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RESEARCH ARTICLE

INITIAL STAGES OF FIRE SAFETY SERVICE IN UZBEKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

A this article emphasizes that the Russian colonists have made great contribution to the expansion of our country's homeland base, expanding the fields of cotton processing, paying attention to oil and soap-making, working against for fire and its prevention, preventing mistakes and defects.

INTRODUCTION

Thanks to independence, we have created a great opportunity to study the history of our homeland. Despite the fact that historians have carried out research on a number of topics, the research is still underway and the history of the fire safety system is still needed to be studied scientifically. The history of the formation and development of fire safety in Uzbekistan has not been studied by historians. It can be said that the history of fire safety has been studied in a general way by some of the staff members working in this system, and the lawyers studied only the legal side.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

It is well-known that the end of the XIX and early XX centuries was a complex socio-economic, political crisis in the history of our country. The policy of Russian colonialists, in their own interests, has caused a number of problems in all spheres of life of the local population. During that period, the security of the population and the protection of human rights were considered a secondary issue, and although the state did not formally establish fire safety, the fires were eliminated by the force of the local population. The ultimate aim of colonialism was to pay close attention to the issue of cotton production in our homeland, while at the same time gaining ground and underground resources, launching industrial enterprises, plants and factories, serious attention has been paid to fire safety.

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Because, at that time, production of high flammable products - alcohol, oil, cotton, coal, oil and fat products - was launched. Also, with the advancement of the agricultural and production system, representatives of different nationalities came to work in our country. When we look at the population growth, at the beginning of the XX century, "2 406,000 people lived in Turkestan (men and women). Of these, the number of men was 1,200,000. According to sources, in the beginning of the XX century 7 464 100 people lived in the country, including 2 236 437 in Bukhara Emirate and more than 6,400 people in Khiva Khanate (1)" This indicates an increase in the region's population. Also, special attention was paid to the construction of industrial enterprises and factories, the development of deposits, cotton processing, oil and soap-making. In implementing that goal, the local population was used as a cheap labor force. By the end of the XIX century, industrial production mainly consisted of small craftsmanship serving household needs. For example, the manufacture of home appliances, felt making, leather and fur for family needs was widely available, and the demand for such products was high. As a result of industry development at that time the network of cotton ginning, oil and soap-making enterprises, which was directly linked to cotton processing, has expanded. By 1874, the first cotton-cleaning plant in Turkestan was launched in Tashkent. After that, the ginnery under the leadership of Alimkhodja Mukhamadjanov in Andijan region in 1880, and such plants were built in Kattakurgan under the leadership of industrialist L.Yugovich in 1881. As a result of great attention to this sector, in the 1890's, the Botaqori cotton plant was put into operation in Andijan region. It was a commercial and industrial community – multi-industry "Andreev Hutori". The plant had a capacity to clean about 200,000 pounds (3200 tons)

of cotton per day. Almost 220 cotton-ginning plants were built between 1880 and 1914. For example, in Bukhara Emirate, there were nine factories in 1905 and 26 cotton plants in 1913. In 1890 there were 81 industrial enterprises in Khiva Khanate, 27 of which were relatively large enterprises. By February 1917, there were 36 cotton-processing plants, 4 oil and soap production plants (2). Of course, the construction of such large factories, in turn, paid special attention to the safety of those industrial facilities, in particular the fire safety. Looking at the history of firefighting service in our country, we see on historical sources that the society "Tashkent free firefighters" was founded and it was short-lived. According to sources, this society was founded in 1897 and members of the community operated at their own expense. That community activity was based on a Charter with the separate 82 paragraphs, which described the purpose, rights and responsibilities of the community in that charter. The first paragraph of the Charter defined the objectives of the Society, its rights under the second paragraph, the obligations of the third and the fourth paragraph, and the composition of the Society in paragraph 5 to paragraph 10. One of the most important aspects was that, according to paragraphs 6-7 of the Charter, only 17- to 21-year-old men were accepted as members of the community and women were not admitted to membership.

Unfortunately, the "Tashkent free fire fighting union" did not last long. It was dissolved in 1908. Colonialism was not a part of the activity of this society. As a result, a more complex period of prevention and control of fire started. The issue of fire prevention was in trouble in other parts of the country. In the archive sources, it was evident that colonialism did not pay close attention to the activities of this society. For example, in the process of the study, a firefighting assistant in the part of the Amu-Darya forestry on February 21-22, 1910, found that the fire broke out on February 14, 1910, when the fire spread to the large area, which eventually became more complicated. "The fire was canceled late in the evening of February 15. As a result of this fire (which occurred in the Turtkol of the Karakalpakstan and to the Urgench city, on the banks of the Amu Darya River), a great deal of forestry has become ashes." (3) There is no information on any firefighters involved in the prevention or suppression of this fire. Firefighting has been largely accomplished by local people. The process of eliminating the fire itself indicates that there was no organization to prevent and combat fires. As the continuation of our thinking, it should be noted that in the 1912-s, it was possible to see that the prevention and combating of fires did not have a specific system, in the case of fires in Tashkent and Chinaz. The information provided in the newspaper of "Turkestanskije vedomosti" in the articles of "The great fire in Tashkent" (4), "The two fire in Tashkent" (5), "The fire detail in Chinaz" (6), "The fire at the Ivanova plant in Tashkent" (7) and we do not see a specific group of firefighters fighting against it.

In our country, a number of changes have been made in recent years to prevent and combat fires. By 1914, the first fire fighting teams consisting of 14 employees were set up in the Russian and local communities in Tashkent (8). In the former Soviet State, on April 17, 1918, the Decree "On the establishment of state measures in the field of firefighting" was adopted. A number of legislative laws have been elaborated in order to ensure compliance with the requirements of that Decree, which defines the orders and rules related to the fire protection of factories and enterprises, oilfields, forestry and

citizens. Thus, in 1918, two small firefighting teams were formed in Tashkent. One of them was the city's "... in the Asian part, there were eleven person. The second team of firefighters, consisting of forty people, was in the European part of Tashkent, on Gogol Street. They also had sixteen horses (9). Such insufficient firefighting teams were also present in Samarkand, Andijan, Namangan, Jizzakh, Kokand, and other cities of the General Governorship of Turkestan. In the General Governorship of Turkestan, there were seven firefighting teams in 1917-1918 (10). In the city of Samarkand on March 19, 1921, the Council of People's Commissars examined the issue of fire fighting in the Turkish Republic. On 6 October this year, a decision was made to supply the members of the fire fighting squads with food, such as military personnel. In 1921 a fire training course was set up in Tashkent. In Uzbekistan, the fight against fire was based on the public and supported by the people. This is an example of the anti-fire communities established in many cities and villages in the Turkestan Republic.

As we have already said, workers and employees are entrusted with a number of challenges in preventing fires in industrial enterprises. According to the article of the issue 50 of "Nasha gazeta" newspaper, published on March 12, 1919, all the cotton-warehouses, the members of the firefighters' squad consisting of workers from all the cotton warehouses, oil and soap production facilities in the Turkestan Republic have been identified. It was emphasized that it was necessary to adhere to the following obligations: avoiding firefighting as a result of smoking, fires prevention, posting special anti-fire banners, as well as enforcement of these rules by each employee. The firefighter squad was led by the captain, i.e. leader, who was chosen from that squad. Members of the firefighting squad admitted to the head when fires occurred. As soon as the members of the squad heard the news about the fire, they quickly returned to the fireplace with the instruments of firefighters and destroyed the fire. Formation of the fire safety system in Uzbekistan has evolved with the improvement of the agricultural and industrial production systems. For example, in 1923/24, the total volume of industrial production in TASSR increased by 1.7 times compared with 1921. In 1924/25, the share of industrial production in the gross domestic product increased by 65% compared with 1914. In 1924-1925, 85% of the country's able-bodied population was employed in agriculture. The share of agrarian production in that period was 80% of the total gross product. 90% of the industry's activity was directed to the processing of agricultural raw materials. At the end of 1924, the policy of national territorial delimitation was implemented in Central Asia. It has further strengthened its sovereignty with some reforms by the Soviet government in Central Asia, including Uzbekistan. Important attention was paid to the development of agriculture and industry, the area under cultivation was expanded, the number of industrial enterprises, plants and factories increased. As a result, the production of cotton and semi-raw materials in agriculture, and the flammable alcohol, coal and oil products have increased. This required further improvement of the fire safety system. "In 1924, the Central fire protection department of Uzbekistan (CFPD) was established and was entrusted with supervising the fire safety measures" (12). Since then, preventive measures have been taken to prevent and combat firefighting in Uzbekistan, but the fire safety service was inadequate, there was not enough fire-fighting equipment and supplies. The issues of fire safety of major industrial enterprises, important objects of the Republic have been

resolved in national committees and organizations. The Commission for the Prevention of fire in the Executive Committees also played an important role in the implementation of those activities. By the end of 1927, the main work on building a single state fire system in the Central Asian republics was completed, but the situation was not good. For example, "a fire broke out in the building of Commtrest on June 19, 1927 in old Bukhara, and also threatened not only the building, but also the neighborhoods and institutions, including the State Bank and cooperative shops. Thanks to timely measures and public support, Commtrest was rescued. The fire extinguishing team has shown its inability to combat the "red rooster" because of the lack of quality and quantity of equipment and facilities (13). The fact that the fire safety service was not good is also seen in the February 26, 1927 Charter of the (security) Council of people's Commissars of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Uzbekistan. The tasks established in the Charter "Identification of the requirements for firefighting equipment of the regions and organizations and the development of their preparation plan, coordination of the fire fund co-financing plan by the separate estimate of the county and organizations, development of measures to monitor and strengthen the state of the fight against fire in districts and separate organizations" (14) claimed our thought. "On May 14, 1928, the draft Charter on State fire control offices in the Uzbek SSR was elaborated." (15) According to the present Charter, systematic management of fire safety has been set up and this task has been delegated to the Central Administration under the Council of People's Commissars of the Uzbek SSR. The Central Administration carried out its leadership activity through fire inspections.

In the provinces, fire departments' administrative divisions, authorized units of the Executive Committees were administrators of region and district fire-prevention departments, the chief of the fire-fighting service in the city's Soviet cities, and the village councils in the villages. In a word, urban firefighting measures, the organization and implementation of fire extinguishment have been delegated to the city councils and were managed by the chief of the fire safety department.

In the period from 1925 to 1927, the Fire protection service of the Republic operated in the regions and cities:

- There was 1 firefighting society in the new Tashkent city of Tashkent region, which employed 36 employees.
- There were 1 firefighting society and 18 employees in the old part of Tashkent city, and no firefighters in districts of Tashkent (in Tashkent);
- There were volunteer firefighters in Mirzachul, Ferghana and Andijan regions;
- There was 1 captain in Samarkand region (head of firefighting team);
- There was 1 firefighting team in Zarafshan province, with 33 employees;
- The first fire-fighting unit was located in 1925 in Bukhara in the present-day regional hospital, with two carts, fourteen personnel and firefighting equipment with 600 liters of water capacity.

In 1929 the Fire protection department in Tashkent was established and the fire brigade's autonomy has been eliminated and two new fire departments have been set up. The fundamental reforms implemented in the manufacturing, agriculture and industrial sectors required the improvement of the fire safety system. Because, it was impossible to save firefighting with increasingly rising horse-drawn water. Hence, by the 1930s, the horses the fire engines started to replace with technical equipment. In those years, the first firefighters manufactured in England and Germany were brought to the Republic. Those machines were "PMZ-1" fire-fighting machines. In order to prevent fire and extinguish the fire, special vehicles were brought.

Conclusion

As can be seen from the foregoing, the prevention and control of fires are progressing gradually. At that time, although insufficient attention was paid to fire-prevention activities in residential areas, attention was paid to the issue of fire safety in hazardous and large-scale production facilities and other industrial enterprises. Today, the first steps have been taken to explore the history of fire safety in Uzbekistan. This, in turn, will require a number of serious scientific study and researches from young scientists and researchers.

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