

Minister's Broadcast for Railwaymen's Day

István Kossa, Minister of Posts and Communications, in a broadcast address on Railwaymen's Day, greeted the workers on the railways on behalf of the Party and Government. He spoke of the working people's appreciation of the railwaymen's work and said: "The fact that the workers on the railways did good work during the difficult days of the counter-revolution, forwarding trainloads of food and medicines without trouble, lends particular significance to this seventh Railwaymen's Day."

The majority of the railwaymen had understood the programmes of the Party and of the Revolutionary Worker-Peasant Government and carried out their tasks with a sense of responsibility, thereby sharing directly in forestalling the danger of want and misery. Since the defeat of the counter-revolution, many measures had been taken to raise the living standard of railway workers, who had responded with even better work. As a result, most of the trains were now running on time. Most of the freight trains were reaching their destination quickly.

The number of wagons to be loaded during the autumn peak period was expected to exceed that of last year. Preparations must be made for loading 445,000 wagons in September and 450,000 in October. These great tasks would require the co-operation of all branches of the railways. There were also fresh tasks ahead in technical development. Besides modernisation of the track and rolling stock, the main objectives were to speed up electrification and to extend diesel traction. Other technical measures were also needed and big investments and replacements were required. However, the railways were in a better position than previously for the start of this autumn's traffic, as there was more coal and it was of better quality. (Budapest 06.10, 11.8.57)

Kossa on the Purge as it Affects the Railway

In a speech at Szolnok on Railwaymen's Day Kossa, speaking about several political topics, was reported to have said that a certain degree of uneasiness was being felt by some people, since during the past few weeks a purge had also been carried out through the railways and among elements who had had recourse to open incitement during the counter-revolution. "We want to let it be understood", he said, "that those who have no cause to be uneasy should not worry and can carry on their work safely." After the speech, 200 Szolnok railway workers who had achieved outstanding results were given awards. (Budapest 20.00, 11.8.57)