

Rafał Kowalczyk

DEVELOPMENT OF ZINC INDUSTRY IN THE KINGDOM OF POLAND 1815–1904

Development of zinc industry took place in The Kingdom of Poland at the beginning of XIX century. It was caused by significant increase of demand for zinc mainly in industrialized countries of Western Europe. Since 1815 government of The Congress Kingdom started to develop this industry on the area of Zagłębie Dąbrowskie. Particular initiative in this development was manifested by prince Ksawery Drucki-Lubecki. Investments of the treasury caused dynamic development of zinc industry in Zagłębie Dąbrowskie. It was significant for development of coal mining in The Congress Kingdom. However, world economical crisis at the end of the 1820s ended good period for zinc in Western Europe. Also, economical effects of the uprising in 1931 changed government politics concerning zinc industry.

After the uprising government's plans of development of metallurgical infrastructure at the area of Zagłębie Dąbrowskie failed. Private initiative of development of zinc industry by Piotr Steinkeller was a fiasco too. Only building of Warsaw-Vienna railroad and its part leading to Górny Śląsk in 1859 caused development of inner market, inflow of foreign investments in heavy industry and breaking of stagnation in Zagłębie Dąbrowskie. But only change of economical doctrine in 1877 caused real development of zinc industry in The Kingdom of Poland.

In 1860s begun process of penetration of zinc beds in Zagłębie Dąbrowskie by German capital from Górny Śląsk. Its first investor was Gustaw von Kramst. The amount of capital invested in von Kramst's factory let to achieve high profits and to distance from government's mines of galman ore. It was a fact despite richer ore deposits in government's mines. Main problem in von Kramst's enterprise was necessity of increasing of galman ore extraction. There were major financial losses because of mechanical mines draining. As a result "Gwarectwo von Kramsta" sold its mines and factories to French investor "Tow. Sosnowieckie".

Renting of government's galman mines and steelworks "Pod Bedzinem" to P. P. Derwiz, A.A. Pomerancew and M.M. Szewcow's heirs company changed situation of zinc industry in The Kingdom of Poland. „Dzierżawcy rządowych zakładów górniczych w Królestwie Polskim” company dynamically developed its infrastructure and distanced „Tow. kopalń i zakładów hutniczych Sosnowieckich”. It was caused by different strategy of „Dzierżawcy rządowych zakładów górniczych w Królestwie Polskim” and „Tow. kopalń i zakładów hutniczych Sosnowieckich”. „Tow. kopalń i zakładów hutniczych Sosnowieckich” wanted to take over all mining companies owned by German capital and to dominate in mining and metallurgical industry in Zagłębie Dąbrowskie. Zinc industry was taken by „Tow. Sosnowieckie” as a result of taking over mines and factories of „Tow. górnico-hutnicze von Kramsta”. However, crisis in this industry caused financial problems in „Dzierżawcy rządowych zakładów górniczych w Królestwie Polskim” company and its bankruptcy. „Tow. Francusko-Rosyjskie” which took over „Dzierżawcy rządowych zakładów górniczych w Królestwie Polskim” company belonged to French group managing „Societe Anonyme des Forges et Acieries de Huta Bankowa” and „Tow. górnico-przemysłowe hr. Renard”. Good management and modernization increased productivity. As a result, „Tow. Francusko-Rosyjskie” reached maximum development despite exploitation of poor deposits of zinc silicat in The Kingdom of Poland. In 1907 „Tow. Francusko-Rosyjskie” mined 84,40% of galman ore and produced 60,49% of zinc.

Poor deposits of galman ore had negative influence to zinc industry. It slowed down development of „Tow. kopalń i zakładów hutniczych Sosnowieckich” and

„Tow. Francusko-Rosyjskie”. The content of metallic zinc in galman ore in Zagłębie Dąbrowskie was average 50% but because of contamination it was only about 14%. On the other hand, high duties and monopolization of zinc mining on Górnny Śląsk by a few potentates had negative influence OB export of zinc to The Kingdom of Poland. That is why zinc industry did not achieve its pre- 1904 level.

Andrzej Dubicki

NICOLAE TITULESCU'S ACTIVITY IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS (1920-1936)

Nicolae Titulescu started his career in the League of Nations on January 10th, 1920, signing on behalf of Romania the treaty which had created this international organisation. This great Romanian diplomat represented his country in the League from 1920 till 1932 with a short break in 1927-1928 period, when he held the Romania's Foreign Affairs Office for the first time. Titulescu saw in the League a powerful force which could maintain peace in the world. The Romanian diplomat was involved in many actions undertaken by this organisation: he helped create the “Geneva Protocol”, played a vital role in the preparation of the “Litvinoff Protocol”, and was also involved in proceedings of the Geneva Disarmament Conference. As a head of the Romanian delegation in Geneva he was twice elected president of the annual meeting of the League of Nations Assembly in 1930 and 1931. He continued his Geneva activities even when he was Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania from 1932 till 1936. During this period he was active in attempts of putting an end to the Abyssinian War in 1935/36 and at the Montreux Conference, when a matter of the Black Sea straits was disputed.

Karol Chylak

AGRARIAN POLICY OF WŁADYSŁAW GRABSKI GOVERNMENT 1923-1925

After the First World War the Republic of Poland was an agricultural country where almost 2/3 of the population of a country was cultivating. This agrarian structure, with dwarf farms, was not very profitable, because it did not give maintenance to its owner, and it had no prospects of development for the future. The most important issues were the remains of archaic ways of farming such as patchwork and land communities.

Poland was not raised from the dead yet when the issue of the agrarian reforms divided politicians into two hostile camps. This state of the situation had disastrous influence on reformist conceptions because some parties had more and more radical watchwords and the other ones were falling into extreme conservatism. As a result of such conduct there was the establishment of agrarian relations. On 10th July, 1919 the Sejm (the lower house of the Polish Parliament) adopted a resolution concerning the agricultural reform and on 15th July, 1920 following it a bill, which were both the result of the compromise. None of political options was satisfied of that bill, so nobody cared deeply about the realization of the bill.

Władysław Grabski did not have to be concerned about the demands of the agricultural reform which were becoming more and more radical. The tension round the issue was his own fault, the consequence of the adoption of the tactic to find support in the Sejm. The Prime Minister did not have any uniform, reformist

manifesto. He was selecting his associates on the basis of the profit or the loss of votes in Parliament, not taking the realization of the bill into consideration. In the first half of 1924, when the highest positions were taken by the people of the Right, Władysław Grabski was realizing the conception of the transformation of the agrarian structure using economic stimuli. Bigger properties were due to be taxed. At the same time some preparations were made to introduce State Agricultural Bank whose aim was to help in integrating of farmlands. To meet with support in Parliament Władysław Grabski resigned as Minister of Agricultural Reforms. W. Kopczyński, the candidate of the Polish Peasant Party "Liberation" was Władysław Grabski's successor. It was unavoidable to introduce the issue of the agricultural reform in forum of the Sejm where politics were more important than sober thinking. It was failure of reforms connected with the Polish country because politics once again won with a Polish *raison d'état*.

Michał Kacprzak

NOBILITY'S AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN THE EASTERN POLAND 1938-1939

One of the results of long standing annexations was liquidation of the whole social stratum which nobility had presented before partitions. The first actions to make the descendants of the former nobility become the Poles took place in 1934. In north-eastern terrains the actions took place later and in a different way.

The action of the recapturing of nobility was begun in turczański administrative unit. and it was spread on the eastern province in southern Poland and Wołyń. The noble youth were led to special military units. A periodical titled "Wake up" was started to distribute to backwaters. The organizing of the circles of nobility, common rooms, cooperatives, agricultural was started as well.

The Secretariat of Polish Social Organizations was responsible for the coordination of the actions. On behalf of Polish Social Organizations the action was taken by the Company of the Development of Eastern Lands. But with time the problem became so much momentous that in November 1937, during the special conference organized by Ministry of Military Affairs, representatives of ministries, institutions and army decided to appoint interministerial Nobility's Affairs Committee.

But instead of it on 25th February 1938 Nobility's Affairs Committee was appointed within the Company of the Development of Eastern Lands. The activity of the committee was run in four sections: scientific, propaganda, economic and financial. The committee was patronizing to the actions of Nobility Union which numbered about six hundred and thirty of circlet and fifty thousand of members in 1939. The scientific section fulfilled a crucial role in the workings of the committee. Work was due to be run as a national activity, not political and adjusted to the local conditions and coordinated with the whole of Polish work in the East.

Anna Porczyńska

THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE VISIT RICHARD NIXON - PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES - IN MOSCOW DURING THE 22-30 MAY 1972

The Policy of Peaceful Compe Richard Nixon on the turn of 1960s and 1970s resulted in the peaceful dialogue between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning disarmament. The circumstances of

the summit talks in Moscow were: the inclination to consolidation of international security and peace propagated by the Eastern European Socialdemocratics in the conception of disengagement and conception of the peaceful coexistence of states which have different social systems restored during the 20th and 22nd Congress of Communist Party of the USSR. Agreements about the fragmentary limitations of nuclear armaments were the proof of these conceptions on the turn of 1960s and 1970s. The other circumstances were: fiasco of the American policy in Vietnam and tense relations between Moscow and Peking, which were permitted The Nixon Administration to take the advantage of that rapprochement with the People's Republic of China to establish a dialogue with the USSR. The encouragement to begining a dialogue was A Peaceful Programme, which Brezniev announced of the turn of March and April 1972 concerning a new foreign policy of the USSR to detente between Ea and West. The fundamental circumstance of the summit talks in Moscow was the acknowledgement by the United States and the USSR, at the end of 1960s, that nuclear parity existed, which was linked with continual expenses for armaments and new technology s armaments by both powers. Moreover, the leaders of the USSR wanted to sign the economic agreement with the United States which would allow to avoid disastrous economic situation in the USSR. One should add the efficient control of the realization of the agreements accepted by the states in the field of disarmament which was possible due to using the nation technical control measures. All these circumstances resulted in the visit of the President of the United States in Moscow in May 1972 and it initiated signing the agreements of limitation of strategic armaments, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation between both superpowers.

Agnieszka Pawlak

POLISH AND HUNGARIAN WAY TO DEMOCRACY – A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Text concerns the post-war history of these two countries under the protectorate of USRR, the changing social reception of communism, their fight for democracy and respectable life. The text focuses on Polish post-war history, especially the facts having influenced the Round Table negotiations and beginning of transition processes. Detailed analysis tries to explain the difference between Polish and Hungarian ways to democracy, especially why Hungarians experienced tragic revolution and Soviet armed intervention whereas Polish protests were more peaceful. Also social consequences of 1956 year varied in both countries: the Polish regularly protested against the communist party, whereas Hungarians chose the compromise. However, finally in 1989 both Poland and Hungary became leaders of transition process in Central-Eastern Europe.