

ABSTRACT

POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS AND PLATFORMS IN SZATMÁR COUNTY DURING THE GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS OF 1905–06

The monograph deals with the development of Szatmár County's party structure in 1905–06 as well as focuses on the preparations, course and results of the parliamentary elections held in 1905 and 1906. The latest methods of political history have been applied in processing the present issue.

On the one hand the present work's novelty is the study of unpublished sources dedicated to broaden the approach and knowledge of turn-of-the-century Szatmár County's relations. Apart from the descriptive political analysis of the said two elections, the intentions of the political elite were kept in view during the research in order to turn the light on the implications between the local and national political scenes and the impact of the nexus between the families on politics. A special emphasis was placed on the political behaviour of the two most influential families of Szatmár, Counts Károlyi de Nagykároly and Counts Vécsey who had influence at national level.

Moreover a great deal of attention was devoted to the press of the given period as the number of the local newspapers and magazines increased significantly in Szatmár County in consequence of the political public sphere broadened following the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867.

Three liberal candidates (Szabadelvű Párt), one defector (who left the Szabadelvű Párt) and five candidates of the Independence Party (Függetlenségi és Negyvennyolcas Párt) were delegated to the lower house of the Parliament from the electoral districts of Szatmár as the result of the elections of 1905 and that fact can be regarded as a curiosity of the history of Hungary in the era of Dualism. The winner candidates were studied through the comparative methods of the prosopographical research, focusing on ancestry, family connections, nexus, age, connections to Szatmár County and the region, career (civic career patterns; the rate of the nobles and civics; bureaucratization; existential autonomy or dependence on the State issue; rate of the government salary and own revenue), and last but not least the commitment to the constituents. The traditional political elite had a strong representation in Szatmár.

Although the protesters of Szatmár County were among the most persistent supporters of the "national resistance" which emerged as the result of the elections held in 1905, but as they lacked the economic background required to keep up

ABSTRACT

their efforts, their financial impact was less significant. They managed to obstruct substantially the administration, but failed to succeed to paralyse it totally.

The monograph examines the behaviours of the members of the Szabadelvű Párt as well as the attitudes of the local male politicians towards vital political issues of the Dualism as the loudly demanded electoral reform and treatment of the nationalities question.