

# *The Communal Elections from 1930: Case studies - Slimnic and Presaca Communes, Sibiu County*

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**Abstract:** The parliamentary elections play a special role in Romanian historiography, but we still need many studies on the local ones. The study aims to focus on how political life occurred in rural areas after the achievement of the administrative unification. Following that newly created context, we intend to capture how the electoral campaign is carried out at the local level. We analyse the changes in the Romanian electoral system, primarily focusing on the local elections in the rural area of Sibiu. From a methodological point of view, we studied the press of the period and archival documentary sources. We have focused on the communal electoral lists, which we analysed with the support of a database. Our approach, based on a quantitative statistic-sociological classification of the candidates, and of the voters from the communal elections in Sibiu County, reveals how involved the peasants were in political affairs. At the same time, this paper elucidates, through archival evidence, how authorities interfered in the mechanisms of the electoral process.

**Keywords:** communal election, electoral system, candidates, political parties, propaganda, electoral results

**Rezumat:** Alegerile parlamentare joacă un rol important în istoriografia românească, dar avem încă nevoie de studii asupra celor locale. Studiul își propune să se concentreze asupra modului în care a apărut viața politică în zona rurală, după ce a fost realizată o unificare administrativă. Urmărind contextul nou creat, studiul are intenția să captureze modul în care campania electorală s-a desfășurat la nivel

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local. Studiul analizează schimbările în sistemul electoral românesc, concentrându-se asupra alegerilor locale din zona rurală din proximitatea Sibiului. Din punct de vedere metodologic, am studiat presa epocii și surse de arhivă. Ne-am concentrat asupra listelor electorale comunale, pe care le-am analizat cu ajutorul unei baze de date. Abordarea, bazată pe o clasificare cantitativă, statistică, sociologică a candidaților și a electoratului participant la alegerile comunale din regiunea Sibiu, relevă nivelul de implicare a țărănimii în activitatea politică. În același timp, studiul elucidează, cu ajutorul documentelor de arhivă, modul în care autoritățile au intervenit în mecanismele procesului electoral.

**Cuvinte cheie:** alegeri comunale, sistem electoral, candidați, partide politice, propagandă, rezultate electorale

### Introduction

In Romanian historiography, the political elite played a central role.<sup>2</sup> Also, the researchers manifested interest in the subject of public administration, being provided examples of Romanian county officials, in Transylvania,<sup>3</sup> the Old Kingdom, and Great Romania.<sup>4</sup> But, unfortunately,

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<sup>2</sup> Many studies have been published on the political elites (local and central) through the research grant 'The Political Elite from Transylvania (1867-1918)', also, an electronic database was created, including the MPs names and political orientation, see Judit Pál, Vlad Popovici, *Elites and Politics in Central and Eastern Europe (1848-1918)*, (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2014); Judit Pál, 'The Survival of the Traditional Elite: The Transylvanian Lord Lieutenant Corps in 1910', *Colloquia. Journal of Central European Studies*, Vol. XIV, (2007) : 78-85; Judit Pál, Vlad Popovici, 'O perspectivă comparativă asupra cercetării elitelor politice din secolele XIX-XX în Ungaria și România' [A comparative perspective over the research on political elites in the 19th and 20th centuries in Hungary and Romania] *Analele Științifice ale Universității "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" din Iași*, Tom LXI, (Iași: Editura Universității "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" din Iași, 2015): 600-604; Judit Pál, 'Elita politică din Transilvania la cumpăna secolelor XIX și XX: comiții supremi' [The political elite from Transylvania between the 19th and the 20th centuries: the supreme committees] in Ioan-Aurel Pop et al (coord.) *Călător prin istorie. Omagiu profesorului Liviu Maior la împlinirea vârstei de 70 de ani* (Cluj-Napoca: Academia Română Centrul de Studii Transilvane, 2010), pp. 495-501; Judit Pál, Vlad Popovici, Andrea Fehér, Ovidiu Emil Iudean (eds.) *Parliamentary Elections in Eastern Hungary and Transylvania (1865-1918)* (Berlin: Peter Lang, 2018) etc.

<sup>3</sup> Vlad Popovici, 'Considerații privind funcționarii publici români din Transilvania. Studiu de caz: comitatul Sibiu și scaunele săsești care l-au format (1861-1918)' [Considerations regarding the Romanian public servants from Transylvania. Case study: Sibiu county and the predating Saxon seats], *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie "George Barițiu" din Cluj-Napoca*, LV (2016): 166-176.

<sup>4</sup> At the same time, the author highlighting the role of the Prefect, see Andrei Florin Sora, *Servir l'État roumain. Le corps préfectoral (1866-1940)* (București: Editura Universității din București, 2011), pp. 37-48; Andrei Florin Sora, 'Les fonctionnaires publics roumains appartenant aux minorités ethniques dans la Grande Roumanie' in Silvia Marton, Anca

studies on civil servants at the local level are still rare,<sup>5</sup> the aspect related to the knowledge of office workers remained unknown many research would be necessary, especially, in the first half of the twentieth century. The bibliography dedicated to the parliamentary elections during the interwar period is varied and well-known,<sup>6</sup> very rarely providing references to the situation from the rural areas, on this subject only a few studies have been written. Sorin Radu outlines the atmosphere in which the first communal

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Oroveanu, Florin Țurcanu (eds) *L'État en France et en Roumanie aux XIXe et XXe siècles* (New Europe College-Institut d'études avancées, 2011), pp. 178-192; Andrei Florin Sora, 'Être fonctionnaire 'minorité' en Roumanie. Idéologie de la Nation et pratiques d'État (1918-1940)' (New Europe College Ștefan Odobleja Program Yearbook 2009-210), pp. 209-220.

<sup>5</sup> Some examples for the study of the body of civil servants are based on a quantitative analysis, which illustrates that the number of Romanian officials has remained relatively small. Valer Moga, 'Introducere în cercetarea activității electorale din Transilvania, în noiembrie-decembrie 1918' [Introduction in the research of the electoral activity in Transylvania, in November-December 1918] *Annales Universitatis Apulensis, Series Historica*, 16/1 (Mega, 2012): 262-264. In addition, Vlad Popovici provided some biographical data on Romanian civil servants, see Vlad Popovici, 'Funcționarii din Administrație și Justiție Delegați la Marea Adunare Națională de la Alba Iulia (1 Decembrie 1918)' *Revista de Istorie a Moldovei*, 4 (2018): 74-85; Vlad Popovici, *Studies on the Romanian Political Elite from Transylvania and Hungary* (Cluj-Napoca: Mega, 2012), pp. 18-23. Timea Longaver, Vlad Popovici, 'Considerații privind corpul funcționarilor administrativi județeni din zonele cu populație săsească în perioada 1919-1925' [Considerations Regarding the County Officials in the Saxon Areas between 1919 and 1925] *Studia Universitatis Cibiniensis, Series Historica*, vol. XV (2018): 164-170. Cornel Micu, 'Mayors and Local Elite in the Interwar Period: Case Study - The Bordei Verde Commune, Brăila County', in Sorin Radu and Oliver Jens Schmitt (eds) *Politics and Peasants in Interwar Romania: Perceptions, Mentalities, Propaganda* (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2017), pp. 113-120.

<sup>6</sup> See Florin Müller, *Elite parlamentare și dinamica electorală în România* [Parliament Elites and Electoral Dynamics in Romania (1919-1937)] (București: Universitatea din București, 2009), pp. 13-15; Cristian Preda, *Românii Fericiți. vot și Putere de la 1831 până în prezent* [Happy Romanians. Vote and Power from 1831 until Present Days] (Iași: Polirom, 2011), pp. 135-159; Sorin Radu, *Electoratul din România în anii democrației parlamentare (1919-1937)* [Electorate in Romania during Parliamentary Democracy (1919-1937)] (Iași: Institutul European, 2004), pp. 30-36; Sorin Radu, 'Administrația și procesul electoral din România în anii democrației parlamentare 1919-1937' [The administration and the electoral process in Interwar Romanian (1919-1937)] *Annales Universitatis Apulensis, Series Historica*, 8 (2004): 391-397; Marin Pop, *Viața politică în România interbelică (1919-1938). Activitatea Partidului Național și Național-Tărănesc din Ardeal și Banat* [Political Life in Interwar Romania (1919-1938). The Activity of the National Party and of The National Peasants' Party in Transylvania and Banat] (Cluj-Napoca, Zalău: Mega, Porolissum, 2014), p. 469; Vasile Dudaș, 'Alegerile parlamentare din anul 1919 în județul Caraș-Severin' [Parliamentary Elections in Caraș-Severin County, 1919] *Analele Banatului. Arheologie și Istorie*, XIX (2011): 467-470; Sorin Arhire, 'Alegerile parlamentare din anul 1932 în județul Alba' [The Parliamentary Elections from 1932, Alba County] *Annales Universitatis Apulensis. Series Historica*, 6 (Alba-Iulia, 2002): 214-217; Ramona Miron, 'Alegerile parlamentare din anul 1920 în județul Putna' [The Parliamentary Elections from 1920 in the Putna County] *Muzeul Vrancei Cronica Vrancei* (Focșani, 2013): 88-89; Petru Obodariu, 'Alegerile din 1937 în județul Putna' [Elections from 1920 in the Putna County] *Cronica Vrancei II* (Focșani: DMPress, 2001): 241-249, etc.

elections took place in February 1926, highlighting electoral propaganda and political alliances.<sup>7</sup> Marin Pop dedicated studies to local elections, but the author descriptively presented the electoral aspects, being interested more in the role of the National Party and Peasant Party.<sup>8</sup>

The issues we analyse in this study<sup>9</sup> start from the following research questions: How was the electoral campaign carried out at the local level? Which factors influenced political life on the village level? How did they react to the messages of political authority? Which political parties received the vote of the peasants? How many candidates were standing for election? What was the profile of a local candidate? The hypothesis is related to the perception of the rural world described as a passive group unable to understand political changes. Stelu Șerban has argued that “politics is a family business,”<sup>10</sup> and in our approach, we will try to find out if this issue is confirmed or not. The approach used in this research consisted of case studies in two communes in Sibiu County. The term “commune” found in archival documents refers to areas formed by a single village according to the published legislative texts (art. 39).<sup>11</sup> We have chosen the villages of Slimnic and Presaca because they are representative examples of ethnic and religious diversity.

The study is based on unpublished archival sources, documents that have been preserved containing a series of minutes, and ballots papers used in the electoral elections.<sup>12</sup> Such analysis of documentary

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<sup>7</sup> Sorin Radu, ‘Alegerile comunale și județene din februarie 1926’ [The Communal and County Election in February 1926] *Apulum*, XXXVIII/2 (2001): 207-224.

<sup>8</sup> ‘Alegerile comunale și județene din anul 1930 în județul Sălaj și o radiografie a orașului Zalău în anii 30’ [Communal and County Election from 1926 in Sălaj County and an radiography of Zalău in the 1930s] C. Silvane (2010) <http://www.caietesilvane.ro/cautare>, accesat în 03.05.2019, ora 11:17; Marin Pop, ‘Alegerile pentru Camera Agricolă a județului Sălaj și înființarea Consiliului Județean (1925-1926)’ [Elections for the Agricultural Chamber of Sălaj County and the establishment of the County Council (1925- 1926)] C. Silvane (2009) <http://www.caietesilvane.ro/cautare>, accesat în 07.05.2019, ora 20:15.

<sup>9</sup> We mention that similar aspects on communal elections could be found in the following study case: Ana-Maria Ungureanu-Ilinca, ‘Alegeri comunale din anul 1930. Studiu de caz: comuna Ocna Sibiului, Județul Sibiu’ [The Communal Elections from 1930. Case study – Ocna Sibiului Commune, Sibiu County] *Studia Universitatis Cibiniensis, Series Historica*, vol. XVII (2020): 211-235.

<sup>10</sup> Stelu Șerban, ‘Communal Political Cultures in Interwar Romania’, in Sorin Radu and Oliver Jens Schmit (eds) *Politics and Peasants in Interwar Romania: Perceptions, Mentalities, Propaganda* (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2017), p. 61.

<sup>11</sup> ‘Lege pentru organizarea administrațiunii locale’ [Law for the Organisation of Local Administration] *Monitorul Oficial*, No. 170, 3 August 1929, p. 6191.

<sup>12</sup> Serviciul Județean Sibiu al Arhivelor Naționale, Fondul Tribunalul Județului Sibiu. Dosar alegeri [National Archives Service of Sibiu County, Fund of the Sibiu County Court, Election File], (hereafter called SJANS, FTS, DA).

sources allows us to look at the electoral process from another perspective, highlighting some specific elements of electoral mechanisms. We have also researched articles on rural aspects published in official newspapers like *Monitorul Județului Sibiu*, *Cuvântul Liber*, *Foaia Poporului*, *Cuvântul Poporului*. We describe and analyse the administrative information, the candidates, laws, orders, and ordinances signed by the Prefect, focusing more on the local election, in the rural area of Sibiu, in the 1930s.

### Electoral rules

Firstly, to be able to observe how the electoral rules were applied, we will make a detailed presentation of the electoral legislation. During the interwar period, the Romanian electoral system has undergone several changes regulated through administrative laws published in 1918,<sup>13</sup> 1919,<sup>14</sup> 1925.<sup>15</sup> The last one produced a stabilization of the voting system based on unique legislation according to the same criteria at the level of the whole country.<sup>16</sup> In the summer of 1929, a new administrative law was adopted, according to the new law, the village is managed by a Communal Council and a Mayor. In the case of mayors, from communes consisting of a single village, the mayor is elected directly by the electorate, and Communal Council no longer includes unelected members. Generally, preparation for the election fell under the remit of

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<sup>13</sup> The next study detailed how the officials delegated to participate in the Great National Assembly in Alba Iulia were elected by universal suffrage at the local level, see Valer Moga, 'Introducere în cercetarea activității electorale din Transilvania, în noiembrie-decembrie 1918' [Introduction in the research of the electoral activity in Transylvania, in November-December 1918] *Annales Universitatis Apulensis, Series Historica*, 16/1 (2012): 253-260.

<sup>14</sup> By decree was decided that all councils should have been dissolved and until the organization of new elections, based on universal suffrage, the officials would be appointed by the Prefect. Also, an important criterion was knowledge of the official language. 'Decret nr. II despre funcționarea în mod provizoriu a serviciilor publice administrative [Decree no. II on the temporary Assembly of Deputies operation of public administrative services] *Gazeta Oficială*, Sibiu, no. 6, 19 January/1 February 1919, p. 26. Finally, was decreed the organization of elections for communal representatives and town hall according to the norms of law XXII from 1886 and based on the lists of voters for the Assembly of Deputies. Therefore, all representatives will be elected for six years, but half of them being replaced after three years. 'Decret nr. XXII despre alegerea reprezentanțelor comunale și a primăriilor' [Decree no. XXII on the election of communal representations and town halls] *Gazeta Oficială*, Cluj, no. 65, 12 November 1919, p. 1; 'Rectificare' [Rectification] *Gazeta Oficială*, Cluj, no. 67, 19 November 1919, p. 1.

<sup>15</sup> 'Lege pentru unificarea administrative' [Law for Administrative Unification] *Monitorul Oficial*, 14 June 1925, pp. 6850-6893.

<sup>16</sup> For the analysis of the legislative stipulations see Radu, 'Alegerile comunale și județene din februarie 1926' [The Communal and County Election in February 1926], pp. 208-209; Preda, *Românii Fericiți*, p. 142; Ungureanu-Ilinca, 'Alegeri comunale din anul 1930', p. 214.

the local administrative apparatus. Convocation of the electorate was made by the Prefect, it will need at least 30 days before the deadline set for elections in the official gazette of the county.<sup>17</sup> An important role was played by magistrates, who were in charge of distributing the voter cards to all citizens. The voter cards were drawn up by the court based on the final electoral lists. Finally, to increase the number of voters was decided that the distribution of voter cards should be done through the town hall by the local administration.<sup>18</sup> Therefore, magistrates had a decisive role in counting, annulling the ballots, as well, in checking the registers or resolving the appeals.

Members of the councils were elected by the Romanian citizens, by universal, equal, direct, secret, obligatory vote, and with the representation of minorities.<sup>19</sup> Another condition, valid for the voting right and electability, depends on the criterion of local residency, requiring at least one year. The electorate voted on the list in a single round of elections using the stamp with the mention "voted".<sup>20</sup> That was a majoritarian system, meaning that if none of the candidates accumulated an absolute majority of the votes (50%+1), a ballotage ("balotaj")<sup>21</sup> was held the following week. Romanian citizens over the age of twenty-one took part in universal suffrage. For the first time, women received the right to vote, but only in the communal elections, and conditioned by - art. 335 - one of the following provisions: to graduate secondary school, to be officials, widows of war, to have been decorated for activity during the war or to have been part of the management of association with social demands, cultural propaganda, or social assistance.<sup>22</sup> However, citizens who did not turn up to vote were liable to be penalized with the amount of 500 lei.<sup>23</sup>

The Mayor was elected for five years by the voters, for one to become Mayor they had to be an "honest man".<sup>24</sup> At the same time, the cashier was selected by universal suffrage, but he had to graduate at least

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<sup>17</sup> 'Lege pentru organizarea administrațiunii locale' [Law for the Organisation of Local Administration] *Monitorul Oficial*, No. 170, 3 August 1929, pp. 6186-6272.

<sup>18</sup> SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 162/1931, f. 277.

<sup>19</sup> Radu, *Electoratul*, p. 37.

<sup>20</sup> 'Alegerile comunale și județene' [The Communal and County Election] *Cuvântul Liber*, II/3, 19 January 1930, pp. 1-2.

<sup>21</sup> In order for the ballot to be held at least two candidates must register. *Cuvântul Liber*, I/3, 15 September 1929, p. 4.

<sup>22</sup> Al. Gh. Savu, *Sistemul partidelor politice din România 1919-1940* [The Political System of parties in Romania 1919-1940] (București: Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, 1976), p. 157.

<sup>23</sup> Preda, *Românii Fericiți*, p. 159.

<sup>24</sup> Candidates had to be at least 25 years old. 'Legea comunală cea nouă' [The new communal law] *Cuvântul Liber*, I/10, 3 November 1929, p. 1.

three or four secondary classes. If such a candidate did not exist in the village, in this situation, a person who has finished primary school could be accepted.<sup>25</sup> Voting took place on the same day on separate ballots, one for each: council, mayor, cashier, - with different colours - the ballots for the mayors' elections were orange and purple for the cashier.<sup>26</sup>

### Electoral register

First of all, to be able to exercise the right to vote, the citizens had to be registered in the communal electoral registers. In this case, a database was created that contained information from the communal tables. The files provide us data about citizens of the interwar period, information regarding the place, year of birth, profession, or death. The electoral lists were made (by the authorities) using those from the previous elections, but it was necessary to take into account deleting people who have died in the meantime and to add those who have reached the age required to vote. Our approach, based on a quantitative statistic-sociological classification from the communal elections in Sibiu County, revealed how involved the peasants in political affairs were. Documents issued by the communal administration were sent to the Prefect, they were stamped, dated, and signed by the mayor, notary, or magistrates. One copy of the electoral register was published at the door of the town halls, people were notified by beating the drum in the commune.<sup>27</sup> Also, the press was constantly appealing to the citizens to register in the electoral lists or to check if they had been registered.<sup>28</sup>

Although through various addresses, ordinances, the officials were notified on how to note all citizens, in a more detailed analysis, the table shows that administrative officials drew up the electoral registers as they considered, rules being respected only in a small part. An electoral register should have contained references to the names of all citizens, with specific observations on age, occupation, address.<sup>29</sup> Unfortunately, the data collected gives little information about the women who appeared on the lists. Sometimes, the president of the polling section marked the presence and absence from polls directly on the electoral registers using the colour red or blue. Occasionally, it was made a nominal list but specified only the name and number of the voter (Fig. 1-2).<sup>30</sup> The mayor,

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<sup>25</sup> 'Alegerile comunale și județene' [The Communal and County Election] *Cuvântul Liber*, II/3, 19 January 1930, p. 1.

<sup>26</sup> SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 114/1931.

<sup>27</sup> *Cuvântul Liber*, II/3, 19 January 1930, p. 2.

<sup>28</sup> *Cuvântul Liber*, I/3, 15 September 1929, p. 5.

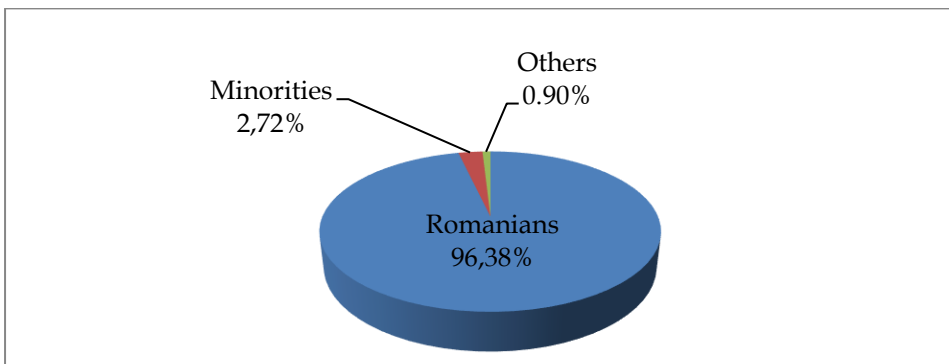
<sup>29</sup> SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 40/1925, f. 4; SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 76/1930.

<sup>30</sup> SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 79/1930.

notary, secretary, or other officials had an essential role in preparing the electoral register, citizens depending on how they performed their duties. However, people who have been omitted from the lists had only ten days to claim their right to vote in Court.<sup>31</sup>

In the following, we have been trying to answer the next questions: Who were the citizens from Slimnic and Presaca villages? What ethnicity, age, and occupation did they have? We mention that the information processed from the electoral register refers only to the active segment of the citizens - who participate in elections - were not included people who have died or didn't go to the polls.<sup>32</sup> Usually, in the village, inhabitants were known by the paternal father names and grandfather, respectively. Sometimes to limit the identification to several identical names, we use the house number. We have checked the accuracy of the information in the electoral register whit civil status and nationality registers.<sup>33</sup>

From an ethnical standpoint, inhabitants were grouped into three categories, the first group - Romanian ethnics, the second group included minorities, and the third category called "others" was made up of unidentified people. The population was distributed as in the following charts (Chart 1-2). Even if these three categories are purely conventional, they help with the analysis of the differences between these two villages. In Presaca, Romanians constituted the majority of voters (96,38%), minorities (2,72%), and others (0,90%). On the other hand, minorities recorded a higher percentage than Romanians in the elections of Slimnic (minorities - 54,66%, Romanians - 43,88%, others - 1,46%)<sup>34</sup>.



**Chart no. 1.** Ethnicity of citizens in Presaca.

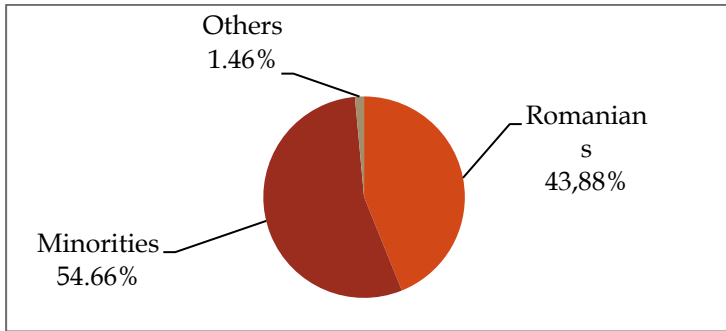
<sup>31</sup> SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 161/1931, f. 171.

<sup>32</sup> We mention that the data refer exclusively to the elections of 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> February 1930.

<sup>33</sup> Colecția Registre de Stare civilă [Collection Register Civil Status] Slimnic, No. 134.

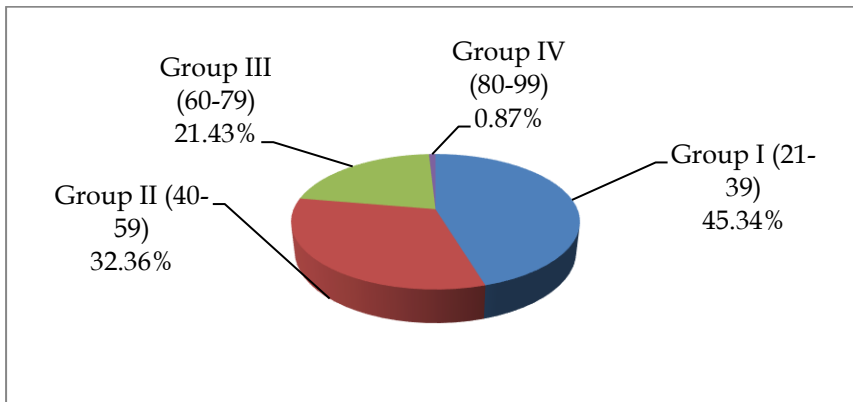
<sup>34</sup> SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 40/1925, f. 4; SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 76/1930.





**Chart no. 2.** Ethnicity of citizens in Slimnic.

As well, the age of the voters was divided into several series, with groups covering about twenty years. Except for the first group (between twenty-one and thirty-nine year-olds) in which we chose to start at the age of twenty-one for political reasons.<sup>35</sup> The second group started with voters forty to fifty-nine years old, group three includes people between sixty to seventy-nine, and group four over eighty years old.<sup>36</sup> Several examples taken from the research material show that they were a higher representation for the first two age categories in both villages. The evolution of ages can be observed in the below charts (Chart 3-4).<sup>37</sup>

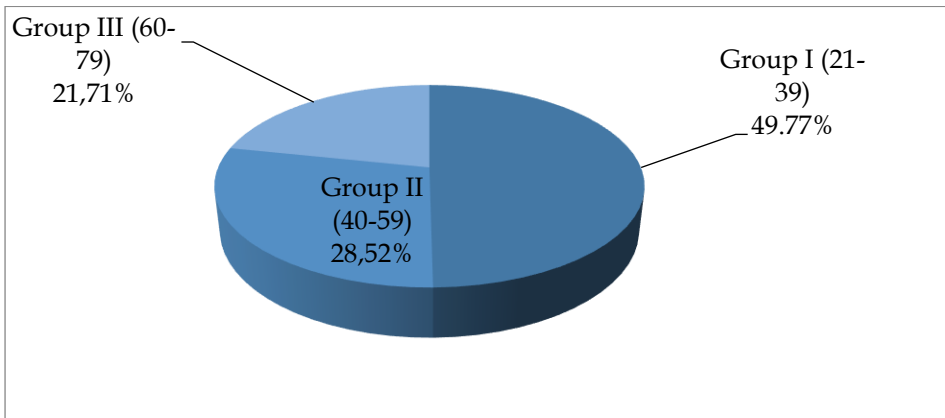


**Chart no. 3.** The age of the voters in Slimnic.

<sup>35</sup> According to the law, the voting age was set to 21 years. *Cuvântul Liber*, II/3, 19 January 1930, p. 1.

<sup>36</sup> Slimnic: group I (45,34%), group II (32,36%), group III (21,43%), group IV (0,87%). Presaca: group I (49,77%), group II (28,52%), group III (21,71%), group IV (0,00%).

<sup>37</sup> One can easily note that only six persons went to the polls over 80 years old (in Slimnic), and none in Presaca.



**Chart no 4.** The age of the voters in Presaca.

In Slimnic, the analysis of the professional structure of the voters reveals that from a total of 686 people, most of them were ploughmen (89,50%), laborers (3,06%), trades (2,40%), etc.<sup>38</sup> In Presaca, from a total of 221 people, the large majority of the voters were farmers (94,12%), but we also encountered notables of the village: teachers (0,90%), priests (0,45%), and many others.<sup>39</sup> However, the declared profession is most likely subjective, the voters aiming for another occupation when they are obliged to declare it in the electoral registers. We do not know if the professions listed are real. Sometimes, the press and other documents were mentioned the same person with another occupation, for example, "economist"<sup>40</sup> instead of farmer or ploughmen. The collected data suggest not only men (211) participated in the elections. Also, ten women can be identified in the lists of the voters in Presaca commune. A quantitative analysis of the voters in Slimnic shows us that of 686 voters, only 32 of these were female and 654 male.<sup>41</sup> So, the typical characteristics of the voter were represented by the male sex, age between 21-39 years, belong to the national minorities in Slimnic, on the other hand, in Presaca were Romanian ethnics. In both communes, voters have agricultural occupations, whether they have been categorized as ploughmen or farmers.

<sup>38</sup> Shoemaker (1,46%), teacher (0,73%), innkeeper (0,29%), carpenter (0,58%), blacksmith (0,15%), office worker (0,29%), notary (0,15%), priest (0,44%), builder (0,29%), unknown (0,58%).

<sup>39</sup> Trader (1,36%), miller (0,45%), notary (0,45%), shoemaker (0,45%), student (0,45%), laborer (0,90%), unknown (0,45%).

<sup>40</sup> SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 43/1925.

<sup>41</sup> SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 76/1930; 79/1930.

## Candidates

A list of candidates should have been submitted at least eight days before the vote. The proposal had to be given in writing and signed by ten citizens with the right to vote.<sup>42</sup> Candidates could be nominated by parties or by local citizens, depending on the influence exercised in the party at the local level. All candidates were enlisted, but only people at least twenty-five years old could stand as candidates in elections. Also, the law provided that people over 60 years would be replaced.<sup>43</sup> Another requirement for all candidates was for them to be able to read and write. Specifically, the law provided that third-degree relatives could not be members of the council at the same time. In spite of the fact that it was forbidden by law, we notice that the junior (Thal Thomas) and senior (Thal Martin) were validated in the council of Slimnic. In Presaca, although they were relatives, the members of the Berea, Bulea families were validated in the council. Also, candidates were not allowed to be officials, innkeepers, or to be entrepreneurs with communal contracts, because they were incompatible with the position.<sup>44</sup>

Mandates were assigned to the candidates on each list, in the order in which they were declared - by the proposers - on the lists. The rest of the candidates from the winning lists became substitutes. If the first councillors were suspended, the substitutes would replace them.<sup>45</sup> It should also be mentioned, the electoral lists that we were able to identify do not contain data about the political affiliation of candidates. For example, the list of the communal council, from Slimnic on February 11<sup>th</sup> 1930, included two groups of candidates, under the headings "the first list" and "the second list"<sup>46</sup> but nothing about the political parties they represented. However, the only information that appears on the ballot was provided with an electoral sign, from where we can see the political affiliation of local elites. For example, the symbol is described as "a circle/ wheel"<sup>47</sup> for the National Peasant Party, and "vertical line"<sup>48</sup> represents the specific sign of the National Liberal Party.

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<sup>42</sup> *Cuvântul Liber*, II/3, 19 January 1930, p. 1.

<sup>43</sup> *Cuvântul Liber*, I/10, 3 November 1929, p. 2.

<sup>44</sup> For example, in 1929, the Prefect dissolved the Communal Council of the Slimnic village for the following reasons: cases of incompatibility and embezzlement of the budget. *Cuvântul Liber*, I/7, 13 October 1929.

<sup>45</sup> SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 45/1926, f. 1.

<sup>46</sup> SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 79/1930.

<sup>47</sup> Sorin Radu, 'Semnele electorale ale partidelor politice în perioada interbelică 1919-1937' [The Symbols of the Political Parties in the Interwar Period] *Apulum* XXXIX (2002): 575.

<sup>48</sup> *Foaia Poporului*, XXXIII/33, 16 August 1925, p. 2. Pop, 'Alegerile pentru Camera Agricolă...' [Elections for the Agricultural Chamber...].

According to the electoral lists, in Slimnic, about 67 candidates participated in the elections throughout the 1930s. If we take into consideration the ethnic diversity, we could say that Romanians constitute a percentage of 70.15%, minorities - 29.85%. Socio-professionally, most candidates have specified that they were ploughmen (78,46%), carpenter, office worker, priest (each category with 1,54 percent), shoemaker, trader (3,08%), teacher (4,62%), unknown (6,15%). Classification according to ages, into four categories, as follows: group I (25-39 years) 31,34%, group II (40-59 years) 53,73%, group III (60-79 years) 8,96%, group IV (unknown) 5,97%, illustrates that six people applied in Slimnic elections, even though they were over the age of 60 years, regulated by electoral law.<sup>49</sup> We also remark an incompatible candidate, for example, the office worker Poplăcean Ioan 594 (see Table I-II). In Presaca, a quantitative analysis of the candidates reveals that everybody is Romanian. Except for one candidate, most have specified that they were farmers. Depending on age, the percentage remained relatively similar for the first group (26,32%), the second category was higher (68,42%)<sup>50</sup>, while about 5.26% of people were of unknown ages (see Table III-IV). Concluding, we can say that the typology of the candidate corresponds to a Romanian male, between 40-59 years old, with agricultural occupations. Even if in Slimnic, the minorities represented the majority population, however only a small proportion (29.85% of the total number of candidates) belong to the minorities. While minorities had no candidates in Presaca, they represented a small percentage among the inhabitants with the right to vote (2,72%).

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<sup>49</sup> *Monitorul Județului Sibiu*, XI/4, 1 March 1929, pp. 44-45. *Monitorul Județului Sibiu*, XI/12, 15 June 1929, p. 133.

<sup>50</sup> It is easy to observe, that most of the candidates were between 40-59 years, at the local level members with experience and prestige were preferred.

## Propaganda

The Prefect was blamed and constantly charged with doing propaganda for the National Peasants' Party. From the moment of the appointment of an Interim Commission, the citizens started to protest in Slimnic. Even the Saxons, who supported him in the election, disapproved of his actions.<sup>51</sup> The Interim Commission committed several illegalities, including embezzlement of funds, the payment of two notaries, "unavailing"<sup>52</sup> the elections made with enormous expenses, electoral bills reached the amount of 16.436 lei,<sup>53</sup> provided by the commune fund. Furthermore, the Prefect was accused of relying too much on the support of the Greek Catholic priest Păculea - a member of the National Peasant Party - who was considered wanting revenge on the Orthodox through politics, according to the teacher Ioan Tatu<sup>54</sup> (a member of the National Liberal Party).

First, candidates needed in the electoral campaign professional agents, which would try to mobilize voters in the candidates' favour. For example, at the political assembly of the Liberals, besides the party leaders,<sup>55</sup> the priest P. Alesie and the teacher I. Tatu also spoke, encouraging the citizens of Slimnic to vote for the liberals.<sup>56</sup> Nicolae Bratu, from the National Peasant Party, visited the commune of Slimnic, greeted by villagers with fanfare led by teacher N. Nicoară. He gives a speech to the peasants about the causes of the economic crisis and offers some advice, but during the speaking was interrupted repeatedly by liberal supporters I. Tatu, Vicențiu Fântână, and other councillors.<sup>57</sup>

On the one hand, the liberal press was focused on electoral violence made by young people from the National Peasant Party, so-called "hefty" ("voinici").<sup>58</sup> Violence, from verbal to physical

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<sup>51</sup> The worst people have been appointed, but communal elections will show their prestige. *Cuvântul Liber*, I/11, 10 November 1929, p. 2.

<sup>52</sup> The political information presented in the local press mentions four elections in the commune of Slimnic, in spite must be said that in the archives, we find documents only for three elections. *Cuvântul Liber*, II/29, 20 June 1930, p. 3.

<sup>53</sup> For example, a teacher earns 90 lei per day, he can buy a liter of milk, a kilogram of meat, potatoes, onions, and bread. *Cuvântul Liber*, I/17-18, 22 December 1929, p. 7. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 79/1930.

<sup>54</sup> Both made propaganda to support his party. 'Scrisoare deschisă dlui Prefect Coriolan Ștefan' [Open letter to Prefect Coriolan Ștefan] *Cuvântul Liber*, I/7, 13 October 1929, p. 3.

<sup>55</sup> Vicențiu Fântână was the president of the liberal organization from Slimnic commune. *Cuvântul Liber*, I/14, 1 December 1929, p. 3.

<sup>56</sup> *Cuvântul Liber*, I/10, 3 November 1929, p. 4.

<sup>57</sup> 'Parlamentarii jud. Sibiu la sate' [MPs in the villages Sibiu County] *Foiaia Poporului*, XXXVIII/41, 12 October 1930, p. 2.

<sup>58</sup> Marin Pop, 'Aspecte privind activitatea Tineretului Național-Țărănesc din Ardeal și Banat. Organizațiile de Chemări și Voinici' (1929)", *Studii și Comunicări XXXI/II* (2015): 100.

aggressiveness was a common thing several citizens were ill-treated, including Nanu from Slimnic.<sup>59</sup> Moreover, gendarmes arrested innocent people from Slimnic, Cornăţel, Glâmbocă.<sup>60</sup> The Prefect focused on sabotaging the opposing party. For instance, he planned, just before the elections, investigations against some Liberal representatives - I. Tatu, Luca Nan, and L. Boabeş - from Slimnic.<sup>61</sup> On the other hand, during the election, the peasant press described this aspect differently. According to the Prefect report "no arrests were made, the propaganda was completely free for all,"<sup>62</sup> it is said that the elections in Sibiu County took place in the most perfect order, allowed all parties to campaign. Protesting against the electoral law, the People's Party<sup>63</sup> advised citizens to cancel their vote and not submit lists of candidacies.

Through promises and threats, citizens were manipulated by the Prefect. He argued that citizens who do not vote for the National Peasants' Party will no longer receive any support from the Prefectures.<sup>64</sup> As well, various amounts of money were given for public interest purposes.<sup>65</sup> Administrative officials were involved in the election campaign, notaries were called to the Prefecture and receive the order to do anything to win the election. Also, they were asked to report the liberal meetings,<sup>66</sup> and all untrustworthy notaries were replaced. For example, the notary from Slimnic - Aurel Căpăţână has been moved.<sup>67</sup> The priest Păculea would have contributed to the removal of the notary, but citizens - of all nationalities - protested.<sup>68</sup> Also, the notary Căpăţână submitted a factum to the authorities explaining the situation and demanding justice.<sup>69</sup> Unfortunately, the sources do not mention much information about the propaganda made in Presaca. During the election campaign, the entire village was divided into many groups, which were

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Described in the press as strikers. *Cuvântul Poporului*, XII/3, 18 January 1930, p. 2. *Cuvântul Liber*, II/4, 26 January 1930, p. 3.

<sup>59</sup> *Cuvântul Liber*, II/6, 9 February 1930, p. 3.

<sup>60</sup> *Cuvântul Liber*, II/9, 2 March 1930, p. 3.

<sup>61</sup> *Cuvântul Liber*, II/7, 16 February 1930, p. 2.

<sup>62</sup> *Foaia Poporului*, XXXVIII/7, 16 February 1930, p. 1.

<sup>63</sup> *Cuvântul Poporului*, XII/3, 18 January 1930, p. 1.

<sup>64</sup> 'Ilegalităţile Naţional Ţărănişte în judeţul Sibiu' [National Peasant Illegals in Sibiu County] *Cuvântul Liber*, II/15, 13 April 1930, p. 2.

<sup>65</sup> *Cuvântul Liber*, II/6, 9 February 1930, p. 2.

<sup>66</sup> 'Cori, trilimanii şi notarii comunali' [Cori, "trilimani" and communal notaries] *Cuvântul Liber*, II/5, 2 February 1930, p. 3.

<sup>67</sup> *Cuvântul Liber*, II/15, 13 April 1930, p. 4; *Cuvântul Liber*, II/22, 1 June 1930, p. 3.

<sup>68</sup> 'Ilegalităţile unui Prefect' [The Prefect illegals] *Cuvântul Poporului*, XII/14, 5 April 1930, p. 2.

<sup>69</sup> *Cuvântul Poporului*, XII/19, 10 May 1930, p. 4.

sympathizers of liberals, but the majority supported the National Peasants' Party.<sup>70</sup> Therefore, the Prefect was personally involved in the election campaign, actively contributing to the electoral propaganda in favour of the National Peasant Party, using his authority to manipulate the citizens with the help of gendarmes and other officials.<sup>71</sup>

### **Election results**

Minutes of the election can be found in the archives, which certifies the composition of the electoral commission, the results, and possible appeals during the electoral process. The number of councillors is variable from one village to another (between eight to sixteen) depending on the demographic size of the village.<sup>72</sup> Presaca was a smaller village (1000 inhabitants) we have eight counsellors, while in Slimnic (4000 inhabitants) fourteen counsellors. In Presaca, elections were established on 10<sup>th</sup> February and in Slimnic the next day.<sup>73</sup> The final result of the election was decided by a relative majority.<sup>74</sup> To obtain seats in the council, a list had to receive at least 20% of the total number of votes. No mandate shall be assigned if any lists did not accumulate at least one-fifth of the votes. The seats were distributed proportionately among all lists, depending on the score obtained. In order to illustrate the results, we used the following tables (Table 1-2).

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<sup>70</sup> SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 76/1930.

<sup>71</sup> For more examples on local election propaganda see Ungureanu-Ilinca, 'Alegeri comunale din anul 1930', pp. 221-224.

<sup>72</sup> 'Lege pentru organizarea administrațiunii locale' [Law for the Organisation of Local Administration] *Monitorul Oficial*, No. 170, 3 August 1929, p. 6191.

<sup>73</sup> The election did not all take place on the same day.

<sup>74</sup> The term refers to the highest number of votes. *Monitorul Județului Sibiu*, XI/1, 10 January 1930, pp. 2-3.

| Council                  |            | ○          |          |       |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|----------|-------|
|                          | List no. 1 | List no. 2 | Canceled | Total |
| No.                      | 415        | 239        | 32       | 686   |
| Percentage <sup>75</sup> | 60,50%     | 34,84%     | 4,66%    |       |
| Percent <sup>76</sup>    | 63,46%     | 36,54%     | -        |       |
| Seat                     | 9          | 5          |          |       |

**Table no. 1.** Council – Slimnic, 11 Feb. 1930. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 79/1930.

| Council    | ○          |            |          |       |
|------------|------------|------------|----------|-------|
|            | List no. 1 | List no. 2 | Canceled | Total |
| No.        | 112        | 108        | 1        | 221   |
| Percentage | 50,67%     | 48,86%     | 0,47%    |       |
| Percent    | 51%        | 49%        | -        |       |
| Seat       | 4          | 4          |          |       |

**Table no. 2.** Council – Presaca, 10 Feb. 1930. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 76/1930.

Therefore, the number of mandates was divided equally in the commune of Presaca. In Slimnic, the liberal list won first place with nine seats, and the National Peasant Party obtained only five seats in the council.<sup>77</sup> While to win the position of mayor/cashier, candidates had to register an absolute majority of votes (fifty percent plus one).<sup>78</sup> If no one receives the majority of votes in the next week, a ballottage will be arranged, as in the Slimnic elections (Table 3,5). Three lists were submitted, but none managed to win the position of mayor or cashier. Simion David won the mayoral elections of Presaca, with only two votes, and the position of cashier was held by Bulea Gligor (Table 4,6).

| Mayor      | List no. 1 | List no. 2 | List no. 3 | Canceled  | Total |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------|
| No.        | 186        | 278        | 178        | <b>44</b> | 686   |
| Percentage | 27,11%     | 40,52%     | 25,95%     |           |       |
| Percent    | 27%        | 41%        | 26%        |           |       |
| Result     | ballottage |            |            |           |       |

**Table no. 3.** Mayor – Slimnic, 11 Feb. 1930. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 79/1930.

<sup>75</sup> Refers to the initial percentage mentioned in the cited source.

<sup>76</sup> The second time, percentages were calculated without taking into account the lists that did not reach 20% of the votes, respectively canceled votes.

<sup>77</sup> *Cuvântul Liber*, II/8, 23 February 1930, p. 1.

<sup>78</sup> Having only one candidate was declared elected "ex officio". *Cuvântul Liber*, II/3, 19 January 1930, p. 2.



| Mayor      | List no. 1 | List no. 2          | Canceled | Total |
|------------|------------|---------------------|----------|-------|
| No.        | 107        | 109                 | 5        | 221   |
| Percentage | 48,42%     | 51,58%              |          |       |
| Percent    | 48%        | 52%                 |          |       |
| Result     |            | <i>Simion David</i> |          |       |

**Table no. 4.** Mayor – Presaca, 10 Feb. 1930. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 76/1930.

| Cashier    | List no. 1 | List no. 2 | List no. 3 | Canceled  | Total |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------|
| No.        | 116        | 342        | 164        | <b>64</b> | 686   |
| Percentage | 16,91%     | 49,85%     | 23,91%     | 9,33%     |       |
| Result     | ballotage  |            |            |           |       |

**Table no. 5.** Cashier – Slimnic, 11 Feb. 1930. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 79/1930.

| Cashier    | List no. 1          | List no. 2 | Canceled | Total |
|------------|---------------------|------------|----------|-------|
| No.        | 122                 | 99         | 0        | 221   |
| Percentage | 55,20%              | 44,80%     |          |       |
| Percent    | 55%                 | 45%        |          |       |
| Result     | <i>Bulea Gligor</i> |            |          |       |

**Table no. 6.** Cashier – Presaca, 10 Feb. 1930. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 76/1930.

Furthermore, we observe that many ballots were canceled. Ballot papers were annulled because the control stamp was improperly applied. For example, ballots for the mayor election from Slimnic. Also, ticket vote without any stamp was canceled (see Fig. 3-4). In the electoral file, only the canceled ballots are annexed, which allows us to observe that many votes were annulled abusively for the National Peasant Party. Moreover, the villagers in Presaca appealed against the election of the mayoralty, and the Perfect recall to vote again on June 15<sup>th</sup> 1930. Finally, a member of the National Peasant Party won the elections, according to the next table.

| Mayor      | List no. 1             | List no. 2 | Canceled | Total |
|------------|------------------------|------------|----------|-------|
| No.        | 120                    | 86         | 6        | 212   |
| Percentage | 56,60%                 | 40,57%     | 2,83%    |       |
| Result     | <i>Keitea Dionisie</i> |            |          |       |

**Table no. 7.** Mayor – Presaca, 15 Jun. 1930. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 76/1930.

The official cause of the invalidation of the elections in the village of Slimnic, from February, was the closing time of polling. Although the lunch break lasted two hours, the polling station was closed at 5 p.m. by the head of the election committee. However, according to the electoral

law, it could have been extended until 10 p.m. If there were voters who did not vote.<sup>79</sup> Several citizens with the right to vote didn't have time to vote, although they were present in front of the polling station. Finally, the election results were invalidated, and they were to be reorganized on June 15<sup>th</sup> 1930. The seats in the council were divided between the Hungarian Party<sup>80</sup> with seven seats, the Liberals four, and the National Peasant Party three (Table 8). Also, Liberals won the position of mayor in Slimnic,<sup>81</sup> Luca Nan was elected (Table 9). None of the candidates obtained an absolute majority in the cashier election (Table 10). So, a ballottage was held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1930, Cuierean Pavel - the candidate of the National Liberal Party - was elected (Table 11).

| Council    | ×          | ○          |            |          |       |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|-------|
|            | List no. 1 | List no. 2 | List no. 3 | Canceled | Total |
| No.        | 246        | 114        | 163        | 22       | 545   |
| Percentage | 45,13%     | 20,31%     | 29,90%     | 4,04%    |       |
| Percent    | 47,03%     | 21,79%     | 31,16%     | ---      |       |
| Seat       | 7          | 3          | 4          |          |       |

**Table no. 8.** Council – Slimnic, 15 Jun. 1930. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 79/1930.

| Mayor      | ○          |                 |          |       |
|------------|------------|-----------------|----------|-------|
|            | List no. 1 | List no. 2      | Canceled | Total |
| No.        | 249        | 274             | 22       | 545   |
| Percentage | 45,69%     | 50,28%          | 4,04%    |       |
| Percent    | 45,69%     | 54,31%          | ---      |       |
| Result     |            | <i>Luca Nan</i> |          |       |

**Table no. 9.** Mayor – Slimnic, 15 Jun. 1930. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 79/1930.

| Cashier    | ○          |            |          |       |
|------------|------------|------------|----------|-------|
|            | List no. 1 | List no. 2 | Canceled | Total |
| No.        | 265        | 264        | 16       | 545   |
| Percentage | 48,62%     | 48,44%     | 2,94%    |       |
| Result     | Ballottage |            |          |       |

**Table no. 10.** Cashier – Slimnic, 15 Jun. 1930. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 79/1930.

<sup>79</sup> SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 45/1926, f. 1.

<sup>80</sup> The minorities - Hungarians and Saxons - ran on a common list, using the sign related to the Hungarian Party. By comparing the results we mention that contradictory information was reported in the press, were generally small differences (1-2 mandates). For example, Liberals: mayor, cashier, and five councilors. Saxons: assistant mayor and seven councilors, and National Peasants' Party two councilors. *Cuvântul Liber*, II/29, 20 July 1930, p. 3.

<sup>81</sup> *Cuvântul Liber*, II/26, 29 June 1930, p. 3.

| Cashier    | ○          |                       |          |       |
|------------|------------|-----------------------|----------|-------|
|            | List no. 1 | List no. 2            | Canceled | Total |
| No.        | 207        | 331                   | 4        | 542   |
| Percentage | 38,19%     | 61,07%                |          |       |
| Result     |            | <i>Cuierean Pavel</i> |          |       |

**Table no. 11.** Cashier – Slimnic, 22 Jun. 1930. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 79/1930.

After the elections, the priest Păculea (a member of the National Peasant Party) was accused of tricking the Saxons and forged signatures for the appeal.<sup>82</sup> Also, he replaced a few candidates only to win the National Peasant Party. In this context, Luca Nan (candidate of the National Liberal Party) appealed against the decision taken by the County Council - to invalidate the elections in Slimnic. Finally, the results were validated.<sup>83</sup>

### Conclusions

Typical for the interwar elections is the involvement of the administrative apparatus in the electoral process. We must take into account that the number of people with the right to vote depending on how officers prepared the electoral register. For this reason, the Prefect appointed an Interim Commission and resorted to the replacement of the notary from Slimnic. According to the law mayors, notaries, communal councilors can be suspended by the Prefect, were replaced with persons approved by the government. Probably the omission of some citizens from the electoral registers was related to their affinity for opposition parties. However, elections were constantly annulled, and voters were called to vote, even three to four times during the year. Archival documents contain sufficient evidence regarding the manipulation of the results through the fault of the magistrates by canceling valid ballots or closing earlier the polling section.

We could say that the hypothesis supported by Stelu Șerban "politics is a family business"<sup>84</sup> is confirmed - in both communes - several relatives were part of the local administration, in spite of the fact that it was forbidden by law. The most significant example was the presence of the son and father, from the Thal family, in the communal council of Slimnic. Among the relatives who candidates for a position in the local administration of Slimnic, we notified the families: Crețu, Fântână, Hallmen, Mașca, Popa, Seiwerth, etc. (see Table I-II). Members of the

<sup>82</sup> "Din Slimnic" [From Slimnic] *Cuvântul Liber*, II/29, 20 July 1930, p. 3.

<sup>83</sup> *Cuvântul Liber*, II/38, 16 November 1930, p. 2.

<sup>84</sup> Șerban, 'Communal Political Cultures...', p. 61.

families Berea and Bulea were part of the council of Presaca, and Mitea, Roman participated in local elections (see Table III-IV).

Even though the vote was compulsory, there is a relatively low turnout in elections, but we must mention that from the total number of voters entered in the final registers, although the authorities removed people who have died, did not decrease their number from the total number of citizens with the right to vote. Also, we must not forget that in the press were reported some problems encountered by peasants in the purchase of voter cards, when they were distributed by administrative officials. In this way, it could be explained the decrease in the number of citizens with the right to vote. On the other hand, communal elections were held three or four times in the villages. Especially, in June people had to take care of agricultural affairs, but we must also admit the phenomenon of passivity among the peasantry regarding politics. Based on collected data, we may conclude that the number of voters decreased (see Graph no. 1). Although we would have expected increasing the number of voters for the ballot, but that didn't happen. A possible cause was the closing time of the polls. In this regard, we noticed an interest of the citizens to vote, manifested by requests addressed to the court or by appeals, claiming their right to vote. In Presaca, according to the table drawn up by the magistrate, only twenty-five people were absent without reason from the elections, they should have been penalized (with 500 lei<sup>85</sup>) for the benefit of the village, but we do not know if such penalties were applied.

In Slimnic, most people voted for the liberals according to the press, minorities voted against the National Peasants' Party. By comparing the two villages, it becomes obvious that the situation was different from one village to another. In Presaca, electoral competition between the National Liberal Party and the National Peasant Party was fierce. However, the National Peasant Party recorded a victory with only a few percent more than the Liberals. At the county level of Sibiu, most mandates were obtained by the National Peasants' Party in the 1930s.

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<sup>85</sup> SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 76/1930.

## Annexes:

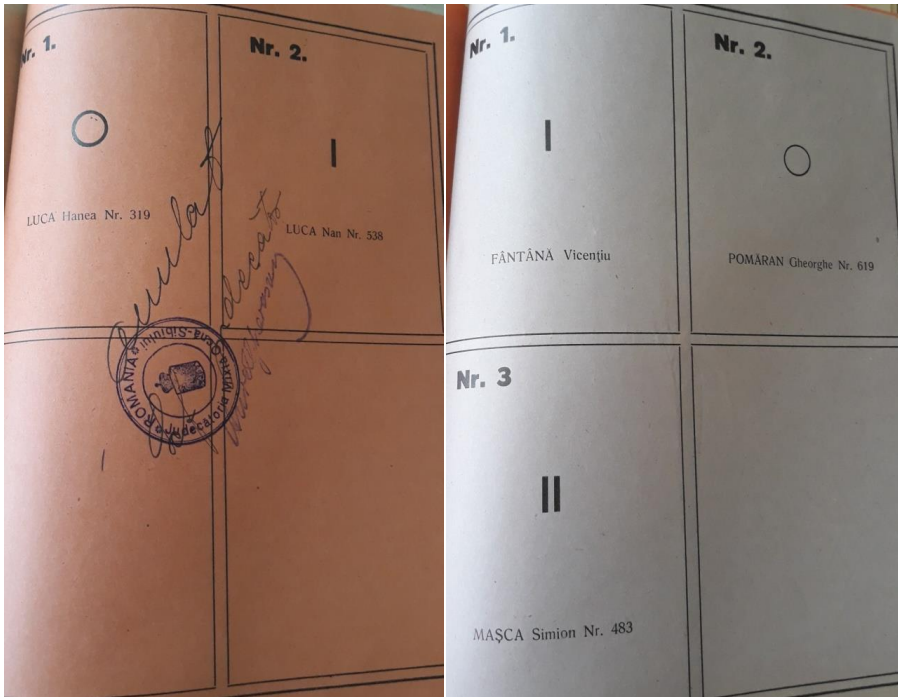
| Nr. crt. | Numele de familie<br>și botez      | Vârsta               | Ocupa-<br>țiunea | Județ | co-<br>mună | Nr. crt. |
|----------|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------|-------------|----------|
| ✓ 201    | Gabor Jacob                        | 397 42               | plugar           | 1     | —           | 213      |
| ✓ 202    | Genescu Toader                     | 626 63               | "                | 1     | —           | 222      |
| ✓ 203    | Gabor Savu                         | 593 52               | "                | 1     | —           | 223      |
| ✓ 204    | Hallmeu Mihail                     | 5 45                 | "                | 1     | —           | 224      |
| 205      | Hemberger <sup>Martin</sup> Mihail | 13 33                | "                | 1     | —           | 225      |
| ✓ 206    | Hallmeu Loan                       | 22 41                | "                | 1     | —           | 226      |
| ✓ 207    | Hallmeu Loan                       | 25 66                | maritor          | 1     | —           | 227      |
| ✓ 208    | Hallmeu Toma                       | 27 53                | plugar           | 1     | —           | 228      |
| ✓ 209    | Hallmeu Mihail                     | 36 59                | "                | 1     | —           | 229      |
| 210      | Hallmeu Martin sen.                | 68 57                | "                | 1     | —           | 230      |
| 211      | Hallmeu Martin jiu                 | 68 23                | "                | 1     | —           | 231      |
| ✓ 212    | Hallmeu Loan                       | 129 45               | "                | 1     | —           | 232      |
| ✓ 213    | Hallmeu Toma sen.                  | 126 53               | "                | 1     | —           | 233      |
| ✓ 214    | Hallmeu Toma                       | 134 <sup>57</sup> 37 | "                | 1     | —           | 234      |
| ✓ 215    | Hallmeu Toma jiu.                  | 136 23               | "                | 1     | —           | 235      |
| ✓ 216    | Hallmeu Martin                     | 138 57               | "                | 1     | —           | 236      |
| ✓ 217    | Hallmeu Mihail                     | 140 47               | "                | 1     | —           | 237      |
| ✓ 218    | Hallmeu Toma                       | 180 47               | "                | 1     | —           | 238      |
| ✓ 219    | Hallmeu Loan                       | 180 27               | "                | 1     | —           | 239      |
| ✓ 220    | Hallmeu Loan                       | 212 40               | comercial        | ?     | —           | 240      |

Fig. no. 1. Electoral register from Slimnic. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 43/1925, f. 5.

| Registru electoral conform art. 14                                     |            |        |             |                          |                         |   | Conform Art. 14 |
|--|------------|--------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------|
| NUMELE DE FAMILIE<br>in ordine alfabetică<br>si prenumele alegatorului | Domiciliul | Varsta | Profesiunea | Alegător<br>la<br>Camera | Alegător<br>la<br>Senat | No. cărți de<br>judecată cu<br>care a fost<br>înscris | Observații      |
| Waldenfeld   | 721        | 28     | Boboc       | Michail                  |                         | 392   |                 |
| Louventh   | 730        | 29     | Birch       | Michail                  |                         | 52  |                 |
| Thurle   | 113        | 30     | Birch       | Michail                  |                         | 36  |                 |
| Gruis  | 51         | 31     | Fouler      | Laueruta                 |                         | 688   |                 |
| Kepcam   | 675        | 32     | Michail     | Waldenfeld               |                         | 937   |                 |
| Ioan   | 309        | 33     | Vintila     | Ioan                     |                         | 299   |                 |
| Ioan   | 711        | 34     | Tradits     | Ioan                     |                         | 347   |                 |
| Francis  | 9          | 35     | Gula        | Michail                  |                         | 271   |                 |
| Petru  | 313        | 36     | Laueruta    | Kudj                     |                         | 735   |                 |
| Michail  | 441        | 37     | Lein        | Ioan                     |                         | 702   |                 |
| Michail  | 384        | 38     | Litmer      | Michail                  |                         | 432   |                 |
| Martin   | 398        | 39     | Ariz        | Ioan                     |                         | 4   |                 |
| Alfred   | 121        | 40     | Sheep       | Michail                  |                         | 753   |                 |
| Ioan   | 144        | 41     | Klein       | Toma                     |                         | 405   |                 |
| Ioan   | 460        | 42     | Martin      | Lein                     |                         | 675   |                 |
| Ioan   | 493        | 43     | Waldenfeld  | Ioan                     |                         | 905   |                 |
| Michail  | 454        | 44     | Stain       |                          |                         | 787   |                 |
| Michail  | 644        | 45     | Blau        | Michail                  |                         | 388   |                 |
| Waldenfeld   | 834        | 46     | Stanciu     | Pard                     |                         | 763   |                 |
| Waldenfeld   | 936        | 47     | Drăghici    | Ioan                     |                         | 185   |                 |
| Michail  | 26         | 48     | Brebu       | Carol                    |                         | 87  |                 |
| Ioan   | 130        | 49     | Laueruta    | Ioan                     |                         | 765   |                 |
| Toma   | 199        | 50     | Barten      | Michail                  |                         | 14  |                 |
| Laueruta   | 228        | 51     | Oltean      | Ioan                     |                         | 551   |                 |
| Leuphen  | 418        | 52     | Belter      | Ioan                     |                         | 463   |                 |
| Vasile   | 634        | 53     | Drăghel     | Ioan                     |                         | 165   |                 |
| Waldenfeld   | 934        | 54     | Laueruta    | Ioan                     |                         | 435   |                 |

Fig. no. 2. Nominal list from Slimnic. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 79/1930.





**Fig. no. 3-4.** The ballot for the mayors' elections from Slimnic, 15 Jun.1930 (the first). And cashier ballot from Slimnic,10 Feb. 1930 (the second). SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 79/1930.

| Village   | Year               | Symbol                 | Name                          | Profession | Year of birth | Observations                   |
|-----------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Slimnic   | 1930               | <sub>1</sub>           | Luca Nan 538                  | ploughmen  | 1887          |                                |
|           | 1930               | × <sub>2</sub>         | Cuierau Paul 119              | cashier    | 1879          |                                |
|           | 1930-1932          | ×                      | Csallner Alfred 121/273       |            |               |                                |
|           | 1930-1932          | ×                      | Liennerth Mihail sen. 431/283 | ploughmen  | 1874          |                                |
|           | 1930-1932          | ×                      | Thal Thomas jun. 803/259      | ploughmen  | 1898          |                                |
|           | 1930-1932          | ×                      | Seiwerth Martin sen. 697/138  | ploughmen  | 1870          |                                |
|           | 1930-1932          | ×                      | Thal Martin sen.803/259       | ploughmen  | 1903          |                                |
|           | 1930-1932          | ×                      | Zollner Martin 958/13         | ploughmen  | 1884          |                                |
|           | 1930-1932;<br>1937 | ×                      | Weidenfelder Mihail 904/39    | ploughmen  | 1887          |                                |
|           | 1930-1932;<br>1937 | ○ <sub>3</sub>         | Păculea Ariton 603/672        | priest     | 1882          | assistant<br>1931 <sup>4</sup> |
|           | 1930-1932          | ○                      | Vintilă Pavel 885/692         | ploughmen  | 1890          |                                |
|           | 1930-1932          | ○                      | Mordășan Mihăilă 457/96       | shoemaker  | 1892          |                                |
|           | 1930-1932          |                        | Fântână Ilie 214/667          | ploughmen  | 1871          |                                |
|           | 1930-1932          |                        | Hanea Nicolae 317/574         | ploughmen  | 1887          |                                |
|           | 1930-1932          |                        | Mașca Ioan 470/352            | ploughmen  | 1899          |                                |
| 1930-1932 |                    | Cioconea Miron 132/514 | ploughmen                     | 1903       |               |                                |

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<sup>1</sup> National Liberal Party.

<sup>2</sup> Hungarian Party.

<sup>3</sup> National Peasant Party.

<sup>4</sup> Refers to people who attended elections by political parties.



|      |   |                        |           |      |  |
|------|---|------------------------|-----------|------|--|
| 1937 |   | Fântână Vicențiu 1/667 | ploughmen | 1896 | candidate<br>1930, 1934,<br>assistant 1932 |
| 1937 |   | Mașca Simion 483/479   | ploughmen | 1887 | candidate<br>1930                          |
| 1937 | × | Seiwerth Mihail 680/77 | ploughmen | 1887 | candidate<br>1930                          |
| 1937 | × | Low Ioan 429/274       | teacher   | 1891 | candidate<br>1930                          |

**Table no. I.** The Communal Administration of Slimnic. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 79/1930; File 43/1925, f. 1-19; File 161/1931, f. 261; File 393/1937, f. 1-27; File 164/1932, f. 2-8; File 227/1933, f. 1-45; File 412/1937, f. 32-33.

| Village | Year | Symbol | Name                    | Profession | Year of birth | Observations |
|---------|------|--------|-------------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Slimnic | 1930 | ○      | Luca Hanea 319          | ploughmen  | 1864          |              |
|         | 1930 | ○      | Pomăran Gheorghe 619    | ploughmen  | 1868          |              |
|         | 1930 |        | Cinezan Pavel 117       |            |               |              |
|         | 1930 | ×      | Plattner Ioan 973       | ploughmen  | 1872          |              |
|         | 1930 | ×      | Schieb Toma 706         | ploughmen  | 1880          |              |
|         | 1930 | ×      | Baier Ioan 20           | ploughmen  | 1888          |              |
|         | 1930 | ×      | Meltner Mihail sen. 467 | carpenter  | 1872          |              |
|         | 1930 | ×      | Barth Toma 46           | ploughmen  | 1898          |              |
|         | 1930 | ×      | Hallmenn Ioan 309       | teacher    | 1859          |              |
|         | 1930 | ○      | Crețu Nicolae 139       | ploughmen  | 1890          |              |
|         | 1930 | ○      | Opriș Nicolae 557       | ploughmen  | 1872          |              |

|      |   |                       |               |      |  |
|------|---|-----------------------|---------------|------|--|
| 1930 | ○ | Pomăran Simion 579    | ploughmen     | 1893 |  |
| 1930 | ○ | Rotariu Pavel 655     | ploughmen     | 1885 |  |
| 1930 | ○ | Costea Ioan 143       | ploughmen     | 1900 |  |
| 1930 | ○ | Bobeş Nechifor 80     | ploughmen     | 1880 |  |
| 1930 | ○ | Draghiciu Simion 180  | ploughmen     | 1899 |  |
| 1930 | ○ | Moldovan Dionisie 503 | shoemaker     | 1878 |  |
| 1930 | ○ | Nan Zaharie 548       | ploughmen     | 1893 |  |
| 1930 | ○ | Poplăcean Ioan 594    | office worker | 1860 |  |
| 1930 | ○ | Apolzan Ioan 1        | ploughmen     | 1904 |  |
| 1930 |   | Popa Luca 597         | ploughmen     | 1884 |  |
| 1930 |   | Popa Ioan 591         | ploughmen     | 1896 |  |
| 1930 |   | Bobeş Simion 84       | ploughmen     | 1870 |  |
| 1930 |   | Tatu Ioan 854         | ploughmen     | 1882 |  |
| 1930 |   | Nan Simion sen. 535   | ploughmen     | 1892 |  |
| 1930 |   | Encea Miron 192       | ploughmen     | 1878 |  |
| 1930 |   | Galer Iacob 277       | ploughmen     | 1883 |  |
| 1930 |   | Bobeş Simion 82       | ploughmen     | 1890 |  |
| 1930 |   | Măsar Ioan 493        | ploughmen     | 1884 |  |
| 1930 |   | Tăpălagă Dumitru 342  | ploughmen     | 1898 |  |
| 1930 | × | Părău Ioan 589        | ploughmen     | 1878 |  |
| 1930 |   | Izdrilă Pavel 524     | ploughmen     | 1876 |  |
| 1930 |   | Cucea Airon           |               |      |  |

|      |   |                        |           |      |  |
|------|---|------------------------|-----------|------|--|
| 1930 |   | Dropeiciu Luca         | ploughmen | 1900 |  |
| 1930 | × | Negrea Pavel 514       | ploughmen | 1892 |  |
| 1930 | × | Medeacăsan Mihăilă 457 | trader    | 1884 |  |
| 1930 | × | Neutes Pavel 593       |           |      |  |
| 1930 |   | Tatu Ioan 159          | ploughmen | 1880 |  |
| 1930 |   | Hannu Ioan 593         | ploughmen | 1887 |  |
| 1930 |   | Hallmen Ioan 620       | trader    | 1885 |  |
| 1930 |   | Boabeș Simian 691      | ploughmen | 1890 |  |
| 1930 |   | Stănilă Ioan 565       | ploughmen | 1892 |  |
| 1930 |   | Bărichia Ioan 564      | ploughmen | 1875 |  |
| 1930 |   | Soanea Vasile 684      | ploughmen | 1873 |  |
| 1930 |   | Crețu Ioan 677         | ploughmen | 1888 |  |
| 1930 |   | Stangu Dumitru 698     | ploughmen | 1899 |  |

**Table no. II.** Opponents in the Slimnic elections. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 79/1930; File 43/1925, f. 1-19; File 161/1931, f. 261; File 393/1937, f. 1-27; File 227/1933, f. 1-45.

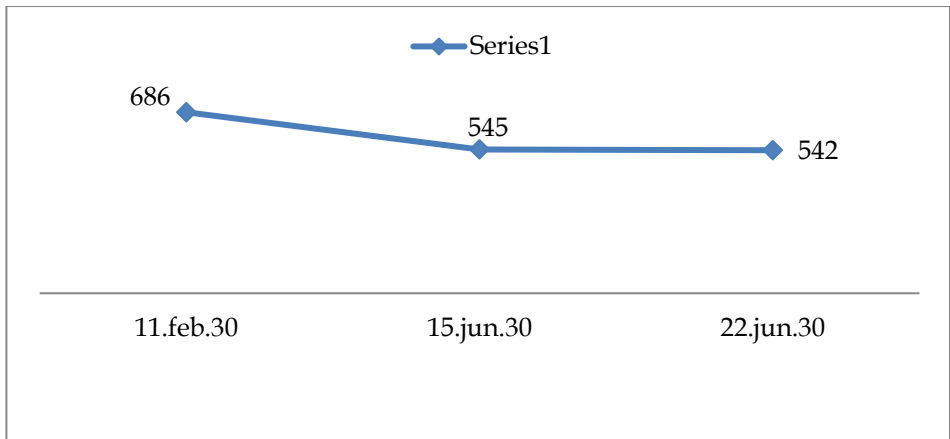
| Village | Year                        | Symbol | Name             | Profession | Year of birth | Observations                               |
|---------|-----------------------------|--------|------------------|------------|---------------|--|
| Presaca | 1930                        |        | Simian David     | farmer     | 1877          |  |
|         | 1930;<br>1934-1935;<br>1937 | ○      | Berea Maftciu 19 | farmer     | 1879          | candidate 1934,<br>counselor 1935-<br>1937 |
|         | 1930; 1934                  | ○      | Bulea Gligor 39  | cashier    | 1882          | assistant 1931,<br>candidate 1934          |
|         | 1930-1932                   | ○      | Popa Ioan        | farmer     | 1892          |  |
|         | 1930                        | ○      | Ioarză Simion    | farmer     | 1875          |  |

|                         |   |                   |        |      |  |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|--------|------|--|
| 1930-1932;<br>1934-1937 | ○ | Dragoș Mateiu 124 | farmer | 1889 | candidate 1934,<br>counselor 1935-<br>1937 |
| 1930-1932               | ○ | Berea Nicolae     | farmer | 1892 |  |
| 1930-1932;<br>1934-1937 |   | David Manoil 97   | farmer | 1886 | candidate 1934,<br>counselor 1935-<br>1937 |
| 1930-1932;              |   | Roman Ioan        | farmer | 1890 |  |
| 1930-1932;<br>1934-1935 |   | Bulea George 38   | farmer | 1890 | candidate 1934-<br>1935                    |
| 1930-1932               |   | Stoica George     | farmer | 1895 |  |
| 1931                    | ○ | Mitea Maftai      | farmer | 1890 | candidate 1930                             |

**Table no. III.** The communal administration of Presaca. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 40/1925, f. 1-7; File 76/1930; File 161/1931, f. 258; File 380/1937, f. 168-176; File 164/1932, f. 2-8; File 240/1934, f. 1-38; File 242/1935, f. 1-10; File 412/1937, f. 28.

| Village | Year | Symbol | Name               | Profession | Year of birth | Observations           |
|---------|------|--------|--------------------|------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Presaca | 1930 | ○      | Berea Todor        | farmer     | 1887          |                        |
|         | 1930 | ○      | Roman Zachiu       | farmer     | 1893          |                        |
|         | 1930 | ○      | Mitea Ioan         | farmer     | 1889          |                        |
|         | 1930 |        | Mitea Ion I. Nefie | farmer     | 1899          |                        |
|         | 1930 |        | Mitea Ion I. Solon | farmer     | 1871          |                        |
|         | 1930 |        | David Filip        | farmer     | 1887          | candidate<br>1934-1935 |
|         | 1930 |        | Torean Sevastian   |            |               |                        |

**Table no. IV.** Opponents in the Presaca elections. SJSAN, FTS, DA, File 40/1925, f. 1-7; File 76/1930; File 161/1931, f. 258; File 380/1937, f. 168-176; File 240/1934, f. 1-38; File 242/1935, f. 1-10.



**Graph no. 1.** Evolution of the number of voters in Slimnic.

