ABSTRACT

This article examines the policy of resettlement of Tsarist Russia to Turkestan, its military-political and socio-economic goals, the Russian settlements established in the country, the life of the displaced population, their lifestyle, occupations, agronomic assistance.

KEYWORDS

Tsarist Russia, Turkestan, colonization, resettlement policy, resettled population, settlements, agriculture, and domestic life, economic and social life.

INTRODUCTION

The policy of the Tsarist government to resettle Russian peasants in remote areas in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries has not been comprehensively studied. Also, the policy of resettlement of Russians in the regions of Turkestan has its own peculiarities, negative impact on the material and spiritual life of indigenous peoples, population growth in the country, the factors that led to the change in its ethnic composition should be investigated and appropriate conclusions drawn. In this regard, it should be noted that the concept of writing a new history of Uzbekistan requires an active search for a series of unexplored sources and to determine the accuracy of the information. In this regard, it is worth noting the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 27, 1998 “On the improving the activities of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan”. This resolution emphasizes the need to collect and compile a scientific and comparative analysis of all archaeological and written sources[1]. Among these written sources, we can include the...
unique “Turkistan Collection”, consisting of 594 volumes, which has a special role in clarifying the history of our country in the late XIX and early XX centuries. The Turkestan Collection consists of more than 10,700 books, newspapers and magazines published in Russian and foreign media[2], they contain information that can be used to analyze the life of the peoples of Central Asia on the eve of the Russian invasion and during the colonial years, the policy of the empire in the political, economic and spiritual spheres. The value of the materials included in the “Turkistan Collection” is that their authors are informants who are direct witnesses or participants in the events they write about.

That is why many researchers have turned to the data in the “Turkistan Collection” to study some aspects of the history of the colonial period of the Turkestan region. However, the full sources in the “Turkistan Collection” have not yet been studied and put into scientific circulation. Observing these sources in a critical, scientifically based way in comparison with archives and other sources allows for a deeper study of the history of our country, at the same time it serves to restore our true history and deliver it to our people.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

About dozens of articles on the history of relocation and resettlement, the history of Russian villages, stations and settlements in Turkestan were published in the “Turkistan Collection” and in the Russian periodicals. In particular, the researches O.Shkapskiy [3], P.Skripev[4], P.Khvorstanskiy[5], K.A.Timaev[6], N.Dingelshtedt[7], A.Kasatkin[8], K.Aleksandrov[9], K.Golovin[10] of such researchers analyzed the socio-economic processes in the Russian villages and settlements in the provinces and districts of the Governor-General of Turkestan.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Achieving the creation of an intensive farming culture by the resettled population in Turkestan, the rational use of land and water resources in the country, agronomic and general agricultural culture in many respects depended in many respects on rational measures, such as the interest of the people in the land, the increase of initiative. The government of the Russian Empire has taken all measures to create stable Russian farms in the country, to expand access to material resources.

Therefore, in order to provide agronomic assistance to the displaced population, there were such agencies as the “Department of State and Land Affairs”, “the Department of Resettlement”, and its “hydrological committee”, “Technical committee”, “Association of amateur gardeners” and “Garden department”. They were instructed by the Ministry of Land Affairs and State Property of the Russian Empire and the use of land resources in circulars for specific purposes, the study of soil composition, the search for convenient local opportunities, the identification of plant species, the provision of advice to newcomers, and the creation of the basis for the establishment of economically viable farms.

In order to provide agronomic assistance, hydraulic engineers, metrologists, topographers, botanists, soil scientists, amateur gardeners, officials and officials from various sectors of agriculture were sent to the region.

For Botanics (botanist) the following tasks are set for them:

- Compilation of a list of useful, medicinal and cultivated and wild
plants in Turkestan, creation of their classification;
- create a schematic map of plants in each of the selected areas;
- collection of plant herbarium;
- take photos of local varieties;
- compile a list of useful and harmful plants, determine their growing season;
- collection of information on edible plants;
- fulfillment of the task of acclimatization of new crop varieties (fruits, vegetables, melons, ornamental and shrubs, etc.) in the country [11].

The Turkestan experimental station, experimental test sites, experimental plots, crop test sites, nurseries (pitolenics), metrological stations, which have been established in the Turkestan region since the end of the XIX century, have played an important role in agronomic services. The Turkestan experimental station consists of an administrative building, a laboratory room, a warehouse for storing mineral fertilizers, a fruit and vegetable warehouse, a machine-tractor station, and a library, the library contained more than 1,000 books on agriculture, photographs of plants, and collections. The staff of the experimental station developed recommendations for Russian farmers and locals to alternate cotton planting with alfalfa planting, local fertilization of rice, application of superphosphorus to alfalfa with the expected results. Instructions, guidelines and recommendations on the basics of scientific management of agriculture were created and distributed to amateur farmers and amateur gardeners. Twelve different diseases in plants have been identified and measures have been developed to combat them. Thanks to the direct agronomic recommendations and practical assistance of the experimental station, Russian farmers have achieved high efficiency by applying nitrogen, ammonia, phosphate, superphosphate, local fertilizers, and green manure to their fields, according to a number of articles in the “Turkistan Collection”. [12].

Studies have shown that 1902-1909 was a period of growth in the field of agronomic assistance.

In 1904-1909, many new crops were imported from Europe, Asia, the Americas, the Crimea, the Caucasus, the Caucasus and the central regions of the empire and tested, chemical analyzes were taken from the soils, and soil and plant collections were collected. The analysis was performed in Moscow and St. Petersburg universities due to the failure of local laboratories. Expansion of land funds for the ascended through research to identify water sources and resources in the Turkestan region. Research in this area has led to the following conclusions.

- Not all rivers and canals in the country are used for artificial irrigation;
- Illi and Chu rivers can be used at low cost through technical equipment;
- Widespread introduction of modern tillage techniques can be a way to save water [13].

In 1906-1908, experimental fields were established in Dasht Chul and Andijan. Special plots of land were allocated for them. 200 hectare of steppe steppe experimental area and 27 hectare of Andijan experimental area were given. Experimental plots have been set up at experimental sites such as Kushka, Ashgabat, Jizzakh, Uratepa, Juvali and in 1908, there were 5 experimental fields and 5 experimental plots in five regions of Turkestan.
region. An average of 47,000 rubles a year is spent on their activities. [14].

Agronomic experiments were carried out on 4 tenths of irrigated and 16 tenths of arable lands in the experimental field in the steppe, and observations on crop rotation and cultivation of secondary crops gave the expected results. In 6 Russian villages in the region, the activities of agronomists and agricultural supervisors have been established[15]. Experimental sample farm in the steppe In 1906-1909, 10 acres of irrigated land were allocated for experiments. In 1907, the farm was provided with buildings and inventory.

Agronomic services are relatively well organized in Tashkent, Shymkent and Avliyota districts of Syrdarya region, especially after 1907, not only in the regions, instructors and agronomists also visited the volosts in the districts and gave appropriate recommendations.

In particular, 12 agronomists and agricultural workers provided practical assistance to farmers in Bairkum, Sarikul, Arisovsk, Aktyubinka, Karpasky, Ikansky volosts of Shymkent district, Okjar, Obliskoy, Telyaussky, Khurdansky, Yettisuv and Jasukun volosts of Tashkent district. They gave lectures and held consultative dialogues on the culture of farming[16]. In 1907-1910, agronomic services worth 21,150 rubles were provided to farmers along the Talas River in Avliyota district[17]. The Congress of Turkestan Agronomists (Congress) and the Consultative Congress of Agricultural Workers held in the country also played an important role in providing agronomic services to the resettled population in Turkestan. On December 12-13, 1907, the Congress of Turkestan Agronomists was held in Tashkent. At this conference, the head of the agricultural station R.R.Schreder, managers of Andijan and Dasht desert experimental fields, amateur gardeners S.Ya.Berdin, Plesnevich, owners of experimental experimental farms, instructors of the “Verniy School of Gardeners”, officials of the regional department of agriculture S.N.Ponyatovsky, N.N.Aleksandrov and others took part[18]. The congress discussed the yield of local and new varieties of cotton and grain crops, the results of crop rotation, the rules of fertilizer use, the provision of practical assistance to farmers in the fight against seeds and insects. Controversial views have been expressed on how to promote the culture of irrigated agriculture to Russian farmers, and how to teach them to plant American and Canadian cotton varieties. Among the resettled population, there is a low level of labor-intensive cultivation of vegetables and melon products, mainly due to the predominance of arable farming[19].

In 1910, the first congress of agricultural workers of the Ettisuv region, in 1913 the 2nd Congress was held. At the first congress, the issues of increasing the productivity of fruit, grape, melon and vegetable growing in Yettisuv region were discussed. Only in the Russian villages of the Verniy (Almaty) district of the Yettisuv region have farmers been shown to be self-sufficient in vegetables and melons. It was noted that Russian farmers are incompetent with the local population and Dungan, sparrows, and it is important to provide them with agronomic assistance.

A study of periodicals and the “Turkistan Collection” revealed that in 1906-1910, dozens of agronomists, hydraulic engineers and mining engineers were mobilized to study the meteorological and soil conditions of the districts of Yettisuv region alone. In particular, agronomist V.Ya.
Anderson studied Lepsin County and argued that 3,164,288 acres of land in the area was suitable for cultivation, of which 350,000 acres could be planted with cereals. V.S. Vorotnikov studied the plot “Tasma” in Prjevalskiy district and recommended to expand the farm of resettled people, the soil and weather are favorable, there is enough rain. This agronomist also studied the Verniy district and came to the conclusion that 250,000 acres of land were completely unsuitable for cultivation. Kopalsky district was studied by agronomists T.Tarvidov and Shitnikov, Voratnikov, who developed agronomist’s recommendations. A. Kornev studied the soil composition in the Yettisuv foothills and concluded that 500,000 desiatins of land were sufficient for arable farming. In Jarkent district, Vorotnikov and his assistant Mazurenko, a mining engineer and soil scientist Novoseltsev, studied Pishpek district with the help of two hydraulic engineers and identified more fertile land resources[20].

“Turshiki Agricultural Society”, their regional branches, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Affairs to provide agronomic assistance and guidance to the displaced population, organizations such as amateur gardeners’ associations and the Cotton Society also played an important role. In particular, Vasily Semich, S.Ya. Berdin, Plesnevich, A.Rubtsov, E.D.Yesyutin, P.Gutov, S.P.Yurev, Volkov, N.Moiseev, Kolichev, and others as “amateur gardeners” The agronomic experiments they conducted played an important role in the lives of the relocated farms. They have grown about 200 new fruit varieties, new varieties of crops such as raspberries, currants, gooseberries, as well as shrubs and ornamental trees in their gardens from 10 hectares to 30 hectares[21].

Gardener and agronomist G.G.Ottendorf distributed 1 million seedlings grown on 135 acres of land to gardeners. In his nursery in 1909, the number of seedlings of ornamental trees reached 240,000. 420,000 fruit seedlings were distributed to Russian and local farmers in Fergana[22].

The provision of agronomic assistance to the population of the local and Russian villages involved workers with a certain knowledge of agriculture and animal husbandry. Individuals working in nurseries also put a lot of effort in this regard. There were more than 100 specially organized nurseries in each district of Turkestan. The seedlings grown in them were distributed free of charge or at a reduced price in exchange for a loan. However, the data on climate change, presented in the observations of 6 metrological centers in the country, which occupied significant pages in some issues of the “Turkistan Collection”, did not always give the expected results of agronomic assistance. Natural factors such as cold weather, drought, and rapid cold snaps affected crops. In addition, agronomists with higher and secondary special education were not always available. Historical sources show that 70-72 agronomists and agricultural inspectors were not enough for the Turkestan region. Material support of agronomists, equipping them with appropriate equipment, etc. was not at the required level. For this reason, the sources cite a lot of information that the United States and European countries have done important work in this direction, encouraging them to use their experience.

The resettlement policy was aimed at creating strong Russian villages in the country, the formation of a peasant culture and modern industry on its soil. The aim was also to increase the income of the agricultural sector, to develop new lands by strengthening the
irrigation system, to transfer land funds to the state treasury. And the multifaceted goals, such as the creation of new land funds through the resettlement of the Kyrgyz, the increase in the amount of raw materials transported out of the country, were planned in line with the interests of the metropolis. However, the evacuees in the collection rented their land to local farmers and went to work in the city and on the railways data on relocation to industrial areas as much as possible were recorded.

In the “Turkistan package” the settlers planted a part of their allotted land, the rest were turned into pastures, and cereals and oats were planted. There is also a lot of information about the fact that 100 rubles per hectare of land (35-40 rubles for local farmers) was spent, the government failed to set a permanent land norm, and there was a shortage of land in Kyrgyzstan (Kyrgyz and Kazakh).

CONCLUSION

The imperial rulers made great efforts to identify and account for “vacant lands” in the occupied territories. In particular, in Ettisuv region it is possible to plant additional crops on 400 thousand hectares. And many land resources are located under lakes and rivers, in swamps, therefore, the need to dry the lakes and clear the reedbeds was also discussed. Even agronomists, hydraulic engineers and specialists from the center were involved to set up the industry on a scientific basis. Some government officials say there should be no rush in resettlement, suggested that local farmers should not take irrigated land out of their hands.

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