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Source: "Under Three Dictatorships"
by
Lucretin PATRASCANU
(extract from pages 22-23)

The working class furnished a relatively small contingent to the legionary movement, and when we do meet such elements they have, even in bourgeois circles, a special position.

We find, however, two exceptions which both deserve a closer investigation; the part played by the workers of the S. T. B. or street car company and that of the metallurgists of the Malaxa Company. Both formed the shock troops in the events of January, 1941 and carried on great activity in the demonstrations and fights which took place in the streets.

The Malaxa enterprise was, even before 1940, a perfect hot-bed of legionnaires. Under the pretext that the factory was producing armament and therefore working under military secret, the recruiting of its workers was made not only by the professional, but the military criterion. Not a single workman known for having had leftist activity or even having belonged to a syndicate was received in this factory. According to personal orders from Malaxa, only elements from the right were engaged or those without political convictions, but capable of being worked on by the Guard. Guardist nests were not only tolerated but encouraged by the leaders of the factory. This liberty for legionary agitation and propaganda was accompanied by a regime of terror which was a great obstacle for leftists counter agitation and propaganda....Even with the personal supervision of Malaxa during the royal dictatorship, no changes were made in his enterprises in tolerating or encouraging the Guard. So the participation of Malaxa in the rebellion was not a simple coincidence but the logical sequence of an attitude assumed long before.

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