



THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTRIC ILLUMINATION IN TÂRGU JIU TOWN

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Abstract: *IN THE YEAR 1905 THE LEADERSHIP OF THE TOWN HALL FROM TÂRGU JIU TOWN CONTRACTED A LOAN OF 300 000 LEI FOR TO BUILD AN POWER STATION AND OTHER TOWN WORKINGS. IN MARCH 1906 THEY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH AN AUSTRIAN FIRM CALLED VEREIGNITE ELEKTRICITATS ACTIENGESELLSCHAFT (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS V.E.A.G.), BUT THE SPENDING FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTRIC ILLUMINATION OUTRAN THE SUM OF 217 246 GOLDEN FRANCS, STIPULATED IN CONTRACT. THIS MATTER AND THE ANALYSE MADE BY THE ENGINEER DELESCU REGARDING THE BAD QUALITY OF THE WORKINGS, CONVINCED THE CITY COUNCIL TO CALL IN JUDGE THE COMPANY V.E.A.G., BUT THE EXPERTS NAMED BY THE LAW-COURT GORJ ESTABLISHED THAT THE WORKINGS WERE GOOD AND IN ACCORD WITH THE CONTRACT. THEREFORE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE TOWN HALL LOST THE TRIAL AND WAS FORCED TO PAY THE DEBT SUMS, DAMAGES AND SPENDING IN TRIAL TO THE AUSTRIAN FIRM. IN THE YEAR 1912 THE COUNSELORS VOTED THE EXTENSION OF THE POWER STATION AND THE REPLACING THE WOOD WITH FUEL OIL AS FUEL. BY THIS THEY TRIED TO REDUCE THE SPENDING WITH THE ILLUMINATION, WHICH OUTRAN THE INCOMES BROUGHT BY THE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO ELECTRIC POWER.*

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Until the begining of the XX-th century the public illumination in Târgu Jiu was provided by 528 street lamps fixed on wooden poles on the streets of the town. In the year 1905 the leadership of the Town Hall published the conditions for mastering the public illumination: the street lamps had to be supplied with the best fuel and they had to be lighted up during the night, except the nights with full moon. The tanks of the lamps, the glass and the lamps themselves had to be cleaned every day before lighting up. Every broken or destroyed lamp had to be replaced in 24 hours. For every unlighted



lamp during the night the master was fined with 1,50 lei and after three fines the Town Hall could break the contract. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 38/1905: 57, 74) In spite of these requirements many citizens denounced the Town Hall that most of the lamps put out during the night or eliminated smoke which blackened the glass and „the poles with lamps became obstacles for the passers-by”. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 38/1905: 117) The un efficiency of the illumination with fuel oil obliged the City Council to take the decision of connecting the town to the most modern discovery of science and symbol of progress: the electricity.

For achieving this project the leadership of the Town Hall from Târgu Jiu contracted a loan of 300 000 from the House of the County Credit which had to cover the spendings regarding the illumination of the town with electricity, the building of a dig on the left bank of the river Jiu and the payment of the sums debited in the financial year 1904/1905. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 20/1896-1906: 73)

On the 9 of August 1905, the mayor Eugeniu Pârăianu-Cuca invited Alexandru Davidescu, chief of the Tehnic Service of the Town Hall from Bucharest, at Târgu Jiu to write the general project of electric illumination of the town. This project was going to have inside a specification, the estimation of the workings, a plan of situation of the electric installations, the plan of the central power station in which one can see the place of the machines, the electric conductors, the illuminating lamps, etc. According to the contract, the project had to be elaborated in a month, and on the 4 of November 1905 the engineer Davidescu received the first rate from the 3000 lei which were given for this working. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 19/1896-1906: 48, 51)

On the 28 of October 1905 in town were displayed 600 copies of the mayor's appeal at the citizens. This appeal pleased the citizens to communicate the sum which they wanted to pay, every year, as subscription for introducing the electric illumination in their houses and shops. Because of the debts of more than 100 000 lei done by the previous administration the loan of 300 000 lei voted by the City Council on the 6 of May 1905, which could be paid in 40 years to the House of the County Credit was not enough for the introducing of the electric illumination and for building the boulevard C.A. Rosetti and other streets of the town. By the subscriptions to the electricity system the citizens contributed to the achievement of this, because the leadership of the Town Hall couldn't provide the fonds for this expensive project. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 19/1896-1906: 52)

According to specification, written on the 12 of November 1905, the streets of the town had to be illuminated by 32 lamps of eight amperes, which to illuminate all the night, by 32 identical lamp, till 1 at night, by 8 temporary lamps in park and 93 incandescent lamps in the rest of the town. The poles of electricity had to be made of metal in the center of the town, and of wood of oak on the other streets. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 19/1896-1906: 69, 75, 80) The building of the power station was going to be built in accord with the dimensions of the machines and of the electric installations and having in view the possibility of an extention. According to the general estimation the whole project for electrification was estimated at 236 000 from which 152 300 lei the power station, 69 444 lei the electric installation and 14 256 lei for unpredicted spendings. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 19/1896-1906: 70, 84)

On the 20 of February 1906 the Town Hall from Târgu Jiu received three offers for the electrification of the town from an Austrian Company V.E.A.G. (217 246 lei), from The Electric Company, a Romanian company on actions (236 800 lei), and from the Romanian Company of Electricity Siemens Schuckert. The representant of the last company didn't have neither procure of



representation nor the guaranty of 5000 lei so that his offer wasn't taken into consideration. Four days later the City Council authorized the mayor to sign the contract with the Austrian Company which presented the most advantageous offer, contract which was approved by the minister of the internal affairs by the order nr. 4294 from the 8 of March 1906. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 44/1906: 86-87)

Consequently, on the 28 of March 1906, the mayor Eugeniu Pârăianu-Cuca signed, at Bucharest, the contract of building an power station in Târgu Jiu town by the V.E.A.G. company from Viena for the sum of 217 246 golden francs. 150 000 lei from this sum was going to be paid by the Town Hall at the reception of the working, and the rest of 67 246 were going to be paid in four yearly rates, till the year 1910 to which it was added 6% on a term. In this sum was not included the custom taxes for the imported material from abroad, which had to be paid by the Town Hall. The Town Hall gave to the building company the right to achieve the connection of the citizen's houses to the electric system of the town for a period of 5 years from the date when the contract was signed. From the finishing of the working and till the final reception the power station was led by a staff named by the building company which decided the salaries too, but these salaries had to be paid by the Town Hall. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 20/1896-1906: 37-41)

The proper building of the power station was build by Toma D. Costescu, the winner of the auction from the 20 of May 1906 in a period of two months for the sum of 30 400 lei according to the contract at the 8 of June 1906. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 26/1896-1910: 18)

Until October 1906 they installed the electric illumination for the most streets inclusively the street from the edge of the town: Morilor street, Ferentari street, Vocea Jiului street, and on the field Obreja to the barracks of the 5 Artillery Regiment. The fact that Unirii street on the other side of the bridge over the Jiu river didn't profit of the new illumination system made the inhabitants from this area protest by a petition addressed to the mayor. They complained that, thought they paid taxes, they didn't profit of guard, and they didn't have lamps as if they lived in a village, not in the capital of the county. They pleased the mayor to introduce the electric illumination in their district. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 21/1896-1906: 97)

On the 3 of January 1907 the City Council adopted „The Regulation for introduction and exploitation of the electric illumination in Târgu Jiu town”. The chosen system by the Town Hall for the illumination the town was the permanent current on three wires of 2x220 volts. The electric lamps were lighted up till 12 at night and after this hour half of them were cut off. The citizens who wished to connect their houses to the electric system had to write a demand at the Town Hall and the estimation for the working will be calculated. A third of the sum had to be paid immediately and the rest had to be paid monthly in equal rates. The current was given day and night with a break of four hours a day (between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.). This break was necessary for checking the sets and the electric wires. The price of the electric power was 0,70 lei on kilowatt-hour for illumination, and 0,35 lei for driving forces which had to be paid monthly according to the quantity indicated by the meter. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 22/1896-1907: 96-98)

In the year 1907 the staff of the power station consisted of an engineer, a fitter of the company, a fitter for the Town Hall, a machinist of the company, an observer of the distributing board, a stoker, a second stoker, a warehouse man and two service men. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 23/1896-1911: 51) From 26 of June to the 9 of August 1907 the power station used 400 m³ of wood in value of 1500 lei. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 28/1907: 94)



The power station, situated in the public garden, had at the ground floor the boilers hall, the machines hall, where there was the distributing board and behind it there was the storage battery and at the first floor there were the rooms where the staff of the plant lived. The distributing network of the electric power consisted of underground wires on the Unirii street starting from the bridge over the Jiu river, on the boulevard I.C. Brătianu towards the station and in the rest of the streets of airy wires installed on the metallic poles or wooden poles. The total length of the underground wires was of 9003 meters, and that of airy wires was of 57 000 meters. At the crossing of the streets Belvedere with Victoria street, at Unirii street with Victoria street, and the boulevard I.C. Brătianu with Unirii street they established three centres of providing from where the current was distributed in the rest of the town. The public illumination was achieved by 76 lamps with spring and 121 incandescent lamps. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 23/1896-1911: 131-133)

In July 1908 they have already electrified the following institutions of the town: Agricultural Credit, The Financial Administration, The Direction of State Monopoly, The Parângu Bank, The Conservatory Club, The Hotel Vasile Roșca, The County Hospital, The Milesu Theater, The Bank of Trade, The Railway Station, The County Tribunal and the Nicu D. Miloșescu Typography. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 25/1908: 139-140) Till January 1910 they were added The Târgu Jiu Bank, The C. Lăzărescu Bank, The Military Club, The Conservatory-Democratic Club, The Cinema Maria N. Paul and The Town Hall. Beside these institutions, on the list of the subscribers to electric power were 132 persons in private. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 35/1910)

On the 5 of September 1908, 41 inhabitants from Cuculești street complained at the mayor that they are exposed to the thieves who under the cover of the dark and because of the lack of guardians operated different bad things. At the same time they pleased the mayor to install the electric illumination on their street too, because most of them wished to connect their houses to the electric network. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 25/1908: 202) On the 10 of November 1908 the turn of the inhabitants from the Unirii street came, on the other side of the bridge over the Jiu river. They pleased the mayor to extend the electric illumination having in view that they bought necessary poles with their own money. Probably this was the reason why, after two days, the mayor approved their demand. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 25/1908: 461)

On the 25 of February 1908 the City Council decided to ask the engineer Delescu to evaluate the mechanic-electric installation made by the V.E.A.G. company for producing and distributing the electric power in the town. After the examination of the installation and after studying the papers existing at the Town Hall archive, the engineer Delescu elaborated a report in which he criticized the Austrian company which was accused of bad workings and expensive prices. (*Chestiunea Iluminatului...*, 1908, p. 3)

On the 12 of September 1906 the City Council asked V.E.A.G. company to extend the electric network for the inhabitants from Clemenței street, Tell street, Transilvania street, to the Railway Station which wasn't part in the main contract. For this supplementary working the Town Hall paid 35 437.65 francs though they have the right to oblige the company to extend the network according to the prices from estimation which is part and parcel in contract. Or by mistake, or by unknowing their rights, the Town Hall paid to the company much more expensive prices than they had to. According to the prices from the main estimation this additional working had to be paid with 20 013 lei only, with 15 424 lei less than they had paid. (*Chestiunea Iluminatului...*, 1908, pp. 8-12)

The building of the power station, which was not built by the Austrian firm, was covered with inferior quality tiles which were laid in a wrong way. Consequently the rain penetrated in the machine



hall in the boilers hall, in the storage battery hall and immediate mending were necessary. For the building of the airy network which consisted at cooper wires of different length they paid to the contractor 27 389.55 lei representing the cost of 7839 kg. of cooper, but after the effected measures in the field and after checking the plans they found a lack of 1014 kg. from the quantity paid. Therefore the Town Hall had the right to charge the contractor 3268.60 lei as the lack of material. (*Chestiunea Iluminatului...*, 1908, p. 21)

The engineer V. Delescu ended his report towards the mayor with the suggestion to established a period of three months to the V.E.A.G. firm for mending the damages and to bring the whole electric installation in accord with the specification. (*Chestiunea Iluminatului...*, 1908, pp. 26-28)

On the 5 May 1908 the City Council gathered together with the member of the reception commission of the electric installations from the town, for to decide if this was effected according to the contract and then they might pass to the final reception. The city councilmen Ștefan M. Dobruneanu and Grigore Iunian suggested that the Town Hall to sue the contractor Toma D. Costescu, the builder of the power station and Petre Pontuzzi, the builder of the boilers and the toilet and V.E.A.G. company, because they deteriorated the building of the power station by laying the chimneys and the poles. The City Council approved the suggestion and Ștefan M. Dobruneanu was empowered to represent the city's interests in court. All the city councilmen, exception deputy mayor, agreed the conclusions from the engineer's report and authorized the mayor to send a subpoena to V.E.A.G. company. (*Chestiunea Iluminatului...*, 1908, pp. 32, 34-35)

On the 11 of October 1908 V.E.A.G. company, by their advocate Titu D. Frumușanu acted on the trial the Town Hall Târgu Jiu for the sum of 350 000 lei representing the payment of the effected workings for electric illumination of the town as well as the troubles resulted from the refuse of admitting the workings after the provisional acceptance. At his turn, the mayor of the town brought an action on the 4 of November 1908 against the company for to be obliged to pay the sum of 350 000 lei for the bad quality of the electric installations and for the lack of material. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 23/1896-1911: 253)

By the journal nr. 13 404/1908 the Gorj Courthouse named a commission of experts formed by: engineer N. Vasilescu Carpen, doctor in science of the faculty from Paris and professor at School of Bridges and Roads, engineer N. Brătescu, service-chief in Administration of Telegraphs and Postings and major A. Razu, electrician engineer, professor of science to Superior School for War, in the trial between the Town Hall and V.E.A.G. firm regarding the illumination of the town with electricity. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 26/1896-1910: 6-8)

After the checking of the three Ringhoffer boilers, the experts arrived to the conclusion that the boilers worked normally and were of good quality. The company brought on other type of boilers than those stipulated in contract with the approval of the Town Hall, which wanted a type of boilers which could emanate much steam for to be used in the building of some common bathrooms. The steam machines and the switchboard were installed in good conditions and they were in a good state of working. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 26/1896-1910: 10-12)

The commission of experts established that the cooper wire from the Săvoiu street to be replaced by the company, and the loses at tension from Tudor Vladimirescu street and Victoria street were justified by the great number of the lamps installed on these streets (636 and 431) in comparison with 200 for every street stipulated in project. By checking in field the commission found that the electric airy network had a total lengths of 68 593 meters and a weight of 7 960 kg. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 26/1896-1910: 12-13)



Hawing in view that the experts report found out that the workings were achieved according to the contract and the Town Hall already paid the Austrian firm 102 024,77 golden francs, they also had to pay 117 554.47 golden francs with an interest of 6% begin with the payment of the last rate till the final payment. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 23/1896-1911: 266-268)

To this rum they had to add unpredicted spending with a value of 12 000 lei. Regarding the supplementary order from September 1906 for the extension of illumination, in value of 35 437.65 lei, the instance reduced this sum to 27 500 lei, because the company had to offer the same prices like in the previous offer. Because the Town Hall had already paid 20 000 lei, they were going to pay 7000 lei, to which it was added an interest of 6%. The furnishing and the supplementary workings, which were evaluated by the commission of experts at 32 193.20 lei, had to be paid by the Town Hall. The Court established the material harms which the company suffered at 10 000 lei and the judging spending at 13 000 lei. By the sentence nr. 265 from 22 of June 1909, The Gorj Tribunal, having in view that the electric installation worked for two years, admitted partly the demand of the Austrian company and obliged the Town Hall to pay 169 247.67 golden lei with an interest of 6% plus judging spending and resulted harms. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 23/1896-1911: 268-271)

In December 1910 the Parliament approved by a special law that the Town Hall Târgu Jiu to contract a loan of 350 000 lei, from which 200 000 lei for the payment for a debt towards V.E.A.G. firm and 150 000 lei to be used for the extension of the power station. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 24/1896-1912: 78)

Against the pronounced sentence by the Gorj Tribunal both the Town Hall and the Austrian company ledged an appeal, being discontented by the quantum of the harms established by the instance. After 8 postpones, on the 13 of January 1911 the Court of Appeal Craiova pronounced the decision nr. 2 which rejected the attorney Titu D. Frumușanu's demand for the increasing from 10 000 to 20 000 lei for the harms given to V.E.A.G. company and the appeal of the Town Hall was rejected because nobody was present to represent their interests and confirmed totally the sentence pronounced by the Gorj Tribunal. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 23/1896-1911: 251-252)

On the 26 of January 1911, the mayor Gheorghe Stolojanu was against this decision invoking the fact that Gorj Tribunal made a mistake in their calculations, introducing the sum of 12 000 lei twice and the material harms given to V.E.A.G. company are unjustified and exaggerated. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 23/1896-1911: 280-281)

Therefore, on the 6 of October 1911, Gheorghe Stolojanu went in front at the Court of Appeal Craiova, together with the advocate Grigore Iunian and Titu D. Frumușanu assisted the company from Viena. Grigore Iunian underlined that in the year 1906 the mayor of that time hurried to organize the auction, in spite of the numerous complains, which asked to postpone it the time being too short. To the public auction from the 20 of February 1906 only two societies were present. One of them was V.E.A.G. firm whose offer was accepted as to be the most advantageous. On the 8 of April 1906 the City Council, hurried too, approved the payment of the sum of 50 000 lei towards company, before the company to put away the guarantee of 20 000 lei at the Financial Administration, through one of the city counselor was the opinion that the formalities were not correctly closed. The report of the engineer V. Delescu said the truth, an evidence in this sense being a letter from the 11 of November 1908 written by the engineer Davidescu, placed in the file, which said that he wrote the report, disappeared from the archives of the Town Hall, being based on the report elaborated by the engineer Delescu. The experts report for different furnishing which were not justified by papers and the sum of 12 000 lei was written by mistake during the meeting. For these reasons the advocate of the Town Hall asked the



admission of the appeal and the payment of 20 000 lei judging spending. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 24/1896-1912: 86-97)

The advocate Titu D. Frumușanu presented the certificate nr. 2949 from the 16 of August 1910, delivered by the Town Hall Târgu Jiu, from which it resulted that the electric installation worked without breaks four years and this was an evidence of the quality of the machines and of the workings carried out by the out by the company. More over, the Town Hall got an income of 45 000 by yearly from supply electric power to the inhabitants. So they got a profit from a working which they didn't want to pay. According to the public accounting law the contracts didn't have to be approved by the Council of Ministers but by the minister of internal affairs and this formality was accomplished. The advocate admitted that the sum of 12 000 lei was written by mistake by the Law Court but the asked the payment of all the other sums established by the expert's report and these sums were not contested at the Law Court by the Town Hall and the payment of the judging spending. Grigore Iunian replied that the auction being organized earlier than the period of two months from publishing, fixed by the law, the contract is null and the supply of electric power brought an income of less than 40 000 lei and the Town Hall paid interests of 62 000 lei to the load of 300 000 lei, which was contracted for the introducing the electric power in the town. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 24/1896-1912: 87)

On the 8 of October 1911 the Court of Appeal Craiova pronounced the civil sentence nr. 14 which admitted partly the appeal sent by the Town Hall Târgu Jiu against the decision nr. 2 from the 13 at January 1911 and they obliged the Town Hall to pay the sum of 157 247.67 golden lei and an interest at 6% after diminishing of the sum of 12 000 lei calculated by mistake by the Gorj Tribunal error which was admited by the Austrian firm too. On other hand the judging spending of 13 000 lei established by the Tribunal were reduced to 60 000 lei and the sum of 10 000 lei for material harms was mentaind. On the 10 of March 1910, the mayor Alexandru Pojogeanu-Sache presented the three project for producing electric power to the city counsellors. The projects were elaborated by the V.E.A.G. company at the demand of the Town Hall: the first variant which used wood as fuel and which cost 134 127 lei, the second variant based an coal cost 138 484 lei and the last variant based on fuel oil was the most expensive of all (145 531 lei). In unanimity the City Council asked the mayor to start the legal actions for the performing of the working, whose cost would be covered from a future load of 690 000 lei, which would be contracted for imediate workings and the payment of the debts. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 46/1910: 45, 70)

The royal decree nr. 3956 from the 24 of December 1910, approved a load of 398 400 lei only, from which 145 000 lei had to be spent for the increasing of the capacity of production of the power station and the extension of the network, 200 000 lei for paying the debt fowards V.E.A.G. firm and 53 400 lei for the payment of the other debts. The Town Hall had to pay the Austrian company 24 000 lei more from their own budget for paying all the debt. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 26/1907: 580, 589). In the budget of the town on the year 1911/1912, the spendings for buying different machines, sets, tools, electric materials, oils grew to 2000 lei for baying the fire wood to 10 000 lei, and for the staff's salaries to 20 700 lei. The staff consisted of plant master, secretary, watching electrician of the switchboard, mechanic, machinist, help machinist, observer of batteries, stoker, help stoker, help fitter class I, help fitter class II, servant of fitting, man for maintaining the lamps from the town and five men of service at the plant and at the private electric services. (*Bugetul General* ..., 1911, pp. 19, 27).

In the budget on 1913/1914, the spending for staff increased to 22 740 lei, those for fuel to 18 000 lei and the other materials necessary for the working of the power station to 7000 lei. The mayor C.I. Klinceanu admitted with disappointment in front of the City Council that the plant didn't bring



any profit, the spending being always bigger than the incomes, because of using wood as fuel. (*Bugetul General* ..., 1913, pp. 3, 17).

On the 31 of May 1912 the meeting of the City Council took place and here they discussed about the extension of the power station, by using a Diesel engine of 200 H.P., which to work based on fuel oil. The mayor Gheorghe Stolojanu admitted that the most advantageous solution for the power station would be using of the water from the river Jiu, but the applying of it could last at least two years, time in which the present installations couldn't supply electric power to the citizens of the town. The city counselors Emanoil Pârăianu and Alexandru Marinescu considered that the changing of the fuel with fuel oil was a temporary solution, but the using of the water, though more expensive at the begining, would be paid off by time due to its low spendings for exploatation. The mayor replied that he was not against the using of the water in future but they had to take imiediate measures, otherwise, from autumn, the town would remain without electric power. The deputy mayor Nicolae Târnăeanu was of the opinion that by using fuel oil as fuel they would spend 90 000 lei every year, sum which is smaller in comparison with the present spendings on wood. In addition the changing of the fuel would cost 131 000 lei, and for using the water would cost 600 000 lei and the Town Hall possessed 145 000 lei only for the extension of the power station. Therefore most of the city counsellors voted for the organization of a actioun for the installation of the Diesel engine based on fuel oil and for the extension of the illuminating network. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 82/1912: 65-69)

Thus, on the 11 of August 1912, the mayor Gheorghe Stolojanu signed with the Oesterreichische Brown-Boweri Werke A.G. firm from Viena, a contract which obliged the firm to install a Diesel engine of 200 H.P. in the power station, to extend the network of supply and distribution of the electric illumination, and to repair the batteries, to transform the present boilers for to use oil and fuel oil as fuel and to repair the underground cable in a period at seven months for the sum of 186 334 lei. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 12/1912: 78-80, 89-91)

On the 4 of September 1913, the Town Hall Târgu Jiu signed two more contracts with the Austrian firm for supplying and installing of the iron poles which were necessary for the public illumination for the total sum of 44 250 lei. (The Gorj County Service of National Archives, fund: *Primăria orașului Târgu Jiu*, file no. 54/1912)

The introducing of the electric illumination in Târgu Jiu town, though represented a necessity and a major progress, was at the same time an expensive affair much more over the yeary budget of the town. The solution was a load of 300 000 lei which had to be paid in 40 years but the sum was insufficient for the building of the power station, the mechanic an electric installations, the payment of the custom taxes fot the imported machines etc. The quality of the performed workings by the Austrian company V.E.A.G. and the refuse of the Town Hall Târgu Jiu to pay the enormous sums asked by the firm led to a conflict in instance, but both the Gorj Tribunal and the Court of Appeal Craiova pronounced in favor of the Austrian company. The frequent modifications of the city administration and the lacks from contract determined the Town Hall Târgu Jiu to pay damages and judging spending, which complicated the financial situation of the town. At the same time the introducing of the electricity in Târgu Jiu represented a story of success; most of the private and state institutions and many inhabitants being connected to the electric network in a very short time.



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