

# IJEFI

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF  
ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

**&J** EconJournals

ISSN: 2146-4138

## VOL 5, NO 3S (2015)

### SPECIAL ISSUE

Economics and Society in the Era of Technological Changes and Globalization

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## **Resettlement of Koreans and their Role in Development of Agriculture of Primorskaya Oblast in the Latter Half of the XIX - the Early of the XX Century**

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### **ABSTRACT**

In the article on the basis of archival material and historical sources attempt to study questions of resettlement of Koreans to the south of the Far East of Russia in the latter half of XIX - the early of the XX century, the reason of migration and adaptation of the Korean immigrants on the new location is made. Continuous resettlement process from Korea to Primorskaya oblast (at the present time - Primorsky Krai) is considered, its dynamics and numerical indicators. Vast majority of the Korean immigrants were engaged in agriculture. Features of farming by the Korean immigrants are investigated, considering use of the agricultural experience which is saved up in Korea, the country with similar climatic, soil conditions. The question of the farming, the Korean agricultural stock, specifics of cultivation of traditional Korean grain crops are studied. One of the directions of agriculture of Koreans - silkworm breeding, its organization and results of production is investigated. It is noted that introduction to an agricultural turn of those lands which the Russian peasants considered unsuitable for agriculture; bed-grown way of processing of the land; variable system of landing plants; receiving more big crops of all species of agricultural plants, than the Russian peasants had; distribution of new agricultural plants among the population of Primorskaya oblast promoted effective farming and its development. The question of borrowing Russian peasants' practices by the Korean immigrants - cultivation of new species of plants - oats, wheat, a rye - for sale, use of agricultural stock, horses is studied. The mutual exchange of the saved-up experience and knowledge in different branches of agriculture allowed reclaiming the South of the Far East of Russia effectively.

**Keywords:** Koreans Migration, Primorsky Krai, Agriculture, Arable Farming, Silkworm Breeding

**JEL Classifications:** M55, Q12

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The geographical position and history of Primorsky Krai colonization caused a peculiar ethnic structure of the population. In 1860, by the time of emergence of Russians, in Primorsky Krai, at that time Primorskaya oblast, lived indigenous people - Golds (Nanais), Udege, Orochs and Tazy, and also representatives of neighboring states - Chinese, Japanese. Since 1864 began mass resettlement of Koreans to the south of the Far East. In the latter half of the XIX century Korea experienced both internal political and economic, and foreign policy difficulties. In economy prolonged crisis of natural agriculture which had extensive character and depended on weather conditions, especially in the

north of the country was observed. After the confirmation on April 27, 1861 "Rules for the settlement of Russians and foreigners in the Amur and Primorskaya oblast of Eastern Siberia" landless Korean peasants began to immigrate actively to Primorskaya oblast ("Complete collection of laws" 1863, 683). Continuous process of resettlement of Koreans provided not only colonization of the vacant lands of the South of the Far East of Russia, but also allowed to develop the new lands.

### **2. METHODS**

The methodological basis was made by the fundamental principles of scientific knowledge: Objectivity, historicism and systemacity.

The principle of historicism allowed investigating the emergence reasons, factors of formation and dynamics of development of a migratory stream from Korea. Use of a comparative-historical method and method of the retrospective analysis allowed revealing major factors and components of the process of settling by the Korean peasants of the South of the Far East in the second half of the XIX century. In the work the historical and situational method assuming studying of historic facts of the studied period is applied, considering influence of events and the phenomena of that time for resettlement of Koreans and development of agriculture in Primorskaya oblast. The problematic-chronological method allowed allocating the main aspects and stages of process of resettlement and moving of Koreans on Primorskaya oblast. The method of specification of events promoted disclosure of farming features of the Korean peasant. Archival documents, works of researchers Przhevalsky, Busse, Nasekin became the main sources for writing of article; the works III of the Khabarovsk congress of local figures of the Amur and Primorskaya oblasts processed by the agronomist Kryukov, works of the Amur expedition - reports to Grava, Pesotsky, Krishtofovich's work, Gordeev and others.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The first Koreans made a settlement on the Posyet territory (at the present time - the Khasansky District of Primorsky Krai). In 1864 the military governor general of Primorskaya oblast Kazakevich presented to the Governor General of Eastern Siberia Korsakov on permission a question of citizenship of the Koreans who crossed the border in 1863 and who made a longment in valleys of the rivers of Fatashi, Yanchikhe, Tizinkhe (Pesotsky, 1913, p. 1). From the report of the lieutenant - colonel Oldenburg of September 25, 1864 it is known that in January, 1864 fourteen families numerically sixty people moved from Korea to the south of Primorskaya oblast. In the document it appears that the settlement consisted of 8 structures - steading, near steading the big well-arranged lands with landings of "soy, barley, buckwheat and corn up to 15 dessiatinas" were located (RSHA of Far East. Fond 87. List 1. Case 278. Sheet 9-10 verso). In Kazakevich's Koreans resettlement report was marked out that about 30 families of Koreans which had arrived from Korea during 1864 were not only arranged, but also managed to sow so much summer bread that they were ready to sell it surplus (RSHA of Far East. Fond 87. List 1. Case 278. Sheet 15-16 verso).

The Korean immigrants continuously had been arriving with the purpose to locate on a new place and to receive the land. In the captain Gelmersen's report on a trip to Posyet's harbor in 1865 it is noted that till December 1 of this year 360 people moved (RSHA of Far East. Fond 87. List 1. Case 278. Sheet 50-54 verso). In 1866 90 more families (546 people) moved.

The first incomplete census of the Korean population in the south of the Far East which is carried out at the beginning of 1867 by the official of Primorski regional board Busse showed that Koreans lived in three places, on small rivers Tizinkhe, Sidimi and Mangugaye the 185 families (999 people) (RSHA of Far East. Fond 87. List 1. Case 278. Sheet 61-70 verso). The number of the Korean inhabitants in 1868 had already been 1415 people

(Busse 1880, 21). While Russian immigrants to the south of the Far East was insignificant. From 1866 to 1869 to the region of profit of 1573 people, including 1371 people (87,1%) from the Amur region (Osipov, 2008). Therefore local authorities treated foreign immigrants favorably, protected them from attacks of Manchurians and provided them with provision and seeds at the initial stage expecting that in the near future it would allow to resolve an issue with supply with bread of the troops located in the south of Primorskaya oblast. Since 1869 settling of the South of the Far East by Koreans accepted large-scale character because of a crop failure and hunger in the north of Korea. Only for the last 4 months 1869 from Hamgen province to the south of Primorskaya oblast arrived about 7000 Koreans (Ivanov 2013, 260). Movement of newcomers of Koreans far away from the sea coast and frontier began in spring of 1870.

In 1864-1884 the incessant flow of the Korean immigrants was observed. The Government of Primorskaya oblast faced a need to solve the problem of registration the status of Koreans. Under the agreement of Russia with the government of Korea in 1884 a body moved to Russia before 1884 was considered as the Russian citizens and were allocated with 15 dessiatinas of the land, and those who arrived after 1884 lost this right. About the Koreans accepted in the Russian citizenship the military governor of Primorskaya oblast Baranov noted that "they brought much and bring advantage to the region. Their crops are small, but yield always the best harvest, than our peasants have" (RSHA of Far East. Fond 702. List 1. Case 69a. Sheet 2-5 verso). However, the Russian authorities were concerned by concentration of the Korean population in the south of Primorskaya oblast. In the offers on a way and order of resettlement of Koreans on new places, the military governor of the Primorskaya oblast Ya Omelyanovich-Pavlenko on August 16, 1888 reported that "along our border with China and Korea, we have quite arranged Korean population in 8768 souls" which "has to be removed from border in the center of the country for political reasons" (RSHA of Far East. Fond 702. List 1. Case 94. Sheet 4-17). In total in 1888 there were 9099 Koreans in Primorskaya oblast from whom on the southern borders of Primorskaya oblast lived 96% of the Korean population.

The flow of immigrants have been continuing to grow at the end of the XIX century. Only the considered number of the Korean citizens who crossed the border in 5 years (1891-1895) was 15667 people (RSHA of Far East. Fond 702. List 1. Case 2598. Sheet 154-155). In the report of the boundary commissioner Matyunin on problems of the accounting of Koreans of February 24, 1896 it is noted that it is impossible "to consider people, it is reserved making the way on different tracks throughout more than 200 versts from Tumeni's mouth to the Upper-Mangugaysky outpost" (RSHA of Far East. Fond 702. List 1. Case 2598. Sheet 63-63 verso). One of the last mass waves of resettlement of Koreans to the south of the Far East had for the beginning of the XX century the period of full annexation of Korea by Japan. According to census of 1915 there were 17 031 Koreans who lived in Primorskaya oblast - the Russian citizens and 1,4 times more Koreans who didn't have the Russian citizenship only 41 639 people (The Ministry of Agriculture, Primorsky transmigratory region. Statistical Department 1915, 81).

The first settlements of Koreans appeared in Primorskaya oblast were the result of their moving on the rivers Tinzinkhe (Vonogradnaya), Sidimi (Narva), Mongugay (Barabashevsk). Moving of the Korean population deep into of Seaside area was promoted by two factors. First of all, migration policy of the Russian authorities which involve organized resettlement of Koreans with their property in the early spring in places, remote from border with China and Korea. And also the situation in Korea when people had to leave the country in search of more favorable conditions of accommodation. As a result in 1867-1869 there were Korean villages of Karsakovka, Putsilovka, Krounovka in the Suyfunsky site (near Ussuriisk). At the beginning of the 1870s Koreans were settled in the Suchansky site (Andreevka, Nikolaevka villages), down the river Adimi (Poyma) of the Posyetsky site (Upper Adimi, Lower Adimi villages).

Most of the Koreans who moved in the XIX century went in for agriculture. In the 1<sup>st</sup> years as Busse noted in 1867, the agriculture of the Korean immigrants was characterized as backward. First of all it was defined as the fact that new places for settling in another country were looked for by poor Koreans who didn't have cattle and agricultural instruments. Settling in a new place the Korean peasants used habitual methods of land processing and agricultural stock. The Korean peasants during the first stage of settling had small land plots. In 1884 it was the share of 1270 Korean farms 2688 dessiatinas of arable lands, on average on 2.1 dessiatina on the yard ("Koreans and foreigners" 1884, 3). In 1888 farms of Koreans who had Russian citizenship were fixed on 15 dessiatinas of lands often of little use for agriculture. In 1893 on average one Korean economy had 3.4 dessiatinas of land while at Cossacks and peasants had twice more. Continuous flow of the Koreans, natural increase of the population, reduction of the land area because of frequent floods led to that in 1917 only 1.2 dessiatinas on average were the share of one Korean economy (Vanin et al., 2004). The Korean farmers processed the land rented at the Russian peasants, Cossacks. According to Primorsky Statistical Committee in 1909 10 055 dessiatinas of the land were rented by Koreans in Primorskaya oblast (10,980 hectares) (Grave, 1912, 159). Thanks for the work of the Korean renters and farm laborers the considerable areas of the land of Primorskaya oblast were introduced into agricultural circulation, received on fields big crops (Shestak, 2004).

When processing the earth the Korean immigrants used a bed technology. Crops were carried out on beds between which flutes were left 70-80 cm wide. For saving the land crops were made 1 year on beds, another - between beds (Kim Son Hwa, 1965). It is explained by need at small number of the land to use it as it is possible more stoutly. Pure pairs and a deposit weren't used by Koreans. Nasekin at the beginning of the XX century noted that the earth in the Korean farms has never a rest, but thus isn't exhausted thanks to "a bed arable land and variable system: 1 year is sowed green foxtail, on another - wheat, beans" (Nasekin, 2011). Such alternation of places under crops and change of plants can be considered as advanced two-field system of a crop rotation with black steam. As a result the land isn't exhausted unilaterally and crops of the bean conduct to enrichment of the soil nitrogen. To Grava in his report noted that the Russian population borrows

agricultural experience of the Korean peasants by hiring Koreans for agricultural works or by landing them the soil (Grave, 1912).

As in the south of Primorskaya oblast - the area of the most active settling of Koreans the hilly relief prevailed, the Korean peasants plowed on slopes cross furrows for prevention of washout of crops. Over time being settled on area Koreans plowed up virgin soils in the areas which before their arrival were considered absolutely improper for development of the Russian agriculture on them.

The Korean peasants processed the land practically manually slightly used draft force when plowing fields. The working cattle was available in the Korean farms in limited quantity. Koreans plowed on bulls, cows harnessing most often one animal. Over time the Korean peasants began to use in agricultural works also horses having learned at the Russian peasants (Busse 1880, 23). Only 1.2 of cattle and 0.6 horses was the share of one economy, while in farms of Cossacks up to 7 heads (Kryukov, 1893, 89). Koreans were engaged in cultivation only of draft cattle which served them for works on fields. The dairy production didn't develop as Koreans just as Chinese didn't use milk. For the village in Korea extreme backwardness of animal husbandry was always characteristic, the similar situation was observed and on the first developed lands.

Lack or absence of draft cattle in the Korean economy led to manual development of a virgin soil. As the main tool for processing of the earth the plow of the special device was served. The iron ploughshare was like a triangular shovel 27 cm wide, 36 cm long and put on the wooden curved lever or whetstone to which middle it was attached beam. The ploughshare suited only for processing of the loosened soil, the virgin soil was developed by Koreans other tool reminding a dump like plough - a dump with a cylindrical surface (the sheet of iron curtailed into the cylinder) which axis is parallel to a furrow bottom. The cut-off layer of the land was twisted in the cylinder, collapsed, mixed up and moved aside. For manual processing used mattocks (homi) which were made of a piece of the iron curved in the form of a triangle with a trench in the middle, bent in the thin end at right angle and got on a stick 35-71 cm long. Using plow and mattock as the main tools of cultivation of the land held down the development of agricultural economy of the Korean peasants.

At crops the special shell - a tube which consisted of the cylinder in the diameter from 18 to 27 cm 9 cm high was used (Kryukov 1893, 90). In the cylinder there were two openings - in the center of a circle and sideways. The central opening after covering of seeds was closed by a stopper and the lateral opening conducted in a tube with a small hole.

On the other side of the cylinder making as if continuation of a tube there was the same length a stick. The sower having arranged the cylinder an armpit and having directed an opening in a tube along a furrow carried out crops. As the sower slightly struck on the cylinder seeds on one or two got precisely to the right place of landing. Crops by such seeder are economic. The sower was followed by the worker with a bag or the basket filled with dry manure and introduced fertilizers. With a plow the Korean came



back on the same ridge and fills up with an earth layer, 2.5 cm, the seeded seeds aren't thicker. Nasekin noted that at dry spring an arable land, after crops, passed wooden skating rinks 140 cm long on axis (Nasekin, 2011). It was done for prevention of fast aeration and drying.

The Korean peasants grew up cultures, new to the Russian peasants such as green foxtail (millet), soy, Japanese sorghum (sorghum) and later rice. Green foxtail is one of the most ancient grain plants of East Asia, the main culture of the Korean agriculture which is on food qualities doesn't concede to other grain crops. Green foxtail had a lot of different kinds. Its productivity was of 34-50 centners with 1 hectare. The straw and a peel used as a forage for cattle were of economic value. The second place on importance in the Korean plant growing was taken by soy. Productivity of 8-10 centners with 1 hectare (Kryukov 1893, 91) Koreans made soy sauce, "soy cottage cheese" - tofu. Koreans were the first who began to cultivate rice in the south of the Far East of Russia. They chose the lowest places of the valley of the river and constructed irrigational system. In 1908 in the valley of the river Yanchikhe was available 40 dessiatinas of rice. Then crops of rice appeared in Suchanskom, Nikolsk-Ussuriisk and Spassk districts. By 1917 the area of crops of rice reached already 1600 dessiatinas (Kim Son Hva, 1965).

Cultivation of a buckwheat, barley, oats, rye, flax, corn, wheat in the Korean farms for sale turned out to be consequence of interaction with representatives of Primorskaya oblast. As a result situation with bakeries in Primorskaya oblast had changed. In the 60<sup>th</sup> of the XIX century army located in the natural boundary New Kiev bought all oats and barley in Hunchun, in 1872 the small part of grain was bought from Koreans, and in 1874 need disappeared to buy bread in Hunchun (Khan, 2009). In 1888 about 1160 tons of wheat were redeemed for supply of troops while other country farms of Primorskaya oblast realized only 730 tons of grain (RSHA of Far East. Fond 702. List 1. Case 94. Sheet 19-20 verso). The Korean peasants grew up tobacco, sesame for production of oil, and also vegetables - cucumbers, a radish, potatoes, pepper, pumpkins, garlic, etc. These crops all together taken occupied the smaller spaces than grain.

Koreans in Primorskaya oblast were engaged in silkworm breeding. In 1865 in the report of the General Staff on a trip to Posyet's harbor the captain Gelmersen turned attention that silkworm breeding "it should be devoted special attention in Southern Ussuri Krai where there is a wild silkworm feeding on an oak" (RSHA of Far East. Fond 87. List 1. Case 278. Sheet 50-54 verso). The Korean immigrants living in the village of Sinelnikovo, in particular An, Pak of An Tsoi since 1900 were engaged in cultivation of mulberry trees and a silkworm. The silk economy consisted of a plantation of a wild-growing mulberry and a big farm yard where settled down "seed station, reeling house and spin house with the weaving loom" (Krishtofovich et al. 1923, 233). Cocoons in these farms were unwound manually. There was a self-made centrifugal car for taking-up of silk threads from balls on bobbins of the weaving loom. Up to 10% of cocoons were discarded and made from them silk cotton wool. On a tribe annually 500 couples were left which

gave about 300 000 cocoons. Each of farms made to 500 arshins of a silk matter (Krishtofovich et al., 1923, 239). In 1913 in Khabarovsk there took place the exhibition of Priamursky region in commemoration of the 300 anniversary of reign of House of Romanovs. At this exhibition the honorable award - a silver medal of Seaside society of agriculture "for exhibits on silkworm breeding" - was received by An (Miz and Breslavets 2009, 38). Experience of production of silk by the Korean peasants was successful and allowed to rank the South of the Far East of Russia as the area of silkworm breeding.

Koreans mastered also beekeeping, gardening, pig-breeding, poultry farming, new to them, used the agricultural stock applied by the Russian peasants.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Having summed up the result of the conducted research it should be noted that the Korean immigrants have made the significant contribution to development of agriculture of Primorskaya oblast. First, the Korean peasants have brought with themselves the methods of processing the land tested in the Far East, having introduced into circulation those lands which were considered unsuitable for agriculture by the Russian peasants. Secondly the use of the bed technology and variable system of landing of agricultural plants allowed to use an arable land annually. Later the bed technology of cultivation of the land gained distribution and among the Slavic population of the Russian Far East as was the most suitable way of cultivation of the land for the region. Thirdly the Korean immigrants have promoted distribution of new crops among the Russian population, such as green foxtail, soy, rice. Fourthly using of the bed technology of cultivation of the land, regular weeding of arable land, high working efficiency of Koreans allowed to reap them a good harvest considerably bigger than in the Russian farms. This fact drew attention of the Russian peasants and promoted loan not only a way of cultivation of the land but also permanent care of crops. At the same time the Korean peasants constantly borrowed practices of the Russian peasants. The mutual exchange of the saved-up experience and knowledge in the field of agriculture promoted effective development of the South of the Far East of Russia. Authors are planning the further research directed on studying the possibility of creation of the Korean ethnic village in the territory of resettlement of the Korean peasants on the Far East of Russia in the second half of the XIX century.

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