

Fuel Industry Formation in the Region: Unknown Chapters of History of the Republic of Tatarstan (Russia)

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Abstract: The present-day economy of the Republic of Tatarstan (Russia) is a typical model of a successful, innovative and most significantly promising region. The republic holds one of the leading places with respect to a range of important economic development indices and as for qualitative social indicators got considerably ahead of a number of constituents of the Russian Federation. The reason of such powerful development lies in a variety of factors among which of course can be found existence of developed industry, availability of ample resources, of population with high-qualified occupational composition, competent investment policy, purposeful behavior of the republic management and a lot of others. At the same time, a range of historical factors which favored powerful development of the republic could be pointed out. The researcher makes a conclusion that accelerated development of a fuel industry was a key factor promoting vigorous growth of the republic's economy. The study is aimed at the study of the course of development of the fuel industry (mainly of the peat industry) in the Republic of Tatarstan during the first half of the XXth century. Various historical and natural science research methods such as historical and retrospective survey, structured system survey, analysis and synthesis were used in the study. There were also applied such traditional scientific cognition methods as contrastive-comparative, historical-logical and problematic-chronological. The research is dedicated to review of the peculiarities of the fuel industry formation in the Republic of Tatarstan in historical sequence and gives information on the changes in administrative apparatus system of the industry due to the reforms carried out during the first half of the XXth century. The research is distinguished for its novelty, since the researcher didn't confine himself to the traditional point of view on the republic's economic development as an oil-producing region, instead he used the archive data to show that the peat industry had rather intensive development in the Republic of Tatarstan for a long period of time.

Key words: Russia, The Republic of Tatarstan, the Tatar Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (ASSR), region, industry, fuel industry, administrative system, peat

INTRODUCTION

At the present time, the economical prosperity of the Republic of Tatarstan (which is a region of the Russian Federation) depends mainly on successful development of such fields as agriculture, machine engineering, petrochemistry and some other. Nevertheless, the highest value is being placed on the oil industry. This industry produces huge revenues to the budget of the republic and the country; it is a driver of the regional economy growth. However, this was not always the case. Down to the middle of the XXth century, there was no oil production at this territory, the region used such resources as peat and coal instead. Although, these types of fuel didn't ensure excess revenues to the republican budget as compared to those generated by oil production they could provide the region with the necessary energy and heat.

In this connection, we'd like to mention the following specific feature, i.e., at present a considerable number of research works is dedicated to study of the oil industry but the works which would make a history of rise and development of other fields of the oil industry a subject of study are scarce. The present research is an attempt to eliminate the mentioned omission. The study is aimed at study of development of the fuel (mainly peat) industry of the Republic of Tatarstan during the first half of the XXth century and restructuring of its administrative bodies.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The specific character of the problem preconditions use of various methods of historical and natural science research, i.e., historical and retrospective survey, structured system survey, analysis and synthesis. In

broad terms, a methodological background is represented by an integrated approach to the study of historical processes which includes such principles as objectiveness and historicism. The traditional scientific cognition methods such as contrastive-comparative, historical-logical and problematic-chronological are used in order to realize the above mentioned principles.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The rise of the fuel industry of the Republic of Tatarstan in the first half of the XXth century was conditioned by growing fuel requirements of the enterprises, state institutions, schools, hospitals of the city of Kazan as well as of other cities and workers' settlements of the young Soviet republic. Here is the quote on this subject from the report to the local Council of National Economy of January 27, 1919: "Over the past few years the cost of fuelwood in Kazan has grown incredibly high. It's apparent that the reasons of such situation lie in increase of the fuelwood price as well as in extreme depletion of forest resources, urban expansion and other. Displacement of the peat deposits near Kizicheskiy Monastery was supposed to be one of the countermeasures. However, no expected results were obtained despite of considerable costs spent by the municipal facilities. In view of ample availability of discarded livestock manure in Kazan during Summer 1918 "the Association of Kazan householders initiated production of a manure cake (Anonymous, 2013d)" (Manure cake, i.e., dried or processed livestock manure which is used as a fuel (Anonymous, 2015)). This paragraph demonstrates that during the first months of the Soviet regime the fuel resources in Kazan guberniya (the Tatar ASSR starting from 1920) were extremely scarce, their localization and organized supply to the regional enterprises and for use for the public needs required significant efforts.

Organizational adjustments in the structure of fuel industries which took place in the region during the first half of the XXth century played important role in such situation. It's worth noting that during the 1st years of the Soviet regime Kazan guberniya (a territory of the present Republic of Tatarstan) didn't have any institution which would regulate the fuel industry development. A lot of the existing structures were relics of the czar's regimen and couldn't correspond to the demands of the new time. At the same time, peat requirements preconditioned necessity in creation of institutions which would coordinate procuring and use of the mentioned fuel type.

All of the above resulted in foundation of Principal Fuel Directorates (PFD) by Bolsheviks. These institutions

dealt with maintenance of records on extraction, procurement, transportation, availability and expenditure of fuel and lubricating materials, determination of necessity in fuel and lubricating materials etc. (Anonymous, 2013f). The regional fuel administrations were included into the structure of PFDs. On the territory of the region there was founded Srednevolzhskoye fuel regional administration in the city of Kazan (PFD order No. 152 of November 4, 1921) (Anonymous, 2013p). All of the fuel enterprises in the Tatar Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (hereafter the Tatar ASSR or the TASSR), the Mari Autonomous region, the Chuvash Autonomous region, the Vyatka Autonomous region should pass under control of the said administration (Anonymous, 2013g).

The Srednevolzhskoye fuel regional administration should deal with organization and maintenance of records on extraction, procurement, production, transportation, availability and expenditure of fuel, lubricating materials and illuminants, local raw materials, determination of necessity in fuel, adoption of measures for ensuring successful fuel supply, etc.

This institution had short-period existence obviously due to its excessive centralization and ignoring individual requirements of the Volga region territories.

According to order No. 74 of June 23, 1922 the administration was considered to be in the state of liquidation and the PFD definitively abolished this institution by its order No. 166 of September 16, 1922.

The functions of the Srednevolzhskoye fuel regional administration were delegated to the PFD representative established by order No. 144 of August 4, 1922 and authorized by order No. 166 of September 18, 1922 (Anonymous, 2013j).

Besides at the territory of the former Srednevolzhskoye fuel regional administration there were established offices of independent gubernial representatives of the PFD, namely for Kazan (dealing with the TASSR) and for the autonomous regions of the Middle Volga territory and Kama (i.e., Chuvash, Mari and Vyatka autonomous regions). By the PFD order No. 84 of June 1, 1923 the office of Kazan gubernial representative of the PFD was reorganized into an institution of regional representative of the PFD for the 4th (Volga-Kama) district occupying the territory of the Tatar ASSR, the Chuvash and Vyatka autonomous regions and having its administrative center in the city of Kazan (Anonymous, 2013o). As early as in August 1923 the 4th region of the PFD was renamed into the 4th fuel region of the PFD due to reorganization of the fuel authorities. The functions of the local representatives covered all aspects of the fuel-related activity (fuel extraction, participation in fuel supply to the enterprises etc.).

Starting from the second half of the 1920's a system of people's commissariats consisting of the all-union, union-republic and republic people's commissariats which dealt with administration of industry segments and management of works connected with drawing up and performance of production plans, capital construction plans, organization of material and technical supply for production enterprises as well as sales of products of subordinate enterprises was gradually being formed. These reforms specified final direction for the further development of the country industrial management system. The bodies of state administration became an example for establishment of the republican industrial management authorities.

During the 3rd session of the All-Russia Central Executive Committee (ACEC) of the TASSR, there was given a hearing of a report of the chairman of the Council of People's Commissars (CPC) of the TASSR on the results of accomplishment of the first five-year plan and were analyzed the planned targets for 1933. In regard of fuel supply of the republic there was taken the following decision: "since the problem of fuel supply was considered to be one of the most important tasks and taking into consideration problems with fuel supply of enterprises the session bound the government with the obligation to take all necessary measures for complete renewal of a plan for wood and timber harvesting of the current year. It was also decreed to start extensive works on investigation of fuel energy resources in the Tatar republic and to ensure necessary use of the same by setting planned targets for organizations and regions" (Anonymous, 2013a). Some time later the Council of People's Commissars (CPC) of the USSR committed the republican government to intensify the works connected with development of local types of fuel due to insufficiency of wood resources in the region. According to Resolution of the CPC of the TASSR No. 476 of April 30, 1935 and considering availability of such fuel resources in the republic territory as peat, lignite, slate stones there was initiated elaboration of a plan for peat digging in Kazan, Layishevo, Alekseyevsk, Spasskiy and other regions (totally 12 of them) (Anonymous, 2013i).

Another important changes were connected with transition of many industrial enterprises at the republic territory to use of peat: mechanical engineering plant "Kazmashstroy", tan-yard "Kozhzavod Named after V.I. Lenin", tan-yard "Kzyl-Kunche", sago grain producing plant "Sagovyi zavod" and other (totally 8 of them) in Kazan and dehydrated milk producing plant "Zavod sukhogo moloka", Usady winery "Soyuzspirita", Petrovskiy plant and other (totally 14 of them) in the regions (Anonymous, 2013k).

In April 1937, based on the Resolution of the CPC of the TASSR No. 781 "On establishment of a Tatar National Peat House" in order to ensure implementation of the plan for digging of 10th tons of peat as set by the resolution of the Council of People's Commissariat of the Tatar ASSR No. 426 of February 22, 1937 there was created a Tatar national peat producing house which was accountable to the People's Commissariat of Local Industry (PCLI) and which was a new milestone in formation of the fuel industry in the republic. The house included 4 republican peat producing enterprises (in Borisoglebsk, Kizich, Savinovo, Kazan) and 8 regional peat-producing enterprises (in Chistopol, Naberezhnye Chelny, Drozhzhanoye, Aktanysh, Yutaza, Zelenodolsk, Buinsk and Kukmor). Later on November 21, 1937, this house was included into the system of local industry of the RSFSR according to order No. 662 of the PCLI of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (Anonymous, 2013r).

Curiously, during the first 2 years of its existence the house disastrously failed to meet the planned figures of the peat production. The most vivid confirmation of this fact can be seen from Table 1.

As it can be seen from Table 1 the planned figures were not achieved during 1937 and 1938. The planned indices were even abruptly reduced in 1938 due to low efficiency of the house; however the house failed to reach them as well. It's worth noting that some peat-producing enterprises didn't fulfill the planned figure during the further period (during the years of war due to the mistakes of the director of one of the peat-producing enterprises comrade Shakirov the peat-production plan for the commodity output was accomplished by as little as 58.5%. The mistakes included incompetent allocation and use of labor force, improper and poor primary accounting which resulted in reduction of quality of the produced peat. Preparation of the peat-producing enterprises for the season of 1942 was also unsatisfactory, i.e., poor organization of labor recruitment, no production stock prepared, no repairs to tractors, absence of production repair and preparation works schedules) (Anonymous, 2013h).

The Tatar national peat producing house ceased its existence in 1940. In accordance with the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR of November 4, 1939 "On establishment of local fuel industry

Table 1: Indices of performance of the tatar national peat producing house in 1937-1939 (in tons) (Anonymous, 2013 b)

Years	Plan	Actual performance indices	Percentage
1937	18000	3000	16.6
1938	10000	6573	65.7
1939	20000	20073	100.1

administrations as a part of the CPC of TASSR” and the resolution of the CPC of the RSFSR No. 643 of November 9, 1939 “On actions for establishment of people’s commissariats of local fuel industry of the RSFSR” on the basis of the resolution of the CPC of the TASSR No. 1712 of November 25, 1939 there was established an Administration of Local Fuel Industry (ALFI) as a part of the CPC of the TASSR; the administration included 39 enterprises with 12 timber industry enterprises among them. In the course of the administration establishment, the fuel and marketing organizations belonging to the local industry and the people’s commissariat of municipal services of the republic were affiliated by the administration. Among them the Kazan Peat-Producing Office, the peat harvesting enterprises from Yelabuga, Naberezhnye Chelny and Yudino regions which were accountable to the PCLI of the TASSR; Kazan city business organizations group “Gortop” dealing with procurement and sales of fuel and accountable to the Kazan People’s Commissariat of Municipal Services; as well as business organizations group “Leszag” dealing with forest procurement and founded on the basis of local regional forest administrations (Anonymous, 2013c).

The administration of local fuel industry carried out direct management of all enterprises, organizations and construction sites of the local fuel industry at the territory of the Tatar ASSR, ensured development and survey of the local types of fuel, implemented actions aimed at mechanization of production, enhancement of quality and use of new types of local fuel. The administration consisted of the following departments: front office, industrial engineering department, planning and record-keeping department, accounting department, maintenance and supply department (dealing also with personnel affairs). There was organized a self-financed organization which dealt with procurement of the local fuel industry enterprises and sales of products of own make named “Tatsnabsbyttop”. This organization was accountable to the Administration. The administration of local fuel industry procured >200 th m² of timber and >30 th m² of peat annually. Besides fuel procurement the ALFI enterprises produced mass consumption products.

On the basis of the ALFI order No. 114 of October 15, 1940 forest compartments were reorganized into timber industry enterprises (Anonymous, 2013l). Later, on April 20, 1941 the administration of local fuel industry accountable to the CPC of the TASSR was liquidated in accordance with the resolution of the Council of People’s Commissars of the TASSR No. 129 of March 29, 1941, the organization “Tatsnabsbyttop” was also liquidated for this reason (Anonymous, 2013n).

On the basis of an extract from protocol No. 13 of the Kazan Municipal Executive Committee of April 08, 1941, there was established the Kazan Municipal Fuel Business Organizations Group “Kazgortop”, in this connection all timber industry enterprises were transferred from the system of the administration of local fuel industry under control of “Kazgortop” (Anonymous, 2013m). On the basis of the resolution of the CPC of the Tatar ASSR No. 129 of March 29, 1941 the Kazan Peat-Producing Office which included the peat-producing enterprises from Kizich, Borisoglebsk and Makarievo regions was transferred under control of the People’s Commissariat of Local Industry of the TASSR (Anonymous, 2013e).

However, after a short period of time (on December 01, 1942) the administration of local fuel industry attached to the CPC of the TASSR was established again on the basis of the regional timber procurement offices of the Kazan Municipal Fuel Committee and the Kizich and Borisoglebsk regional peat-producing enterprises according to the resolution of the CPC of the RSFSR No. 777 of October 31, 1942 and the resolution of the CPC of the TASSR No. 568 of November 19, 1942. Pursuant to the resolution of the CPC of the TASSR of January 29, 1943, protocol No. 38 “On establishment of peat-producing enterprises within the system of the administration of Local Fuel Industry attached to the CPC of the TASSR” there were detached individual peat-producing enterprises from Aktanysh, Buinsk, Drozhzhanoye, Naberezhnye Chelny, Chistopol, Yutaza regional integrated industrial complexes and Zelenodolsk municipal integrated industrial complex dealing with peat harvesting. Such enterprises were accountable to the regional executive committees as regional enterprises and were transferred from the control of the PCLI of the TASSR under the control of the administration of local fuel industry attached to the CPC of the TASSR. Besides there were established 6 municipal fuel committees (in Bugulma, Yelabuga, Zelenodolsk, Mamadysh and other cities).

During the last years of war, there was performed a range of other reorganizations. On the basis of the resolution of the CPC of the TASSR No. 815 of November 10, 1944 r. and in pursuance of the order of the People’s Commissariat of Local Industry of the RSFSR No. 301, at the beginning of 1945 the Kizich peat-producing enterprise and the Kazan Municipal Fuel Committee were transferred under the control of the executive committee of the Kazan Municipal Council.

Starting from March 16, 1946 due to transformation of the people’s commissariats into ministries the administration of local fuel industry was transferred under

the control of the Council of Ministers of the Tatar ASSR. In 1953, the ALFI was abolished according to the governmental decision (resolution No. 423 of June 16, 1953) and the enterprises were transferred under the control of the Ministry of Local Fuel Industry (MLFI) of the TASSR. Starting from September 1, 1954 pursuant to the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR the MLFI was reorganized into the Ministry of Local Industry of the TASSR (Anonymous, 2013s, q). Simultaneously an independent Administration of Fuel Industry (AFI) attached to the Council of Ministers of the TASSR separated from the MLI. In 1958, the AFI was abolished again and its enterprises were partially transferred under control of the MLI and partially under the control of the business organizations group "Tatles". Within the period from 1958-1966, the municipal and domestic fuel requirements of the public were satisfied by means of the regional and municipal integrated industrial complexes of the ministry of local industry of the Tatar ASSR and the same needs of Kazan city were satisfied by the business organizations group "Kazgortopsnabsbyt" managed by the Kazan Municipal Council of Workers' Deputies.

On the whole it must be noted that formation of a new economic structure in the country in the second half of the XXth century was accompanied by cardinal transformations in the system of public industrial management and accelerated transition to the territorial business patterns. This period was marked with large-scale counter-reforms in the country industrial sector which were conditioned by the erroneous actions of territorial administrations and the necessity of transition to a system of unified national centralized planning.

The new administrative system had to combine the elements of centralized management along with provision of extensive independent functions to the local administrative bodies and strengthening of economic encouragement of the production. From the organizational aspect the principles of centralization should start their implementation from abolition of the councils of national economy and reestablishing of industrial ministries. Therefore, in January 1966 the Ministry of fuel industry of the TASSR was established (by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR No. 1488 of December 31, 1965 and the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR of January 12, 1966 "on establishment of the Ministries of the TASSR and on reorganization of state administration bodies").

All further transformations of the fuel industry were mainly connected with rearrangements within the existing

sectoral structure and didn't result in serious changes. In addition, the oil sector started to gain leading positions and development of peat resources was almost ceased. Later, the following overall economic crisis and breakup of the Soviet Union was the objective factor which negatively influenced the social and economic state of the republic.

Findings: In summary, it is necessary to mention that the requirements of the republic (or gubernia on the early stage) in energy for the economics and the public needs conditioned advanced development of the sectors of fuel and first of all of peat industry in the first half of the XXth century. The mentioned process was accompanied by the following processes:

- Search for non-expensive and available raw materials for the needs of the republican economy
- Continuous rearrangements inside the system of the fuel industry management aimed at creation of an optimum system of management in this industry

CONCLUSION

The research shows that during the first half of the XXth century, the peat-production industry evolved most intensively. This industry satisfied the needs in fuel and energy. Moreover, peat digging did not involve many difficulties. However, as early as in the middle of the XXth century the necessity in peat started to experience abrupt decrease in connection with powerful development of the oil industry. Gradually, the oil industry gained its predominant place in the republic and provided the region with the necessary financial resources.

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