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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF «MATERIALS ON THE KYRGYZ LAND USE» IN THE STUDY OF THE KAZAKH AGRICULTURE

Abstract

«Materials on Kyrgyz (Kazakh) land use» is a collection of statistical materials collected by a special expedition. This article examines the role of «MKZ» as a source on the history of agriculture and animal husbandry in Kazakhstan of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. «MKZ» is a unique source, as the materials of the expedition contain statistical data on the state of the Kazakh economy in the regions. The article discusses the methods used by statisticians in the study of Kazakh land and agriculture. The amount of funds spent on the statistical expedition is indicated. In general, the «Materials on Kyrgyz (Kazakh) land use» information was collected by organizing expeditions that conducted special research.

Keywords: source studies, statistical expedition, land use.

The socio-economic situation of Kazakhstan in the late XIX and early XX centuries is characterized by the decline of traditional Kazakh economy and the formation of capitalist relations. During this period, the economy of Kazakhstan developed unevenly. Each region on the territory of Kazakhstan differed from each other in its natural and climatic conditions, historical formation and level of development of farms.

When the Steppe Statue of 1891 introduced a provision authorizing the withdrawal of surplus Kazakh lands for other state needs, questions about the quality and quantity of steppe lands became a matter of national importance. When the tsarist state granted itself the right to confiscate the surplus, it created a legal basis on which colonization could continue. But in fact, the conduct of such seizures depended on the definition of certain lands as surplus. This, in turn, would require a thorough study of how much land the Kazakhs actually needed, how much land there is in the steppe and of what quality. Accordingly, for about 20 years (1896-1917), which constitute the era of resettlement to the Kazakh steppe, the tsarist state sent a series of expensive statistical expeditions to find out the presence of excess land in the region. F.A. Shcherbina's expedition of 1896-1903 was followed by more detailed studies of individual areas [1].

Prior to these statistical parties and research expeditions, there were no researched works on the Kazakh land that would have been comprehensively covered in such a volume. The source «materials of land use of Kazakhs» consists of twenty-seven volumes covering the period from 1898 to 1915. These data were obtained as a result of a large-scale study of the territory of Kazakhstan, which included 13 volumes collected by F. A. Shcherbina's expedition, 7 volumes collected by P. Skriplev's party and 7 volumes collected by P. Hvorostansky's party, including Akmola, Semipalatinsk, Ural, Turgai, Syrdarya and Ferghana regions within the modern Republic of Uzbekistan. These volumes differ from each other

chronologically and territorially. For example, F. Shcherbina's expedition covered Akmola, Semipalatinsk, and Turgay regions in 1896-1903, P. Skryplev's statistical party covered the Syrdarya region in 1906-1913, and P. Hvorostansky covered the Turgai-Ural regions in 1904-1912. The extensive materials collected by them are also distinguished by the fact that they were published after the study in the period from 1898 to 1915.

On June 6, 1904, the Russian government published a regulation on the relocation of peasants to state-owned lands [2]. According to the rules, the pereselen received permission to settle on the territory of the Kazakhs without hindrance. In 1904, the Main Department of resettlement and Land Management was organized in St. Petersburg.

In 1904-1905, the Tsarist government divided the land of Kazakhstan into 5 resettling districts: Ural-Turgai, Akmola, Semipalatinsk, Syrdarya and Semirechye. In 1904-1906, district resettlement institutions were opened in these regions [3].

As a result, at the beginning of the XX century, a system of centralized institutions appeared, which occupied the land of the Kazakhs and replenished the "resettlement fund". Established in terms of administrative structure, content and duties performed by officials, resettlement institutions have become colonial organizations. The main tasks were set before the uyezd and regional institutions:

- 1) identification of "surplus" lands at the disposal of the local population;
- 2) preparation of land for migrants;
- 3) organization of service groups created for the allotment of land plots;
- 4) assistance to displaced persons in need;
- 5) resolution of disputes arising between migrants and the local population.

By the decision of the Department of State Land and Property Relations, F. Shcherbina undertook to apply to the Ural District the norms established during the inspection of the Aktobe district. To this end, the expedition proposed to conduct a census of the national economy to determine the norm of land and a thorough study of the natural and historical condition of the region.

It is noted that the research method developed by F. Shcherbina's expedition was used:

- 1) study of the entire Kazakh population, determination of the state of animal husbandry and agriculture;
- 2) budget research;
- 3) planned accounting of existing lands.

The main purpose of the expedition was to determine the amount of land needed by Kazakh farms. To do this, first of all, the researchers studied the types of farms, calculated the necessary land and tools. In accordance with the peculiarities of natural conditions, the farms of each uyezd were considered separately [4]. Valuable information has been preserved in the «MKZ», refuting the opinion that agriculture among the Kazakh people was not very developed. For example, in a source dedicated to the Shymkent uyezd, it is said that 83.38% of the population were sedentary, and the rest led a nomadic lifestyle. The source also says: "although the Kirghiz (Kazakhs) in the Shymkent uyezd were considered nomads, they were

provided with a significant area of arable land than the average peasant family in European Russia" [5].

In addition, the South Kazakhstan region had an irrigation system that contributed to the development of agriculture in the Syrdarya, Arys and Karatau rivers. Agriculture has been conducted in these regions since ancient times. The members of the statistical party noted this information and pointed out that agriculture was formed in this region 60-100 years ago [6]. Agriculture in the Syrdarya region is much better developed than in the steppe areas. According to the statistical table, spring wheat, autumn wheat, rye, millet, corn, rice, cotton, sesame, oats, melon, lentils, barley, peas were sown in Shymkent uyezd [4]. According to the source, in order to preserve the fertility of the land, the population of this county planted wheat in the first year, oats in the second year, and other crops in the third year. Crop rotation in agriculture protects the land from soil erosion. At the same time, the Kazakhs cultivated the land with a plow and reaped it with a sickle. According to these data, it can be seen that the Kazakhs of the southern regions were engaged in agriculture before the arrival of the Russians.

In general, since the end of the nineteenth century, Kazakh land has been considered Russian property and coordinated by settlers. Through the policy of settlement of the Russian Empire, a period of large-scale colonization began. Based on the materials of the expedition, the empire determined where and how much land was allocated to the settlers. As a result, «Materials on Kyrgyz (Kazakh) land use» has preserved a lot of valuable and high-quality information related to traditional animal husbandry and agriculture of the Kazakhs. A distinctive feature of this source from other statistical calculations was its special study by the expeditionary method and the preservation of various information in it.

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