

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN KAZAKHSTAN AT THE END OF THE XIX – AT THE BEGINNING OF THE XX CENTURY (ON THE EXAMPLE OF SEMIPALATINSK REGION)

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Abstract

The article discusses the features of the development of capitalist relations in Kazakhstan as a colony of the Russian empire, the adaptation of the Kazakh population to the new conditions of the economy, the emergence of new forms of capital investment, private entrepreneurship.

Keywords: Business development, Semipalatinsk region, Kazakhstan

I.

Formation of the all-Russian market, fast development of productive forces in the 2nd half of the XIX century affected distribution of the capitalist relations in national regions of the empire. Kazakhstan was involved in the all-Russian market, more intensively began to develop agriculture that accelerated decomposition of natural economy of Kazakhs, marketability of agriculture had increased, cities and industry began to develop. Gradually there were favorable conditions for the expansion of close connections between nomadic Kazakh and farming population. East Kazakhstan cities carried out considerable mediatorial functions. In the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th century Semipalatinsk was the largest trade and economic center of the country and took one of the first places on trade turnover among Kazakhstan cities. In 1900, according to annual reports of local offices of banks, trade turnover was 100 million rubles [1, P. 35].

At the same time city was also the largest distribution center for the majority of internal regions of the country, supplying them with foreign goods and products of factories and plants of the central regions of Russia. Intensive development of trade activity of the city in these years was caused by general economic recovery of the 90th years of the XIX century, in particular growth of foreign trade, especially grain export.

Value of Semipalatinsk as a trade center especially had increased in connection with trade revival with Western China. Leather and red yuft of Semipalatinsk production and also chintz, velvet, cast iron, iron products were exported from Semipalatinsk. Tea, china, silver in ingots, Chinese fabrics were carried out from China to Russia. Part of these goods were on sale in Semipalatinsk, but generally they were taken to Tyumen and Irbitisk fairs, to Kazan and Moscow [2, P. 124].

Under authors' certificate of those years, trade in East Kazakhstan was more brisk than in Orenburg region. To a certain extent, it was explained by the fact that Semipalatinsk, Pavlodar, Ust-Kamenogorsk merchants enjoyed advantages of conducting trade without certificates [3, P. 58].

Home trade continues to develop mainly with Kazakh nomadic population. Every year number of Kazakh merchants' caravans coming to Semipalatinsk from steppe had increased. For example, in 1863 goods almost on 104 thousand rubles was brought from Kazakh steppe [4, P. 41] Most part of purchase and sale was made by cattle and livestock raw materials.

Cattle and cattle products remained main objects of bargaining throughout all studied period. As an independent branch cattle trade was allocated before all in Kazakhstan.

As a whole specialization in trade was absent and was characteristic only for enterprises which have been closely connected with local agricultural production. At fairs Kazakh rich men were large cattle manufacturers. A well-known traveler Atkinson wrote that during his trip from Semipalatinsk he met a cattle manufacturer who drove 300 horses, 7000 bulls and more than 20000 sheep for sale. General cost of goods was about 100000 rubles. [4, P. 42]

Since the end of the XIX century cattle trade continued to develop intensively in Kazakh steppe. Cattle manufacturers adapted to new conditions of housekeeping, breed cattle not only for own needs, but also for the market, maintained relations with large fairs, including city fairs. Purchase, cattle resale and other goods brought in considerable incomes to wealthy merchants. For example, goods for the sum of 111248 rubles and 20 kopecks had been brought by the Tobolsk merchant of the I guild Pilenko with salesmen, Ishim merchant of the I guild, Tatar merchant of the I guild Nazar Bayazitov and others, duty of 1185 rubles and 05 kopecks were taken from them [3, P. 59].

Home trade developing in Semipalatinsk more and more attracted merchants of different nationalities. Semipalatinsk merchants – Russians, Tatar, Tashkent, Bukhara merchants carried on trade in Kazakh steppes. Increasing number of city dwellers and part of the suburban Cossack, country and village population began to be engaged in commerce and industry activity. For example, if in 1894, 3180 trade certificates were given for the right of production and participation in trade, in 1895 their number was 4708 [5].

As for the data about merchants and trade documents bought by them, it is necessary to emphasize that to official sources under "merchants" column concerned only Russian, Tatar, Asian merchants. Often merchants from indigenous population were not among them. Therefore, in fact their number was much more.

Though merchants from Kazakh environment didn't manage to be allocated as an independent group of the population, Kazakhs quite actively participated in trade. F.A. Shcherbina wrote in 1899: "Trade at Kyrgyz is considered to be favorite trade, especially among rich men and persons inclined to merchant profit. But Kyrgyz dealers in this sense is only intermediaries between cattle sale and cattle products, on the one hand, both the Russian consumer and real cattle owner - on the other hand. Kyrgyz poor man can't go to the market or fair to sell any calf, either couple of rams, or leather or half-pood of wool and others, and all this were at improbably low prices in Kyrgyz intermediary earning enormous profits on these transactions" [6, P. 46].

Exiled revolutionary A.Yanushkevich who had visited Semipalatinsk in the 40s of the XIX century wrote: "City industry consists only of several tanneries and mills" [7, P. 6]. However from the second half of the 19th century number of industrial enterprises are being increased in the city. For example, if in 1864 there were 4 tanneries in Semipalatinsk, at the end of the century there were 47 factories and plants [2, P. 102]. Besides, there were some steam mills in Semipalatinsk. "Semipalatinsk steam mills joint-stock company" was created [2, P. 104].

A new sphere of application of capital - for distillation appeared since the 60s of the XIX century in Semipalatinsk region. In 1862 wine merchant Poklevsky constructed the first distillery in the region. Being a profitable industry and trade, distillation couldn't help drawing other businessmen's attention. Local merchant P. Pleshcheev became one of them. It was he who made rigid competition to Poklevsky in this case, having constructed distillery much closer to the city in 1882. Subsequently this plant began to be called as Znamensky distilling liquor plant N 20 of the trading house «Pleshcheev and K» [8].

Gradually capitalistic methods of production began to be approved with introduction of new equipment. Distillery was equipped with the device made at "Dangatser and Kaiser" mechanical plant in Moscow [3, P. 124].

Pleshcheev's distillery was the largest enterprise not only in its branch, but also the largest among all enterprises in the region by the amount of production. 40 masters and workers worked in the second largest Semipalatinsk enterprise, in a steam mill, after Pleshcheev's enterprise, in 1895 it produced output for 54277 rubles. In 1895 at Pleshcheev plant worked 90 masters and workers, it produced output for 98132 rubles. [9, P. 34]

At the end of the XIX - the beginning of the XX centuries in East Kazakhstan more and more extended grain growing that was promoted here by migration of peasants from central regions of Russia who were engaged generally in arable farming. Grain trade took on great significance with expansion of grain growing. As the most wholesale grain merchants in Semipalatinsk can be called: Krasilnikov, Pleshcheev, Musin, Habarov, Zlokozov brothers and others [10, P. 59]. Flour had been accumulated generally on Krasilnikov, Pleshcheev and Musin's mills.

Bought bread with navigation opening by towing steamships were sent down across Irtysh to Omsk or Tyumen, from where were shipped to the European Russia and abroad. 380 thousand poods of wheat flour and 30 thousand poods of oats [4, P. 45] were bought in Semipalatinsk in 1900.

Here the greatest concentration of the capital had been reached with development of flour-grinding industry. Cyndicate of joint-stock company of the flour-grinding enterprises organized in 1908 can be an example. At the head of joint-stock company were Semipalatinsk mayor P. Pleshcheev, large flour-grinding enterprises merchants-owners M. Krasilnikov, M. Artamonov, B. Yadryshnikov, L.Musin, etc. Altogether 27 people. Without competitors, they appointed wheat and flour prices at their own discretion and received huge profits [3, P. 125].

Semipalatinsk was not only center of home trade in the region, but also an important transit point of trade and economic relations of Russia with western regions of China. The Irtysh River allowed city to become a major river pier and was the main trade way in this direction. "Though the first steamships across Irtysh went in 1861, regular steamship service above Semipalatinsk to Zaisan began only since 1901" [11, P.19]. In 1901 P. Bereznitsky and P. Pleshcheev organized "Verkhneirtysh shipping and trade joint stock company" with capital of 30000 rubles. Steamships made a voyage from Tyumen through Pavlodar and Ust-Kamenogorsk to Semipalatinsk, carrying a load from European Russia. On these vessels leather, wool, bread and other goods [3, P. 116-117] were exported from boundary regions of China.

General industrial boom of the 90s of the XIX century was connected with rapid railway construction in Russia. Problem of carrying out railroad through Semipalatinsk region, namely about connection of Semipalatinsk road on the one hand with Tashkent and Vernuy, and on the other hand with Siberian railroad through Barnaul, was discussed in the late 90s of the XIX century. At the beginning of the XX century construction of Novonikolayevsk (nowadays Novosibirsk) - Semipalatinsk railway line through Barnaul begins.

"Imperfection of means of communication is one of the important reasons interfering industry development, demand on its raw materials, for trade distribution, to say nothing of speed of turnover... These reasons would be eliminated thanks to inflow of capital and enterprising people if Semipalatinsk region could leave isolation, connect with industrial world advanced with means of communication, in particular with railroad" [12, P. 38]. Development of means of communication, trade exchange increase to a great extent promoted strengthening of economic relations of Kazakhstan with Russia and to involvement of Kazakhstan, including Semipalatinsk region, to all-russian capitalist market, and also caused further industrial development of the region.

Conclusion

By the end of XIX – at the beginning of the XX century elements of capitalist production get into Kazakhstan in connection with region's worked involvement into Russian economic relations. In Semipalatinsk region during the studied period capital investment were carried out generally in the branches giving high percent of profitability, i.e. development of natural resources, or branches subordinated to requirements of primary processing of raw materials. Considerable part of the capital was concentrated in trade providing the highest profitability.

Trade was the main sphere of business during the studied period. Many businessmen, having saved considerable capitals in trade, passed to industrial activity. First of all industrial capital got into such branches of production which were connected with trade, didn't demand considerable expenses, were based on a local raw materials source and stable demand for their production promoted formation of stable sales market. Best of all productions based on processing of agricultural and livestock raw materials: flour-grinding, tanning, fat melting, oil, beer brewing, etc. met these conditions and predetermined their predominant development.

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