

# The Reports of the Russian Empire Officials on the Semirechye Region: A Historiographic Analysis

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**Abstract:** The paper describes the process of scientific substantiation of the Russian Empire's preliminary preparation for the colonisation of the Kazakh steppes in the second half of the 19th century. The purpose of the paper is to analyse the political, as well as the economic situation (development of animal husbandry and agriculture) in the Semirechye region based on sources compiled with the help of the works of military officials of 19th century tsarist Russia. The paper also provides an assessment and comparative analysis of the subjective characteristics of historical sources on the region development. Considering the study of the region until the end of the 19th century, the authors have found that Semirechye was of interest for the Russian Empire in terms of the presence of important natural resources. Based on the methods of scientific research, we also identified the relationship between the ethnographic, political and economic development of the region. In general, the paper shows the importance of the reports of military officials as valuable primary sources of information.

**Keywords:** Travellers, source study, ethnography, expedition, reconnaissance.

## INTRODUCTION

In the second half of the 19th century the Russian Empire began to strengthen colonial policy in order to expand its territories (following the example of the Western empires) and continue the capital accumulation. After all, even Peter I saw Kazakhstan as a strategically important region, a key to the gates of Central Asia. The Russian Empire pursued several goals: first, meeting the needs for natural resources. Secondly, the need to identify the richest primary products in the provinces as the main source of capital, and their transportation. Based on this, the first special military expeditions were sent to the steppe to carry out reconnaissance and further colonisation. In the middle of the 19th century the northern, eastern and western regions of the Kazakh steppe were completely administratively subordinate to Russia. However, tsarism was unwilling to stop there. For a final settlement, its influence shifted to the southeast of the region. This was the eastern part of Saryarka and the adjacent Semirechye region.

The period of Russian colonisation of the Kazakh steppe in the second half of the 19th – early 20th centuries – was an important historical period in the development of the country, characterised by profound political, economic and cultural changes. And it is very

important to rethink and generalise it again. It was also an important time for Russian Empire itself, when Kazakhstan was of great strategic importance for it, since it became the arena for the implementation of a resettlement policy, within which several national enclaves emerged. This process could not but affect the daily life of the local Kazakh population, since they began to closely interact with the Russians, Uyghur, Dungan and other settlers. When studying this process, Soviet historiography approached one-sidedly, believing that it represented only changes in Kazakh households, mostly in a progressive manner. In fact, the changes were somewhat different. For example, the Russians, who came to the Semirechye from the depths of Russia in search of land, began to engage not only in agriculture, but also adapted to the occupation of animal husbandry. Being engaged in two types of economy, as well as receiving patronage from the government, wealthy families began to quickly appear among Russian peasants, hiring already impoverished Kazakhs. It should be borne in mind that tsarist Russia, carrying out the colonisation of Semirechye, pursued its own political interests. An important point was also the fact that the region bordered with China, therefore, taking into account the Chinese factor for the Russians was very important. Russia was well aware of the strategic importance of Semirechye, through which the Russian-Chinese trade route passed.

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## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The sources in the study and coverage of Russian officials' activities in highlighting the development of land farming and animal husbandry are the previously published archival documents, including archival documents of the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which were published as the main material for this paper. A significant part of the archival data is concentrated in the 19th fund of CGA RK "Head of the resettlement business in the Semipalatinsk district of the Main Department of land management and agriculture of Verniy Semirechensk region" (CGA RK. F. 19. Op. 1. d. 5. L. 32-1904-1918). It contains all the paperwork of the Semirechensk Administration, which possesses the most abundant information on the affairs of the resettlement administration, which possesses exhaustive information on resettlement issues in the Semirechye by the tsarist government at the beginning of the 20th century.

To identify the relationship of the processes that took place in the Zhetysu (Semirechye) region in 1867-1917, the authors used general scientific and general historical methods. To describe historical processes and perform detailed analysis of various facts related to the topic and to approach historical reality, the authors were guided by the principles of objectivity and historicity. The comparative-historical method was used to analyse the reports of tsarist military officials. In particular, similarities and differences in its contents were identified. The authors of the paper were guided by the principles of historical objectivity. The historical principle contributed to the description of the political situation in the steppe through the analysis of historical data. The principle of objectivity helped to analyse the information of tsarist officials, as well as determine the level of its accuracy. The analysis and synthesis method made it possible to determine in the writings of military officials the key facts of the development of animal husbandry, agriculture and trade in the region.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

From the second half of the 19th century. The tsarist government, which completely conquered the Semirechye, began to study the land, water systems, economic conditions, land plots and other natural resources of the region. The group of researchers at that time consisted mainly of officials, travellers, orientalis, historians, geographers who carried out special government assignments. They did not follow specific methodological principles in their research.

Because their main goal was not to conduct research, but to carry out information and intelligence tasks. Even so, they had to carry out the study to some extent. These works are the only written sources of that time, which, in fact, provide the history of the Semirechye of that time. This is the scientific value of these works.

At the time of writing this paper, we analysed the most important works of Russian officials. Of course, given the fact that the historiography of Semirechye was sufficiently analysed before us, we tried to consider only those moments that are relevant to our topic. For example, the works of O.A. Shkapsky (1906), T.I. Sedelnikov (1907), K.P. Kaufmann (Draft of the most comprehensive report of adjutant General K.P. Kaufmann ..., 1885). In their studies, data on cattle breeding, agriculture and ethnography of the Zhetysu region were used. Such tsarist officials of the Zhetysu region as T.I. Sedelnikov (1907) and O.A. Shkapsky (1906) openly criticised the colonial tsarist policies. T.I. Sedelnikov (1907) in particular noted that the Department of Resettlement unjustly seized Kazakh lands under the guise of "surplus lands" and settled colonists there. O. A. Shkapsky (1906), in turn, expressed the idea that the farming culture of the local peoples of Semirechye was much higher than that of the settlers, and, although the latter did not greatly influence it, the government still provided them with maximum assistance. For example, I.I. Geyer (1908), who served as a tsarist official, wrote in his book "The Whole Russian Turkestan" that the settlers seriously harmed the development of animal husbandry in the Semirechye region (Geyer, 1908). In addition to the works of tsarist military officials, it is worth mentioning D. Fedorov (1910), one of the scientists who conducted a military statistical study of the Turkestan Military District at the beginning of the 20th century. His research "Military-statistical description of the Turkestan military district publication of the Staff of the Turkestan military district" describes the development of animal husbandry in the Zhetysu region. Geographic and statistical data collected by Russian officials and members of the General Staff showed the level of development of animal husbandry in the Zhetysu region. In this regard, the work of M. Krasovskiy is noteworthy (1868), it contains valuable information about the Semirechye region.

The colonisation of Semirechye by the Russian Empire proceeded primarily from its political interests. In the middle of the 19th century during colonisation, the southern part of Kazakhstan, or rather the South Kazakhstan region, including the Semirechensk, was

the last to join the Russian Empire. Semirechye was observed not only by Russia, but also by its rival, China. It strove, first of all, to expand its trade through the Seven Rivers. Indeed, even in the Middle Ages, the Great Silk Road passed through the territory of Semirechye. In this connection, in order to explore the Semirechye, China purposefully equipped its expeditions there. In parallel, Russia sent its own researchers to several points in the region – employees of the Russian Geographical Society. By special order of the Russian emperor, military officials were sent to explore the Semirechye. On the basis of information provided by Russian intelligence, sent by the special intelligence service as part of an underground mission, the goal of the government was determined: first, equipping special expeditions to study natural flora and fauna; second, use them to identify easily recoverable sources of raw materials that are close to the surface, which would allow capital accumulation to begin; thirdly, the search for vacant land by identifying a fertile layer of soil as part of solving the problem of land shortages for Russian peasants who lived in the interior regions of Russia.

Small-scale expeditions were also sent to the Kazakh steppe. In 1738-1739 on behalf of Tatishchev, officer Karl Miller visited the Kazakh steppe with a caravan on the way from Orsk to Tashkent. In 1742-1743 K. Miller and geodesist A. Kushelev visited Kazakh nomads from Orsk to Dzungaria across the Sarysu River and Semirechye. In 1740-1741 D. Gladyshev and I. Muravin carried out an expedition, Y. Khanykov (1850) wrote only more than a century later in the middle of the 19th century. The first articles and informational publications concerning the Semirechye region were published before 1918. Their authors were mainly officials of the tsarist government. The data represented special scientific research, and was presented in the form of an information report on the progress made to the Main Resettlement Department. Engineer V.A. Vasiliev (1915) in his book "Semirechensk region as a colony and the role of the Chui valley in it" pays special attention to the issue of colonisation of Semirechye. The peculiarity of V.A. Vasiliev (1915) in the fact that he himself participated in the implementation of resettlement affairs and the conduct of researchers of the Semirechye and Chuy Valley, therefore the generalisations he provided can be considered true.

Another participant in the Pallas expedition – N. Rychkov (1772), the son of the geographer P.I. Rychkov – wrote the book "Daily notes of the trip of

captain Nikolai Rychkov in the Kirgis-Kaisatsk steppe 1771". It was published in 1772. During the expedition, information and materials about geography, minerals and toponymy of the Kazakh steppe, ethnic history and ethnography, military art of the Kazakhs was collected. Various materials of researchers and participants of expeditions to different regions of Kazakhstan revealed that the explored territories were inhabited in ethnic, linguistic and cultural-economic terms by the same people – Kazakhs. This testifies to the ethnic identity and historical and geographical integrity of this people. The next important task was a comprehensive study of the history and peculiarities of the local population mentality, as well as determining the prospects of local agricultural land in terms of their further use. These were the tasks set for the Russian officials. In the middle of 19th century in South Kazakhstan, a group of Turkestan archaeologists was formed to study historical mausoleums, mazars, cemeteries, as well as places of ancient cities revered by local residents as shrines. Another scientific society, the purpose of which was to study the south of Kazakhstan, was the Turkestan Archaeological Club, founded in 1875. Its tasks included the identification and registration of archaeological monuments of the Turkestan region. The circle has published a number of its papers in the annual journal "Proceedings of the meeting of Turkestan Circle of Amateur Archaeologists".

In addition to research, unfortunately, there were also looting of historical artifacts and treasures, which were often with the tsar's permission sent to Russian museums and even to black markets. After the creation of the Russian Turkestan, the question arose of a thorough study of its territory by training local personnel. Among them, one of the first was the Central Asian Scientific Society, which brought together a large number of local historians. The governor general of Turkestan K.P. Kaufmann took an active part in its organisation (Draft of the most comprehensive report of adjutant General K.P. Kaufmann..., 1885). The Society's Charter clearly defined its directions: "The Society collects, processes and disseminates information about the history, geography, statistics, ethnography, natural resources, trade and industry of Central Asia". On the day the company was founded in 1871, 41 employees were registered. Among the various types of work in society, special attention was paid to the development of a project program on the customs of the peoples of Turkestan and the publication of the "Collection of information about the Turkestan region." The reason

why we dwell on the consideration of these documents in detail is that they represent a valuable primary source for studying the past of the Kazakh people.

Among the Russian officials who arrived in Semirechye was O.A. Shkapsky (1865-1918), who was an ethnographer, statistician, commissar of the Provisional Government in Semirechye. His research raised the question of a fair solution to the land problem (Belous, 2017). The development of agriculture in the Zhetysu region and the settlement of the local population in it are reported in the equally famous work of O.A. Shkapsky (1906) "Migrants-unauthorised persons and the agrarian question in the Semirechensk region". The work reflects the desire of the author and other activists to protect the interests of the Kazakh people in the framework of enhancing the social and political life of the region. Shkapsky's work as of politically literate official was highly appreciated in the Russian scientific community. Semirechensk region in the study by O.A. Shkapsky (1906) was presented as a separate object of study. Focusing on the possibilities and peculiarities of the agriculture development as one of the main tasks of studying the region, he made a number of recommendations to identify the key features of its further development. According to O.A. Shkapsky (1906), for the creation of irrigation systems, the organisation of their repair, the maintenance of access roads and other socio-economic and socio-cultural activities, there is a need for the activities of the "local district council". Currently, in Russia, these functions are performed by the council and administration under the governor (Habizhanova *et al.*, 2003).

An analysis of the works of Russian officials shows that within the framework of those events, the question of the future development of local nomadic animal husbandry was sharply raised. In particular, in their opinion, there was a need to reduce pastures by increasing the area of irrigated arable land and evicting herders from there in the future. Each of the tsarist officials expressed this idea in their own way. For example, at the suggestion of K.P. Kaufmann (Draft of the most comprehensive report of adjutant General K.P. Kaufmann..., 1885), the idea of land nationalisation was recognised as effective. For this purpose, comprehensive measures had to be taken, according to which the lands of the state fund would be provided for use by introducing a hierarchical tax for use by all categories of persons (Habizhanova *et al.*, 2003). O.A. Shkapsky (1906) had a different view of the land problem. He opposed the introduction of

private ownership of land in remote areas of the country as a way to solve the agrarian problem (Habizhanova *et al.*, 2003). According to him, the transfer of pastures in favor of agriculture will lead to stagnation of the population of the already weak Kazakhs, and as a result to the impoverishment of the local population. In general, O.A. Shkapsky (1906) believed that ending the seizure of communal lands while developing agricultural production would have a positive impact on the region. P.P. Rummyantsev proposed an agrarian reform as a set of measures to overcome the problems of Kazakh land use, relying on the specifics of the social structure of the local society (Habizhanova *et al.*, 2003). In this regard, in his opinion, the introduction of capitalist ownership of land and economic property of the steppe inhabitants should play a positive role.

He also showed the specifics of the regional development of agriculture in the Zhetysu region. The author wrote: "The obtained data on the climate of Semirechye show that in most regions, agriculture is possible only on condition of artificial cultivation. Only on the north-eastern slope of the Dzhungarian Alatau and part of the slope of the Trans-Ili Alatau, near Verniy, in the foothills of the Pishpek and Przhhevsky districts, it is possible to engage in agriculture without artificial cultivation. The most studied arable systems are in the Pishpek, Verniy, Kopalsk and Przhhevsky districts. In addition, the population of the Zhetysu region reported about their many years of farming. Quite definitely from the work of P.P. Rummyantsev can identify the features of colonial policy on the part of the local administration. In general, his scientific works reflect the key aspects of the colonial agrarian policy, as well as specific measures in the framework of its implementation. This is mainly based on the description of the situation of the Kazakh people. Emphasis was placed on a fair solution to the land problem and demonstration of the basic elements of the economic system (Shkapsky, 1906). Returning to the works of O.A. Shkapsky (1906), we would like to note the author's analytical approach to the study of agriculture in the Zhetysu region. The advantageous position of the Russian peasants who settled next to the Kazakhs is emphasised. He wrote: "In the course of appropriating the lands of the Kazakhs yesterday, the Russian farm labourer has already become a full-fledged owner today" (Russian Democratic Intelligence, 2003).

Describing the situation of the migrants, the author also noted the emergence of new settlements in the

Semirechye. Having studied the data of resettlement policy in the Kapalsk and Pishpeksk districts of the Zhetysu district, O.A. Shkapsky (1906) described the situation of the settlers who came to the region: "The Kyrgyz themselves began to lease land and became farm laborers for their landlords" (Habizhanova *et al.*, 2003). In the period of the late 19th – early 20th centuries Kazakhs and Kyrgyz were already engaged in agriculture more massively than before, and their arable land area grew from year to year. According to the work of O. Shkapsky, the Kyrgyz and Kazakhs of Semirechye planted 65,452 acres of land in 1882 against 233,524 acres in 1902. The author refuted the opinion of the Semirechye administration that the local population was engaged in agriculture only after years of famine to compensate for economic losses. Information on the volume of crops from 1898 to 1902 looked like this: 1898 – 1537138.8%; 1899 – 1,672,978.8%; 1900 – 1838669.9%. In 1901, 16327 hectares of land were sown with oil-producing plants and forage crops. A total of 232,110 acres were planted in 1902 (Shkapsky, 1906). In addition, according to O.A. Shkapsky (1906), arable lands and hayfields in the economy of the Kazakhs were associated with the settlement of nomads in adjacent territories. (Habizhanova *et al.*, 2003).

In the book "Migrants-unauthorised persons and the agrarian question in the Semirechensk region", dedicated to the life of the Semirechensk region, O.A. Shkapsky (1906) dwelled on the land issue in more detail. He noted that the phrase "Kyrgyz-peasants" was used by him only because agriculture was a temporary phenomenon in them (Shkapsky, 1906). He argued that Kyrgyz peasants are only a small group in the Pishpek district of the Zhetysu region. At the same time, Pishpek is located 15-18 km from the district town. The researcher came to the conclusion that on the basis of a special project in the Semirechensk district and taking into account the peculiarities of the administrative structure, many benefits were provided to Russian settlers.

The period of the late 19th – early 20th centuries is characterised by royal rules and regulations concerning land use, which determined the characteristics of the land tenure system. The author pointed out the frequent conflicts between the Kyrgyz nobility and the tsarist government in the 19th century. O. Shkapsky also talked about the formation of the village of Tastobe, which included Russian settlers. He also described the process of settling the Kazakh population. O. A. Shkapsky (1906) wrote: "With the

further development of agriculture and the process of subsidence of the Kyrgyz (Kazakhs – auth.), household-district forms of ownership began to take shape. If the volost (small administrative district in tsarist Russia) became a land community, then an elective volost congress was elected to resolve matters and disputes over land use. Over time, the house-to-house form of ownership became one of the main obstacles to development. On the other hand, the organisation of self-government was formed, expressed in the organisation of aul gatherings and congresses of volost electives. However, all this could not lead to the desired result, since aul gatherings occurred quite rarely due to the scattering of the Kyrgyz (Kazakhs – auth.) Over a large territory, and volost electors at their congresses could not be representatives of various social and economic groups "(Shkapsky, 1906).

The book of O.A. Shkapsky (1906) "Migrants-unauthorised persons and the agrarian question in the Semirechensk region" contains important statistics on the social structure of the population of the Semirechye. It says that the basis of the population of Semirechye was made up of the Cossack villages of the Russian, Dungan and Uyghur settlers and Kazakh villages. In his research, the author spoke about the preparatory measures for the development of land use in the framework of a new approach to land cultivation, which required accurate information about the composition of the local population and land resources (Shkapsky, 1906). Officials of the tsarist army studied the influence of socio-economic factors on the level of agricultural development. Based on statistical research in Zhetysu in 1907-1908, 77% of the Kazakh population was nomadic, 23% were settled, 89.4% were not engaged in growing crops, and 10.6% were not engaged in sowing. Based on the data obtained, these researchers divided the population of the region into nomadic, semi-nomadic, and agricultural (Habizhanova *et al.*, 2003). Research by O.A. Shkapsky (1906) generally raised the issue of a fair solution to the land issue as a key factor in achieving a "new economic structure" in the state (Belous, 2017).

Thus, O.A. Shkapsky (1906) did not deny to some extent the positive nature of the resettlement process for the further development of the country. However, the author has revised this approach to resettlement policy more than once. O. A. Shkapsky (1906) always noted that the original population of the Semirechye region before the arrival of the Russian Empire were Kazakh nomads. In the future, the colonial authorities

began to send the Russian peasants to the region, as well as Dungans and Uyghurs emigrated from China. In his research, the author noted that the movement of migrant peasants was very slow (in 1868-1882, only 29 villages appeared in the region). The author also reported that in 1891 the number of peasant settlements increased due to the famine in the European part of Russia, as a result of which the number of newcomers to the region increased again. He also noted that the process of intensive settlement has led to a shortage of land for the local population. As a result of the 13-year peasant movement, 2,075 families moved to the region, which averaged 160 families per year. In 1891, a new stage of settlement of peasants began in the Semirechye. In this connection, O.A. Shkapsky in his studies (1906) calls for the need to change the conditions of land use. The arrival of immigrants and the acquisition of new sowing experience from them influenced the settlement of Kazakhs in the region (Shkapsky, 1906).

The issues of land relations in the Zhetysu region and the development of agriculture were also reflected in the works of other tsarist officials. In particular, these were studies by K.P. Kaufmann (Draft of the most comprehensive report of adjutant General K.P. Kaufmann..., 1885). T.I. Sedelnikov (1907). It is quite logical that the Russian Empire was interested in transforming the territory of Semirechye into a region of intensive agriculture as part of the peasant's resettlement. As M.R. Satenova points out (2017), the military governor of the Semirechye region G.A. Kolpakovsky wrote: "The increase in Russian settlements will largely contribute to the Russification of the region." In connection with the policy of colonisation, according to M.R. Satenova, governor G.A. Kolpakovsky stated: "The gradual penetration into Russian settlements will inevitably lead to the settlement of the Kyrgyz" (Satenova, 2017). The military governor of the Semirechensk region had his own opinion regarding the resettlement of Russian peasants to the region. In his opinion, during this process, the Russian colonial administration sought some support from the local population. Thus, according to him, "together with Russian settlers, the Kyrgyz are gradually settling in the region" (Fomchenko, 1983). I.I. Geyer (1908), who served as a tsarist official, wrote in his book "The Whole Russian Turkestan" that when famine occurred in Semirechye, which negatively affected the development of animal husbandry, the local population was forced to switch to agriculture. The author wrote the following: "And then

comes the terrible scourge of cattle breeding – ice coating on the fields, i.e. death from lack of food. After such phenomena, the rich Kyrgyz turn into needy and take up the plow" (Geyer, 1908).

In addition to the works of the tsarist army officials, it is worth mentioning D. Fedorov, one of the scientists who conducted military-statistical studies of the Turkestan military district at the beginning of the 20th century. So, in his book "Military-statistical description of the Turkestan military district" the uniqueness of horses in the animal husbandry of the Semirechensk region was revealed: "At present, the Kyrgyz horse is a small outbred horse completely unsuitable for artillery (except mountain) and cavalry. However, it is distinguished by its strong constitution and endurance, freely remaining without food for a day, and horses raised in the mountains are indispensable for moving along mountain paths, where steppe or stable horses turn out to be completely useless and even dangerous" (Fedorov, 1910). In addition to the Russian Geographical Society, the diaries of manuscripts left by the military are kept in special collections of officers of the Central Staff. M. Krasovskiy (1868) in his works analysed in sufficient detail the geographical and statistical data collected by Russian officials, and employees of the General Staff in particular, that showed the level of development of animal husbandry in the Semirechensk region. Here is how the author describes the features of 4 forage animals, which were bred by Kazakhs (Krasovskiy, 1868): "Among mammals, these include: sheep, horses, cattle and small ruminants, camels, cats, and birds – goose, ducks, chicken, turkeys, pigeons, cranes, eagles, falcons and hawks"

The Kyrgyz sheep belongs to a simple breed; it differs from the Russian sheep by its large size, strong constitution, coarse, hanging hair, mostly of reddish color, stockiness and a significant amount of fat, accumulating mainly in the back in the fat-tail. The Kyrgyz horse is small in stature, the highest is 140 cm tall, the neck is short, the head is lowered slightly, the prevailing color is chestnut and red. The camel found in the area belongs exclusively to the Bactrian species; in the south of the steppe, some rich Kyrgyz have very rare single-humped camels, that is, no more than 1-2 per 100, and therefore these individuals are appreciated because they are almost twice as strong as ordinary camels. Kyrgyz bulls and cows differ from Russians in smaller size, but greater strength of constitution and the same endurance as the rest of the steppe cattle. One of the features of the content of

Krasovsky's works is his description of the distinctive features of four forage animals in the Semirechye region. This is especially important as evidence of the specificity of the animal husbandry of Semirechye in that period.

In addition to this work, it is also worth noting the study of major-general N. Mayev (1873) – a member of the Russian Geographical Society, researcher of the animal husbandry development in the Semirechye “From Tashkent to Verniy”. It contains the following information about the specifics of the Turkestan region: “Firstly, it turns out that the former Turkestan region is divided into two parts: in the southwestern part, the ancient settlement that existed for a long time is still preserved, and agriculture has been adopted to a considerable extent by the nomadic population while part of their pastures has been reduced. Cattle breeding and agriculture are already additional trades, not for income, not for the sale of food, but so that there is no shortage of anything at home, but even a surplus” (Mayev, 1873). The researcher makes an important conclusion about the significance of the city of Verniy in the development of trade for the Russian Empire in the context of relations between the settled and nomadic peoples. It turned out that livestock and crop production are dependent on daily needs. Travel notes from Tashkent to the city of Verniy describe the picturesque nature of Semirechye, Russian settlements such as Kopalsk, Lepsy, Kastek, Alatau (Mayev, 1873). The book of T.I. Sedelnikov (1907) “Struggle for land in the Kyrgyz steppe and colonisation policy of the government”, published in St. Petersburg in 1907, is devoted to the problem of the amount of land allocated to settlers (Sedelnikov, 1907).

It is known that after the Semirechensk region became part of the Russian Empire, the process of resettlement of Russian peasants was carried out on its territory. In the book “Struggle for land in the Kyrgyz steppe and colonisation policy of the government” T.I. Sedelnikov (1907) describes the rich pastures that were provided to the settlers. The author pointed out this in the beginning of 20th century: “From the middle of the 18th century until the last quarter of the 19th century Kazakh lands were constantly alienated. During this time, more than 10 million acres of land was confiscated from the Kazakhs. Then the colonisation by the Cossacks was completed, and to this day (at the beginning of the 20th century) it was “colonised under the guise of “surplus lands” to prepare zones for open resettlement” (Sedelnikov, 1907). Study of the military governor of the Semirechensk region of the Russian

Empire, adjutant General K.P. Kaufmann entitled “Draft of the most comprehensive report” provides us with sufficient and important information about the development of agriculture and animal husbandry in the region (Draft of the most comprehensive report of adjutant General K.P. Kaufmann..., 1885).

During his visit to the Semirechensk region in October 1867, the governor general of Turkestan K.P. Kaufmann (Draft of the most comprehensive report of adjutant General K.P. Kaufmann ..., 1885) directly saw the negligent attitude of the Cossacks towards forests, which damaged the nature of Semirechye. He regretted the actions of the Cossacks and wrote in a letter to the Minister of War in December 1871 the following: “From the moment of my appointment as the governor general of Turkestan, I paid special attention to the preservation of forests in the Semirechensk region. However, over the past 10 years, the region's forests have been depleted. Preserving forests is not only necessary to meet the daily needs of the population for fuel and construction. Forests are very important for the fertility and longevity of the land. Deforestation has a negative impact on land productivity. This is evidenced by the current state of the city and the village of Kapal. There, due to the thoughtless actions of the Cossacks, the forests were cut down, and the arable land became unusable. In this regard, during my visit in 1867, I had to instruct the head of the region to take appropriate measures to curb deforestation” (TsGA R.U., F 1...).

Section 7 of K.P. Kaufmann's report (Draft of the most comprehensive report of adjutant General K.P. Kaufmann ..., 1885), according to the statistics of 1877, was devoted to land use in the Semirechensk region (in particular, methods of artificial irrigation) while simultaneously working on the formation of the Semirechensk Cossack army. Within the framework of land use problems, the author noted such land types as ushur, kharaj, milk, waqf lands. He stressed the importance of sheep breeding in animal husbandry. The following information was also indicated: “Sheep breeding, both by the number of herds and by its profitability, is the primary and dominant type of Kyrgyz cattle-breeding industry. Therefore, according to the economic type of life, they are nomads” (Draft of the most comprehensive report of adjutant General K.P. Kaufmann ..., 1885). At the same time, the author examines the peculiarities of the natural and climatic conditions of the region and notes that it has a positive effect on the development of horse breeding in the Semirechensk region. For example, it was stated that there are 617 horses per 100 households. In contrast

to agriculture, animal husbandry has been defined as a separate industry. He notes: "However, among the nomads of the Semirechye region, in which there are more pastures than in the Syr-Darya steppe, suitable for cattle, and where oxen serve the Kyrgyz as animal beasts of burden, cattle breeding is partly an individual trade, independent of the needs of agriculture (Draft of the most comprehensive report of adjutant General K.P. Kaufmann..., 1885).

As we indicated above, the book of the tsarist military official T.I. Sedelnikov (1907) under the title "Struggle for land in the Kyrgyz steppe and colonisation policy of the government" was devoted to the peculiarities of agriculture and local land use in the Semirechye. In it, the author considered the issue of military colonisation of the Semirechensk region. In particular, he wrote: "All kinds of misunderstandings and violent clashes with displaced persons have also become more frequent over the past year. Martial law in the regions of Akmola, Semipalatinsk and Semirechensk was introduced back in January, and in the rest of the steppe regions, if we are not mistaken, there is increased security. Under such conditions, the further continuation of land allocation works in the steppe, without in the least alleviating the agrarian crisis in Russia, will only be a rough and sharp, but completely senseless and aimless provocation of the anti-Russian chauvinist movement among the Kyrgyz. Given the defenselessness of the "sons of the steppe", a lot of armed forces will not be necessary to pacify them even in the most extreme case." (Sedelnikov, 1907).

Engineer V.A. Vasiliev (1915) in his book "Semirechensk region as a colony and the role of the Chui valley in it" draws special attention to the issue of region colonisation (Vasiliev, 1915). The author named the resettlement of Russian peasants to the Kazakh steppes as one of the important directions of the colonial policy of the Russian Empire. The peculiarity of V.A. Vasiliev's research lies in the fact that he himself participated in the implementation of resettlement affairs and research in the Semirechye and Chui Valley. (Vasiliev, 1915). In general, the works of tsarist officials represented the interests of the Russian Empire, they mainly highlight the positive aspects of resettlement. All papers have their own value, since they protect original documents, statistical materials, etc. The researcher noted that each region is determined by its own characteristics of land use. His work is distinguished by the identification of regional features of the Kazakh steppe in the framework of the

development of agriculture. For example: "Having differentiated the economic types that existed in the Kazakh steppe into several subtypes: cattle-breeding nomadic, cattle-breeding-agricultural, pure-agricultural and commercial-agricultural, he made it clear that it is impossible, guided by only one priority type, to forget about the rest, condemning while the rest of the population is left to the mercy of fate. That is why he insisted on first allotting land to the Kazakhs themselves, and only then organising resettlement areas. "At the same time T.I. Sedelnikov (1907) emphasised the need to choose the types of land use before allocating land in Semirechye and the region by the Russian Empire. In general, the researcher described in detail the stages of the resettlement policy (Sedelnikov, 1907).

In his research T.I. Sedelnikov (1907) also provided interesting information regarding the life of the local population and the development of their economy. In addition to Semirechye, the work describes the land seized from the Kazakhs by Russian peasants in Aktobe in 1887, as well as land conflicts in the Turgai, Ural and Trans-Caspian regions. In particular, the conflict between the local and the Russian population in the Ural and Turgai regions was described in more detail than the conflict in the Semirechye. The author noted that in terms of the level of conflict, the population of the North Kazakhstan region was calmer. In 1891, in connection with the intensification of land relations, the sizes and types of land development in the steppe regions were described. The research generally showed the presence of conflicts between Kazakhs and Russian settlers due to the colonial essence of Russian politics at the beginning of the 20th century. (Sedelnikov, 1907).

Selected studies by T.I. Sedelnikov (1907) are devoted to land disputes between the Kazakh and Russian population in the Semirechensk region. A military official who served in the special services of the tsarist administration had his own view of the nature of the measures of the Russian Empire, as well as shortcomings in the right of the local Kazakh people to own land. The author studied the level of development of agriculture in the region and ways of its further effective development. In the works of Russian military officials, it was noted that peasants in the southern regions of the Turkestan Territory developed sedentary agriculture. He suggested using two types of local cultivation. This is irrigated and rain-fed agriculture (Satenova, 2017). In this regard, it should be noted that the regional administration tried to resettle the Russian

peasants on arable land. In this regard, according to A.R. Fomchenko (1983), the military governor of the Semirechensk region G.A. Kolpakovsky proposed his own plan, according to which the region was to develop in the following directions: “gradual contact with Russian settlements and the benefits of civilisational life will undoubtedly lead over time to the transition of the Kyrgyz to a settled life.” The author also pointed out that the plan for the colonisation of the Zhetysu region is to seize the Syrdarya region. For example: “The settlement of the Semirechensk region will also facilitate the colonisation of the Syrdarya, remote from the rest of Russia by vast deserts and acquiring a convenient way for settlers through this last path for settling in the Semirechye region” (Fomchenko, 1983).

In 1874 General G.A. Kolpakovsky, taking into account the complaints of the Kazakhs, issued a special commission to check the lands belonging to the Cossacks in the Lepsinsk district. It also included representatives of the local Kazakh population. Restrictions on undeveloped Cossack lands were also observed in the Kapalsk and Verniy regions. Given the current situation, the governor general of the Turkestan Territory K.P. Kaufmann (Draft of the most comprehensive report of adjutant General K.P. Kaufmann ..., 1885) considered it necessary to carry out further restrictions on the land use for Cossacks within the framework of the colonisation of Semirechye. He reported that the Cossacks, who could grow crops and develop the economy, owned only 1526 arpents of fertile land, occupying 22,376 arpents (Draft of the most comprehensive report of adjutant General K.P. Kaufmann ..., 1885). Research by K.P. Kaufmann was focused on the problem of military colonisation of Semirechye. He also examined the peculiarities of the political and economic situation in the region, as well as the process of development of animal husbandry and agriculture. He proposed a special bill that would reflect the specifics of land use in the region. Thus, in his work, K.P. Kaufmann (Draft of the most comprehensive

report of adjutant General K.P. Kaufmann ..., 1885) proposed effective methods of Russian colonisation of the region.

The magnifying level in the volume of production of each county in this region from year to year can be explained by the fact that local residents are completely moving to the process of sedentary agriculture. The development of agriculture and animal husbandry in the territory of the Semirechye Territory was considered at the State Council on November 25, 1903, which was held with the participation of the Ministry of Agriculture and State Property. The log of this meeting is kept in the archive (CGA RK. F. 19. Op. 1. d. 5. L. 32-1904-1918; CGA RK 44-fond, 2-t, 2495).

The question of the creation of a party engaged in the preparation of resettlement sites in the south-eastern provinces of Russia, Uralsk in the Turkestan Territory in 1904, became one of the important problems. In 1896, a resettlement department was opened under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Kazakh region was divided into five districts: Turgai, Akmola, Semipalatinsk, Syrdarya, where resettlement institutions were opened. The increase in the volume of production of each county in this region from year to year can be explained by the fact that local residents were completely moving to the process of sedentary agriculture. We must show the level of development of agriculture in the Semirechye and Syrdarya regions, which are part of the Turkestan Territory. Because as a result of the reforms carried out by the tsarist government since the 1860s, the aggravation of land problems occurred in the region. And now in the Zhetysu region, which became part of the Turkestan Territory, it will be possible to show the level of development of agriculture according to the following Table 1:

The table shows not only the trends in the development of agriculture, but also the conditions that

**Table 1: Development of Agriculture in Kazakhstan, Semirechensk Region (19th Century) (Draft of the Most Comprehensive Report of Adjutant General K.P. Kaufmann...,1885)**

Counties	Seized land, ths. arpents	Area of seized land, %	Land plots			Increase in sown area, %	
			1877	1882	1900	1877	1882
Vernensky	1008.2	25.4	13968	34615	39044	279.6	112.2
Kapalsky and Lepsinsky	584	5.1	22689	16900	31287	174.1	210
Zharkentsk	367.7	11.2	-	716	8204		1445.1
Total	1959.9		36657	52231	78535	214.2	150.3

prevent it. We see the process of increasing the acreage in the Vernensky district. But Russian immigrants came to the places taken from the local Kazakh people, mainly engaged in agriculture. And in the Kapalsky, Lepsinsky, Zharkentsky districts, low crop areas have led to a decrease in agriculture in the region. At the same time, there is a basis to show the development of advanced agriculture, which was directly developed due to the implementation of the violent colonial policy of the Russian Cossacks. In 1882, the Kazakh population of the Semirechensk region had 2834 thousand units of cattle. Thirteen years later, in 1895, it increased by 3181 thousand. The growth in the livestock population was 122.2%. But as we can see, at the end of the 19th century. Kazakh cattle breeding suffered a decline with the growth of sedentary pastoralism. Since the number of livestock has increased, and the settled lifestyle has stabilised. In 1897-1899 there was a very strong ground frost. The issues of resettlement of Russian peasants to the territory of the Kazakhstan were considered at the state council on November 25, 1903, which was held with the participation of the Ministry of Agriculture and State Property. The log of this meeting is kept in the fund of the archive (CGA RK. F. 19. Op. 1. d. 5. L. 32-1904-1918).

To continue the work begun in 1906 in the Semirechensk resettlement area of 1907, the region was divided into 10 small sub-districts Przhevalsky, Kapalsky, Pishpeksky, Chuisky, Narynsky, Lepsinsky, Sergiopol-Iliysko-Balkhash. More precisely, the counties – Verniy, Przhevalsk, Kapalsk and Zharkentsk made up small subdistricts – Vernensky, Przhevalsky, Kapalsky and Zharkentsky. The real evidence that the colonial process in the region has become widespread is the transition of the local population to settled life. It should be noted that at the end of the 19th century along with cattle breeding, the South Kazakhstan region received wide development of agriculture. This was continued during the 20th century. In 1906-1913 the number of livestock in the Turkestan Territory increased from 7988.2 thousand units of cattle to 10861.9 thousand units (35.9%). In addition, the amount of land for crops increased from 613.8 thousand arpents to 920.6 (50%) thousand arpents. Thus, if we take agriculture as a whole, then at the beginning of the 20th century we see that agriculture in the region was more extensive than animal husbandry. This means that with the advent of Russian peasants, the agriculture has developed (Shayakhmetov *et al.* 2019).

The next important study of the Semirechensk region is the findings of the Russian expedition directed to the Semirechensk region under the leadership of P.P. Rumyantsev (1913). The results of his expedition were published in the form of statistical data. In St. Petersburg in 1913 they were published in the form of a collection "Materials on the survey of native and Russian old-timers and land use in the Semirechensk region" for different areas of the Semirechensk region. In general, the work provides statistical data on the state of agricultural development in the Semirechensk region based on statistical data on land use (Rumyantsev, 1913). Therefore, the uniqueness of this paper is beyond doubt. In 1909, the question of conducting a future full-fledged study of the Semirechye region was discussed. The main purpose of this study was to identify the specifics of the traditional economy of the Kazakhs. Later, in the course of the study of each district of the region, a collection was published. As for a single area, for example, the study by P.P. Rumyantsev (1913) of the Zharkent region shows that certain land disputes existed between Kazakhs, Russians, Dungans and Chinese. His studies say: "The Kyrgyz of the alban and suan clans roam either within the Chinese limits, then within the newly formed Taranchinsky sultanate, then within the Russians and up to 1882 they live depending on the course of political events, constantly being drawn into the quarrels of the Chinese, the Dungans, Uyghurs and Russians, in fact not recognising anyone's power, changing the places of their migrations now and then and completely lacking arable land and hayfields" (Bissebayeva *et al.*, 2018). These historical events tell about the direct influence of the Zharkent Kyrgyz on the land use processes. In general, political and economic conflicts of the Kazakh population with other peoples are shown. Thus, the studies by tsarist officials show that the city of Verniy was of great importance for the development of trade of the Russian Empire with Central Asia and China. At the expense of the city was the process of creating irrigation systems, organising their repairs, maintaining access roads and other socio-economic and cultural events in the region. Analysis of the authors' works logically leads to the conclusion about the importance of developing relations between settled and nomadic peoples.

The research as a whole provides valuable information on development of agriculture and animal husbandry in the region. At the same time, it should be noted that the accuracy of information on the amount of

**Table 2: Development of Animal Husbandry in Semirechye (20th Century)**

Years	Number of livestock (ths. animal units)					
	Kazakhs		Uyghurs and Dungans		Russian peasants	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
1902	3048.9	100	106.9	100	84.2	100
1904	3164	103.8	130.5	122	86.6	102.9
1907	3510.4	115.1	171.9	160.8	88.1	104.6
1910	3881.5	127.3	188.5	176.4	106.2	126.1
1913	3895.7	127.8	191.9	179.5	181.7	215.8

land allocated to migrants in the Semirechensk district remains not fully understood (Semenov-Tian-Shanski, 1903). The level of increase in the volume of production of each county in this region from year to year can be explained by the fact that local residents are completely moving to farming agriculture. It is necessary to highlight the level of husbandry development in the Semirechye and Syrdarya regions, which are part of the Turkestan Territory. Because as a result of the reforms carried out by the tsarist government since the 1860s, aggravation of land problems begins in the region. And now in the area that became part of the Turkestan Territory, it will be possible to show the level of development of animal husbandry according to the following Table 2.

In terms of livestock development indicators (as can be seen from the table), Kazakhs are in the last place. The rest of the Uyghur and Dungan and Russian peasants were engaged in cattle breeding. Until the 20th century Kazakhs, who were engaged in nomadic cattle breeding, were now forced to settle down. In 1882, the Kazakh population of the Semirechensk region had 2834 thousand units of cattle. Thirteen years later, in 1895, it increased by 3181 thousand. The growth in the livestock population was 122.2%. But as we can see, at the end of the 19th century. Kazakh cattle breeding suffered a decline with the growth of sedentary pastoralism. Since the number of livestock has increased, and the settled lifestyle has been stabilised. In 1897-1899 there was a very strong ground frost on the fields. During this period, half of the livestock of the Kazakh people died. In 1902, animal husbandry did not reach the number of livestock as of 1895. This is due to the development of agriculture in the same period, it should be noted that the Kazakh economy, based on animal husbandry, gradually began to move to a settled lifestyle. It should also be noted that the traditional economy is going through a deep crisis during this period. The violent seizure of land, a

diverse system of nomadic life influenced the decline in the number of livestock.

## CONCLUSIONS

Thus, the records of Russian tsarist officials are of particular value, based on statistical data both on the political situation in Semirechye and the development of agriculture and animal husbandry. Studying the legacy of Russian officials, it can be noted that they used their knowledge, influence and power to carry out further colonialist policy in the framework of the "legal" seizure of Kazakh territory. Tsarist Russian officials, when implementing reforms, were primarily interested in the resettlement of Kazakh clans, based on the arrival of new settlers in the steppe. It is easy to see that their research was aimed at serving the interests of the empire. But their proceedings are still valuable for modern researchers are materials, they provide important information about the political, economic and spiritual life of the local population.

Tsarist officials did not forget to make proposals for increasing the efficiency of colonisation. However, despite the imperial interests, being educated citizens, they closely followed the peculiarities of the life of the local population and considered it necessary to express opinions aimed at protecting the interests of the Kazakh population. It can be concluded that the tsarist officials had their own special civic principles. In general, the works of Russian officials laid the foundation for the first scientific research on the economy and culture of the Kazakh people. The conducted research has left important information about the amount of land allocated to migrants in the Zhetysu region.

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Received on 20-11-2020

Accepted on 18-12-2020

Published on 31-12-2020

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.6000/1929-4409.2020.09.388>© 2020 Kuketova *et al.*; Licensee Lifescience Global.

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