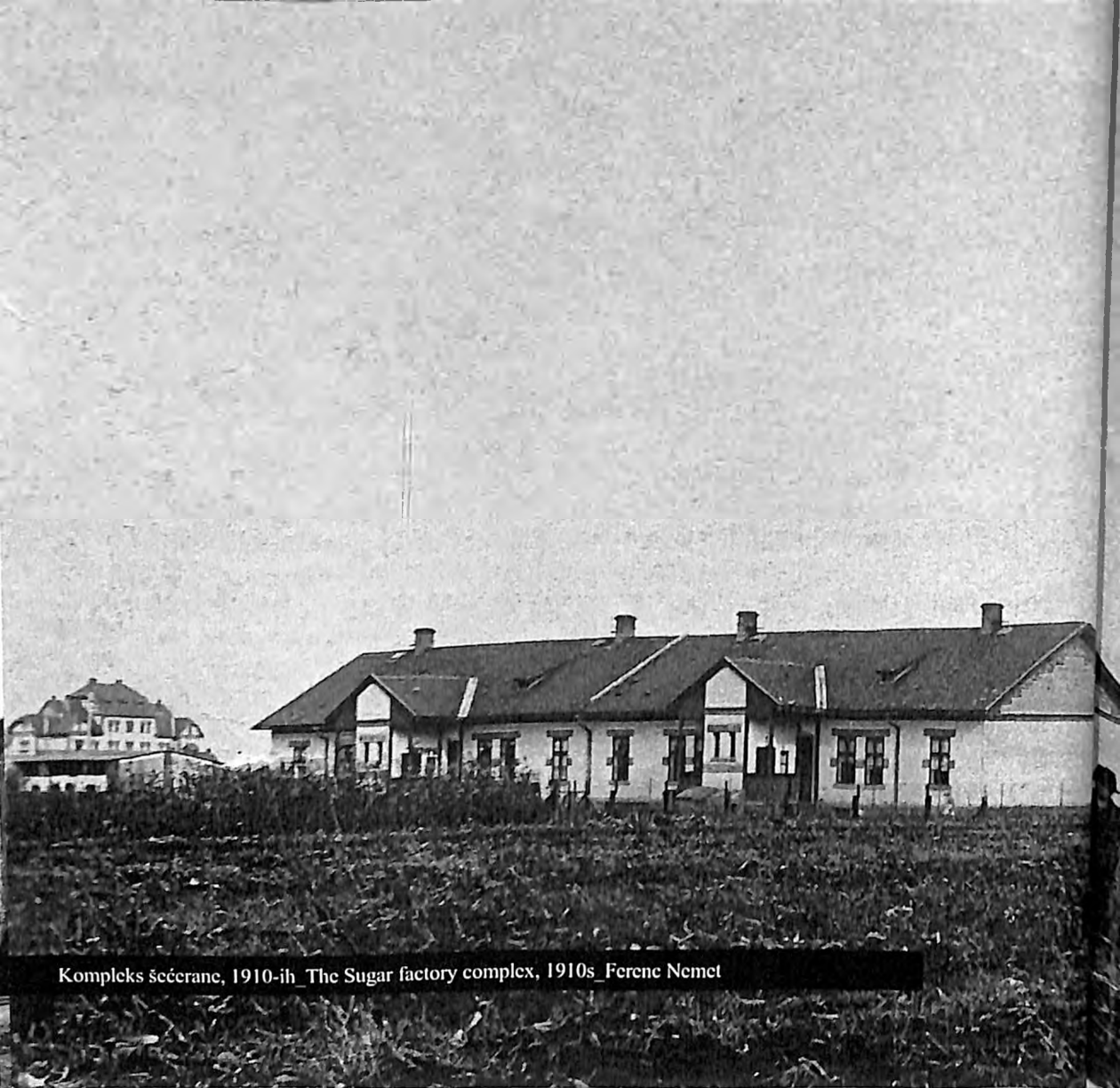
Kompleks šećerane, 1910-ih_The Sugar factory complex, 1910s_Ferenc Nemet

Na osnovu originalnog situacionog plana Fabrike šećera zaključuje se da je prostorna organizacija kompleksa proistekla iz saobraćajne šeme, obzirom da železnička trasa čini okosnicu oko koje je grupisana proizvodna celina, dok su rezidencijalni objekti pozicionirani po obodu parcele, ka gradu.[28] Prema pisanju tadašnje štampe, u okviru kompleksa Fabrike šećera izgrađeno je 50 objekata – fabričkih, sporednih i stambenih, [27] ali kako je na planu ucertano znatno manje gabarita, pretpostavlja se da su sporedni objekti izostavljeni.

Jezgro proizvodne celine činio je glavni pogon longitudinalne osnove, dimenzija 110/20 metara, okružen krečanom, kotlarnicom, sušarom i magacinom reznaca, kao

The original plan of the Sugar factory suggests that the spatial organisation of the complex was based on a transport scheme, considering that the railroad represents the backbone of the production area, while the residential buildings are situated along the edges of the parcel, looking towards the city. According to news reports of that period, fifty buildings – including production facilities, residential and ancillary buildings[27] – were built as a part of the Sugar factory complex. However, since the site plan contains much fewer construction plans, it is believed that the ancillary buildings were not drawn.

The main production facility, 110 meters long and 20 meters wide constituted the core part of the industrial zone and was surrounded by a lime



Kompleks šćerane, 1910-ih The Sugar factory complex, 1910s_Ferenc Nemet



i radionicama (bravarska, stolarska, kovačka, bakarnica).

U rezidencijalnoj celini prepoznaju se dva tipa stambene arhitekture, karakteristična za početak 20. veka – vila i radnički stan. Najlüksuzniji stambeni objekat u okviru kompleksa je vila direktora Viktora Eleka, objekat razuđene osnove smešten u raskošnom parkovskom okruženju.[32] Sledeći u hijerarhiji individualnih stambenih objekata u kompleksu bio je namenjen za smeštaj finansijskog direktora, a za poslednji se pretpostavlja da je bio stan doktora i ambulanta.[33] Razlikuju se četiri tipa kolektivnih stambenih objekata, analogno hijerarhiji zaposlenih u proizvodnji: dvospratnica sa stanovima za službenike, jednospratnica sa četiri stana za industrijalce, prizemni objekat sa četiri stana za radnike, potom radničke barake sa nešto manjim stanovima i radnička spavaonica za sezonske radnike.

kiln, boiler room, drying facility, beet pulp warehouse, and by several workshops (locksmith, carpentry, blacksmith, coppersmith).

Two housing types, characteristic of the early 20th century, can be distinguished within the residential zone: villa and workforce housing unit. The most luxurious residential building is a villa with a disjoint base surrounded by lavish greenery, which was inhabited by Viktor Elek, longstanding director of the Sugar factory.[32] The second individual residential building was meant for the factory's finance director, while the third one is believed to have been built to host an ambulatory and doctor's apartment.[33]

As far as collective housing units are concerned, four types can be distinguished following the hierarchical structure of factory personnel: a two-storey apartment building for employees, a single storey building with four apartments for industrialists, a ground floor house with four

U ulaznom delu grupisana su tri objekta različitih funkcija: portirnica, upravna zgrada i kantina.

apartments for workers, workers' barracks with smaller apartments, and a dormitory for seasonal workers.

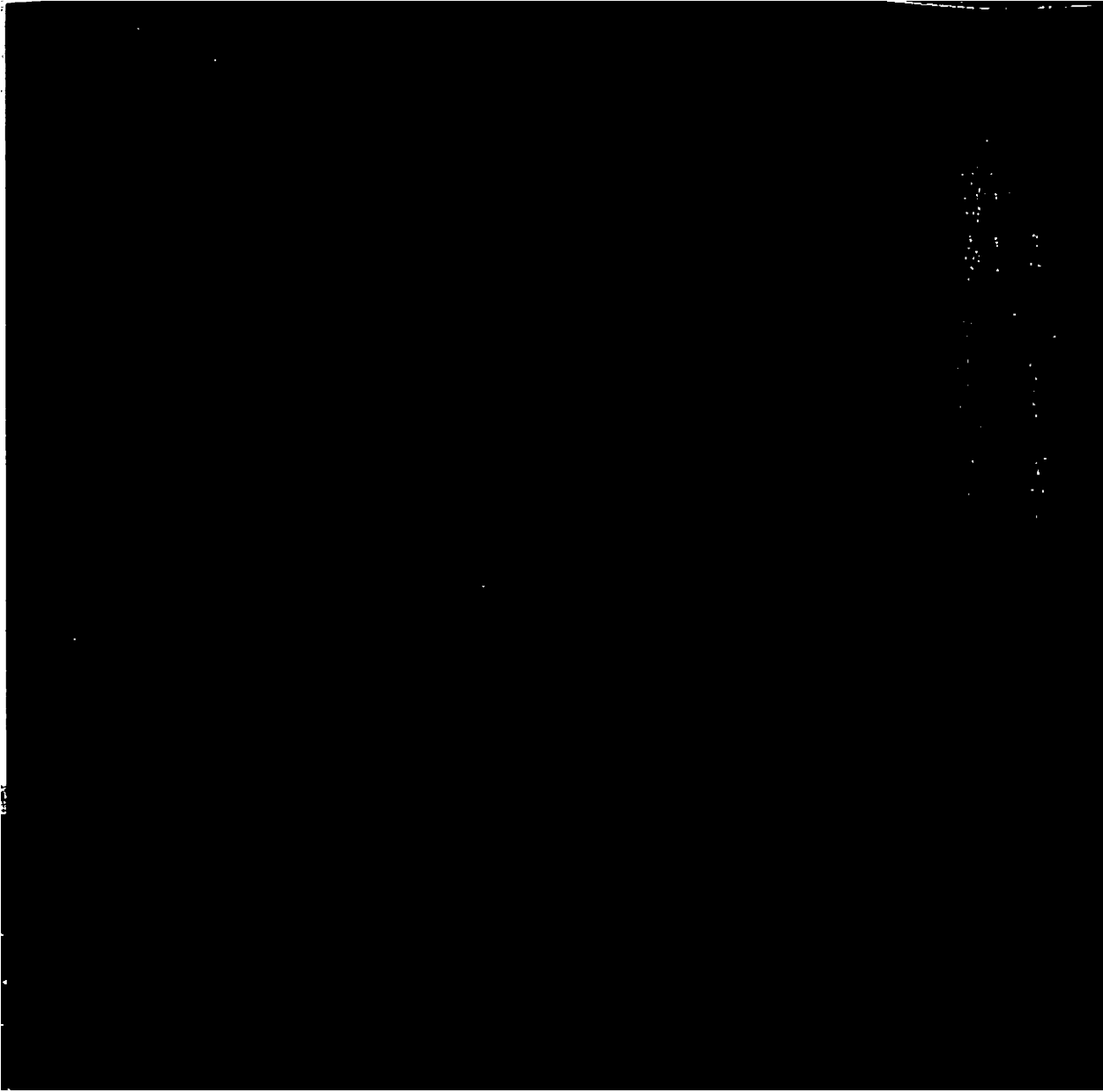
In the entrance part, there are three buildings built to serve different purposes: porter's lodge, administration building, and canteen.

DEBRECENI MÁV-ÁLLÁMVAZLAT PARRY NACYBECSEKEREK

1905. JANUÁR 20.



Kompleks šećerane, 1910-ih _The Sugar factory complex, 1910s_ Ferenc Nemet



KONSTRUKCIJA I MATERIJALI
CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS



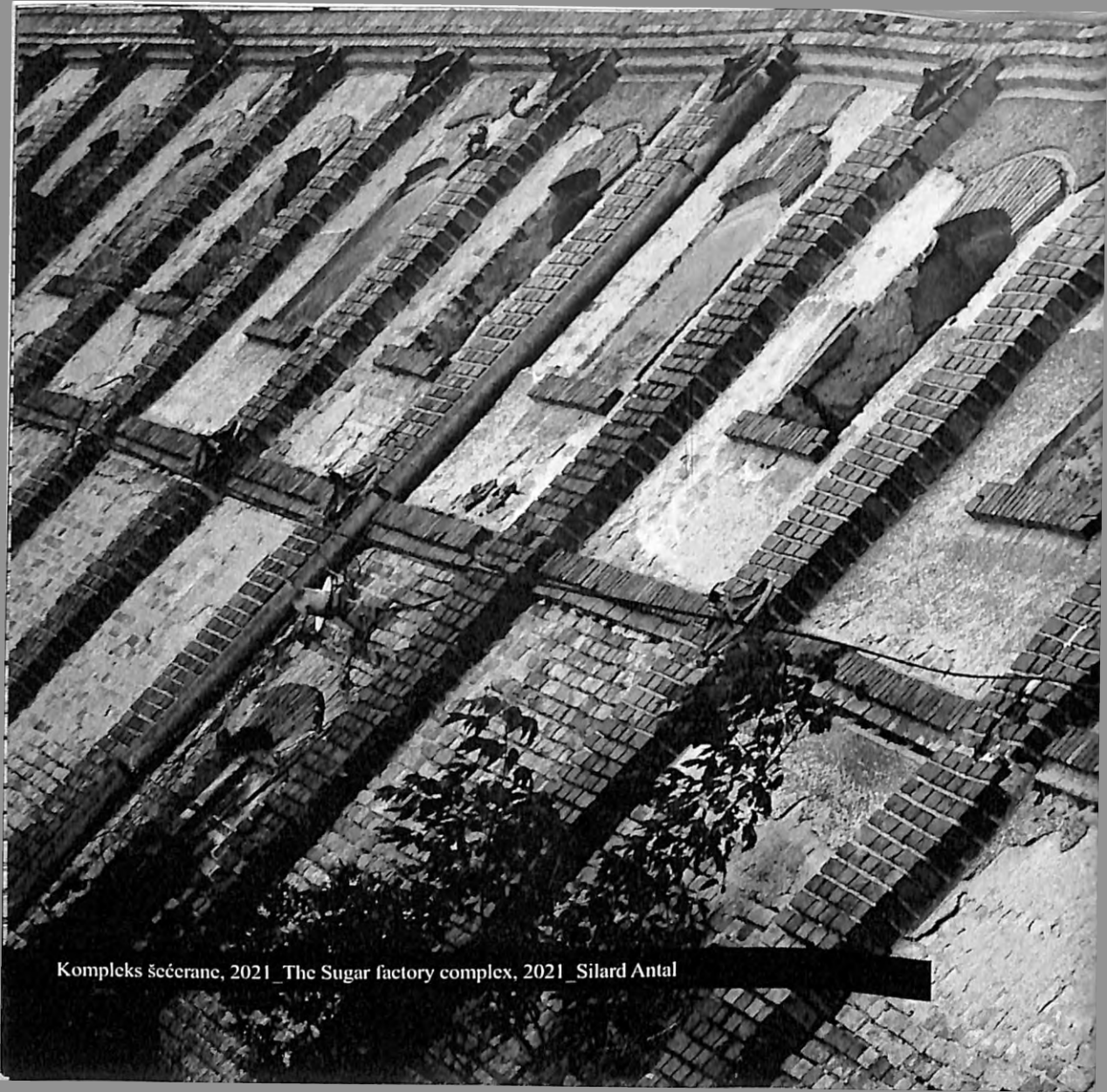
Kompleks šećerane, 2021 _ The Sugar factory complex, 2021 _ Silard Antal

Osnovni gradivni materijal korišten u izgradnji kompleksa, odnosno njegovih industrijskih i stambenih objekata, bila je opeka. Međutim, opeka nije korištena samo za izgradnju masivnih spoljnih i unutrašnjih zidova, stubaca, temeljnih zona, pruskih tavnica i drugih konstruktivnih elemenata, već i u oblikovanju i akcentovanju različitih fasadnih elemenata kao što su venci, sokle, frontoni, lezene, itd.

Kod izrazito longitudinalnih industrijskih objekata, kao što su glavni pogon, magacini i radionice, izvedena je dvovodna drvena krovna konstrukcija, dok je za vile razuđene osnove karakterističan složen krov. Posebno se ističe netipično rešenje blago zakrivljenih krajeva krovnih ravni Elekove vile, koje asocira na kineske pagode i dodat-

The factory complex, that is its production and residential buildings were constructed mainly with bricks, used not only to build massive external and internal walls, pillars, foundation areas, Prussian ceilings, and other constructive elements but also to design and accentuate various facade elements, such as wreaths, frontons, pediments, pilaster stripes (lesenes), etc.

The production buildings with a pronounced longitudinal axis are characterised by double-pitched roof constructions, while villas with a disjoint plan have a complex roof structure. One atypical structure stands out particularly: a slightly curved roof of Elek's villa which reminds of Chinese pagodas, further accentuating a playful interplay of volumes. Howev-



Kompleks šćerane, 2021 _ The Sugar factory complex, 2021 _ Silard Antal

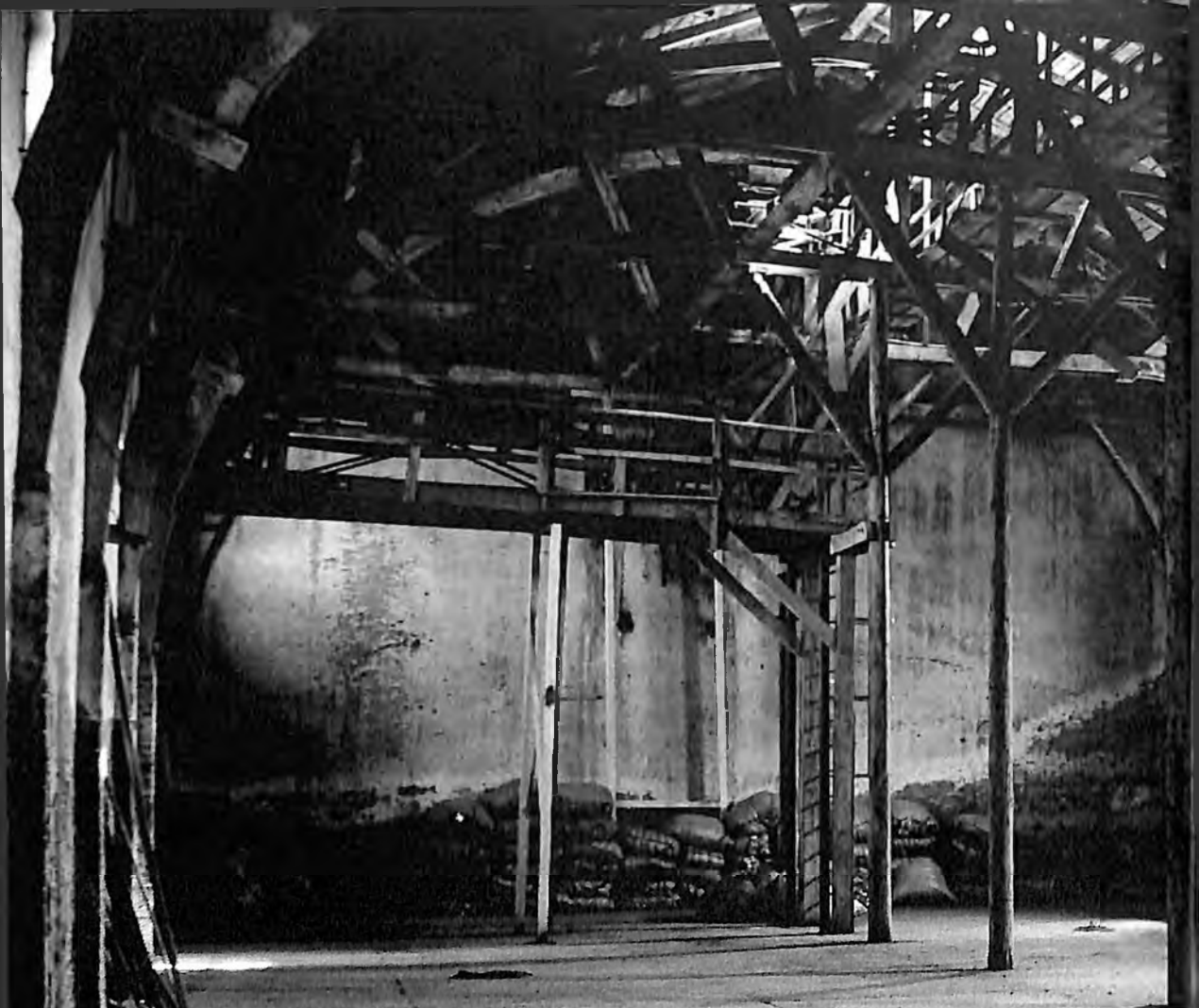


no pojačava razigranost volumena. Ipak, najzanimljivije konstruktivno rešenje predstavlja složena drvena lučna konstrukcija magacina rezanaca, čiji su luci oslonjeni na zidane stupce, a zatega na vitke drvene stubove u podužnoj osi građevine.

er, the most interesting construction solution is a complex wooden arched structure of the beet pulp warehouse, composed of arches supported on masonry piers and of tension element placed on slender wooden columns along the building's longitudinal axis.



Kompleks Scéerane, 2021_ The Sugar factory complex, 2021_ Silard Antal



Kompleks šećerane, 2021_The Sugar factory complex, 2021_Silard Antal

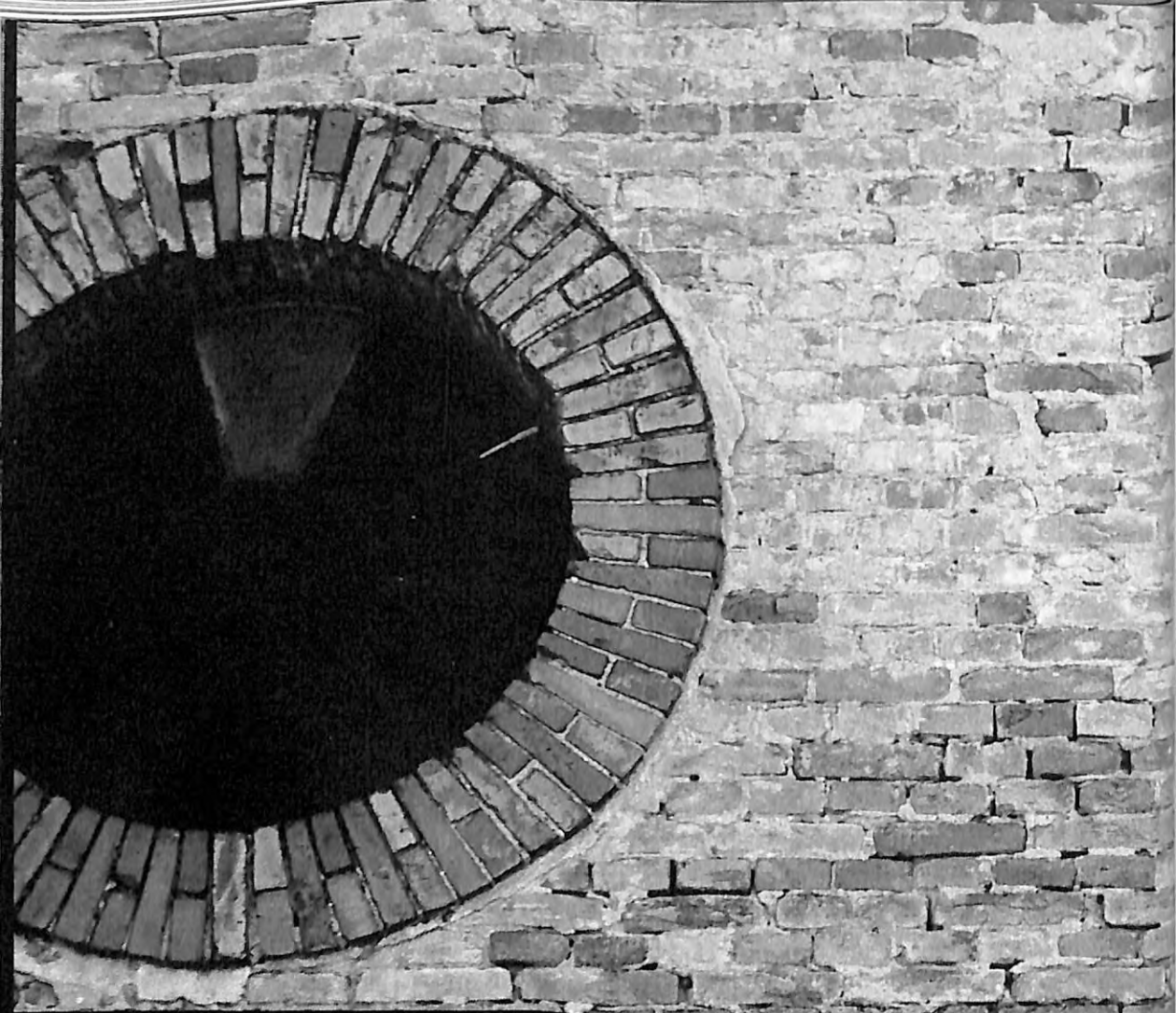






Kompleks šećerane, 2021_The Sugar factory complex, 2021_Silard Antal

STILSKE ODLIKE KOMPLEKSA
STYLISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COMPLEX



Kompleks šćéeranc, 2021 The Sugar factory complex, 2021 Silard Antal

Projektovani u dahu, kao neraskidiva prostorno-funkcionalna celina, proizvodni i profani objekti kompleksa Fabrike šećera u Velikom Bečkereku odišu stilskim jedinstvom. Arhitektura industrijskih pogona i magacina, kao i radničkih stanova i vila ima obeležja geometrijske secesije, varijante bečke secesije,[35] koja postaje dominantna 1910ih godina, posebno u industrijskoj arhitekturi.

Beneš vrlo slobodno kreira geometrijske elemente i površine primenom polihromije u obradi fasada, što posebno dolazi do izražaja kod tri fabričke vile. On se igra fasadnom opekom, koristeći je za akcentovanje prozorskih okvira, lezena, venaca, ugaonih elemenata. Dekorativnosti fasada stambenih

Designed in one breath, as a unique spatial-functional unit, industrial and residential buildings of the Sugar factory complex in Veliki Bečkerek constitute a stylistic unity. The architecture of production facilities and warehouses, as well as the architecture of workers' apartments and villas, bears the characteristics of geometric secession, a version of the Viennese Secession,[35] which became predominant in the 1910s, especially in industrial architecture.

Benes created geometric elements and surfaces with great liberty, using polychromy for shaping facades, an approach that emerges particularly clearly if we look at three villas built inside the factory complex. Benes played with façade brick, using it to accentuate window frames, lesenes,





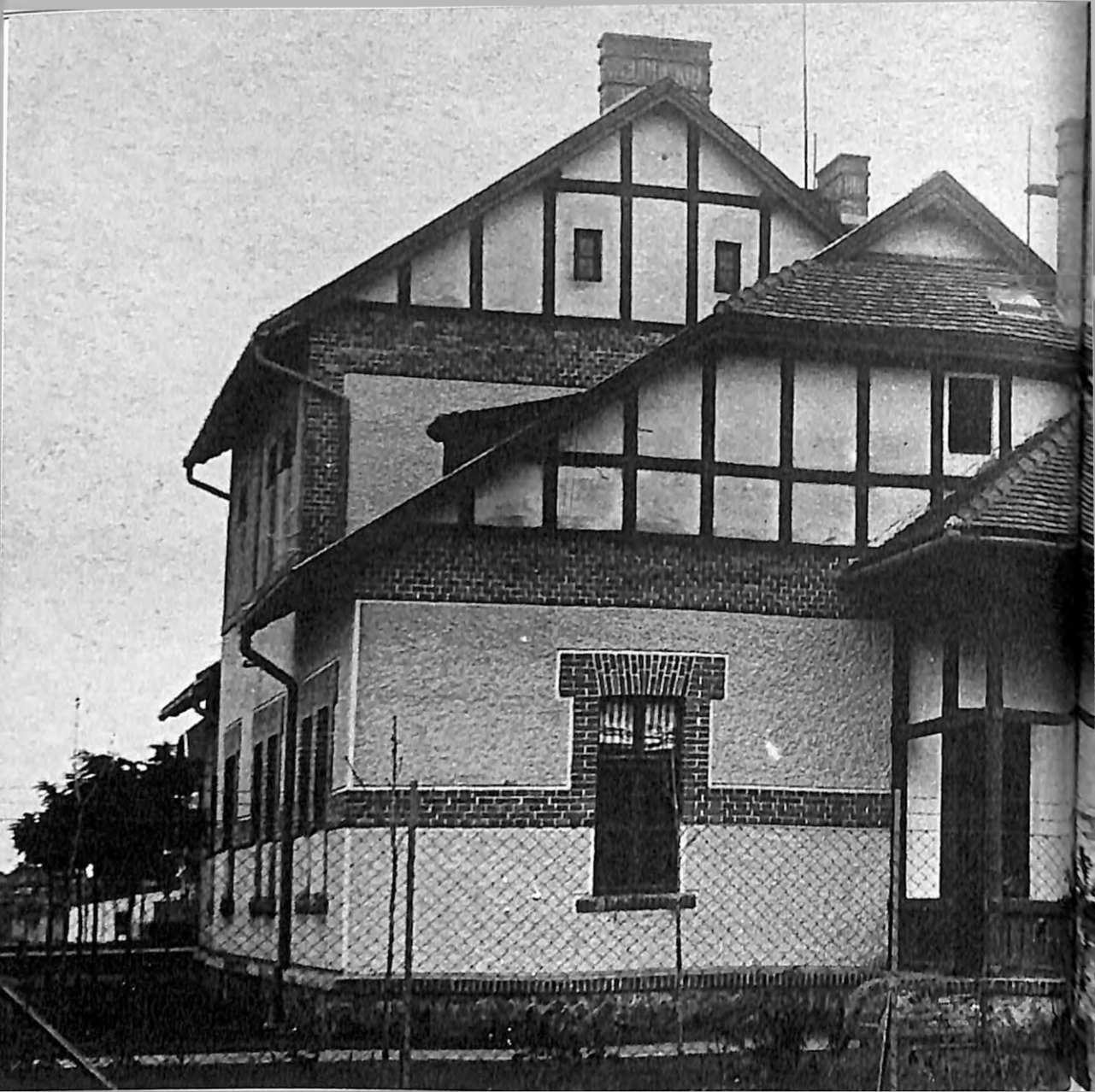
Kompleks šećerane, 2021_The Sugar factory complex, 2021_Silard Antal

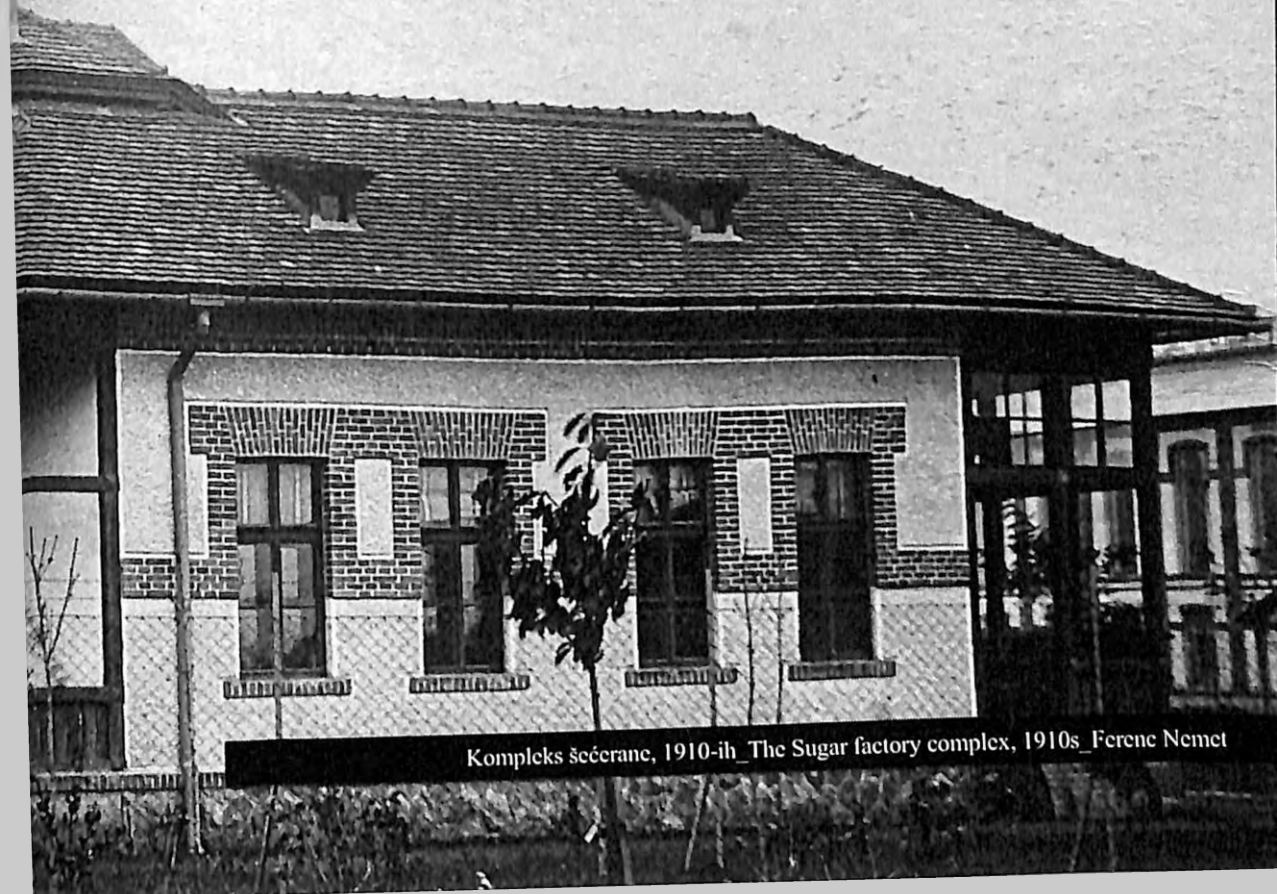
objekata posebno doprinosi primena drveta u vidu lažnog bondruka, na zabatnim zidovima. Drveni elementi na nekim mestima gube geometrijsku formu i dobijaju zakrivljene linije, što dodatno doprinosi likovnosti fasada i potvrđuje uticaj vladajuće secesije.

wreaths, corner elements. The use of wood for making a bondruk [faux timber framing filled with brick] on gables contributes particularly to the decorative character of the facades. The wooden elements at some points lose their original geometric shape and take curved paths, thus adding to the picturesque character of the facades and confirming the influence of the Secession.



Kompleks šećerane, 1910-ih The Sugar factory complex, 1910s Ferenc Nemet



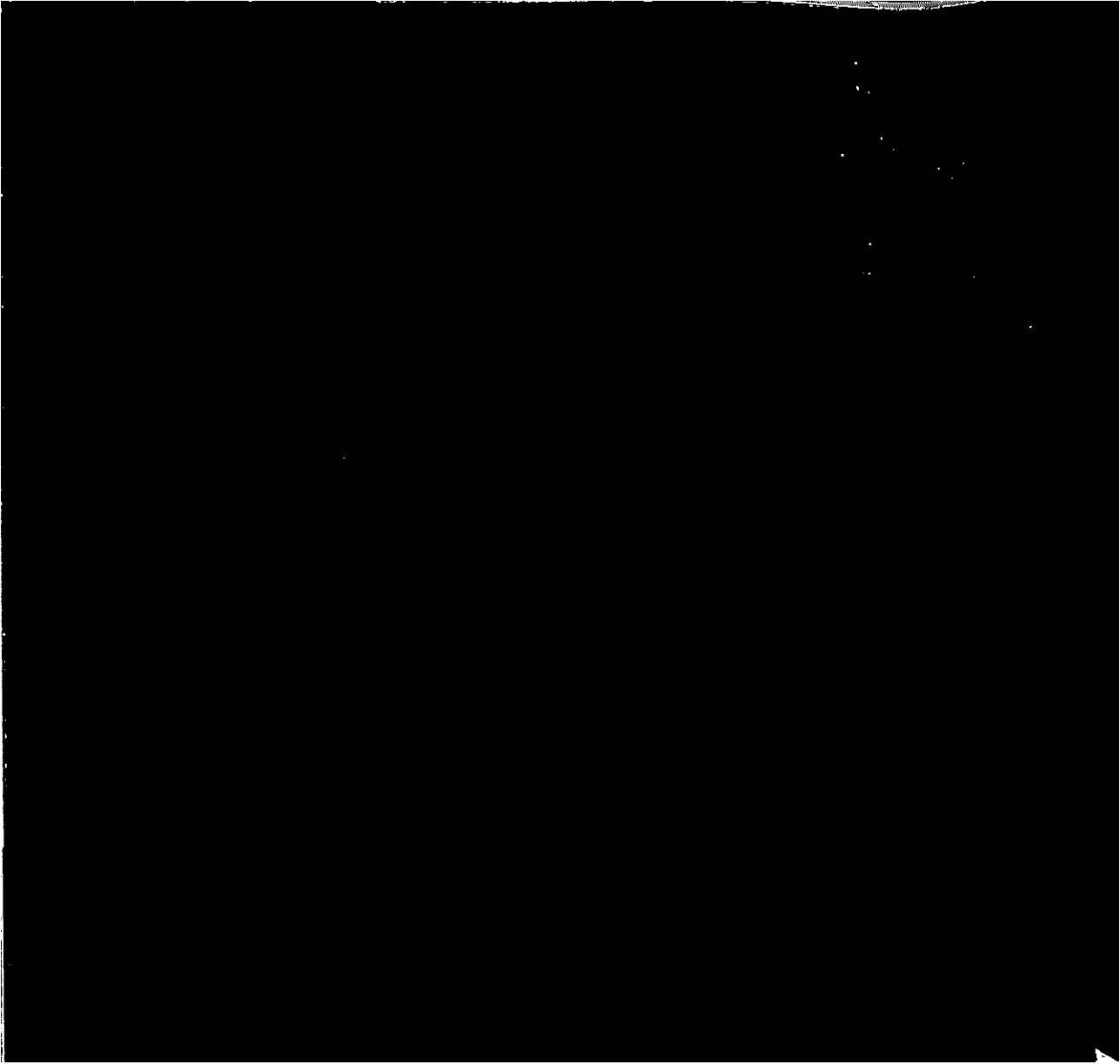


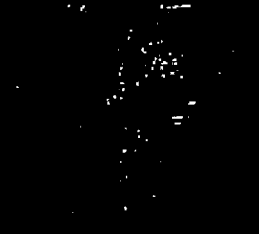
Kompleks šećerane, 1910-ih_The Sugar factory complex, 1910s_Ferenc Nemet



Kompleks šćecerane, 2021_ The Sugar factory complex, 2021_ Silard Antal







ELEKOVA VILA
ELEK'S VILLA



Elckova vila _Elck's villa _Ferenc Nemet

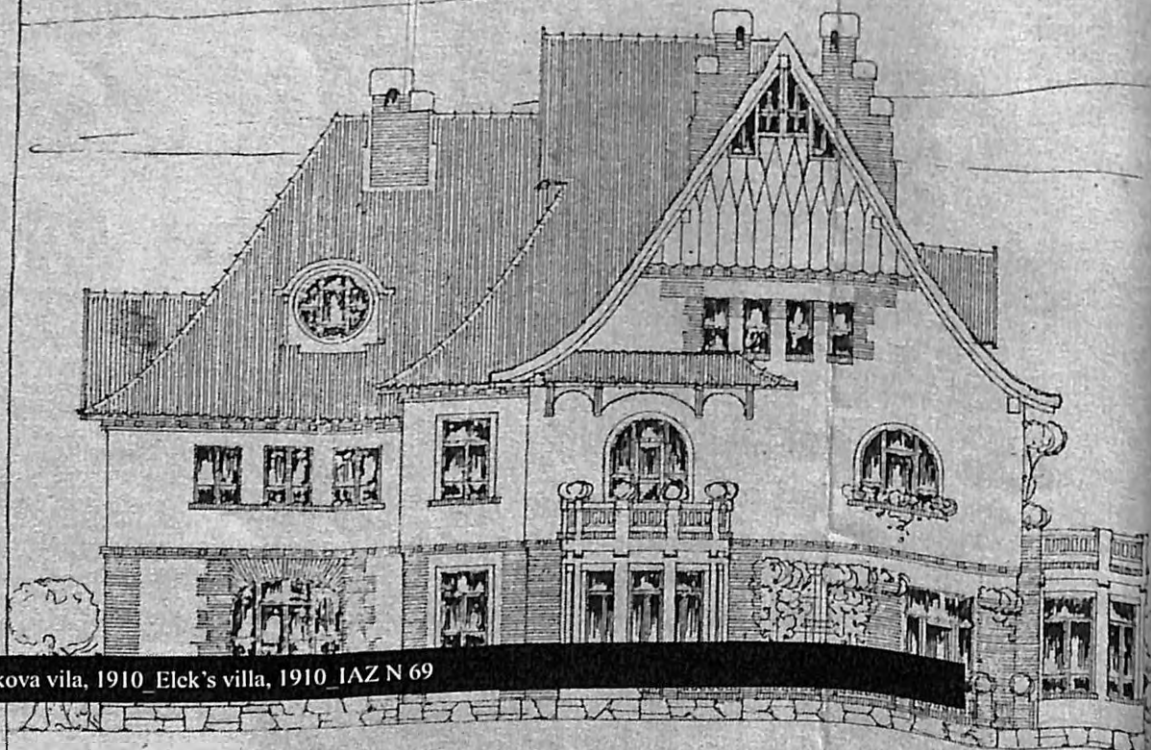
Najreprezentativniji stambeni objekat, namenjen za smeštaj porodice direktora fabrike Viktora Eleka, izgrađen je 1911. godine u stilu secesije, bez pravih analogija u okviru sačuvanog arhitektonskog fonda grada i njegove okoline.[32] Analogije je moguće tražiti u prvenstveno u bečkoj i češkoj secesiji,[31] iako postoje mišljenja da je na njen dizajn uticao i britanski Arts and Crafts.[36]

Vilu karakteriše razučena osnova i razigrana forma, sa erkerima, elegantnim balkonima i dinamičnim krovnim masama, blago povijenim na krajevima. Koncipirana kao stalna rezidencija u

The most representative residential building, intended for the accommodation of the factory director Viktor Elek and his family, was built in 1911 in the Secession style and has no analogue amongst preserved architectural heritage in the city and its surrounding area.[32] The analogues can be found primarily in the Viennese Secession and the Czech Secession,[31] while some suggest that the villa's design was also influenced by the British Arts and Crafts Movement.[36]

Elek's villa is characterized by a disjoint plan and vivid shapes, with bow windows, elegant balconies and dynamic roof masses with slightly

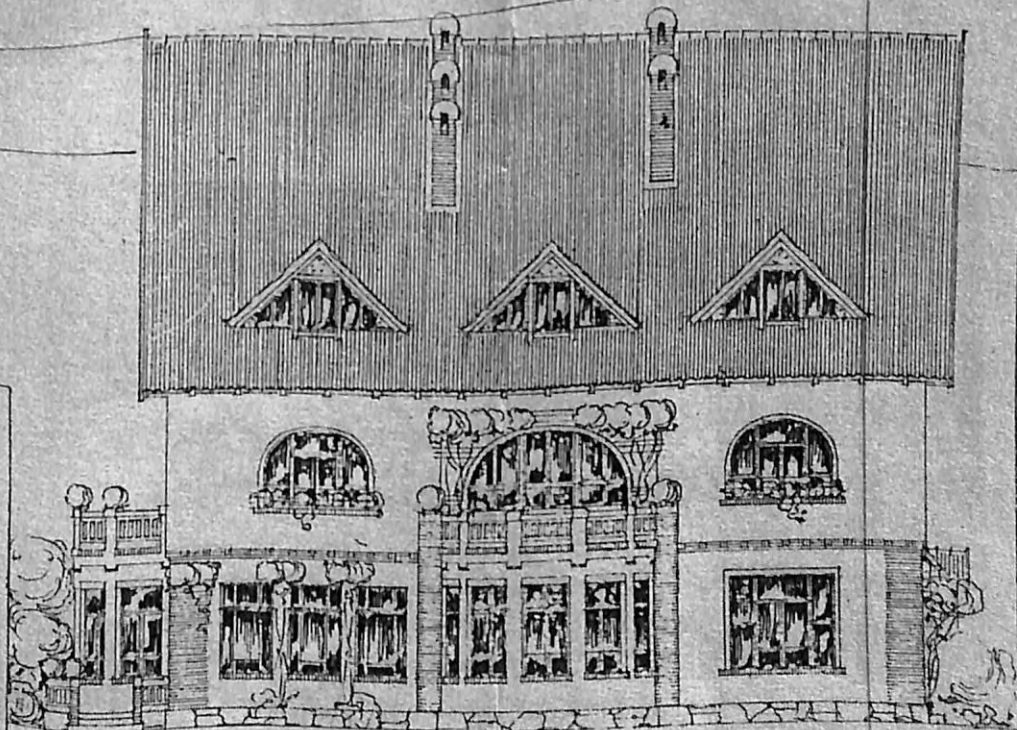
DÉLMAGYARORSZÁGI CZUKORGYÁR-RÉSZVÉNY-TÁRSASÁG.



Elekova vila, 1910 Elek's villa, 1910 IAZ N 69

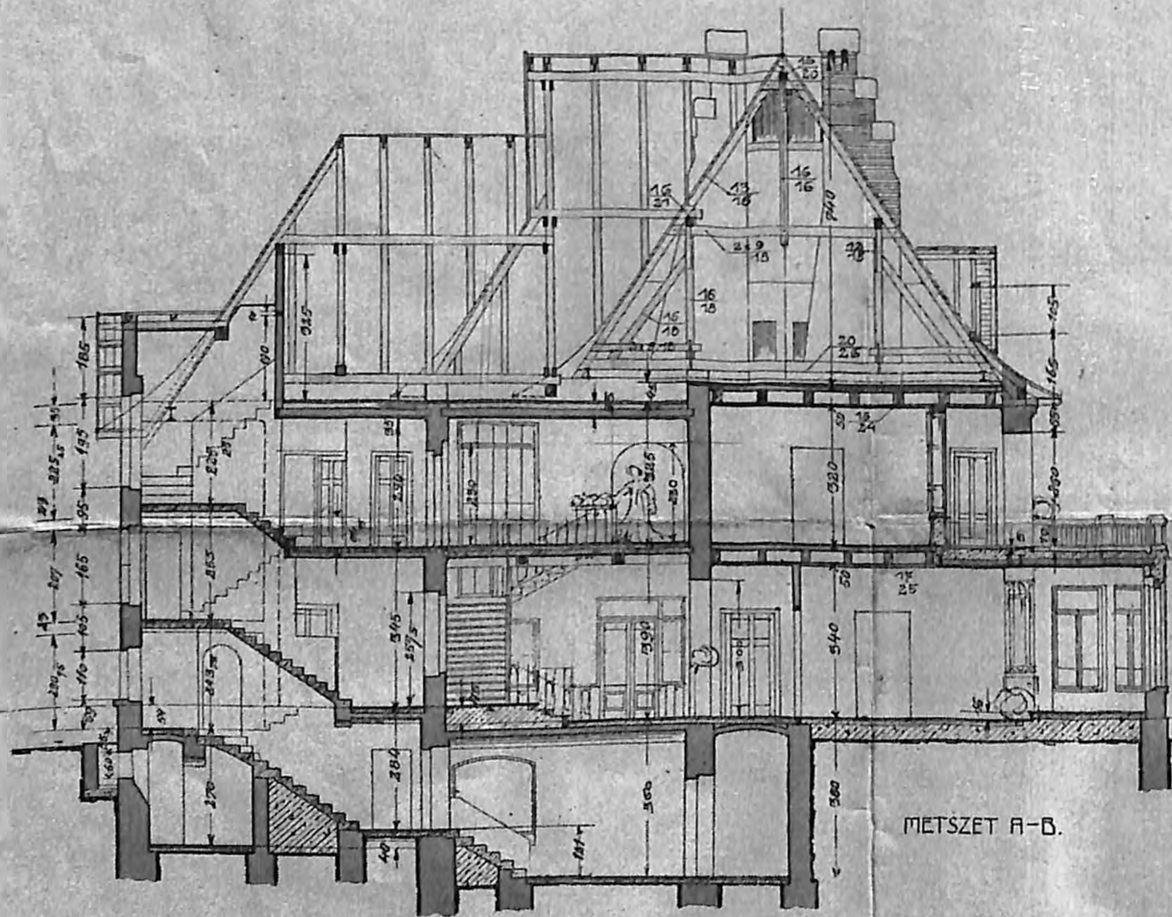
NYUGATI-DEL OLDAL.

IGAZGATOI LAKOHÁZ



DÉL-KELETI OLDAL

DÉLMAGYARORSZÁGI CZUKORGYÁR-RÉSZVÉNY-TÁRSASÁG.



METSZET A-B.



vrta izvan gradskog centra, vila je predstavljala novi tip stambene arhitekture, karakterističan za tadašnju Evropu u kojoj se gubi podela na gradska stambena područja i letnjikovce u okolini. Brojnim velikim oslikanim staklenim površinama omogućeno je prožimanje tople, u drvetu brižljivo obrađene unutrašnjosti objekta sa prostornim parkom koji ga okružuje. U projektovanju enterijera je jednaka pažnja posvećena privatnim odajama namenjenim stanovanju i salonu, reprezentativnom sedištu društvenog života.

Izuzetna likovnost, plastičnost i dekoracija nesumnjivo su stilske odlike secesije, u kojoj je autor pronašao uporište. Reprezentativan, ali za ovo područje netipičan, primer arhitekture secesije, karakterišu i elementi industrijske arhitekture toga perioda, što je razumljivo s obzirom da je sastavni deo industrijskog kompleksa.

curved ends. Thought of as a permanent residence immersed in the greenery, outside the city centre, the villa represented a new type of residential architecture typical of that period in Europe in which the distinction between urban residential areas and summer houses in the surrounding countryside is lost. An interplay between the warm, carefully designed wooden interior of the building and the vast surrounding park area was made possible by the use of numerous big painted glass surfaces. While designing interior spaces, the architect accorded equal attention to private rooms intended for residential use and a salon, thought of as the very centre of social life.

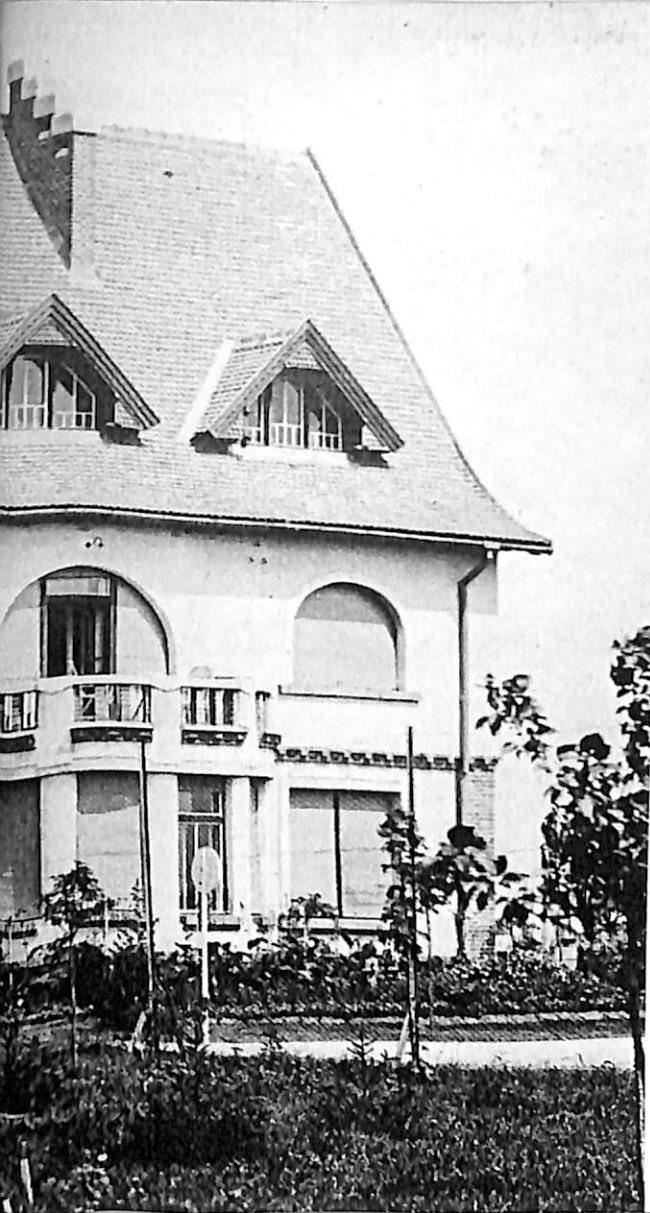
The highly picturesque character of the building, plasticity and ornaments are the stylistic characteristics of the Secessionist style in which the architect found inspiration. Elek's villa, while being a representative example – although not typical of Vojvodi-



Elekova vila, 1910-ih_Elek's villa, 1910s_Ferenc Nemet



Elckova vila Elek's villa Ferenc Nemet



na – of Secession architecture – is also characterized by some elements typical of industrial architecture of that period, which is understandable considering that it is an integral part of an industrial complex.



Elekova vila, 1910-ih_Elck's villa, 1910s_Ferenc Nemet





**GRADITELJ KOMPLEKSA
ARCHITECT OF THE COMPLEX**



Kompleks šećerane, 2021_The Sugar factory complex, 2021_Silard Antal

Autor kompleksa Fabrike šećera u Velikom Bečkereku bio je Viktor Beneš (19. avgust 1858 – 22. februar 1922), češki arhitekta, urbanista i građevinski preduzimač, koji će uprkos činjenici da karijeru započinje projektovanjem neobaroknih palata, ostati upamćen kao graditelj industrijskih kompleksa širom Austrougarske, počev od današnje Češke, preko Austrije i Hrvatske, do Vojvodine.

Godine 1910. Beneš dolazi u Veliki Bečkerek, gde će nadgledati radove na izvođenju svog ambicioznog projekta savremene šećerane, zajedno sa glavnim nadzornikom gradnje Karolj Klugeom, inženjerom ondašnje vodne zadruge.[27] Državni savez industrijalaca je

The Sugar factory complex in Veliki Bečkerek was designed by Viktor Benes (19 August 1858 – 22 February 1922), Czech architect, urbanist and construction entrepreneur. Although he started his career designing villas in neo-baroque style, Benes will be remembered as the author of many industrial complexes across the Austro-Hungarian Empire, from nowadays the Czech Republic, Austria and Croatia, to Vojvodina.

Benes arrived in Veliki Bečkerek in 1910 and soon afterwards became responsible for supervising the realisation of his ambitious project of the Sugar factory, together with chief construction supervisor Kluge Karoly who worked as an engineer in a local water cooperative.[27] The decision





Kompleks šććerane, 2021 _ The Sugar factory complex, 2021 _ Silard Antal

negativno reagovao na angažman češkog arhitekta, koji je iz Češke doveo i zidarske majstore i skupocenu opremu. Uprkos tome, u svom izveštaju velikobečkerečki kraljevski industrijski nadzor 1911. godine navodi da je na izgradnji šećerane angažovano 1200 građevinskih radnika iz okolnih mesta, kao i da su iz okoline nabavljeni neke građevinske materijali i elementi, kao što su vrata i prozori.[34]

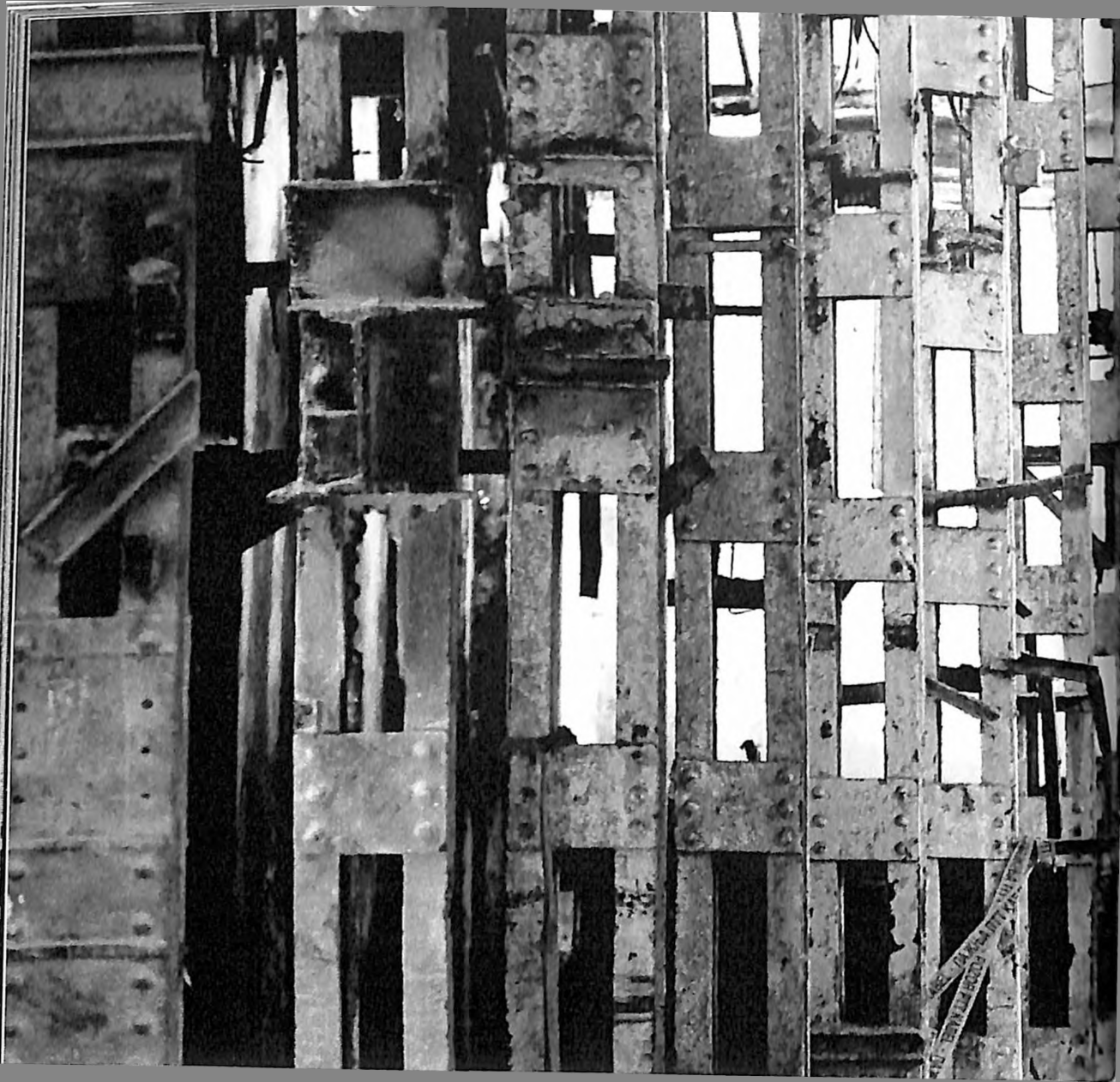
Realizacijom svog progresivnog koncepta savremenog industrijskog kompleksa Fabrike šećera u Velikom Bečkereku, Beneš se iskazao ne samo kao vrstan arhitekt, koji kreirajući u duhu geometrijske secesije pravi smele improvizacije i ostavlja lični pečat u arhitekturi fabričkih vila, već i kao sjajan urbanista, koji veoma vešto implementira aktuelne evropske planerske ideje.

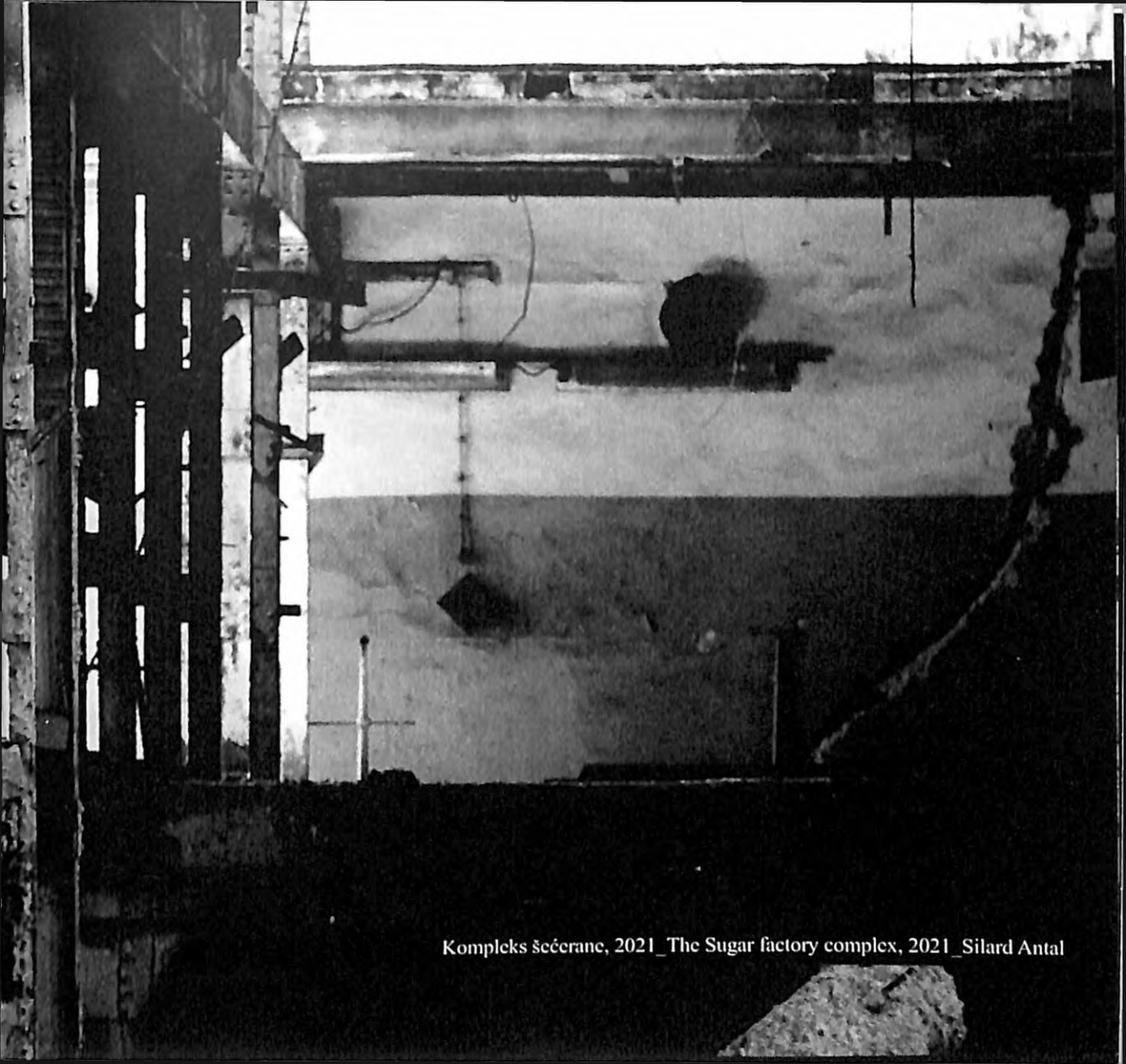
to hire a Czech architect provoked negative responses by the national industrial union, even though Benes brought with him Czech masons and expensive equipment. Nevertheless, in his report written in 1911, the royal industrial supervisor affirmed that 1200 construction workers coming from nearby cities have been employed for the construction of the sugar plant and that some construction materials and elements, such as doors and windows, have been procured from local suppliers.[34]

Realizing his progressive concept of the modern industrial complex of the Sugar factory in Veliki Beckerek, Benes proved to be not only an excellent architect who, creating in the spirit of geometric Secession, performed bold improvisations and left his personal mark on villas inside the factory complex but also a brilliant planner, capable of skilfully implementing modern European urbanist ideas.



Kompleks scéerane, 2021_ The Sugar factory complex, 2021_ Silard Antal





Kompleks scéeranc, 2021_The Sugar factory complex, 2021_Silard Antal





Kompleks šećerane, 2021_ The Sugar factory complex, 2021_ Silard Antal





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