

History of Karaganda Region

After the abolition of serfdom in 1961, unsupported with land, driven by poverty and famine from Chernozemsky Center of Russia and Ukraine began to move in the forest-steppe strip of Siberia and northern regions of Kazakhstan.

With construction of Siberian railway in the end of last century, immigrants from Poltava, Chernigov, Kiev, Voronezh, Kharkov, Kherson, Saratov and Volyn provinces moving to Ural reached districts of Karaganda region.

The settlers brought new industry – agriculture. Agriculture did not change the appearance of the region, as it was cultivated only in northern, the most humid areas was of consumer nature.

However, the resettlement of Russian and Ukrainian peasants on the territory of the region played a major role in accelerating of territory development and the development of new sectors of the economy. Communication of Russian, Ukrainian and Kazakh people have enriched experience, connected with each other and contributed to the unification in a common struggle against the exploiters.

Since the second half of XVIII century, Russia began to show special attention to the trade development with Central Asia and Kazakhstan. The expeditions were sent to ‘Kirghiz steppe’, where they discovered a few mineral deposits there. In particular, lead-silver ore were discovered in the upper reaches of the Nura River and the mines were opened there later (Bish-Cheku, Kyzyltau, Kurpeshtau and others).

In the early XIX century, Russian industrialists and entrepreneurs rushed on the territory of central Kazakhstan after the official expeditions in pursuit of cheap raw materials and non-ferrous metals.

In XIX century, small mines, gravel mines began to appear on polymetallic ore deposits of the territory of Karaganda Region and metallurgical plants were constructed, where non-ferrous metals (copper, silver, lead and others) were smelted.

Thus, in the second decade, one of the first miners of that place S.I.Popov surveyed for polymetallic ores. In the 30s, S.I.Popov gained the right from the government for land acquisition in Central Kazakhstan ‘as much as he needed’; he purchased territory of about 1.3 sq. rich for ores and was a complete monopolist of mining in the eastern part of the region.

In 1839, he started construction of Blagodatny-Stefanovsky (Kuvsky) plant in the valley of the river Tundyk, where the ore of Bogoslavsky mine was transported. That plant existed until 1865. In 1849, construction of Alexandrovsky plant (in ores of Alexandrovs, Akuzek, Stefanov, Annen, Nikolayev mines) started in Bayan-aul district, which operated until 1873 and in 1859, they started construction of Bogoloslov (Nikolayev) plant. In 1860-1861, copper was smelted on Ioan-Predtechensky plant.

Most known deposits of non-ferrous metals were not developed by Popov, he sold them and received loans from the state at the same time for their development and evaded from payment taxes.

S.I.Popov's grandson – S.A.Popov constructed and put into operation Kosmo-Damianov plant in 1887 in 18 km south-east from Karkaralinsk, where lead, silver and copper were smelted from Ioan-Bogoslov ore mines. In 1888, in 350 km south-west from Karkaralinsk, he built Stepanov plant that smelted lead in ores of Tsarevo-Alexandrov mine.

Other industrialists exploited mines located in the western and southern parts of the region.

The appearance of large industrial district – Karaganda and industrial hubs – Dzhezkazgan and Balkhash connected with each other and other economic centers of the country by railway in Karaganda Region, it contributed to the further development of the region and its rapid economic development.

The construction of mining enterprises – mines, pits and manufacturing enterprises as well, where the towns and cities were formed, started on the numerous deposits of various minerals.

The Great Patriotic War did not interfere implementation plan of industrial construction of Karaganda Region and had not suspended development of national economy. Moreover, the growth of industry during the war had increased significantly.

In the post-war years, when all forces of our country were mobilized for restoration and further development of the national economy, the Communist party and the government of the Soviet Union provided a further industrial construction in Karaganda Region in post-war development plan.

Farm production was also developed in the region. If millions of cattle were grazing before the revolution in the region, during nomads' settlement period, a large number of cattle were killed under the influence of kulak-bai agitation and

the number of cattle decreased significantly. The Communist Party and the government of the Soviet Union providing material assistance to the settling population, in addition to the allocation of considerable sums of money, provided a few thousand heads of cattle on favorable terms, as a result, the rapid rise of cattle farming started in the region.

During the years of Soviet government, various sectors of the economy got a wide development in Karaganda Region. It became one of the leading regions in industry and area with a significant development of agriculture, especially cattle farming.

Mining appeared on the mineral deposits and metallurgical enterprises were built in the areas of mineral resources. Large industrial cities and towns, a thousand of settlements as well were built there.

Used material:

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