

# Coverage Of The Issues Of Transportation Of Cotton Raw Material From The Ferghana Valley In Archive Documents (LATE 19<sup>th</sup> - EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY)

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**Abstract:** The article describes some issues of the development of cotton cultivation in the Ferghana valley during the colonial period. Also, the process of buying cotton and transporting fiber to the metropolis by companies operating in Ferghana region was partially analyzed based on archive documents.

**Key words:** Company, arbitration, cotton, firm, broker, transaction, pud, deed, irrigation.

## Introduction

Uzbekistan has gained independence, and along with all spheres of our society, serious changes have been made in the science of history. In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, after the Russian Empire conquered Central Asia, the tsarist government took a number of measures to demand and transport material wealth from the Turkestan region. In particular, an objective study of the development of cotton cultivation in our country by the colonialists and the transportation of raw cotton to the central regions of the empire is one of the urgent tasks facing the science of history today. As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted: "As we all know, each sovereign state has its own unique history and culture. The true creators and creators of this history and culture are rightfully the people of this country"[1.5].

## Research Methods

Nowadays in independent Uzbekistan, historical science requires the study of certain events in connection with specific historical circumstances, the integration of evidence as a whole, and the coverage of events in detail, taking into account their positive and negative consequences. The documents and materials, evidence and examples necessary for the coverage of the topic are taken from archives, periodicals, and published sources [2.83].

## Results And Discussions

Some documentary sources stored in the funds of the National Archive of Uzbekistan allow us to study this topic to a certain extent. In particular, fund 90 of this archive was called the Kokand Exchange Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Kokand Exchange), and after the statute of this organization, subordinate to the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the empire, was approved in 1906, the Committee began its activities in the city of Kokand and was largely considered a cotton exchange.

Among the documents belonging to the Fund, one can find minutes of meetings of the Kokand Exchange with the participation of representatives of cotton-growing firms and circulars for members of the Committee, as well as information on the price of cotton fiber, the amount of cotton fiber transported by rail from the Ferghana region to the center of the empire, and the procedures for its classification into varieties, brokerage agreements in the cotton trade, irrigation work, and the expansion of cotton fields[3. 124].

It should be noted that initially American cotton varieties were acclimatized at experimental stations, and then the tested seedlings were distributed to farmers. Archival documents contain information about the introduction of new agricultural methods at the initiative of some plantations. In this regard, the activities of the "Pakhtalikul" seed plantation in Namangan can also be indicated. Here, good yields and seeds of King, Alleng, blue cotton, new Columbia, Allen and other cotton varieties were obtained. The cotton harvest grown by the farmers was purchased by various firms and sent to industrial enterprises in Russia [4. 126].

Among the 90 fund documents of the Kokand Exchange, cotton issues occupied the most place. The 1906 report of the Kokand Exchange on measures to improve cotton yields approved the use of irrigation based on intensive fertilization of cotton fields with natural and artificial fertilizers: nitrogen, superphosphate, and saltpeter [5.31-53]. The Russian manual on this issue by the agronomist N.N. Aleksandrov, entitled "How to Use Mineral Fertilizers in Turkestan," was translated into Uzbek in Arabic script by Colonel N.S. Lykoshin, and was first republished in 1908 and then in 1909 and distributed to cotton growers [6.1-43]. To resolve disputes arising in determining the grade and quality of cotton fiber, a Cotton Arbitration Commission was

established under the Kokand Exchange, and its Regulations were approved by the Ministry of Trade and Industry on May 29, 1907 [7.228-234].

The Cotton Committee under the Moscow Exchange regularly corresponded with the Kokand Exchange regarding the quality of cotton fiber transported from the Ferghana region to the center of the empire. In the act of the Cotton Committee, registered under number 51 on September 16, 1908 and accepted by the Kokand Exchange under number 294 on September 24, 1908, 9 samples of the first-grade American cotton fiber to be sent to the center were presented. According to the minutes of a meeting of representatives of a number of companies engaged in cotton trading, held in Andizhan on October 11, 1908, with the participation of S. Pogrebov, a broker of the Kokand Exchange, the issues of reclassifying the quality of American cotton fiber for the current season, determining the standard sample of fiber, accepting cotton fiber for shipment to Russia at Central Asian railway stations, and determining the moisture level of the fiber were discussed. In a letter from the Cotton Committee under the Moscow Exchange, registered as No. 122 on October 31, 1908 and received at the Kokand Exchange on November 8, 1908 under No. 364, satisfaction was expressed with the fact that 8 samples of American cotton fiber of the first variety grown in the Kokand, Namangan, and Andizhan districts this season were delivered to the Cotton Committee by the Kokand Exchange [8.1-2]. Also included in the fund materials are the Regulations on the Cotton Committee, published in Moscow in 1908, and the procedures for trading American and local cotton fiber on the Moscow Exchange, as well as the opinions of representatives of companies engaged in cotton trading in the region on determining the standard sample of cotton fiber [9.14-15].

Letter of communication No. 28, sent on November 5, 1909 by the commercial agent (trade representative) of the Moscow-Kazan Railway in Central Asia, registered on December 7, 1909 at the Kokand Exchange under number 1/695, stating that the cotton fiber was loaded onto wagons by the Andreev Company at the Kokand, Fedchenko (Kuva), Gorchakovo (Margilan), Andijan, Serovo (Baghdad), Posyetovka (Rabkan), Besharik railway stations in the Fergana region, and then delivered in the Orenburg direction to the railway stations of Moscow, Tver, Yaroslavl, Vichuga, Gorkino, Teykovo, Kineshma in the Ivanovo province in the center of the empire. This document indicates the brand of the cotton, the time of loading onto the wagon, the place of shipment and the destination, and the number of the duplicate document (a copy with equal rights to the original) [10.228-234].

This fund also contains a lot of statistical data on cotton fiber transported from the Ferghana region to the Russian Empire. The communication letter No. 180481 of the Central Asian State Railway Department of the Ministry of Communications, sent from Ashgabat on February 14, 1909, was registered on February 18, 1909 under the number No. 477 at the Kokand Exchange, according to which 3,072,641 poods of cotton fiber were transported from the Fergana region from January 1, 1908 to September 1, 1908, 2,956,346 poods from September 1, 1908 to January 1, 1909, and a total of 6,028,987 poods of cotton fiber were transported to the center of the empire through railway stations in 1908 [11.1-2]. The Central Asian State Railway Administration's communication letter No. 939, sent on February 25, 1911, was registered on February 28, 1911, under the number No. 34/280, at the Kokand Exchange, and it provided information that during January 1911, 717,869 pounds of cotton fiber were sent to Tashkent in 1,290 wagons via the Chernyaev-Andizhan railway stations, and 504,648 pounds of cotton fiber in 1,148 wagons via the Krasnovodsk route [12.14-15].

In the documents related to this fund, we can see that cotton fields have expanded, and instead of local cotton varieties, the share of American cotton varieties has increased dramatically. For example, in the reference letter of the head of the Skobelev uyezd, registered on June 30, 1911 under number 2719 and registered on the Kokand Exchange on July 4, 1911 under number 1/690, the fields planted with cotton in the uyezd in 1910-1911 were given by volosts, and in 1910 In 1911, it was reported that 76,292 acres of American cotton were planted in the county, and 565 acres of local cotton, and in 1911, 85,315 acres of American cotton were planted in the county, and 1,161 acres of local cotton, were planted in the county, as recorded by the county head on June 12, 1913 under number 2738 and registered in the Exchange Committee in 1913. In the statement dated June 13, 2011, under the number 28/1111, 87,974 people were killed in Skobelev district this year. It is reported that American cotton was planted on 1000 acres of land, and local cotton varieties were planted on 2034 acres of land. The communication was registered in the Vadyaev Trade and Industrial Joint Stock Company on June 11, 1913 under number 46 and accepted on the

Kokand Stock Exchange on June 11, 1913 under number 1097. The letter also noted that in the current year, the cotton fields belonging to the Shirkat in the Ferghana region amounted to 270,000 dessiatinas and cotton planting increased by 6% compared to the previous year [13,455,461].

The Kokand Exchange, its brokers and cotton-growing companies also reported that the demand for cotton in the region and information on the supply and demand, prices per pound of cotton fiber and seed, cottonseed oil, and sorghum were provided daily [14. 21-22, 26, 68]. The Kokand Exchange Fund contains information on irrigation issues. For example, the Ferghana Regional Administration in the city of Skobelev registered the document No. 9630 on April 22, 1913, and the Kokand Exchange registered the document No. 855 in the entry journal on April 25, 1913, by engineer Mitt in 1913. On April 20, 2011, a telegram No. 103 sent to the head of Andizhan Uyezd reported that the distribution of water from the Karadarya to the Shakhrihonsai for irrigation purposes had been completed at the Kampirravot Dam [15.114-115].

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, it should be noted that in future research on the history of the development of cotton cultivation in the Fergana region during the colonial period, it will be important to use documents from some funds of the National Archive of Uzbekistan that have not yet been put into scientific circulation.

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