

Patrik Zsolt Varga

The Businesses and the Innovations of Adolf Engel in the Second Half of the 19th Century

Abstract

The purpose of the study. The study is about the businesses of Adolf Engel, a local entrepreneur of Pécs in the 19th century. The study is focused on finding answers to three main questions. Firstly, in what ways did Adolf Engel's career differ from other great entrepreneurs of Pécs, such as Zsolnay, Angster or Hamerli? Secondly, how big was Engel's impact on the local economy and how did he tackle the charcoal crisis by establishing industrial coal mining in Komló? Finally, what kind of innovations did he use and what were their effects?

Applied methods. The research is based upon a wide range of sources. A great volume of domestic and international literature and the memoirs of Adolf Engel provided the background of the study. I used statistics of the era and I read numerous articles found in the Arcanum Digitheca and Hungarian Cultural Heritage Portal databases. Furthermore, I revealed and analysed archival sources of the Regional Archives of Baranya County of the National Archives of Hungary. I composed the study in chronological order and have summed up Engel's work.

Outcomes. By the end of the study, I was able to reflect on the differences of Adolf Engel's entrepreneurial career. He managed multiple businesses in different sectors at the same time. He successfully participated in the development of the local economy and took part in solving the energy crisis. He applied several unusual innovations, but their outcome was undoubtedly positive and successful. Engel's efforts are clearly telling of the career of a self-made businessman.

Keywords: economic history, 19th century, Pécs, business story, innovation

1. Introduction

In the era of the Austro–Hungarian Monarchy Adolf Engel was one of the important entrepreneurs of Pécs (1820–1903). After the loss of his father at the age of 4 he was living in extreme poverty with his mother and younger brother. He left school at a very young age and began working as a door-to-door salesman. Alongside his daytime job, he educated himself during the night and on weekends. He learned to speak four languages thanks to his diligence. He invested his savings into low-risk business opportunities that showed a return. His circumstances kept improving continuously, and by 1853 he opened his first shop in Pécs. He founded a public bath, transformed the Czindery Garden, established a woodworking plant and he was managing multiple parallel businesses from the 1860s. He became one of the wealthiest citizens of Pécs by the turn of the 19–20th century. In 1887 he received the title “jánosi” of nobility for his activities from Joseph Franz, the Hungarian monarch. Adolf Engel has already interested many historians. Copious articles have been written about him; however, a comprehensive economic history study of his business ventures is yet to be published. That is what I attempt to resolve by writing this essay.

2. Sources, questions, methods

During my research I tried to broaden the base of my resources as much as I could. Various accounts of the endeavours of Adolf Engel for the betterment of the residents of Pécs can be found in contemporary local newspapers (Pécsi Napló, Pécsi Figyelő, Pécsi Lapok, Dunántúl etc.). In addition, examining statistical yearbooks, documented censuses and gazetteers retrieved

from the 19th century aided me in fitting the work of Engel into the more important processes of the era. Furthermore, literature, publications, memoirs and even studies of mining contributed to precisely portraying his life. Adolf Engel had foreign ties too, so I involved several international sources in the research as well. Moreover, I expended my research to the sources of the Regional Archives of Baranya County of the National Archives of Hungary. After his death, a list of the assets of Engel provides a clear view into the greatness of his career and the value of his achievements. The distribution of his heritage proves just how thoroughly dedicated he was to his family.

After inspecting the sources, I posed three questions. The first one being: was Adolf Engel the same type of entrepreneur as his local peers (Vilmos Zsolnay, Lőrinc Littke, József Angster etc.)? The second: what impact did he have on the major economic issues of his time during his ventures into different business sectors? And lastly: did he continue any activities that could be classified as distinct, odd, and innovative for businessmen of his time?

3. Economic development of Pécs in the era of dualism

With the 1867 Austrian–Hungarian Compromise, Europe’s peculiar, structured state of Austria–Hungary was born, which was a monarchy based on dualism. For the next half century, Hungary was benefitting from its economic golden age. The Hungarian market economy was initiated in this era.¹ The economic boost also brought rapid development to many Hungarian cities. Amongst them, the biggest settlement of South Transdanubia, Pécs improved in many ways during this time.

The biggest advancement occurred in the field of industry in Pécs. One of the most booming sectors was coal mining, the mechanisation of which in the South Mecsek region almost reached the same level as England’s by the end of the 19th century.² In addition to mining, we are seeing substantial progress in several new industrial sectors. In the ceramic industry, one or two of the Zsolnay factory’s wide range of products can still be found in Pécs today.³ The glove business of János Hamerli and the leather factory of the Höfler Brothers were prominent compared to their contemporaries. In the metal and machinery sector the organ and harmonium factory of József Angster became world famous.⁴ The key to the success of the above-mentioned plants was the mechanization, the innovation, and the continuous labour force growth. Branches of the food industry also had their place in the industrial evolution of the city, such as the breweries of Hirschfeld and Scholz, or the champagne factory of Littke. In the high standard furniture manufacturing field Károly Hoffman’s renowned business stood out. However, Adolf Engel belongs to the same group of manufacturers too, as he is mainly remembered as a woodworker and parquet maker.⁵

The boom of agriculture between 1850–1873 had a significant impact on the city. The extensive viticulture was a determining income source for the population of Pécs. A vast number of civilians and entrepreneurs owned vineyards then. The activities of the local wine merchants turned Pécs into the second largest wine trading settlement of Hungary by the end of the 1890s.⁶

The greatest advancements of the era were implemented most spectacularly in the transportation industry, more specifically in railway construction, just like in most European countries. The key to development was the railway. In the region of South Transdanubia the first railroad was built between Üszög-puszta (next to Pécs) and Mohács (port of the Danube)

¹ Kaposi, Z. (2017); Kaposi, Z. (2007).

² Babics, A. (1952): 45.

³ Rúzsás, L. (1954).

⁴ Angster, J. (1993).

⁵ Pécs Lexikon (2010): Vol. 1. 199.; Kaposi, Z. (2006): 102–108.

⁶ Ibid.

by the First-Danube-Steamboat-Shipping Company (DDSG) in 1857, which was involved in coal mining in Pécs and the surrounding villages. In 1868 the second railway, Pécs–Barcs, was opened with which the traders of Pécs could get connections to the lines of the Austrian Southern Railway Company. A direct connection to the capital was created in 1882 by the Pécs–Szentlőrinc–Budapest railway line. By the beginning of the 1900s, more and more local railways had been built. On the other hand, the road network of the city had less importance and was rather there to facilitate the internal transportation.⁷ The development of the domestic financial institution system was another important area of the economic boom. One of the most relevant organisations was the Savings Bank of Pécs, which was a construction contractor, a charity, a lender, and the financier of numerous industrial companies of the city. Several other banks were also founded alongside it, which contributed greatly to the economic development.⁸ Let us also mention the development of utility services in the city. By the turn of the century, Pécs already had water, gas, and electricity. In addition, 1913 saw the city introducing trams into public transportation too.

4. The social background and the family circumstances of Adolf Engel

Before 1780 Pécs was an episcopal city, where they did not really tolerate any other religion than Catholicism. This changed in the era of dualism, but the majority remained Catholic. Around 1870, approximately 91% of the population of the city (21,715 person) was Catholic. The remaining 9% (2,148 persons) followed other religions, from which Judaism represented a significant proportion already. In the 1910s the religious breakdown became more diversified, to which the various religions of the newly settled immigrants contributed greatly.⁹

The number of Jews increased the most in that time. For a long time, not only the local jurisdiction, but also the population opposed their settlement. Besides of the various taxes many obstacles made their everyday life harder. On the other hand, there was a huge economic demand for their economic activity. A part of the mercantile-, credit-, and bank developments of Pécs were founded and improved by the settled Jews.¹⁰

The father of Adolf Engel, Péter Engel was an immigrant Jewish retailer who got his permission to reside through marriage in the beginning of 1800s. He remarried after the early death of his first wife. His second wife was Mária Süsskind, with whom he had two sons, Adolf and Simon. Péter Engel was granted a permanent residency in Pécs in 1820.¹¹

1. Picture: Adolf Engel with his wife Anna Justus



Source: Lenkei, H. (1930): 63.

After the early death of his father Adolf Engel lived with his mother and his younger brother. Adolf Engel was born on 6 February 1820 in Pécs. He was already working by the age of 11 because of his poor financial circumstances. His first known job was as a door-to-door salesman in the streets of Pécs with different small

⁷ Majdán, J. (2005): 59–62.

⁸ Gál, Z. (2005): 38.

⁹ Várady, F. (1896): 683–690.

¹⁰ See Ágh, T. (1894): 19–23.; Gál Z. (2005).

¹¹ Oláh, J. (2012); Weisz, G. (1929): 11.

items. He bought sulphuric acid and asbestos to create fire starters, but he was peddling with pencils also. Simultaneously he paid great attention to his self-education too. By the age of 16 he saved 160 Ft, which he invested and successfully multiplied. Whatever investment he reckoned would bring a return he held onto until the end. If he put money into something he would risk everything and stick with it. This attitude and his widening horizon led to his first serious investment into Pécs, transforming the area of Balokány.¹²

5. The transformation of Balokány and the Engel Garden

In 1857 Adolf Engel alongside of three local citizens wanted to rent the area of Balokány (situated in the eastern side of Pécs), where Engel wanted to open a public bath. Shortly after submitting their application for the lease, Engel ended up on his own with the project because the others backed out. The left-alone territory of Balokány had already significantly disfigured the scenery of Pécs by then, so the transformation was beneficial for the city as well. The administration of the city accepted Engel's application. In the summer of 1858, the bath was already operating, it was named after the Austrian archduke Frigyes Rudolf Albrecht. With this development, Engel implemented only a part of his vision. He acquired the site next to Balokány with a land exchange whereon he eradicated the landfill, levelled and landscaped the ground and he founded a physical education, and gymnastics institute next to the bath. He provided the required equipment and the corresponding education also. Engel joined Pécs in to the bathing culture of the era with the Balokány bath. The spot became a popular place amongst the citizens, where not only the locals but also the military could learn to swim. Engel attracted the attention of the Commander-in-Chief of the Austrian military too. Therefore, in 1858 he was invited to Vienna, where he gave swimming lessons to the Austrian imperial forces. After the expiring of the 15-year long lease, Engel donated Balokány to Pécs with all its obligations.¹³

By the 1860s, Engel became a wealthy entrepreneur, and he was looking for another opportunity to move forward. His next venture was breaking into the timber industry. For this investment, in 1860 he bought the Czindery Garden for 20,000 Forints. The garden became the headquarters of several economic activities of his. László Czindery, the count of 27,000 cat. acres developed the park at the beginning of the 19th century. In 1863 Engel founded his steam sawmill here and with it he left his mark on the history of the town. The central park became an increasingly popular spot. Via the efforts of Engel, the park became an important cultural area also. The Engel Garden was a place dear to everyone and the starting point of many marriages.¹⁴

6. Sawmill and parquet factory in Pécs and Vienna

The sawmill and parquet factory of Pécs was located in the northern part of the Engel Garden, at Országút 14 (today Rákóczi Road).¹⁵ At first it was a small company, but later on it grew continuously thanks to the increasing demand. In the early 1870s the plant consisted of a boiler room (steam was produced by two steam boilers), a powerhouse (with steam engines, the main one producing 15 hp and the spare one producing 8 hp), a sawmill building (separated into three floors to manufacture various timber products), a woodcutting workshop, a separate room (for mechanical joinery), another workshop (for joinery) and a drying and wood alkalising room.¹⁶ The parquet factory employed 30 male and 3 child employees when it was founded. Additionally, in the forests leased and owned by Engel, 250–300 people worked simultaneously. The labourers

¹² Baiersdorf, K. (2009): 54–60.; Szirtes, G. (1998): 85–90.; Schweitzer, J. (1966).

¹³ Engel, Ad. (2009): 27–28.; Madas, J. (1989): 105–132.

¹⁴ Kaposi, Z. (2019): 70.; Lenkei, L. (1922): 181–184.

¹⁵ *Pécsi Lapok*, 30. 05. 1867.

¹⁶ *Anyagi Érdekeink*, 28. 08. 1874.

of the forests provided the resources to the factory. Their wages were a bit higher than the average then. The innovative approach of Engel showed its results at his main property too. Safe working conditions were a main priority to him. He maintained a factory sickness fund in case of his employees falling ill. Furthermore, as a fringe benefit, they were allowed to use the later founded steam bath free of a charge. He paid his employees their wages on Fridays, so that they could buy their food conveniently and much cheaper at the weekend fairs. His humanitarianism was reflected in the fact that his winter workers received hot soup and fresh bread every day at the expenses of the factory.

Engel started buying forests in the 1860s. He often inspected the quality of the cut timber himself because reliable raw material was a key factor in the operation of the factory. This was one of the reasons for the market success of the company too. Adolf Engel predominantly purchased the needed wood domestically, but he initially imported spruce from the northern highland of Hungary and later from Switzerland and Carinthia also. The parquet factory used many types of wood, and it was utilising the material in various ways.¹⁷ The expanding business was transformed in the second half of the 1870s. Engel involved his sons in the successful company. He founded the Engel Adolf és Fiai general partnership with his eldest son, József and his 1-year younger brother Sándor.

The industrial wood enterprise was constantly developing technically. In 1896 the steam engines of the company could produce approximately 85 hp. The machinery they powered consisted of 40 machines assisting production. The factory itself was equipped with electric lighting. Engel employed 70–100 male workers at that time. On the other hand, women were not hired at all, and children were taken on to accompany the transport wagons only. As we can see in Várady's book: „(...the annual production capacity of the factory was about 3,000 m³ of cut material and 25,000 m² of parquet...)”.¹⁸ It is clear from these sentences that the factory had expanded significantly, and it was operating with increasing capacity and higher productivity. Because of the increasing demand for wood products and the presence of competitors (like the Gutmann Companies of Nagykanizsa and Beliscse), Engel's company was in need of spatial growth.¹⁹ Therefore, in 1878 they established branches in Barcs and Szigetvár, then in 1892 they founded another steam sawmill in Szentlőrinc.²⁰

2. Picture: **The Engel Sawmill and the inside of the parquet factory (1885)**



Source: *Gazdasági Mérnök*, 13. 12. 1885.

¹⁷ Engel, Ad. (2009): 30–32.; *Gazdasági Mérnök*, 13. 12. 1885.

¹⁸ Várady, F. (1896): 608.

¹⁹ Kaposi, Z. (2014): 192.; Kaposi, Z. (2009): 276–277.

²⁰ Vörös, A. (1996): 275–284.; Várady, F. (1896): 606–608.; Szabó, M. (2019): 155–157.

Adolf Engel was not solely expanding in South Transdanubia; in 1884 he purchased a parquet factory founded by Stefan Barawitzka in Ober-Döbling (today Vienna), Austria and he handed it over to his son Sándor. Sándor Engel was a prominent professional in the wood industry, therefore it is not surprising that he was to manage the new firm. He knew exactly what opportunities lay in the domestic timber industry and trading and he supported his theories by writing professional and scientific studies about them. He published two relevant books on the industry. One of which described the Hungarian, and the other the Austrian wood industry and trade. Sándor Engel added a joinery to the Barawitzka Factory and the success of it was undoubted. By the 1900s the Viennese plant had provided woodwork for buildings such as the halls of the Vienna City Hall, the palace of Prince Arnulf of Bavaria, the palace of Crown Prince Rudolf or the villa of Empress Elisabeth. It was also exporting to Spain, India, and the American continent.²¹

The businesses of Adolf Engel did not only have local relevance but they had also been important at regional level and at national level too. It was the biggest wood industry company of South Transdanubia. While it was employing fewer workers than the other great entrepreneurs of the era, the products of the factory had outstanding quality. The enterprise of Engel won several famous exhibitions, which confirmed the reputation of the company. One of the greatest achievements of the firm was winning a gold medal at the 1878 World Expo in Paris. Along with the gold prize weighing roughly 30 ducats the Engels also received the highest honour, the gold cross with the crown which made the company even more recognised all around the world.²²

Adolf Engel had founded and developed a significant business in the wood industry. „He is representative of that type from the old times that, with a never-flagging will to work, ingenuity and ability, creates great things out of nothing, and has scarcely accomplished one of his goals before another is already on his mind, pondering how he could increase his own fortune while being of service to the public. From the humblest beginnings he has made a considerable fortune with exclusively honest methods.” – wrote a contemporary.²³

7. Land ownership, construction, transportation development

Because the wood industry had been a resource-intensive sector, Engel started buying up property in 1870. First, he purchased the land of Pál Somssich at Simonfa (south of Kaposvár).²⁴ Then, in 1878 he proceeded to buy the manor located at the border of Felsőmindszent and Szatina (northwest of Pécs). After that, in 1880 he obtained the land of Jánosi-puszta (today it is the area of Komló), and in 1885 he acquired the land of Ócsárd-Pázdány (in Baranya County, south of Pécs). Out of all his estates, Jánosi was the most important one. Not only had he introduced various agricultural reforms and built a model farm here, Jánosi was also the place where the coal mining industry of Komló was set up. In 1900 he constructed the Castle of Mecsekjánosi, still standing to this day, on this property as well.²⁵

During the dualism epoch a construction boom hit Pécs. There was a huge demand for timber products. Adolf Engel recognised this and got numerous development projects under way. He built multiple edifices in the centre of Pécs, such as the palace of the city police in 1894, located at Siklósi Street 21, or the two-storey apartment house at Hal Square. His most notable investment was the Palace of Lóránt. He gave the finished building as a dowry to his

²¹ Weiss, L. (1898); Engel, Al. (1892); Engel, S. (1882).

²² *Pécsi Figyelő*, 05. 10. 1878.

²³ Lenkei, L. (1922): 181.

²⁴ Kaposi, Z. (2019): 141.; Kaposi, Z. (2002): 59–87.

²⁵ Engel, Ad. (2009): 39–40.

eldest daughter Berta in 1884. The two sons of Engel, Sándor and Mór helped to complete the building. The impressive construction can still be seen today in the heart of the city.²⁶

Adolf Engel efficiently assisted the evolution of train transportation. He connected his timber warehouses with branch lines in Pécs. He donated land to the Hungarian State Railways, to make its operation more economical. He financially supported the implementation of a railway connection with his capital. In 1882 the railway line between Pécs and Budapest was established. The tracks ran right next to the land of Engel, Felsőmindszent–Szatina. The entrepreneur seized the opportunity to set up a train station on his property in 1897. With this stop, Engel was going to connect his estate in Komló to the national coal transportation. That was one of the reasons why the coal mining of Komló was so successful.²⁷

8. The last major investment: the coal mining of Komló

Mining in the Mecsek area was a fast-growing sector from the 1860s onwards. The coalfield of the Mecsek is basically divided into two sections. The southern part stretches in an S-shape from Pécs-bányatelep to Pécsvárad (Óbánya) for 25 kilometres. The northern coal line runs along the northern foothills of the mountain, along the Magyaregregy–Kárász–Vékény–Szászvár–Váralja–Nagymányok line, for about 15 kilometres.²⁸

The development of the coal mining of Komló was directly linked to the progress of the northern areas. Coal mining started earlier at the southern part, in the northern somewhat later, in 1812. Mining of the northern area was unprofitable until the venture of Adolf Engel at the end of the century. Although multiple companies were founded for the purpose of potential coal mining, eventually they collapsed. Engel's manor of Jánosi consisted of four areas: Szopok, Komló, Jánosi and Jánosi-puszta. After merging them together, Engel started explorations and drillings for coal with the help of Gyula Engel between 1890 and 1892. In 1894 Adolf Engel obtained two fields. Then in 1895 his company started the extraction of the black coal with the Adolf Tunnel. Initially tunnel mining was not a profitable activity. Therefore, the firm of Engel expanded the extraction several times. In 1896 he opened the Glanzer Tunnel, then the Szerencse Tunnel in 1897. The real breakthrough came in 1898, when the Anna Shaft, a deep-coalmine was opened. The shaft was 106 metres deep, had a wooden gallows-frame and a steam powered conveyer belt that brought coal up to the surface. The innovative production was so profitable that in 1901 the company abandoned tunnel mining altogether. The pit was deepened several times allowing it to reach new, valuable carbon layers.

3. Picture: **Anna Shaft at Komló**



Source: https://mandadb.hu/tetel/381191/Komloi_Anna_akna
Licence: PDM, Rights holder: Csorba Győző
Könyvtár – Pécs (Downloaded: 18.12.2021)

²⁶ HU-MNL-BaML-IV.-1409.b.-1127/1911.; Pilkhoffer, M. (2004); Bezerédy, Gy. (1983): 265–293.

²⁷ See Erdősi, F. (1986); Compass (1897): 410.

²⁸ Babics, A. (1967): 8.; Babics, A. (1952): 17–18.

Later the wooden structure of the shaft was replaced with an iron one as part of the efforts to modernise the site. As a result, the amount of coal extracted by the company was steadily increasing.²⁹

After the upsurge of the coal mining of Komló, Engel left the family business. On 31 August 1898, with the capital thus freed up, he founded his new general partnership registered in Pécs, the Jánosi Engel and Fiai Kőszénbánya és Iparvállalatai Komlón (Jánosi Engel and Sons Coal Mine and Industries, Komló).³⁰ With the formation of the black coal mining industry of Komló, it wasn't only just the immediate region that benefited from the long-term advancement as the coal with high calorific value was considered to be of standout quality and so it could be utilised in almost any sector.³¹

9. Wealth of the great entrepreneur

Adolf Engel accumulated significant assets during his entrepreneurial life. He died on 10 January 1903 in his Viennese home. After his passing the inheritance procedure started, which happened according to his will. The documents of the inheritance were archived at the Regional Archives of Baranya County of the National Archives of Hungary, therefore I am able to present the heritage itself. The inventory of assets provides us with a detailed description of the distributable reserve (1. Table), which does not include the possessions he passed onto his family and friends during the course of his life.

The assets of Engel contained properties in Pécs (such as land, vineyards, farm buildings, houses), shares in the coal mining company of Komló, land and farm buildings in Baranya County (at Szigetvár, Darány, Szentlőrinc for instance), and six seats at the synagogue of Pécs. Their total value was 1,262,380 Austrian–Hungarian crowns. The listed assets were freely transferable to the heirs. On the other hand, the probate records show a liability of 1,265,400 crowns, which refers to the reallocation process between the family business and the well-established mining company in Komló.

Adolf Engel had several wills taken from 1893 onwards, which suggests that he was determined to distribute his wealth evenly among his family members. As his assets were growing, he nominated more and more heirs as beneficiaries. His wills paint a picture of a pater familias, who left his hard-earned fortune to his family in such a way that prevented his heirs from squandering it. As a religious man, he stated that if anyone turned away from Judaism, they would lose their part of the heritage. Engel was striving not to cause any dissatisfaction in the family, even after his death.³²

Based on the sources, we can say that the life of Adolf Engel is a success story. He rose from poverty to one of the highest tax-paying citizens of the city. Overall, we can state that the dynasty founder was not living a wasteful and prodigal lifestyle. Comparing the assets of Engel to the other assets of the Jewish businessmen (like Joachim Schapringger banker and wholesaler, Lipót Justus oil manufacturer or Vilmos Tausz tobacco wholesaler), there are huge differences in favour of Engel. He was constantly saving up to leave his family in the best possible financial situation, because they were his first priority.³³

²⁹ Krisztián, B. (2020): 39–42.; Jäger, L. (2014). 13–18.; Jäger, L. (2015): 17–23.; Jakab, J. (2009): 93–102.; Babics, A. (1958): 21–30.

³⁰ HU-MNL-BaML-IV.-1409.b.-1127/1911.

³¹ Jäger, L. (2015); Jakab, J. (2009).

³² HU-MNL-BaML-IV.-1409.b.-1127/1911.

³³ HU-MNL-BaML-IV.-1409.b.-1127/1911.

1. Table: Adolf Engel's total assets listed in Hungarian kronas

| Total Assets | | Value | |
|---|--|--|----------------|
| A. Fixed assets | 1.) Pécs catalogue: nothing | 0 | |
| | 2.) Vienna catalogue: clothes, books and mineral collection | 594 | |
| | | 594 | |
| B. Accounts receivable | 3.) Adolf Engel and Sons Company | 53 234 | |
| | 4.) Engel Jánosi and Sons Coal Mines and Industries in Komló: 40% ownership | a.) Jánosi estate | 420 000 |
| | | b.) Coal Mines in Komló with buildings and machinery | 1 100 000 |
| | | c.) Commuter Rail of Komló–Bakócsza–Felsőmindszent | 1 200 000 |
| | | d.) Assets of Industries in Komló | 2 000 |
| | | 2 722 000 x0.4 | |
| | | 1 088 800 | |
| | | 1 142 034 | |
| C. Synagogue Prayer Chairs | 5.) 4 male prayer chair in Synagogue of Pécs; third mid-righ row, chairs 7, 8, 9 and 10 (700 kronas per piece) | 2 800 | |
| | 6.) 2 female prayer chair in Synagogue of Pécs; galery, first row, chairs 1 and 2 (1200 kronas per piece) | 2 400 | |
| | | 5 200 | |
| D. Property | 7.) 30 th sheet of Pécs land terrier: 50-50% ownership shared with his wife Anna Justus | a.) Property reference number 2337/2, 3.1 Czindery St; farm building and yard | 860 |
| | | b.) Property reference number 2338, 50/2. Siklósi Road; farm building, steam bath, house and yard | 65 100 |
| | | c.) Property reference number 2339, 48 and 50 Siklósi Road; two houses, farm building and yard | 30 000 |
| | | d.) Property reference number 2340, Engel-garden, 7632 m ² | 913 |
| | | e.) Property reference number 2258, 66 Siklósi Road; house and two outbuildings | 16 500 |
| | | f.) Property reference number 6417, Rigóder dűlő; vineyard 43537.5 m ² | 13 544 |
| | | g.) Property reference number 6419, 27 Rigóder–Szabolcsi Road; winery | 120 |
| | | h.) Property reference number 6421, Rigóder dűlő; garden 29528.5 m ² | 2 748 |
| | | i.) Property reference number 6422, 29 Rigóder–Szabolcsi Road; house | 2 700 |
| | | j.) Property reference number 203, 5 Lyceum St and 6 Malom St; two-store house, outbuilding and yard | 9 000 |
| | | | 141 485 x0.5 |
| | | | 70 743 |
| | 8.) 31 st . sheet of Pécs land terrier | a.) Property reference number 2325, 52 Siklósi Road; house | 24 000 |
| | | b.) Property reference number 2336/1; yard | 805 |
| | | c.) Property reference number 2337/3, 3/2 Czindery St; farm building | 1 370 |
| | | d.) Property reference number 2337/1, 3 Czindery St; farm building | 1 120 |
| | | e.) Property reference number 7504/1; lumber yard next to the central railway station | 4 537 |
| | | f.) Property reference number 7544; real esate south of the central railway satation | 1 841 |
| | | g.) Property reference number 7520/2; real estate at the central railway station | 911 |
| | 9.) 251 st sheet of Szentlőrinc land | a.) Property reference number 1921; ploughland | 114 |
| | 10.) 915 th sheet of Szigetvár land terrier | a.) Property reference number 1326; meadow and warehouse | 7 927 |
| | | b.) Access to pasture commons | 10 |
| | 11.) 1110 th sheet of Szigetvár land | a.) Property reference number 1327; ploughland | 176 |
| 12.) 343 rd sheet of Darány land terrier | a.) Property reference number 2330; ploughland | 999 | |
| | b.) Property reference number 2331; ploughland | | |
| | c.) Property reference number 2332; ploughland | | |
| | | 114 553 | |
| | | 1 262 380 | |
| | | | |
| Liabilities | | Value | |
| The Testator, as general partner at Engel Jánosi and Sons Coal Mines and Industries in Komló is in debt to Adolf Engel and Sons Company in the form of commercial debt. | | 1 265 400,00 | |
| | | 1 265 400 | |

Source: HU-MNL-BaML-IV.-1409.b.-1127/1911;

10. Results and conclusions

We get quite a wide picture by looking at the major developments of Engel. In 1857 he started the recovery of Balokány as a partner, but he finished it by himself and created the first well-known public bath of the city. And with it, he joined in Pécs to the national bathing culture. Through his 1860s investment he transformed the Czindery Garden into the most popular public park of Pécs with just a few changes and by applying his values in real life. He provided space for civic culture. Then he founded his parquet factory, which brought him great recognition. His conscious ventures in the timber industry left a long-lasting mark on the history of the sector. He took an active role in the development of mining, transportation, and trading, taking into consideration both the interest of the city and his own. Hence, Adolf Engel was different from the other entrepreneurs of the era. One business quickly outgrew itself, and as soon as he was in the position to, he started managing several others simultaneously. Despite the fact that he was focusing on numerous things, he was able to successfully manage his own and later his family company. In the eyes of the locals, he was a building contractor, a bath owner, a landowner, a transportation innovator, a mine owner, an economist and even a patron of Pécs. Adolf Engel ensured the place of Komló and its area in the field of the Hungarian coal mining by using the most modern coal exploring and drilling methods. He always advocated for innovations. He kept looking for ways to successfully upgrade his ideas, which might have seemed unusual compared to other entrepreneurs, but they proved to work. The biography outlined in this essay shows a self-made man type of entrepreneur who is willing to do everything for the projects he set his heart on.³⁴ He exploited the economic opportunities his era offered, one after another, he was always seeking new, untraveled roads to take. Furthermore, in addition to his personality traits, he was one of the most popular figures of the time. Due to his humanitarianism, as a play on his surname, he is remembered as “Angel” by some of the public.

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³⁴ Kaposi, Z. (2020): 59–73.

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Hereinafter: HU-MNL-BaML-IV.-1409.b.-1127/1911]

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