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**AGRICULTURAL PLOTS OF PEDAGOGICAL  
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN  
UKRAINE DURING THE 1932-  
1933 HOLODOMOR**

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**Introduction.** The article illustrates the situation of educators of the higher pedagogical school of Soviet Ukraine during the grain procurement campaign of the 1930s, which resulted in genocide. The author analyzes the practice of authorities in providing students and teachers with bread, initiatives for the organization of special subsidiary farms. The publication demonstrates the differences of the hungry everyday of the collectives of city universities and pedagogical colleges in some rural areas.

**Purpose.** The purpose of this intelligence is to illustrate the specifics of the behavior of educators on the one hand, in the struggle for existence through the system of state support, on the other hand – through an independent organization of the subsidiary farms.

**Results.** For a contemporary, the Holodomor of 1932-1933 is unlikely to be a phenomenon that was spontaneously generated only by the whims of nature; the criminal decisions of the Soviet government of the early 1930s are a fact that, at the legislative level, are recognized not only in Ukraine but also in a number of countries of the world. Educational intelligentsia of Ukraine suffered from genocide, and, as an ideological avant-garde, was ordered by the government to destroy the Ukrainian village, and with it the Ukrainian identity.

The history of the Great Famine in Ukraine was on the verge of many monographic studies and collections. Some of them reproduce the sequence of events, based on verbal evidence, (O. Sinyavska), others clarify the legal side of the phenomenon (K. Savchuk). Historians also concentrate their research around the publication of the case of preservation and informativeness of documents (I. Kopytko) and the saturation and verification of historiography of intelligence on the problem of genocide of Ukrainians in 1932-1933 (N. Isakov). O. Komarnitsky disclosed a life of student youth at the pedagogical institutes in the context of the “bread terror” of the village. However, a comprehensive study of the functioning of the colleges of the country’s higher pedagogical school during the Holodomor-Genocide is at the time.

**Conclusion.** The period of 1932-1934 can be called the “dual game” of the totalitarian authority with Ukrainian educators. The state began the game, staging genocide of Ukrainian peasants by hunger, trying to control the process of support of certain segments of the population; the food norm of 300 grams of bread for educators, which could rise to 400 grams, did not meet the needs of members of the collective. Due to unfortunate cases of weighting, reducing volumes of cereals, and supply disruption, students massively left universities because of hunger and went to their native villages in hopes of obtaining products there. In contrast, teachers, film makers, librarians of pedagogical technical schools had their own supply chain, which included oil, fish, milk, pasta and bread that changed during the Great Famine. The decree on production bases for high schools was introduced in 1933 and determined the capacity of animal husbandry and 5 fields of 50 hectares with crop rotation; that, however, did not help to solve the problem with the disadvantages of providing institutes with their own products. They appeared because of the lack of sowing material, fertilizers, and ruminant and drag forces. The initiatives of individual institutions to open dining rooms without the help of central authorities were opposed. To overcome the crisis, the government has introduced a card system for food. As a result, flood speculation and kidnapping of bread cards began among educators).

**Key words:** Holodomor, pedagogical institutes, provision, everyday life, subsidiary farm

**UKRAINIAN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION IN  
THE BACKGROUND OF THE REVOLUTIONARY  
CONSUMPTION OF THE EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY\***

The article reveals the regularities and peculiarities of the development of Ukrainian agricultural cooperation during the first two decades of the twentieth century. The contribution of domestic theorists and practitioners of co operation, as well as the role of All-Ukrainian Congresses of Cooperation and the Provisional Central Ukrainian Cooperative Committee was shown. The influence of the revolutionary times of 1905 – 1907 and 1917 – 1921, as well as the First World War on the dynamics and directions of the cooperative movement was determined.

**Key words:** agricultural cooperatives, cooperative movement, peasantry, credit, finance, revolution, All-Ukrainian Congress of Cooperation, Provisional Central Ukrainian Cooperative Committee.

**The statement of the issue.** It is hard to imagine the operation of such a socio-economic organization as Ukraine’s credit cooperation of the 1920’s, without highlighting the main stages of its previous development.

It is necessary to thoroughly trace its origins, given that the creation of a formally new Soviet industrial-and-credit cooperative system in the village in 1921 was essentially a restoration of pre-revolutionary credit agricultural co-operation. Its path, historical conditions, rich organizational and production experience did not disappear without a trace. In the beginning and in the mid 1920’s of the twentieth century, carriers of this experience were not only peasants – ordinary members of the cooperative, but also specialists of pre-revolutionary cooperative organizations. Their knowledge, practical skills, methods of work, and finally habits and preferences could not but affect the nature and direction of the practical activities of the entire system of credit cooperation, which actively and fruitfully acted in the agrarian sector of the national economy of Ukraine during 1921 – 1929.

**Research analysis.** The question of the history of agricultural co-operation in Ukraine during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century drew the attention of economists for the first time in 1920’s (I. Vysochansky [3], T. Nymchinov, M. Podolsky [12], S. Fesenko and L. Tsukerman [17]). O. Chayanov [20] occupies a special place among the first researchers in the history of the cooperative movement in the village. He has violated a wide range of problems devoted to various aspects of the production and economic functioning of the peasant farms. Also, one of the first in the history of the cooperative movement was paid by the scientists of the Ukrainian diaspora S. Borodayevsky [2], I. Vitanovich [4], and J. Pavlikovsky [11].



In historiography, a qualitatively new stage in research began with the emergence of monographs by V. Kalinichenko [6] and V. Marochka [8]. A part of modern historians-agrarians focused on the analysis of the regional dimension of Ukrainian cooperation at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Thus, the research G. Tsybulenko [19] is devoted to credit cooperation in Southern Ukraine; V. Polovets [13] considered the history of the cooperative movement of 1861 - 1917 on the Left Bank; I. Farenius [16] and J. Magas-Demidas [7] investigated similar processes on the territory of the Naddniprianshchina, in particular, the Right Bank. In the end, the history of the development of agricultural co-operation in Ukraine was reflected in the publications of one of the co-authors of this article [10].

The authors **purpose** is an investigating the patterns and peculiarities of the development of Ukrainian agricultural cooperation under the conditions of the revolutionary upheavals of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**The statement of the basic material.** The first credit cooperative organizations in Ukraine that had their vocation to meet the needs of productive assets of large groups of small commodity producers began to arise shortly after the abolition of serfdom. Already in 1869 in the city of Gadyach in the Poltava region, a savings and loan society started its activity. In spite of the fact that the Hadiach Society was one of the first in Russia (inferior to the date of foundation only the savings and loan society of the village Dorovatov, Christmas parish of the Vetlug district of the Kostroma province, founded in 1866 by the landlords of the brothers Luginin), but it did not emerge on the empty place.

First steps of credit work with the participation of ordinary, private peasant farms were known in Ukraine even earlier. These were not actually cooperative organizations of the working people, but they already bear in themselves some or other of their essential features. In 1857, at the initiative of the landowner K. Brzezovsky and his funds, the so-called "peasant bank" was founded in the village of Tsybuleve, Olgopolsky district of the Podolsk province. Here in Podillia in 1860, on the initiative of the priest V. Morachevich, a similar institution was created in the village of Oleshina, Proskuriv district. Separate centers of mutual assistance of the peasantry are viewed at the same time in the territory of the present Odessa region. The information about them is very stingy, but one can state that the capital of these credit unions consisted, as a rule, of the liberal-mindedness of large landowners or wealthy public figures, who provided long-term non-interest loans or direct donations for this purpose. The activity of these credit unions was managed by the selected individuals. At the expense of funds, they provided loans for almost symbolic 1 - 1.5% to reliable members of the company.

The first credit cooperative organizations in the village had, in general, a wealthy color, which is quite clearly traced on the example of the charter of the companies. Their founders considered the main task not to finance production processes in the peasant economy, but to care for the money (which was not at that time in the vast majority of the peasantry), with the aim of not only preserving them, but also ensuring maximum growth. Then, the procedure for providing funds for trading operations was determined, and only then was the

development of agricultural production, the provision of seed, feed in poor harvest years.

The peculiar feature of these societies was the high level of share contributions, which, despite the possibility of installment, was too burdensome for an ordinary peasant farm. It is not surprising that lending and production cooperatives in the countryside developed sluggishly. Yes, and the general socio-economic conditions of the 1860's did not yet contribute to the development of cooperative work, especially its loan variety. The poorly expressed marketability of the farms did not stimulate its intensification, and hence the search for the necessary funds for this. The lack of funds, the limited legal status of the peasants, the constant bureaucratic obstacles of the government did not allow the labor peasantry to develop cooperative work to a really tangible size. Not to mention the economic preconditions, the development of cooperation in the countryside was significantly hampered by political reasons. The tsarist government deliberately constrained the development of cooperative peasant associations, fearing the "socialist spirit" of cooperation.

Only in the early 1870's an impetus for the development of cooperative-credit work was the rapid rise of sugar production in Ukraine. The owners of sugar refineries were interested in the maximum saturation of the surrounding lands with the sowing of sugar beet. The cultivation of this labor-intensive culture was beneficial for the peasantry in the areas of agrarian overpopulation, especially the Right Bank, because it gave the opportunity to significantly intensify the economy, to compensate for the shortage of land that is characteristic of these places using existing labor. However, the production of sugar raw materials – deep plowing, buying seeds, using seeders, transportation – required a fairly significant advance cost and was inaccessible not only to the poor, but also to middle farms. To this end, with the financial help of sugar refineries in the surrounding areas, there are not more than a few, and dozens of credit cooperative peasant associations annually.

The late 1880's – were a period of further revitalization of socio-economic processes in Ukraine. Economic necessity - the need to intensify the merchantability of the small peasant economy as demanded by the interests of trade and industrial capital – and forced the tsarist government in 1895 to adopt a law on the organization of small loans for the peasantry. This document changed the legal status of cooperation, expanded its economic opportunities, gave credit cooperatives the right to conduct intermediary operations in the organization of cooperative sales of agricultural products and supply of peasantry with industrial goods of production purpose,

Despite the general positive significance of this law, until the revolution of 1905, credit cooperation, due to many restrictions, reservations, bureaucratic and bureaucratic obstacles, remained a rather unusual phenomenon, which, due to its appearance, was due only to the goodwill of some liberal government officials or to the enthusiasm and the great perseverance of selfless zemstvo leaders.

Revolutionary events of 1905 awakened the energy of the broad peasant masses, raised public awareness, attracted the attention of the peasantry to amateur and organization of mutual assistance. Since then, the cooperative movement in the countryside has started to



grow rapidly. To the cooperative activity pulled the broad masses of the peasantry. If by 1904, throughout the Romanov empire, there were only 306 loans (consisting mainly of peasants, and almost exclusively from the wealthy), and 836 savings and loan societies (dominated by townspeople) [1, 6], then in a decade their number has increased significantly. As of July 1, 1915 in the Ukrainian provinces of the Russian Empire there were 1878 credit societies, whose members were 1 million 366 thousand households [1, 7].

Credit cooperation, combining about 1.4 million peasant farms with 3.8 million existing in Ukraine at that time, affected the interests of already quite large sections of the peasantry. Of course, most of the poor households did not participate in her work. Of their total number (approximately 2.1 million), credit unions accounted for no more than 9% [5, 7]. Modern data on the social stratification of the pre-revolutionary Ukrainian village suggests that not only up to 490 thousand wealthy peasants, but most of the then 1.2 million middle-class households were involved in cooperative work.

This conclusion can be drawn on the basis of materials of rather detailed sampling surveys of the social status of peasant cooperatives in the autumn of 1916 – the summer of 1917. Extrapolated to the total number of members of credit cooperatives, they give 994 thousand middle peasants and 370 thousand wealthy farms. In other words, credit cooperation of Ukraine in the autumn of 1917 united 71% of middle-size and 76% of wealthy farms.

Compared to the previous decade, it was a significant step forward. Peasant credit co-operation has become a truly mass organization. By combining not only the upper ranges of the village but also the broad strata of the labor peasantry, it began to significantly affect the development of the national economic life of Ukraine.

The tsarist government attached great importance and made considerable efforts to organize a reliable control of cooperative peasant associations. In 1904, a government organization with large administrative and economic powers was established - the Office for Small Credit. His activities were aimed at politicization of the cooperative movement. All budget balances of the State Bank, which were provided when organizing peasant cooperative associations on terms of early credit, were allocated only with his permission. The permission was granted not only on the basis of economic needs, but also with the mandatory consideration of the nature of the public-political activities of the members of the organized credit company, that is, in terms of loyalty to the tsarist autocracy. It should be noted that these funds were quite significant and equaled 60% of the capital stock of the companies, and with whom they started their work [5, 9].

Trying to keep the peasant cooperative associations of Ukraine under its full control, the tsarist government for a long time forbade the creation of any organizational network of credit agricultural societies. In purely Russian provinces, this ban did not exist. In Ukraine, the creation of associations of credit unions was seen as undesirable, harmful to the autocracy phenomenon. According to the tsarist government, they necessarily would have acquired “not only socialist, but also Mazepa” orientation. Of particular caution in the royal administration was that economic opportunities of unions of credit agricultural societies would make for

them easy access to direct economic ties with a wide network of peasant cooperative organizations that actively worked at that time in Western Ukraine.

For a long time, only solitary unions of credit societies acted under the special permission of the tsarist government in Ukraine. So, since 1902 Berdyansk began to work, and since 1903 - the Melitopol associations of credit agricultural societies. They were the only associations of credit societies in Ukraine. However, this was not a cooperative-credit association of the Ukrainian peasantry itself, since the combined credit societies consisted mainly of German colonists.

After numerous appeals to the people of the Ukrainian cooperative movement, sometimes with the help of rather specific means of “pushing the case», it was possible to obtain in St. Petersburg the permission to establish two regional centers of credit agricultural cooperation. In 1907 the cooperative agricultural Soyuzbank was established in Kyiv, and from 1911 to 1912 it was in Katerynoslav [9, 8-14].

A marked change in the cooperative movement was experienced with the onset of the First World War. The great difficulty in supplying the army with agricultural products, the general ineffectiveness of the military system of the time, coupled with the frank embezzlement in the administrative bureaucracy, forced the government finally to reconsider its position. The general deterioration of the military-strategic, financial and economic situation of the Russian Empire as a result of the military failures of 1915 did not allow to further delay the solution of this important issue of the cooperative life of the Ukrainian peasantry. The Ministry of the Interior finally lifted the ban on the creation of large associations of credit agricultural societies.

In spite of all the economic difficulties of the military period, the failure of the functioning of monetary circulation, the growth of inflationary processes, in the course of 1916 - 1917 there were about 40 strong unions of credit agricultural societies [18, 16].

The logical consequence of the organizational and economic development of Ukrainian cooperation was the holding of the first All-Ukrainian Congress of Cooperation in April 1917. At the congress, a special body was created - the Provisional Central Ukrainian Co-operative Committee, which was tasked with the organization of the All-Ukrainian Cooperative Center. This center, appropriately combining the economic work of numerous cooperative unions, should have contributed to the overall economic development of Ukrainian agriculture. The Interim Committee, drawing on the cooperation of the best scholars and practitioners working in the field of cooperation, developed a comprehensive concept of organizational and economic development of multi-faceted Ukrainian cooperation in a short time. The main place in it was allocated to the system of credit and agricultural cooperation, which is designed to contribute to the development of agriculture in Ukraine as efficiently as possible [3, 202].

The directions of work on the rational delimitation of the actual lending and sales and supply activities of all major branches of agricultural production were clearly defined. In particular, it provided for the creation of special agricultural unions that would organize not only sales and supply but also certain kinds of productive interaction of the peasantry in various branches of



agriculture: dairy or meat cattle breeding, beet growing, horticulture, etc.

The course of organizational and economic development of Ukrainian cooperation was discussed in detail by the wider layers of the cooperative community at the Second All-Ukrainian Congress of Cooperation in mid-September 1917. The division of political forces grew in the country. This could not but affect the development of Ukrainian co-operation. Thanks to the leadership of Ukrainian cooperation, the congress managed to climb over the growing passions of political battles and reaffirmed the decisive thesis of Ukrainian cooperation - under all conditions, to be the main goal of improving the well-being of the people. The congress was able to advance even in such a complicated time for the cause as the formation of governing bodies of co-operation. In addition to the election of the permanent Central Co-operative Committee headed by B. M. Martos (the committee was given the functions of the legislative body of Ukrainian cooperation), the congress also created its permanent governing body - the Co-operative Council. These authoritative organs of the Ukrainian cooperative movement continued to function in spite of all the terrifying military-political events of 1917-1918.

The clear priority given by all sectors of cooperation to resolving purely economic problems did not mean that such a mass public organization, which in one way or another united millions of Ukrainians, was standing aside from the turbulent events of the time. In the nationwide process of creating Ukrainian statehood, the cooperative movement was flooded with almost the most recent flow. The first and second All-Ukrainian cooperative congresses (April 9 and September 15-18, 1917), representing the wide masses of the cooperative society of Ukraine, representing a well-worked out scheme, have become one of the most important factors of state building. For example, the fact that among the nine members of the first composition of the General Secretariat, created by the Central Council on June 15, 1917, four general secretaries were well-known activists of the Ukrainian cooperative movement is convincingly evident. In the General Secretariat they represented the Provisional Central Cooperative Committee, which was formed by the First All-Ukrainian Cooperative Congress. General Secretary of Land Affairs was B. M. Martos, Finance - H. A. Baranovsky, Food Affairs - M. M. Stasyuk, General Chancellor - P. A. Khristyuk.

It is clear that the urgent need for participation in state-building distracted the force and energy of many leading figures of the Ukrainian cooperative movement both in the center and on the ground from direct cooperative work. Acting in extremely difficult conditions, the governing bodies of Ukrainian cooperation purposefully continued to carry out the outlined program. At the Third All-Ukrainian Congress of Cooperation, which worked at the end of May 1918, the work of the Co-operative Committee was approved for further organizational development of all directions of the cooperative movement.

Numerous difficulties, general uncertainty of political and economic prospects of economic life prevented the development of credit agricultural cooperation, the main direction of which was to strengthen the unions of credit agricultural societies as the main centers of concentration of cash for production purposes. Nevertheless, as of April 1, 1919, 43 associations of credit agricultural

societies and 28 of their branches worked in Ukraine, which in the majority performed functions of the same content and to the same extent as the credit unions themselves. The credit work of most credit agricultural unions, as well as other types of cooperative associations: All-Ukrainian cooperative centers, consumer unions, various mixed associations - "integrals" - united the Ukrainian People's Cooperative Bank - Ukrainbank, which was launched in mid-September 1917 [1, 11].

Another all-Ukrainian unifying center of credit agricultural and special agricultural unions became the Central All-Ukrainian Agricultural Union-Central, which started its activity on January 2, 1918, on the basis of the Kyiv Central Agricultural Society. This society was founded in 1915 as a regular union of credit agricultural societies, but due to the purposeful work of its leadership - devoted to the vision of a far-sighted P. Dibrov, in a short time the scope of his activity spread to most of Ukraine and part of Belarus. In 1917 the Central conducted lending operations with associations of Kyiv, Poltava, Chernihiv, Podolia, Volyn, Kherson and Minsk provinces [14, 418].

Combining the sales and supply of credit agricultural unions, special agricultural, consumer and mixed, since January 2, 1918, the Central Society already worked as the Central Ukrainian Agricultural Cooperative Alliance covering the whole territory of Ukraine. The peak of its organizational activity was the second half of 1918, when the Central has already become a Union of Agricultural Unions. On January 1, 1920, the Central Union united 51 agricultural unions [15, 191]. Most of them - former credit agricultural unions, which, in the absence of a stable monetary unit, were forced to reorient in the content of their work. The financial turnover of the Central in those difficult economic conditions amounted to more than 109 million rubles. gold.

**The conclusions.** The history of agricultural cooperatives in Ukraine dates back to the 1850s-1860s. The first lending and cooperative organizations in Ukrainian village had a wealthy past. Their characteristic feature was the high level of unit payments, which, despite the possibility of installment, were burdensome for the ordinary peasant economy. Two powerful impetus to the development of the cooperative movement in Ukraine was the growth of sugar volumes in the 1870s-1880s and the revolution of 1905-1907. The tsarist government attached great importance and made significant efforts to organize a reliable control of cooperative peasant associations. Already in 1904 the Office for Small Credit was established, the purpose of which was to politicize the cooperative movement. According to the Russian government, a network of cooperatives on Ukrainian lands would necessarily have gained "not only socialist, but also Mazepa" orientation. In spite of these difficulties, during the years 1907 - 1912 in Kyiv and Ekaterinoslav, two regional centers of credit agricultural co-operation began to work. In spite of the economic turmoil of the military period, failures in the functioning of monetary circulation, the growth of inflationary processes, during the 1916 - 1917 period, 40 strong unions of credit agricultural societies launched.

The logical consequence of the organizational and economic development of Ukrainian cooperation was the organization of the first All-Ukrainian Congress of Cooperation in April 1917, during which a special body was created - the Provisional Central Ukrainian Co-



operative Committee, which was tasked with organizing the All-Ukrainian Cooperative Center. Theorists and practices of co-operation played a prominent role not only in the development of the national economy, but also in state-building. For example, the fact that among the nine members of the first composition of the General Secretariat, created by the Central Rada on June 15, 1917, convincingly evidences four general secretaries were well-known activists of the Ukrainian cooperative movement (B. Martos, H. Baranovsky, M Stasyuk, P. Khristyuk). The transformation of Ukrainian credit agricultural societies and their unions into agricultural cooperative societies was conditioned by several factors: the need to reflect their true content of work, the understanding that, in the current Soviet reality (with the establishment of a system of military communism in Ukraine), the scope of financial and credit cooperative work will be narrowed rapidly.

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## УКРАЇНЬСЬКА СІЛЬСЬКОГОСПОДАРСЬКА КООПЕРАЦІЯ НА ТЛІ РЕВОЛЮЦІЙНИХ ПОТРЯСІНЬ ПОЧАТКУ ХХ СТОЛІТТЯ

*Постановка проблеми.* Складно уявити діяльність такої складної громадсько-економічної організації, як кредитна кооперація України 1920-х рр., без урахування головних етапів її попереднього розвитку. На цьому слід окремо наголосити тому, що після 1920-х рр. усі публікації з історії кооперативного руху на Україні штучно відривали радянську кооперативну систему від досвіду кількох десятиріч плідної діяльності кредитних товариств українського селянства в дожовтневий період.

Незважаючи на величезні політичні зміни, які принесли на село революційні події 1917 р., не слід



переоцінювати їх вплив на соціально-економічну сферу одноосібного селянського господарювання доколгоспного періоду, на сутність господарського механізму, умови його повсякденного функціонування. Тому, звертаючись до різнобічної діяльності кредитної кооперації, що діяла головне в аграрному секторі народного господарства, необхідно ґрунтовно простежити її витоки, зважаючи на те, що значною мірою заснування формально нової радянської виробничо-кредитної кооперативної системи на селі у 1921 р. по суті було відновленням дореволюційної кредитної сільськогосподарської кооперації.

**Мета:** з'ясувати закономірності та особливості розвитку української сільськогосподарської кооперації протягом перших двох десятиліть ХХ ст.

**Основні результати дослідження.** У статті розкрито закономірності та особливості розвитку української сільськогосподарської кооперації протягом перших двох десятиліть ХХ ст. Показано вклад вітчизняних теоретиків і практиків кооперації, а також роль Всеукраїнських з'їздів кооперації і Тимчасового центрального українського кооперативного комітету. З'ясовано вплив революційних подій 1905 – 1907 рр. та 1917 – 1921 рр., а також Першої світової війни на динаміку й напрямки кооперативного руху.

**Висновки.** Історія сільськогосподарської кооперації в Україні бере свій початок у 1850-х – 1860-х рр. Перші кредитно-кооперативні організації на селі мали заможницьке забарвлення; їхньою характерною рисою був високий рівень пайових внесків, виплатити які, незважаючи на можливість розстрочки, було дуже обтяжливо для рядового селянського господарства. Двома потужними поштовхами до розвитку кооперативного руху в Україні стало наростання обсягів цукроваріння у 1870-х – 1880-х рр. та революція 1905 – 1907 рр. Царський уряд надавав великого значення й докладав значних зусиль для організації надійного контролю за кооперативними об'єднаннями селянства. В 1904 р. було створено Управління у справах дрібного кредиту, мета діяльності якого полягала в політизації кооперативного руху. На думку російського уряду, мережа кооперативів на українських землях обов'язково набула б «не лише соціалістичної, але й мазепинської» спрямованості. Всупереч названим труднощам, протягом 1907 – 1912 рр. у Києва та Катеринославі розпочали роботу два регіональні центри кредитної сільськогосподарської кооперації. Незважаючи на всі економічні труднощі військової пори, збої у функціонуванні грошового обігу, наростання інфляційних процесів, протягом 1916 – 1917 рр. в Україні розгорнули роботу вже близько 40 місних спілок кредитних сільськогосподарських товариств.

Логічним наслідком організаційно-економічної розбудови української кооперації стало проведення в квітні 1917 р. першого Всеукраїнського з'їзду кооперації, на якому було утворено спеціальний орган – Тимчасовий центральний український кооперативний комітет, на який покладалось завдання організації загальноукраїнського кооперативного центру. Зрештою, теоретики і практики кооперації відіграли помітну роль не лише в розбудові національної економіки, але й у процесах державотворення.

**Ключові слова:** сільськогосподарська кооперація, кооперативний рух, селянство, кредит, фінанси, революція, Всеукраїнський з'їзд кооперації, Тимчасовий центральний український кооперативний комітет.

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## THE AGRICULTURAL ISSUE ON THE FIRST ALL-RUSSIAN CONGRESS OF PEASANT DEPUTIES\*

*The article reveals the peculiarities of the activity of the First All-Russian Congress of Peasant Deputies. The authors elucidate the circumstances of the development of an agrarian resolution, which was signed on May 25, 1917. The issues discussed by the delegates at the congress were researched. The main provisions of the resolution and its importance for the development of agricultural legislation by the Provisional Government are outlined. The influence of the activity of the First All-Russian Congress of Peasant Deputies on the agrarian policy of the Provisional Government was investigated.*

**Key words:** agrarian issue, Provisional government, peasant deputies, All-Russian congress.

**The statement of the issue.** Socio-economic, socio-political changes in modern Ukraine apply to all spheres of society's life. One of the most urgent challenges is agrarian issue. Ukraine never needs to reform the agrarian legislation. The research of historical experience, in particular the activities of the First All-Russian Congress of Peasant Deputies for solving the agrarian issue, will, if not avoided, at least attenuate the possible negative consequences during the implementation of the modern agricultural policy in Ukraine.

**Research analysis.** The newest historiography from the theme we have raised is presented by the workings of S. Safonov [17], L. Litoshenko [30], V. Romanovsky [39], and others. At the same time, the substantive study needs to be influenced by the activities of the First All-Russian Congress of Peasant Deputies for the resolution of the agrarian issue by the Provisional Government.

The authors of the article **aim** at investigating the influence of the First All-Russian Congress of Peasant Deputies on the resolution of the agrarian issue by the Provisional Government.

**The statement of the basic material.** During the First Coalition of the Provisional Government, the First All-Russian Congress of Peasant Deputies took place. Its convocation was initiated by the All-Russian Peasant Union and the All-Russian Co-operative Congress. The Provisional Government did not protest because it hoped to find support from delegates to the congress [10]. And the First All-Russian Congress of Peasant Deputies took place in Petrograd from May 4 to 28, 1917. It was attended by 1353 delegates, of whom 672 were representatives of the peasants of 70 guberniyas and regions [11, 19]. The chairman of the congress was elected M. Avsentiev [12, 68; 13].

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