and 1839 that Lower Austria, Bohemia’s main industrial competitor, increased its export twelve times during this period, while only doubling its import, whereas Bohemia only trebled its export, increasing its import by one and a half; also, comparing the export trade of all the countries of the Monarchy Bohemia shows a considerable lagging. Between 1790 and 1839 the whole import of the Monarchy rose by 325%, the share of Bohemia by 140%. The whole export rose by 569%, Bohemia’s share only by 224%. Despite this retarded development the country remained almost continuously an important factor in the export trade balance, remaining a dependable support to Austrian economic development.

In determining the trends of Bohemian economics it is instructive that according to the Customs reports of 1830 and 1839 Bohemia had practically no economic connections with Hungary and Transilvania, whereas Moravia in 1839 was linked to these countries with a quarter of its import customs and two thirds of its export customs. The author assumes as cause for the weaker economic development of Bohemia, particularly when compared with that of Lower Austria, the conservatism of the Bohemian industry. The wool industry often still worked with old methods, and the introduction of the steam-engine was delayed by the abundance of natural water-power. In making Triest also Bohemia’s port Maria Theresia damaged the natural trade connection with the northwest (Hamburg). It was only after the construction of the North-Southern Railway (began 1941) that this unhealthy trade situation changed. After 1848 the Bohemian industries were modernized.

THE BEGINNING OF INDUSTRIALIZATION IN THE BOHEMIAN COUNTRIES

Herbert Hassinger

The Industrialization of the Bohemian Countries which was pursued up till the end of the 19th century mainly shows features characteristic to those of Central Europe, making only slow progress until the middle of the 19th century. Since the 17th century there was a preceding period of manufacturing establishments which developed from old export enterprises and, from the 18th century, became known as factories. Old and modern techniques both remained in existence side by side for a considerable time. Bohemian countries were chiefly leading in the industrialization of the Hapsburg Monarchy. This was due, in the first place, to activities of the aristocracy and immigrated investors and, secondly, to those of German citizens. The most important textile trade, especially the production of linen in the region of the surrounding highlands, became mechanized much later
and was pushed into the background due to the increase of production of the cotton-industry which employed English machinery first. (1797). About 1850 the production of Bohemian spinning-mills surpassed that of Lower Austria, which was leading first. In Moravia weaving was developed relatively better. The position of superiority of the Bohemian countries in the entire national cotton industry was chiefly evident in their control of the Hungarian market and an increase of exports.

The sheep-wool industry suffered extreme losses, as far as home resources were concerned, by the intensity of agriculture but was able to convert itself into a vital industry in the original centers of manufacture of woollen articles. Thanks to foreign contractors Brünn was added. In Reichenberg native artisans introduced machines. The position of Bohemian countries in the woollen industry, finally also became superior, yet exports suffered from the competition of the German Empire.

Other textile industries developed to a far less significant degree, yet Bohemian countries were also leading in these. For instance, in the silk-industry, which was set up only just after 1850, especially in Moravia, following its removal from Vienna and also in the jute-, knit-wear, and clothing industries. After 1850, heavy industries rose to greater importance, too. Due to coal-deposits and the favourable situation of communication (Witkowitz), the introduction of English inventions, (about 1820), Bohemian countries achieved an advantage, as compared to the countries of the Alps which, for centuries, dealt in exports of iron and hardware, so that, finally, they became the main-centre of heavy industry of Austro-Hungary. Less apparent is their importance in the machine-industry which, in some branches, dealt in exports, yet, generally, very much depended on imports. An insignificant line was copper, brass, zinc and similar metals. The complete Bohemian chinaware industry attained a monopoly and exported a large part of the production.

The glass-ware industry, chiefly located in the hill-forests of the Sudeten, was developing from a medieval trade and also dealt in considerable exports. The only vital industry in which Austro-Hungary played an important part in the world-market was the sugar-beet industry located in the Bohemian countries, first during the continental embargo and finally since 1830. The Bohemian countries produced slightly more than half of the entire beer-production which was exclusively reserved for home-consumption and of no less importance. Similar was their position in the paper-producing industry which was also based on the Middle Ages. Paper with cellulose represented a significant export-article already at the end of the 19th century. The chemical industry of the monarchy had had its centre in Aussig since 1856 and was much less and later developed in comparison with western countries. Rubber and electric industries were not yet considered vital industries.
Therefore, Bohemia was industrially the most significant and versatile country of the monarchy. Her degree of industrialization was similar to that of the German Empire. The unity of the Bohemian countries, besides the general features of the industrialization of Central Europe, also showed the special ones of the external situation as compared to less developed areas in which she found her chief buyers. The industrial progress of the Bohemian Countries as compared to those of the Double-Monarchy began to decline after the year 1900.

INDUSTRIALIZATION AND THE SOCIAL PROBLEM

Ernst Paul

Starting with the fact that much research is still to be done regarding the industrial history of the Sudeten countries, and on the strength of his political participation in the Sudeten-German Workers Movement, the author gives a series of suggestions and indications. The gradual transition of the Sudeten-German industry from handwork to machine resulted in a long survival of the publishing system; thus out of a rich tradition of craftsmanship a type developed who was capable of skilled labour, and who as a social type survived till the thirties of our century. Though the social grievances during the time of the industrialization led to uprisings of the workers in the region of Reichenberg in 1844, their poverty prevented them taking any considerable part in the bourgeois revolution of 1848. Since the second half of the 19th century the Workers’ Movement was supported mainly by the craftsmen and skilled workers, who had already acquired the education and experience necessary for political organization. The Workers Movement can claim the merit for having fought energetically and successfully against alcoholism and the resulting moral degeneration of the worker. The Co-operative Societies also played an important part in the fight against alcoholism and exploitation.

Of the utmost importance for the gradual strengthening of the Workers Movement, and its spiritual force, were the Workers Education Associations, as can be seen, for example, from the life of leaders like Josef Seliger. In these education centres Schiller, Heine, Herwegh, and well-translated works of foreign poets, were read. Through this they became acquainted with their cultural heritage and acquired the equipment for their political work. Finally, it was important for the people that the villages and small towns were industrialized, thereby avoiding the agglomeration of large industrial cities as in the Ruhrgebiet or the Midlands of England. So evolved a type of worker who loved his homeland, who lived in his own house, often farming his own land, and who succeeded in making his life meaningful.