

LEGAL BASIS OF THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM IN TURKESTAN DURING THE PERIOD OF RUSSIA

BAYSARIYEV ILKHOM JUMANAZAROVICH*

The irrigation issue in the Turkestan Territory was very acute, since the development of new lands in the Turkestan Territory depended on irrigation work. The colonization process in Turkestan region depended on the development of new lands. On the issue of irrigation, the first general-governor of Turkestan Territory K.P. Kaufman wrote: "The initial colonization of the region was to be accompanied here, just like the current increase in the area under cultivation, by the preparation of artificial irrigation"¹. In addition to the problems of colonization, the colonial authorities sought to increase cotton crops in the province. And without the development of irrigation, cotton would be at an impasse. And as the expert in cotton business, Prince V.I. Massalsky: "... Due to the climatic conditions of Turkestan, the use of land for sowing cotton and the vast majority of other plants is possible only under the condition of supplying it with water, and since unoccupied, free land in Turkestan is almost always at the same time not irrigated, the only measure that "It can extremely beneficially influence not only the further development of cotton growing, but also the prosperity of the whole region, is the urgent expansion of the irrigation network" . First of all, the local administration had to decide the legal side of water use. In 1877, K.P. Kaufman published a circular "On Interim Rules, on Irrigation of the Turkestan Territory," which transferred virtually all water management to the administration. But in 1882, the Governor-General M.G. Chernyaev canceled these "provisional rules." The

"Regulation" of 1886 legally assigned water resources to the population. Article 256 of the Regulations stated: "The waters in the main irrigation ditches, streams, rivers and lakes are provided to the population for use, as usual". "That is, in other words," the researcher of the water issue G. Cherdantsev notes, "excludes from the articles of the local situation any definitions of water law, whether substantively or formally legal"². The author of the book writes about this: "By issuing these provisional rules, the Russian government dealt a blow in the usual manner, on the basis of which the population coped very satisfactorily with irrigation water." Already determines in full measure the attitude of the legislator towards issues of local water law: leaving everything in them in the very form and structure in which the issue of this law was before, the government refuses any legislative work in this area. It is not difficult to understand for yourself that the motives for this refusal were purely compelled by factual circumstances (ignorance of the indicated area) of character, and were by no means determined by any fundamental considerations ". The researcher complains that the authorities have not taken effective steps to resolve the water issue in the province. It was the "inaction" in water use that formed the basis of state policy in Turkestan. And as the inspector F. Gears once noted: "... in the Turkestan Territory, the land does not produce anything without water; the welfare of its population depends on the correct distribution of water.

*Master Student, Faculty of History Department "World history", National University of Uzbekistan.

Correspondence E-mail Id: editor@eurekajournals.com

The people were fully aware of the importance of irrigation, and therefore, irrigation is a completely national matter here. " On August 2, 1888, a circular was issued by the Turkestan Governor-General, who regulated water relations in the region. According to the law, county governors appointed *aryk-aksakl*, who were engaged in the regulation of water relations among the population. This law decided only the administrative side of management, but the essence of water use remained unchanged. At the beginning of the 20th century, with the development of cotton growing in the region, the administration tried to adopt a water code. In 1910, the drafting of a water law began. But the draft water law was not approved and, therefore, was not applied. The main obstacle to the implementation of water projects was the financial difficulties of the government. It took several hundred million rubles, which the treasury could not provide. Then the "era" of water projection began. Large scientist N.P. Verkhovskaya offered his vision of the development of irrigation in Turkestan: "... There are three ways to carry out irrigation: 1) with public funds; 2) in a concession manner; 3) by individuals with ownership of irrigated land. The first way irrigation is arranged in India and Egypt, and this method is the most suitable for Russia, but requires a lot of impulse from the performers. The second method was used by France, Italy, Spain; with this method, companies derive income from the land irrigated by them, by obtaining a lease for land or water. It requires very large capitals and is not paid in high interest. There have already been proposals by individuals who took the initiative of the concession method, such as Voeikov, Lobanov Rostovsky, Ermolaev, Sazonov and a group of industrialists of the Moscow manufacturing region, but is not heard. The third method is purely American, which was used in India and with the help of which energetic, practical and prudent Yankees increased their national wealth by billions of dollars in 20 years and at the same time realized

the benefit of irrigation companies by 190% of the profit they spent on capital. Moreover, the right of ownership extends to the businessman irrigated by previously empty lands. This method is the best in terms of bringing the steppes into a cultural state, but for Russia it requires some restriction, both in relation to the establishment of a foreign element, and in relation to the exact delineation of land necessary for the use of nomads. Having looked closely at the orders and position of the region, I came to the conclusion that it is necessary in the widest sizes and as soon as possible to use all three methods simultaneously.

Thus, Mr. N.P. Verkhovskaya intended to irrigate 2 million 200 thousand acres of land. In 1912, Minister of Agriculture and State Property A.V. Krivoshein visited Turkestan. He proposed "transforming" Turkestan through a series of "liberal" reforms³. Regarding the development of irrigation in the region, he proposed the following measures: "You can irrigate at least 3 million *dessiatines*, with the cost of several hundred million rubles. . It is unthinkable for one treasury to take over all the irrigation of Turkestan. But, on the other hand, it is difficult to agree with those who see a way out in removing the treasury from this business and in attracting exclusively private enterprise to it, "following the example of America" . "... In Russia," he notes, "there isn't that abundance of enterprising capitalists in the United States armed with energy, initiative and technical knowledge. ... On the other hand, irrigation and settlement of desert lands is not only of economic importance to us, Verkhovskaya N Cotton growing in Turkestan and cotton transportation along the Tashkent and Central Asian railways⁴.

In A.V. Krivoshein says a statesman who puts state interests above economic interests. In general, all the spotlights show a roll in the "defense of Russian interests" in the region. All irrigation projects were declarative in nature, and more like the dreams of statesmen. Sometimes

they mistook the wish for reality, and this rhetoric inherited from K.P. Kaufman, "the resettlement of Russian peasants in the region", "the construction of a new Turkestan", "the protection of Russian interests in the province" from year to year was repeated in reports, notes, projects, etc. A quarter of a century spoke of water law for the Turkestan Territory, but the law was never adopted. Attracting private capital to irrigation, its participation in the development of irrigation has been reduced to zero. Local industrial circles did not show much desire to invest in irrigation of new cotton lands; Irrigation proved to be very difficult and required large investments. Russian capitalists are used to making big profits in an easier way. If there were applicants for concession of state lands, who entered into negotiations with the Ministry of Agriculture on this issue, the matter did not go further than talking about the possible easing of conditions and the provision of various benefits. .M. Yuldashev who studied agrarian issues, wittily noted: "An analysis of all the available periodical official and unofficial press, statistical materials and a large number of projects makes it possible to draw the only, in our opinion, correct conclusion that the adoption of the water law of

the legislatively approved, it was delayed not because the question was not sufficiently studied, not because there was no need for such a document, not because there were not enough qualified specialists to "identify the issue", etc. etc., but mainly because it was beneficial to tsarism and the bourgeoisie; the current situation suited the colonial authorities, G.K. Riesenkauf, who noted that the first reason, "... pushing tsarism to serious and energetic work to revive Turkestan, was the desire of the conquering state to show that it is a cultural tribe in the newly conquered territory".

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