

Agriculture.1. System of compulsory delivery quotas.

The compulsory delivery quotas were established according to the size of your holdings. Those lands under half an acre were not subject to compulsory deliveries, whereas those from half an acre to 5 acres had the smallest deliveries. Holdings of from 5-10 acres have larger ~~quotas~~ and there was again a substantial increase in deliveries for those people who owned 10-15 or 15-20, or 20 - 25 acres. However, the rise was not necessarily according to each additional area but rather according to a progressive ~~increase~~ *key*.

I had inherited 8 acres of land from my father so I fell within the category of landholders of from 5-10 acres. Our delivery ~~quotas~~ <sup>quotas</sup> (5-10 acres) were established as follows, per acre: ~~xxxx~~ <sup>a.)</sup> Two tons and 50kg of wheat (you were allowed to deliver ~~some flowers~~ <sup>sunflower</sup> seeds in lieu of this if you could show ~~xxx~~ good good ~~cause~~ <sup>cause</sup> for not producing the wheat);

b.) 80 kg of Indian corn (but actually only ~~50~~ 50 kg were counted because actually only 50 kg were counted because the weight of the ~~husks~~ <sup>husks</sup> was taken into consideration);

c.) 375 kg of ~~some~~ <sup>sun</sup> flower seeds ( these could not be exchanged for or substituted by any other type of grain);

- d.) 150 kg of barley;
- e.) 120 kg of oats;
- f.) 2 kg of beans;
- g.) 1.5 kg of ham;
- h.) 6 kg of eggs;
- i.) 18 to 20 liters of milk;
- j.) <sup>p</sup>Approximately 10 kg of beef;
- k.) 10 kg of pork;

If you did not fatten a hog, you had to become a partner to someone who did. The partners would have to go to the local council where the names of the chief deliverer and the partners would be <sup>taken</sup> ~~put~~ down <sup>in</sup> ~~on~~ the delivery booklets. The partners then would have to pay the deliverer 15 to 18 forints per kg of pork.

From between 10 to 15 acres the wheat delivery rose over 3 tons. I recall that my brother-in-law who had 28 acres of land and who had been classified as a kulak had absolutely nothing left ~~after turning in his quota~~ out of his 70 to 80 ton wheat crop. In addition to these delivery quotas, we had to pay 250 forints of tax per acre and 15 forints of tax for village development.

Before 1955 any surplus that remained after the quotas were fulfilled could be sold on the free market. After 1955 you had to turn in your ~~grain~~ grain surplus to the Futura (the state agency in charge <sup>of</sup> ~~with~~ the handling of compulsory delivery quotas). For the goods delivered under the quota

system the state paid a price which was much less than what you would have received if you ~~was~~ sold them on the free market. The price paid for the compulsory wheat quota was 60 forints per ton, but nothing was paid for half of the crop which was considered as a tax paid in wheat. For the surplus<sup>1</sup> above the compulsory quota the ~~future~~ paid 280 forints per ton whereas you could get from 340 - 400 forints on the free market.

For the milk that you turned in under the compulsory quota you received 70 fillers but the same milk<sup>1</sup> cost you 3 forints ~~was~~ <sup>at</sup> the very same village market where you had to turn it in.

Frequently, the milk that you turned in was poured out to you from the very same bowl, ~~as~~ only you paid more than what you had received for it. If there was no milk in the ~~the~~ village market hall you might have to pay 3.50 or 4 forints for a liter on the free market.

Similarly, you received 25 fillers for each egg you turned in under the compulsory quota but if you wanted to buy eggs from the village market hall you had to pay one or 2 forints for the same egg.

In regard to pork you <sup>would</sup> receive 8 forints per kg for your compulsory quota, 15 - 18 forints for any surplus turned over to the state above the quota and 21 - 22 forints if *you* could sell it on the free market ( if there was any free

market allowed).

2. Agricultural cooperatives.

a.) Membership.

Originally, when the land was distributed most of the estates belonging to the landlords were made the ~~nuclei~~ <sup>nuclei</sup> of the agricultural cooperatives and the ~~serfs~~ <sup>serfs</sup> or servants of the landlords who lived there joined the cooperative. Most of the kulaks were forced to become members of the agricultural cooperatives. Many of them were threatened with deportation and with forceful evacuation from their homes. Sometimes the AVO would come and round up the kulaks and other farmers ~~who refused~~ <sup>who refused</sup> to join the cooperative. They would question them at the AVO headquarters beat them up and torture them. Thus many were forced to join. Also they called on me several times and they asked me to become a member. I told them that I would join the cooperative on my free will as soon as they would give me assurance that I would receive as much in the cooperative as a ~~servant~~ <sup>servant</sup> ~~had~~ <sup>had</sup> received from the landlord under his contract, *prior to 1945.*

b.) Size and kind of land.

Because there were very few estates of former landlords (so called "Urasági Földek") around my village, only 2 agricultural cooperatives were formed. One consisted of 900 acres and the other of 600 acres of ~~land~~

cultivated land. The reason why these estates were picked was that they were in one patch. To this area was then added the land which belonged to the peasants and farmers <sup>who joined</sup> ~~which were~~ the cooperative. In view of the fact that these latter holdings were widely spread out, they had to be exchanged for areas <sup>adjoining</sup> ~~joining~~ the estates of the landlord, ~~so~~ that the cooperative would have one contiguous piece of land for cultivation. In ~~pur~~suance of the ministerial ~~decrea~~ <sup>decrea</sup> ~~regime~~ people were supposed to receive land of the same size and quality. Actually however, they received a poorer-quality land. It frequently happened that the kulak preferred not to take the piece that was offered in exchange for his expropriated land.

c.) Organisation.

The agricultural cooperatives consisted of a president, a secretary, an accountant and the members.

d.) Norms and conditions of work.

The membership of the agricultural cooperative was organized into groups of 10 to 15 members. They worked under the direction of the brigade-leader who determined the kind of work and the norms. Absent<sup>ee</sup>ism was punished unless you had a medical certificate to justify your absence. Working norms were established in regard to each type of job, and, for instance, in sugar beets one

unit of work or norm equalled the ~~holding~~<sup>holding</sup> of an area of 400 square *fathoms*. You received pay according to the extent of fulfillment of your norm. Thus you would receive for instance 4 kg of wheat, 60 kg of sugar beets and other determined amounts of produce for each fulfilled unit of work or norm. In addition <sup>you</sup> would also get 4 forints for each work unit.

Members of agricultural cooperatives received one acre for their own use. However, they ~~had~~<sup>still</sup> had to comply with the compulsory delivery quotas and also had to pay 120 forints to the tractor stations for its ploughing. I should add that this price had to be paid in advance, and, frequently, it happened that the tractor never showed up for work.

e.) General attitudes of people toward the agricultural cooperatives and the system of compulsory deliveries.

I haven't heard of anyone and haven't talked to anyone who liked the system of agricultural cooperatives or who liked to work there. I recall that one year the crop was so large in the Szolnok area that it should have been enough for 4 years, yet in spite of this we had to turn in the whole produce, received uneatable bread and had fresh meat only 2 or 3 times a year. Under the compulsory quota system there is no incentive to work. At first, the Communist said the land belongs to those

who cultivated it, but it turned out that only the land cultivation belonged to the people but not the disposal of its produce. People hate ~~the~~ compulsory deliveries because they are set so high that it is impossible, to ~~comply with~~ <sup>comply with</sup> them. Of course, the purpose of the Communists ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> to compel everybody ~~was~~ to join the cooperatives, ~~and if people~~ <sup>and if people</sup> cannot fulfill their compulsory delivery obligations, they are forced sooner or later to join the cooperative. *The only way* I could continue to keep my 8 acres of land and could comply with the delivery regulations ~~only~~ <sup>was</sup> by ~~working~~ <sup>going</sup> halves in regard to an additional 6 acres, with someone ~~else~~ <sup>else</sup>. I would like to mention in this connection that if you did this officially then you were also responsible for the compulsory delivery in regard to your half. However, if you made an unofficial deal with the landowner then you would get one half of the whole produce of the land for the labour you put in its cultivation. The compulsory deliveries in such a case would have to be discharged by the landowner from the other half of the produce. Because of this, you naturally made such deals only with owners ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> fertile land. People also didn't like to be told what to produce and how large an area had to be sown for a certain type of produce.

f.) Graft.

At the time when the agricultural cooperatives were introduced there was a lot of graft. Especially in the time when the ~~mf~~ crop was weighed <sup>ed. The</sup> ~~the~~ weigher would not put down the whole amount that was gathered but less than that. The difference was shared by him and the owner of the land. After the Communists had found out about this *practice,* they tracked down on the violaters and sent out trusted Communists.

Ratings.

Respondent seemed to be the shrewd Hungarian peasant type. He was very cooperative though ~~app~~ apparently a little nervous because he was getting ready to ~~minx~~ leave for Canada to join his son an hour after the interview.