

VITEZ OD SRBIJE - ĐORĐE I. VAJFERT (GEORG I. WEIFERT) (1850-1937)

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Rezime

Ugledni industrijalac i bankar, jedan od najbogatijih ljudi u Srbiji, Đorđe Vajfert, istovremeno, bio je i istraživač, kolekcionar, pokrovitelj kulturnih delatnosti i dobrotvor naučnih, prosvetnih i humanitarnih udruženja, koja se ne mogu prebrojati. "Treba davati da bi se opet steklo", govorio je ovaj veliki i plemenit čovek. I imao je, i darivao je, nesebično.

Ključne reči: Đorđe Vajfert, industrijalac, bankar, istraživač, kolekcionar, pokrovitelj, dobrotvor

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THE KNIGHT OF SERBIA - GEORG I. WEIFERT (1850-1937)

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Summary

A reputable industrialist and banker, one of the richest people in Serbia, Georg Weifert was, at the same time, a researcher, collector, patron of the arts and benefactor of countless scientific, educational and humanitarian associations. "One should give away in order to earn anew", was what this great and noble man used to say. And he did have a lot, and he did bestow a lot, bigheartedly.

Keywords: Georg Weifert, industrialist, banker, researcher, collector, patron, benefactor

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Katolik po veri, Srbin u duši

Iako Nemačkom poreklom, koji se nikada nije odrekao katoličke vere, Đorđe Vajfert je govorio "Ja sam živio i borio se kao Srbin i takav želim da umrem". Kao da je u ovoj rečenici satkana životna priča čoveka rođenog u čuvenoj pivarskoj porodici koja potiče iz gornje Austrije, a čiji je životni put ipak opredelilo mesto rođenja i zemlja u kojoj je proveo život.

U Pančevu, malom pograničnom mestu na ušću reke Tamiš u Dunav, naseljenom pretežno Srbima, Nemcima i Mađarima, u imućnoj porodici industrijalaca, rodio se Đorđe I. Vajfert, 15. juna 1850. godine. Porodica Vajfert stigla je u Pančevo početkom XIX veka, krećući se iz Vršca, koji je bio jedna od prvih destinacija nemačkih kolonista koji su počeli da se doseljavaju iz Nemačke u banatsku ravnicu još u prvoj polovini XVIII veka. Iako su uslovi za život kolonista bili teški, porodica Vajfert se održala i brzo stekla ugled i reputaciju u novom zavičaju. U početku, Vajfertovi su se bavili vinogradarstvom i trgovinom, pa je tako i deda Đorđa Vajferta, Georg, došavši u Pančevo počeo da se bavi trgovinom. Ipak, brzo se preorijentisao na proizvodnju piva, u kom pravcu je usmerio i sina Ignjata, koga je poslao u Nemačku da izučava zanat u pivarama.

Nakon iskustva stečenog u pivari



"Spatenbrau", Ignjat se vraća u Pančevo i zajedno sa ocem 1865. godine kupuje Veliku pivaru u Beogradu, zvanu Kneževska pivara. Razlog ovakvoj odluci porodice Vajfert bio je ekonomske prirode. Izmeštanjem proizvodnje u Beograd, izbegnuti su troškovi prevoza i carine prilikom dovoženja piva iz Pančeva. Ali, osim ovog, pretpostavlja se da je postojao još jedan razlog. Vajfertovi su se lepo slagali sa Srbima, a Ignjat Vajfert družio se i saradivao sa Ilijom Kolarcem, pa se pretpostavlja da je i ovo prijateljstvo opredelilo njegovu odluku da posao proširi i na tržište Kneževine Srbije.

Ignjat Vajfert bio je uspešan poslovni čovek. U roku od nekoliko godina investirao je u nove mašine i proširio smeštajne kapacitete, pa je i obim proizvodnje u tom periodu porastao za skoro sedam puta (sa 3.000 kofa godišnje na 20.000 kofa, što je preko milion litara piva godišnje).

Porodica Vajfert očekivala je da Ignjatov najstariji sin Đorđe nastavi porodičnu tradiciju. Nakon završetka nemačke osnovne škole i mađarske srednje škole (realke) u Pančevu, Đorđe Vajfert je diplomirao na Trgovačkoj akademiji u Budimpešti 1869. godine, ali i na pivarskom odseku poljoprivredne akademije u Vajenštufenu kod Minhena. Po povratku u Beograd, zajedno sa ocem Ignjatom gradi pivaru na Smutekovcu, današnjem Topčiderskom brdu, koju mu otac prepušta nakon završetka gradnje.

Đorđe Vajfert čini ozbiljne napore da od pivare napravi najmoderniji industrijski kompleks toga doba. Pivaru je opremio najsavremenijim mašinama i uređajima, nabavljenim u Nemačkoj. Modernizacijom proizvodnje uspeva da odgovori rastućoj tražnji, povećava rentabilitet i postane jedan od najbogatijih ljudi u Srbiji. Dodatni stimulansi za njegov uspešan rad dolazili su iz samog okruženja, iz Beograda, koji se tih godina ubrzano razvijao u moderan grad. Važna je bila i podrška kneževine Srbije u dobijanju državljanstva 1873. godine, ali i naklonost koju je Đorđe uživao od dinastije Obrenović.

Izuzetan preduzetnički duh Đorđa Vajferta rezultirao je ne samo rastom obima proizvodnje (otvara stovarišta piva u Nišu, Požarevcu, Velikom Gradištu, Smederevu i Šapcu), već i izuzetno visokim kvalitetom piva. "Weifert" pivo osvojilo je dva puta zlatnu medalju za

Catholic by Faith, Serbian at Heart

Although a German by origin, never having renounced the Catholic faith, Georg Weifert used to say: "I've lived and fought as a Serb, and want to die as such". This single sentence might as well sum up the entire life story of a man born to a famous family of brewers, originally from upper Austria, yet a man whose life path was determined by his place of birth and the country in which he spent his life.

In Pančevo, a small border town at the confluence of the Tamiš and the Danube rivers, predominantly inhabited by the Serbs, Germans and Hungarians, on 15 June 1850 Georg Weifert was born to a wealthy family of industrialists. The Weifert family came to Pančevo in the early XIX century, having moved from the city of Vršac, one of the first destinations of the German colonists which started to emigrate from Germany into the Banat plain back in the first half of the XVIII century. Although the life of the colonists was not easy at all, the Weifert family thrived, and, soon enough, acquired good reputation in its new surroundings. At the beginning, the Weifert's were into wine-making and trade, and so the grandfather of Georg Weifert, his namesake, started to do trading when he arrived at Pančevo. Nevertheless, he soon shifted his business to the manufacturing of beer, and directed his son Ignaz along the same path, having sent him to Germany to master the craft in breweries.

After he acquired some experience at the "Spatenbrau" brewery, Ignaz returned to Pančevo, and together with his father, in 1865 purchased the Great Brewery in Belgrade, also known as the Prince's Brewery (*Kneževska pivara*). The reasons behind this decision of the Weifert family were commercial in nature. By moving their manufacture to Belgrade, they avoided the costs of transport and customs as when beer was shipped from Pančevo. However, in addition to this, it is assumed that there was yet another reason. The Weiferts cherished friendly relations with the Serbs, and Ignaz Weifert was a friend and business partner of Ilija Kolarac, hence the assumption that this friendship was the crucial element in his decision to expand the business by entering the market of the Principedom of Serbia.



Ignaz Weifert was a successful businessman. Within several years he invested in new machines and expanded the premises, which resulted in the production volumes in this period increasing almost seven times (from 3000 buckets to 20000 buckets per year, amounting to over a million liters of beer per year).

The Weifert family expected the oldest Ignaz's son, Georg, to continue the family tradition. After completing a German elementary school and Hungarian high school (in Serbian: *realka*, in German: *Realschule*) in Pančevo, Georg Weifert graduated from the Academy of Commerce in Budapest in 1869, but also from the Brewing School of the Agricultural Academy in Weihenstephan near Munich. Upon his return to Belgrade, he and his father Ignaz built a brewery at Smutekovac, today's Topčider Hill, which was passed into his own hands after the construction was completed.

Georg Weifert invested some serious efforts to turn the brewery into the most modern industrial complex of the time. He equipped the brewery with the most advanced machinery and devices, procured from Germany. Having modernized the production, he managed to meet the rising demand, increase profitability and become one of the richest people in Serbia. He found additional motivation for his successful work in the environment itself, i.e. in Belgrade, which was in those times developing

kvalitet na svetskoj izložbi piva u Parizu (1889. i 1900. godine), a pivara postaje ponos Beograda, u čijem dvorištu je priređena večera u čast Nikoli Tesli 1892. godine, kada je posetio Beograd.

Preduzetništvo i poslovni rizik

Đorđe Vajfert je prevazišao svog uspešnog oca. Sa nesmanjenom energijom nastavio je da jača poziciju uspešnog industrijalca, ali i da radi za dobrobit srpske industrije. Pored pivare u Pančevu i Beogradu, Vajfert je bio suvlasnik pivara u Sremskoj Mitrovici i Nišu. Sa svojim glavnim konkurentom, Ignjatom Bajlonijem, aktivno je učestvovao u osnivanju "Srpskog akcionarskog društva za industriju piva, slada i leda" 1913. godine, na čijem čelu je bio predsednik, sa Bajlonijem kao potpredsednikom. Godine 1921. osniva "Prvu srpsku parnu pivaru Đorđa Vajferta" ad u koju ulaže, kao osnivač, kompleks pivare sa pratećim objektima i postaje predsednik Upravnog odbora. Sve do velike ekonomske krize 1930. godine u pivaru je investirano mnogo novca za proširenje kapaciteta i nabavku najsavremenije opreme.

Ovaj neumorni pregalac i neiscrpni preduzetnički duh nastavio je da investira i u druge industrijske grane. Vođen idejom vodiljom i ne obazirući se na poslovni rizik, nastavio je da investira u razvoj rudarstva u Srbiji. Godine 1881. otkupio je pravo na eksploataciju rudnika u Kostolcu iz koga je vadio ugalj za potrebe pivare, a potom je u selu Glogovac osnovao "Centar za istraživanje rudnih pojava" i dobro ga opremio. Uz dozvolu srpske vlade, istraživanja rudnih nalazišta u Srbiji su počela 1897. godine. U cilju istraživanja investirao je u kupovinu više rudnika i rudnih kopova. Ove investicije, međutim, celokupno njegovo poslovanje vodile su u zonu visokog poslovnog rizika. Za angažovanje inženjera i rudara, kupovinu opreme, podizanje rudarskih naselja trošio je mnogo više nego što su bili prihodi od proizvodnje piva, a mnoga od ovih istraživanja nisu donela željene rezultate. Topionica u Ripnju zatvorena je 1906. godine



jer je rudnik žive na Avali ostao bez rude, a i broj promašenih investicija se povećava (rudnik Sveta Ana na Deli Jovanu, Sveta Varvara na reci Pek, kopovi na Miroču, Rudniku i Zlotu).

Ne obazirući se na ugroženu likvidnu poziciju, Vajfert je svoje celokupno poslovanje doveo do granice insolventnosti, a poverioci su predviđali njegov bankrot. Banke nisu želele više da kreditiraju njegovo poslovanje, a po Beogradu se govorilo "lud kao Vajfert". Ipak, ideja vodilja da je rudarstvo unosna privredna grana nije ga napuštala, kao i uverenje da je neophodno da investitori budu strpljivi, jer rezultati stižu kasnije. Izdržao je, a upornost se isplatila kada je u Boru 1903. godine otkriveno bogato nalazište bakarne rude. Preokret u finansijskom smislu se dogodio kada je Trgovačka banka ipak odlučila da mu odobri zajam od 50.000 dinara u zlatu za koji je potpisivanjem menice garantovao direktor banke, Miloš Tucaković. Ova sredstva omogućila su da Đorđe Vajfert postane vlasnik najbogatijeg nalazišta bakarne rude u Evropi i ponovo najbogatiji čovek u Srbiji. Otvorio je rudnik pod nazivom "Bakarni rudnik Sveti Đorđe" u Boru. "Treba davati da bi se opet steklo", čuvena Vajfertova rečenica potvrđena je još jednom.

Vlasnik borskog rudnika bio je samo godinu dana, obzirom da ni on, a ni država Srbija nisu mogli da obezbede sredstva za njegovu eksploataciju. Akcionare koji su bili spremni za dokapitalizaciju rudnika našao je u Francuskoj i potom osnovao "Francusko društvo borskih rudnika - Koncesija Sveti Đorđe", sa osnovnim kapitalom od pet i po miliona zlatnih francuskih franaka. Obzirom da je imao tek petinu potrebnog osnovnog kapitala (3.300



Akcija Srpskog književnog glasnika na ime Đorđa Vajferta
Share of *Srpski književni glasnik* in the name of Georg Weifert

rather quickly into a modern city. Also important was the support of the Principedom of Serbia, granting him the citizenship in 1873, along with the sympathies Georg enjoyed from the Dynasty of Obrenović.

The exquisite entrepreneurial spirit of Georg Weifert resulted not only in the growth of production volumes (he opened beer warehouses in Niš, Požarevac, Veliko Gradište, Smederevo and Šabac), but also in the extremely high quality of beer. The “Weifert” beer won a gold medal for quality twice at the World Beer Fair in Paris (in 1889 and 1900), and the brewery became the pride and joy of Belgrade, in whose yard the formal dinner was organized to honor Nikola Tesla, when he visited Belgrade in 1892.

Entrepreneurship and Business Risk

Georg Weifert outshone his successful father. With unrelenting energy, he continued to strengthen his position of a successful industrialist, but also to work for the benefit of the Serbian industry. In addition to the breweries in Pančevo and Belgrade, Weifert co-owned the breweries in Sremska Mitrovica and Niš. Together with his main competitor, Ignjat Bajloni, he actively participated in the establishment of the “Serbian Shareholding Company for the Industry of Beer, Malt and Ice” in 1913, with him as the President, and Bajloni as the Vice-president. In 1921 he established “The First Serbian Steam Brewery of Georg Weifert”, in which, as the founder, he invested the entire complex of the brewery with adjacent facilities,

and became the President of its Board of Directors. Up until the outbreak of the great economic crisis in 1930, he invested huge amounts of money to expand the capacities and procure the most advanced equipment.

This tireless, hard-working enthusiast and unconquerable entrepreneurial spirit continued to invest into other branches of industry as well. Striving towards his guiding idea, regardless of the business risks, he kept investing in the development of mining in Serbia. In 1881 he purchased

the rights to exploit the mine in Kostolac, from which he extracted the coal needed in the brewery, and then, in the village of Glogovac, he founded the “Centre for the Research of Mining”, and equipped it really well. With the permission of the Serbian Government, the exploration of the mining sites in Serbia started in 1897. In order to support the explorations, he invested in the purchase of several mines and mining pits. These investments, however, brought his entire business into the zone of high business risk. To hire engineers and miners, to purchase the equipment, and to erect mining settlements, he was spending more than he could earn from manufacturing beer, with many of these explorations yielding no desired results. The smelting plant in Ripanj was closed in 1906, because the quicksilver mine on Avala ran out of ore, and the number of wasted investments kept increasing (the mine of Saint Anne on Deli Jovan, the mine of Saint Barbara on the Pek River, the mineshafts on Miroč, Rudnik and Zlot).

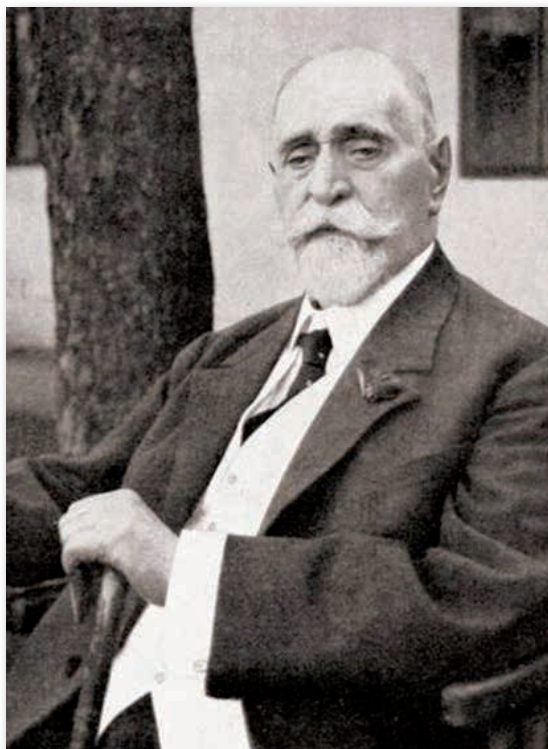
Paying no heed to his jeopardized liquidity position, Weifert let his entire business verge on insolvency, and creditors started predicting his bankruptcy. The banks no longer wanted to credit his business, and people in Belgrade started saying “as crazy as Weifert”. Nevertheless, his guiding idea that mining was a lucrative branch of economy never abandoned him, nor did his belief that investors must be patient, because the results would be reaped later. He persevered, and his determination paid off when, in 1903, a rich copper mine was discovered in Bor. A shift in financial terms

akcija vrednih preko milion zlatnih franaka), ostali deo kapitala obezbedili su novi akcionari.

Bankar

Ovaj iskusni privrednik i industrijalac shvatio je da privredni rast u Srbiji nije moguć bez odgovarajuće finansijske podrške. A situacija na tržištu novca bila je upravo obeshrabrujuća - zelenaštvo je cvetalo, a kamatne stope na pozajmljeni novac kretale su se od 25-50% na godišnjem nivou. Zajedno sa grupom privrednika Đorđe Vajfert podržava realizaciju ideje o osnivanju "Beogradske zadruge za međusobno pomaganje i štednju", 1. oktobra 1882. godine. Sredstva zadruge obezbeđivana su nedeljnim odvajanjem manje sume prihoda osnivača, a cilj osnivanja zadruge bio je da se finansiranjem pomogne razvoj proizvodnje, zanata, trgovine i radinosti. Zadruga nije imala zaposlene, već su ovaj posao na smenu obavljali članovi uprave. Upravni odbor kojim je predsedavao Vajfert, brojao je 11 članova. Već na samom početku rada Zadruga, došla je do izražaja velika spremnost Vajferta da pomogne njen rad, kada je od svog novca, bespovratno, isplatio menicu u vrednosti 120 dukata, jer Zadruga u tom momentu nije raspolagala ovom sumom novca. Na ovoj dužnosti ostao je do 1890. godine. Kasnije je izabran za počasnog predsednika Upravnog odbora, zbog svega što je učinio za Zadrugu, ali i zbog toga što nije prestajao da prati njen rad i razvoj, posebno Odeljenja za osiguranje, osnovanog 1897. godine.

Donošenjem Zakona o Narodnoj banci Kraljevine Srbije, 6. januara 1883. godine, ne samo da je stvoren potreban regulatorni okvir za njeno osnivanje, već je to bio dokument od istorijskog značaja, kako za razvoj emisionog bankarstva, tako i za jačanje finansijskog i privrednog sistema zemlje. Po Zakonu Narodna banka je ustanovljena kao privatna, privilegovana ustanova, tipa akcionarskog društva, pod jakim nadzorom države. Njena osnovna delatnost bila je kreditna funkcija (kreditiranje privrede i države), ali se bavila i emisijom papirnih novčanica, koje su po Zakonu imale obavezno pokriće u zlatu od minimum 40%, što je i poštovano. Nakon konferencije privrednika održane u maju mesecu 1883. godine, odlučeno je da osnivački



kapital Narodne banke bude domaći. Đorđe Vajfert izabran je za člana Upravnog odbora u prvom sazivu, 29. februara 1884. godine, ali je istovremeno obavljao i dužnost viceguvernera. Nesumnjivo da je svojim autoritetom puno pomogao Narodnoj banci u uspostavljanju finansijske discipline, a svojim vezama u poslovnom svetu u zemlji i inostranstvu da Narodna banka učvrsti svoj autoritet.

Funkciju viceguvernera obavljao je do 7. marta 1902. godine, kada je Ukazom kralja Aleksandra Obrenovića postavljen za guvernera Privilegovane Narodne Banke Kraljevine Srbije. Novu dužnost započeo je u zgradi Narodne banke u Dubrovačkoj ulici (danas Kralja Petra), broj 12, za koju je rekao da svojom lepotom, arhitektonskim rešenjem i kvalitetom gradnje u potpunosti odgovara njenoj funkciji i ugledu. U ovom mandatu, Vajfert je puno radio na razvoju osnovne funkcije Privilegovane narodne banke - na kreditnoj funkciji. Želeći da kreditnom aktivnošću podstakne razvoj proizvodnje i trgovine, pomogao je osnivanje novih novčanih zavoda i van Beograda. Od osnivanja Narodne banke do 1900. godine broj novčanih zavoda porastao je na 80.

Prvi mandat guvernera Đorđa Vajferta završen je 1902. godine. Iste godine ponovo je izabran za člana Upravnog odbora Privilegovane narodne banke Kraljevine Srbije

occurred when the Trading Bank (Trgovačka banka) decided to grant him a loan of 50,000 dinars in gold, guaranteed for by means of a draft signed by the Bank's Director, Miloš Tucaković. These funds enabled Georg Weifert to become the owner of the richest copper ore deposit in Europe, and, once again, the richest man in Serbia. He opened the "Saint George Copper Mine" in Bor. "One should give away in order to earn anew", the famous Weifert's saying was confirmed in practice once again.

He was the owner of the Bor Mine for just one year, given that neither he nor the state of Serbia was in the position to procure sufficient funds for its exploitation. The shareholders ready to provide additional capital for the mine were found in France, which was followed by the establishment of "The French Association of the Bor Mine - Saint George Concession", with equity capital of five and a half million gold French francs. Given that Weifert possessed only one fifth of the required equity capital (3300 shares worth over a million gold francs), the remaining share of the capital was provided by the new shareholders.

The Banker

This experienced businessman and industrialist realized that economic growth in Serbia was impossible without the appropriate financial support. And the situation at the money market was quite discouraging - loan-sharks were flourishing, with interest rates on lent money ranging from 25% to 50% at the annual level. Together with a group of businessmen,

Georg Weifert supported the implementation of the idea to establish the "Belgrade Cooperative for Mutual Assistance and Savings", on 1 October 1882. The funds of the Cooperative were procured through weekly allocations of a small sum of the founders' revenues, with the aim to financially support the development of production, crafts, trade and diligence. The Cooperative had no employees, the members of the management taking turns to perform this task instead. The Board of Directors, presided by Weifert himself, had 11 members. Already in the early days of the Cooperative's operation, what became evident was Weifert's abundant readiness to facilitate its functioning, when he, irreversibly, out of his own pocket, paid out a draft worth 120 ducats, because the Cooperative did not have that amount at its disposal at that particular moment. He remained in this position until 1890. Subsequently, he was appointed the honorary President of the Board, taking into consideration everything that he had done for the Cooperative, but also the fact that he never stopped monitoring its work and progress, especially of its Insurance Department, founded in 1897.

The adoption of the Law on the National Bank of the Kingdom of Serbia, on 6 January 1883, not only created the required regulatory framework for its establishment, but also served as a document of historical importance, both for the development of central banking, and for the strengthening of the country's financial and economic system. According to the Law, the National Bank was established as a private, privileged institution, i.e. a shareholding company under the strict supervision of the state. Its main field of activity was lending (to the economy and the state), but it was also issuing paper banknotes, which, pursuant to the Law, had the mandatory coverage in gold of minimum 40%, which had to be respected. Following the business conference held in May 1883, it was decided for the founding capital of the National Bank to be domestic. Georg Weifert was elected a member





Sa suprugom Marijom
With his wife Maria

i na ovoj funkciji ostao je do 1912. godine, kada je Ukazom kralja Petra I ponovo postavljen za guvernera. Prvi deo ovog, drugog mandata bio je u znaku vanrednih okolnosti u kojima se našla država Srbija zbog ratnih zbivanja. Tokom Balkanskih ratova Narodna banka je pomagala državu Srbiju obezbeđujući potrebna finansijska sredstva za finansiranje ratnih operacija, a nakon oslobođenja Stare Srbije i Makedonije, osnovane su filijale Narodne banke u Skoplju i Bitolju.

Veliku podršku kao guverner, Đorđe Vajfert imao je i u dr Lazi Pačuu koji je u vreme Balkanskih ratova bio po treći put ministar finansija. Vodeći mudru budžetsku politiku zemlje, Ministarstvo finansija dalo je značajan doprinos očuvanju finansijske stabilnosti u zemlji i stabilnosti nacionalne valute. Srbija je izašla iz Balkanskih ratova bez budžetskog deficita. Osim toga, dr Paču je inicirao donošenje Zakona o moratorijumu, kojim je privremeno zamrznuta isplata štednih uloga i odloženo izmirivanje obaveza prema unutrašnjim poveriocima, ali država je nastavila sa redovnom isplatom spoljnih obaveza. Ovom, značajnom merom, sačuvan je vrlo visok spoljni kreditni rejting Srbije.

Na žalost, ratne godine nisu se završile Balkanskim ratovima. Izbijanje Prvog svetskog rata 1914. godine, Privilegovanu narodnu banku stavilo je pred važne zadatke. Po preporuci Laze Pačua, tada već zamenika predsednika Vlade, trezori Narodne banke su ispražnjeni i preneti u Kruševac, gde je Banka nastavila sa radom do 1. oktobra 1915. godine. Drugi transfer ovih sredstava obavljen je u jeku najvećih ratnih operacija, uz podršku saveznika, u decembru 1915. godine, kada je imovina Narodne banke prebačena u Francusku u palatu Mulo u Marseju, gde je Vajfert 1. marta 1916. zakazao prvi sastanak Uprave.

Očuvana stabilnost dinara i spoljni kreditni rejting sa kojima je Srbija ušla u Prvi svetski rat bili su veoma značajni, posebno za rad Narodne banke u izbeglištvu. Razmena dinara za franke nije bila nepovoljna, jer je kurs dinara bio relativno stabilan, a Banka je nastavila da štampa novčanice i daje kredite u manjem obimu.

Prvi sastanak nakon završetka Prvog svetskog rata u Srbiji sa bančnim funkcionerima koji nisu napuštali zemlju u vreme ratnih operacija, Đorđe Vajfert održao je 29. novembra 1918. godine, a imovina Narodne banke koja je za vreme ratnih operacija privremeno bila preneti u Francusku, vraćena je u Srbiju vozom 15. februara 1919. godine.

Formiranjem nove države, Kraljevine Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca koja je obuhvatila ne samo dve kraljevine, Srbiju i Crnu Goru, već i delove dve imperije, Austro-Ugarske i Turske i ujedinila tri naroda, došlo je do sudara različitih privrednih i pravnih sistema na prostoru jedne države. To je bio veoma veliki izazov za državni aparat koji je zahtevao temeljnu reformu na svim nivoima. Donošenjem novog Zakona o Narodnoj banci 26. januara 1920. godine, Privilegovana narodna banka Kraljevine Srbije prerasla je u Narodnu banku Kraljevine Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca, a njena nadležnost potvrđena je na celoj teritoriji novoformirane države. Novim zakonom rešena su pitanja vezano za emisiju delatnost, novčane jedinice, pokriće novčanica, a kreditna aktivnost svedena je uglavnom na eskont menica i zajmove na osnovu zaloga na nepokretnosti.

Đorđe Vajfert je i dalje bio guverner Narodne banke. Ovu dužnost obavljao je u kontinuitetu, do penzionisanja 1926. godine.

of the Board of Directors in the first mandate, on 29 February 1884, but at the same time he held the position of the Vice-Governor. The authority he enjoyed undoubtedly helped the National Bank to introduce financial discipline, and his connections in the business circles in Serbia and abroad certainly contributed to the National Bank's sound reputation.

He held the position of the Vice-Governor until 7 March 1902, when the Decree of HRH King Aleksandar Obrenović appointed him the Governor of the Privileged National Bank of the Kingdom of Serbia. He started on his new job in the building of the National Bank in Dubrovačka Street (today's Kralja Petra Street), no. 12, whose beauty, architectural design and quality of construction, as he stated, fully suited its function and reputation. During this mandate, Weifert was actively engaged in developing the main function of the Privileged National Bank - the function of lending. Wishing to boost the development of production and trade through lending activities, he helped establish new monetary institutes outside Belgrade. Since the establishment of the National Bank until 1900 the number of monetary institutes increased to reach 80.

The first mandate of the Governor Georg Weifert ended in 1902. That same year he was re-elected a member of the Board of Directors of the Privileged National Bank of the Kingdom of Serbia, in which position he remained until 1912, when the Decree of HRH King Petar I reappointed him as the Governor. The first part of this, second mandate was marked by the emergency circumstances in which Serbia found itself due to the war events. During the Balkan Wars, the National Bank supported Serbia by providing the required financial funds to finance war operations, and after Old Serbia and Macedonia were liberated, the National Bank's branches were established in Skopje and Bitolj.

As the Governor, Georg Weifert also enjoyed the huge support of Dr Laza Paču, who was, at the time of the Balkan Wars, the Minister of Finance for the third time. By conducting a prudent budgetary policy, the Ministry of Finance significantly contributed to the maintenance of the overall financial stability in the country, and the stability of the national currency. Serbia



U paradnoj rudarskoj uniformi
Wearing the miners' parade uniform

emerged from the Balkan Wars with no budget deficit. Moreover, Dr Paču initiated the adoption of the Law on Moratorium, which temporarily froze the disbursement of savings deposits and postponed the settlement of liabilities towards the internal creditors, although the state continued to regularly honor its external obligations. Owing to this vital measure, Serbia managed to keep its rather high external credit rating.

Unfortunately, war years did not end with the Balkan Wars. The outbreak of the First World War in 1914 imposed some significant tasks to the Privileged National Bank. Upon the recommendation of Laza Paču, at that time already the Deputy Prime Minister, the treasuries of the National Bank were emptied and transferred to Kruševac, where the Bank continued to operate until 1 October 1915. The second transfer of these funds was performed in the heat of the major war operations, with the support of the allies, in December 1915, when the National Bank's assets were conveyed to France into the Mulo Palace in Marseille, where, on 1 March 1916, Weifert convened the first meeting of the Board of Directors.

The preserved stability of the dinar and external credit rating, with which Serbia entered

Zakon o Narodnoj banci omogućio je Vajfertu da obavi neke važne poslove, pre svega vezano za Narodnu banku kao instituciju monetarnog sistema i za emisiju funkciju:

- Monetarno pitanje, kao jedno od ključnih za očuvanje finansijske stabilnosti nove države i njenog finansijskog i privrednog sistema, bilo je problem od prvorazrednog značaja, imajući u vidu da je u tom momentu funkcionisao veći broj valuta u jednom monetarnom sistemu (osim srpskog dinara u opticaju su bile austrijske krune, crnogorski perper, lev). Veliku pomoć i podršku Đorđe Vajfert imao je u tadašnjem Ministru finansija dr Vojislavu Veljkoviću, koji je odlučno i efikasno odradio prvi deo posla na sređivanju monetarnog haosa u drugoj polovini 1919. godine, do donošenja novog Zakona o Narodnoj banci 1920. godine.

Dr Veljković je prvo pripremio regulatorni okvir u vidu paketa sistemskih mera koje je usvojio Ministarski savet Kraljevine SHS 2. januara 1920. godine, koji je omogućio monetarnu i valutnu reformu u Kraljevini SHS u kratkom roku. Po ovlašćenju koje je dobio kao Ministar finansija, Odlukom iz

seta mera Ministarskog saveta Kraljevine SHS, dr Veljković je odmah pristupio uvođenju valutnog reda u državi. Ministarstvo finansija počelo je da štampa jedinstvenu novčanicu pod nazivom dinar, koja je na obe strane imala oznaku vrednosti u krunama, po paritetu jedan dinar jednako četiri krune. Sve ostale novčanice sa oznakom krune morale su biti povučene sa teritorije Kraljevine SHS najkasnije do 1. juna 1920. Od tog datuma dinar je trebalo da bude jedino zakonsko sredstvo plaćanja na teritoriji države.

Nastavak reformi bio je u pravcu reorganizacije srpske Privilegovane narodne banke u jugoslovensku emisiju banku. Već 26. januara 1920. godine dr Veljković ispred Ministarstva finansija sa Narodnom bankom potpisuje ugovor po kome od 1. februara 1920. stupa na snagu Zakon o Narodnoj banci Kraljevine SHS. Narodna banka, na čelu sa Vajfertom, ne samo da je počela da funkcioniše kao emisijna ustanova (preuzela je tu funkciju od Uprave fondova Kraljevine Srbije koja je po nalogu Vlade preštampana prvu

Nemac iz Gornje Austrije sa Takovskim krstom na grudima

Đorđe Vajfert je za života odlikovan Karađorđevom zvezdom II reda, Karađorđevom zvezdom III reda, Velikim kordonom Svetog Save, Ordenom belog orla o vratu sa zvezdom, Ordenom Miloša Velikog o vratu, Ordenom Takovskog krsta o vratu, Medaljom društva Svetog Save, ratnim spomenicama, kao i Lentom rumunske zvezde, koja se inače dodeljuje samo krunisanim glavama.

Ipak, njemu najdraži, bio je Takovski krst, koji mu je sa svojih grudi dao lično knez Milan Obrenović, nakon što je u Srpsko-turskom ratu, za jednu noć, prejahao 150 kilometara kako bi srpskoj vojsci preneo vrlo važnu informaciju. Biće zapamćen i kao jedini Nemač čija je poslednja želja bila da ga sahrane sa Takovskim krstom na grudima.



the First World War, were extremely significant, especially for the activities of the National Bank in exile. The exchange of dinars for francs was not that unfavorable, given the relatively stable FX rate of the dinar, and the Bank continued to print banknotes and grant loans, though in a reduced volume.

The first meeting after the First World War, held in Serbia with the Bank's functionaries who did not leave the country during the war operations, was convened by George Weifert on 29 November 1918, whereas the National Bank's assets, temporarily transported to France during the war, were returned to Serbia by train on 15 February 1919.

After the formation of the new state, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, which united not only two kingdoms, Serbia and Montenegro, but also the parts of two empires, Austro-Hungary and Turkey, and three nations, what followed was the clash of different economic and legislative systems within the territory of a single country. This was a huge challenge for the state apparatus, requiring a thorough reform on all levels. After the adoption of the new Law on the National

Bank, on 26 January 1920, the Privileged National Bank of the Kingdom of Serbia grew into the National Bank of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, its jurisdiction being confirmed across the entire territory of the newly-formed state. The new Law solved the problems related to the issuing activities, monetary units, coverage of banknotes, at the same time reducing lending activities mostly to the discounting of drafts and loans granted on the basis of a real estate pledge.

George Weifert was still the Governor of the National Bank. He continuously performed this duty, until his retirement in 1926. The Law on the National Bank enabled Weifert to conduct some vital tasks, primarily related to the National Bank as a monetary system institution, and its issuing function:

- The monetary issue, as one of the crucial aspects for the preservation of the new state's financial stability and its financial and economic system, was a priority issue, bearing in mind that at that time there was a large number of currencies functioning within the single monetary system (in addition to the Serbian dinar, there was

A German from Upper Austria with the Cross of Takovo on His Chest

During his lifetime Georg Weifert was awarded: Karadjordje's Star II order, Karadjordje's Star III order, Saint Sava's Large Cordon, Medal of the White Eagle Neck Ribbon with a Star, Neck Ribbon Medal of Miloš the Great, Cross of Takovo Neck Ribbon Medal, Medal of the Saint Sava Society, war monuments, as well as the Romanian Star Cordon, which is otherwise only awarded to the members of royalty.

Nevertheless, for him, the dearest one of all was the Cross of Takovo, awarded to him personally by Prince Milan Obrenović who took it off his own chest, after Weifert, during the Serbian-Turkish War, during a single night, rode for 150 kilometers in order to convey an important piece of information to the Serbian army. He will also be remembered as the only German whose last wish was to be buried with the Cross of Takovo on his chest.



emisiju krunsko-dinarskih novčanica koje je emitovalo Ministarstvo finansija Kraljevine SHS), već su njenom reorganizacijom udareni temelji nove monetarne politike na teritoriji nove države, koju je trebalo da vodi centralna banka. Za Narodnu banku i guvernera, vođenje monetarne politike bio je veliki izazov u novoj državi, obzirom da je državna blagajna bila skoro prazna a privreda razorena. Jugoslovenski dinar je od uvođenja počeo da beleži nominalni i realni pad u odnosu na vodeće valute drugih država. Ovaj silazni trend trajao je sve do 1923. godine, nakon kog perioda je kurs dinara zabeležio značajni rast. Važnu i veliku ulogu u stabilizacija kursa dinara

imali su Narodna banka i Đorđe Vajfert.

- Drugi važan posao koji je Đorđe Vajfert uradio bilo je širenje mreže filijala. Pre Prvog svetskog rata Narodna banka imala je samo filijale u Skoplju i Bitolju, ali je posle rata preuzela sve filijale Austrougarske banke (15) i nastavila sa osnivanjem novih u Nišu i na Cetinju.
- Treći značajan doprinos Đorđa Vajferta bili su naponi da se modernizuje poslovanje Narodne banke. Godine 1925. prihvaćena je ponuda Banke Francuske da tehnološki i stručno pomogne izgradnju štamparije i kovnice novca. Ovaj posao realizovan je tek 1929. godine, odnosno, 1937. godine. Đorđe Vajfert je bio cenjen u poslovnim

Društvo Kralj Dečanski

Društvo Kralj Dečanski osnovano je 1893. godine, a njegov dugogodišnji predsednik bio je Đorđe Vajfert. Dom društva je bio jedan od većih i reprezentativnijih objekata u Beogradu, pročeljem okrenut prema današnjoj Tiršovoj ulici, a krilima prema ulicama Kralja Milutina i Deligradskoj. Kamen temeljac položen je jula 1898. godine, a dom je sagrađen prema projektu arhitekata Milorada Ruvidića i Dragutina Đorđevića. Bila je to jednospratna monumentalna građevina simetrične osnove i većom visinom naglašenim središnjim i ugaonim rizalitima. Na glavnoj fasadi oblikovanoj u duhu eklektičke arhitekture, nije postojao ulaz, već se u dom ulazilo iz dvorišta. U zgradi je radila škola Društva Kralj Dečanski i Zavod za vaspitanje i obrazovanje gluvoneme dece, a tu je bila smeštena i Bogoslovija Sv. Sava. Zgrada je srušena posle Drugog svetskog rata.

Snežana i Dragan Vicić, Pozdrav iz Beograda 1895-1941, knjiga II, 2008, str. 231

The Association of King Dečanski

The Association of King Dečanski was founded in 1893, and Đorđe Vajfert was its long-standing president. The home of the association was in one of the bigger and more representative buildings of Belgrade. Its front looked at today's Tiršova street, and its sides at King Milutin's and Deligradska Streets. The foundation stone was laid in July 1898 and the house was built



according to the project of architects Milorad Ruvidić and Dragutin Đorđević. It was a two-storey monumental building of symmetrical layout with central and corner projection parts emphasised by their greater height. On the main facade, shaped in the spirit of eclectic architecture, there was no entrance, but the house could be entered from the courtyard. The building housed the school of the King Dečanski Association and the Institute for education and training of deaf and mute children, as well as the St. Sava Seminary. The building was pulled down after the Second World War.

Snežana and Dragan Vicić, Greetings from Belgrade 1895-1941, part II, 2008, p 231

the Austrian crown, Montenegrin perper, Bulgarian lev, etc., in circulation). Precious assistance and support was granted to Georg Weifert by the then Minister of Finance, Dr Vojislav Veljković, who determinedly and efficiently implemented the first part of the job concerning the regulation of the monetary chaos in the second half of 1919, preceding the adoption of the new Law on the National Bank in 1920.

Dr Veljković first prepared the regulatory framework in the form of a package of systemic measures, adopted by the Ministerial Council of the Kingdom of SCS on 2 January 1920, enabling monetary and currency reforms in the Kingdom of SCS to be implemented within a short notice. Pursuant to the authorization he obtained as the Minister of Finance, in line with the Decision from the set of measures adopted by the Ministerial Council of the Kingdom of SCS, Dr Veljković immediately started to set up order in the country when it comes to currencies. The Ministry of Finance started printing a unique banknote under the name of "dinar", which on both sides bore the denomination in crowns, at the parity of one dinar against four crowns. All other banknotes bearing the denomination in crowns had to be revoked at the territory of the Kingdom of SCS, by 1 June 1920 at the latest. As of that date, the dinar was to be the only legal tender in the country.

The reforms were to be continued in the direction of reorganizing the Serbian Privileged National Bank into a Yugoslav issuing bank. Already on 26 January 1920, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, Dr Veljković signed the agreement with the National Bank, whereby the Law on the National Bank of the Kingdom of SCS was to come into effect as of 1 February 1920. Not only did the National Bank, led by Georg Weifert, start to function as an issuing institution (it took this function over from the Administration of Funds of the Kingdom of Serbia, which, upon the Government's order, reprinted the first batch of the crown-dinar banknotes issued by the Ministry of Finance of the Kingdom of SCS), but its reorganization also set the foundations of

the new monetary policy on the new state's territory, which was to be implemented by the central bank. For the National Bank and the Governor, to conduct monetary policy in the new state was a huge challenge, given that the state treasury was almost empty and economy devastated. Since its introduction, the Yugoslav dinar started to depreciate in nominal and real terms against the leading currencies of other countries. This downward trend lasted until 1923, after which period the dinar FX rate recorded substantial appreciation. An important role in the stabilization of the dinar FX rate was played by the National Bank and Georg Weifert.

- The second important job that Georg Weifert handled was the expansion of the branch network. Before the First World War, the National Bank only had branches in Skopje and Bitolj, but after the War it took over all the branches of Austro-Hungarian Bank (15) and kept opening new ones in Niš and Cetinje.
- The third considerable contribution of Georg Weifert were his efforts to modernize the operations of the National Bank. In 1925 it accepted the offer of the Bank of France to provide technological and professional





krugovima, pa je osim funkcije guvernera, bio i počasni predsednik Industrijske komore, predsednik „Novčanog zavoda Beogradska zadruga“, Upravnog odbora „Samostalne monopolske uprave Kraljevine Srbije“ i pančevačke Pučke banke.

Dobrotvor, patriota i još mnogo toga

Za života su ga prozvali dobrotvorom srpskog naroda. Davao je nesebično i mnogima pomogao. Teško je pobrojati sva njegova dobročinstva, među kojima su i: invalidski fond „Sveti Đorđe“ koji je osnovao svojim sredstvima kao pomoć ratnim invalidima, finansijski odbor društva „Svetog Save“ (jedan od osnivača, potpredsednik i pročelnik), društvo za zbrinjavanje gluvoneme dece „Kralj Dečanski“ (osnivač, kasnije i predsednik), „Beogradsko žensko društvo“ i „Društvo beogradskih žena lekara“ (u oba slučaja poklonio je zemljište), „Dom gospođa Svete Ane“ (dao je kreditnu garanciju). Finansirao je izgradnju bolnice za žene i decu u Tiršovoj ulici u Beogradu, pomagao „Udruženja gostioničara i hotelijera“, „Kelnerski fond“, „Udruženje beogradskih piljara“, sagradio rimokatoličku župnu crkvu „Svete Ane“ u Pančevu i pravoslavnu crkvu „Sveti Đorđe“ u Glogovcu.

Kao strastven kolekcionar, Đorđe Vajfert, poklonio je Narodnom muzeju i Beogradskom univerzitetu svoju izuzetno vrednu zbirku od 14.000 primeraka pretežno antičkog kovanog novca. Muzeju grada Beograda ostavio je svoju zbirku slika, skica i mapa starog Beograda, koju je nasledio od oca.

Zbog svega što je činio, bio je počasni građanin grada Pančeva i Knjaževca i nikada nije bio član nijedne političke stranke.

Godine 1890, postao je mason u loži

„Demokratija“ u Pešti, za Velikog Komandera Vrhovnog Saveta Drevnog i Prihvaćenog škotskog Reda Srbije izabran je 1912. godine, a za Velikog majstora Velike Lože Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca, kasnije Velike lože Jugoslavije, 1919. godine.

Patriotska osećanja prema narodu kome je pripadao srcem i državi u kojoj je proveo život,

potvrdio je više puta. Za vreme Srpsko-turskog rata (1876-1878) sopstvenim sredstvima kupio je prve baterije topova za artiljerijske jedinice srpske vojske, bio je dobrovoljac kao konjanik u redovima narodne vojske i odlikovan medaljom za hrabrost. Za vreme Balkanskog rata 1912. godine obezbedio je 60.000 vekni hleba za pomoć stanovništvu, dok je srpskoj konjici poslao vagon piva. Prikupljao je pomoć za porobljeni srpski narod i vojsku u Prvom svetskom ratu u Evropi, Americi, ali i drugim delovima sveta.

Umro je 12. januara 1937. godine u Beogradu u osamdeset sedmoj godini života. Sahranjen je u Pančevu u porodičnoj grobnici. „Treba davati, da bi se opet steklo“ govorio je i davao je. Dobio je ljubav i veliko poštovanje srpskog naroda. Ime Đorđa Vajferta nosi jedna ulica u Beogradu, njegov portret nalazi se na apoenu novčanice od 1000 dinara izdanja Narodne banke Srbije, a pivo „Weifert“ se proizvodi i danas.

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assistance in constructing the banknote printing house and coin mint. This project was not realized until 1929, i.e. 1937.

George Weifert was very esteemed in business circles, hence, in addition to his function as the Governor, he also served as the honorary Chairman of the Chamber of Industry, President of the "Belgrade Cooperative Monetary Institute", President of the Board of Directors of the "Independent Monopoly Directorate of the Kingdom of Serbia", and of Pučka Banka (People's Bank) in Pančevo.

Benefactor, Patriot and Much More

In his lifetime he was known as the benefactor of the Serbian people. He gave away generously and helped many. It is difficult to list all his benefactions, including, among the others: Saint George's Foundation for the Disabled, which he established with his own resources in order to help war invalids; the finance board of the Saint Sava's Society (as one of the founders, vice-president and head); King Dečanski's Society for Housing and Education of Deaf and Mute Children (as the founder, and later on the president); Women's Society of Belgrade, and Society of Belgrade's Female Doctors (in both cases he donated land); Saint Anne's Home for Ladies (ge granted a loan guarantee). He financed the construction of the hospital for women and children in Tiršova Street in Belgrade; helped the Association of Restaurateurs and Hoteliers, the Waiters' Foundation and the Association of Belgrade's Shopkeepers; built the Roman Catholic parish church of Saint Anne in Pančevo, and the Orthodox church of Saint George in Glogovac.

As a passionate collector, he donated to the National Museum of Serbia and the University of Belgrade his extremely valuable collection of 14,000 mostly ancient coins. To the Belgrade City Museum he bequeathed his collection of paintings, sketches and maps of old Belgrade, which he had inherited from his father.

Owing to all his good deeds, he was the honorary citizen of Pančevo and Knjaževac, and he was never a member of any political party.

In 1890 he joined the Masonic Lodge

"Democracy" of the City of Pest. He was elected the Great Commander of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Order of Serbia in 1912, and the Worshipful Master of the Grand Lodge of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, later the Grand Lodge of Yugoslavia, in 1919.

His patriotic feelings towards the people to whom he belonged in his heart, and the country in which he spent his life, were confirmed on many occasions. During the Serbian-Turkish War (1876-1878), his funds were used to purchase the first batteries of cannons for the artillery units of the Serbian army. He volunteered as a cavalryman in the people's army and was awarded a medal for courage. During the Balkan War in 1912, Weifert personally donated 60,000 loaves of bread to help the starving population, and sent one rail wagon of beer to the Serbian cavalry. During the First World War, he collected donations for the occupied Serbian people, not only from Europe and America, but from other parts of the world as well.

He died on 12 January 1937 in Belgrade aged eighty seven. He was buried in Pančevo in a family tomb. "One should give away in order to earn anew", was what this great and noble man used to say. And he did. In return, he was rewarded by the love and enormous respect of the people of Serbia. One street in Belgrade has been named after Georg Weifert, his portrait embellishes the 1000-dinar bill of the National Bank of Serbia, and the "Weifert" beer is still produced today.



Grobnica Vajfertovih u Pančevu
The burial place of the Weifert family in Pančevo