Розвиток лісової промисловості Північної Буковини і Хотинщини у міжвоєнний період

Лісові ресурси Північної Буковини і Хотинщини здавна відігравали важливу роль у житті місцевого населення. Науковці досить багато уваги приділили дослідженню процесу становлення та розвитку лісової галузі регіону від появи перших лісопилень 1786 р. і до Першої світової війни. Однак у працях істориків майже немає згадок про становище лісозаготівельної, лісопильної, меблевої, целюлозно-паперової підгалузей у період між двома світовими війнами, якій став новим етапом їх розвитку.

Впродовж 1918–1940 рр. лісова галузь краю займала одне з провідних місць у всій промисловості. Зокрема, за досліджуваний період спостерігалося розширення виробництва і збільшення кількості підприємств (з 32 до 48). Причому це зростання стосувалося лише північно буковинських повітів – кількість підприємств лісової промисловості на Хотинщині залишилася незмінною.

Після подолання наслідків Першої світової війни, до 1929 р. включно лісова галузь у краї загалом розвивалася успішно. Кількість пилорам зросла вдвічі, порівняно з 1921 р. Але через світову економічну кризу, попит на пиломатеріали і різну продукцію з дерева різко знизився, тому вже 1930 р. кількість діючих лісопилок скоротилася втричі. У другій половині 1933 р. ситуація в лісовій промисловості покращилася. Кількість працюючих пилорам почала виходити на докризовий рівень.

До найбільш значущих підприємств лісозаготівельної, лісопильної, меблевої, целюлозно-паперової підгалузей Північної Буковини і Хотинщини, що діяли між двома світовими війнами належали: акціонерне товариство д. деревообробної промисловості «Гьотц», «Форестієра», пилорама Е.Х. Фрідман, Енгель і Гласберг, меблева фабрика «Мураха», «Ніколаус Заячковскі і Сини, бондарна фабрика з електричною силою», фабрика з

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DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST INDUSTRY OF NORTHERN BUKOVYNA AND KHOTYN REGION IN THE INTERWAR PERIOD

Abstract. Forest resources of Northern Bukovyna and Khotyn County have long played an important role in the life of the local population. During 1918–1940, the forest branch of the region occupied one of the leading positions in all industry. In particular, during the investigated period there was an expansion of production and an increase in the number of enterprises (from 32 to 48).


Keywords: Northern Bukovyna, Khotyn region, interwar period, forest industry, factory, woodworking.

Formulation of scientific problem and its significance. Forest resources of Northern Bukovyna and Khotyn region have long played an important role in the life of the local population. Even today, most of the territories of the area are covered with forests, which can not but affect its economic specialization. But if in the first third of the 19th century the forest was mainly perceived as an «enemy» of the development of arable lands and pastures, which inevitably led to ruthless felling, uprooting or burning of trees, then in the middle of the 19th century the «war» with forests has finally moved to an industrial basis and continues to this day.

Analysis of recent research. Scientists of Chernivtsi University have paid a lot of attention to the study of formation and development of forest industry in the region from the first sawmills appearance in 1786 to World War I. In particular, it is worth noting the collective works «Bukovyna: historical essay»¹ and «Khotyn region: Historical essay»². However, they have almost no mentions about the situation of logging, sawmilling, furniture, and pulp and paper industries in the period between the two world wars. Therefore, taking into consideration the actuality of the problem, the aim of our article is to study the conditions of forest industry functioning, establishing of the total number and characteristics of production capacity of its individual enterprises, determination of the directions and amounts of wood production in Northern Bukovyna and Khotyn region during 1918–1940.

Presenting main material. A kind of starting point of our study became A. Râşcanu’s³ work. After all, in details it describes almost all existing enterprises in the forest industry in the early 1920s (is indicated their specialization, current and maximum production capacity, number of workers, management, equipment capacity, is analyzed the current situation and prospects of development). Researchers G. Brânzescu⁴ and I. Roceric⁵ described the peculiarities of industry functioning during the global economic crisis. The then guidebook «Un album al Cernăuţului» ⁶ («An album of Chernivtsi») and the reference books «Enciclopedia României: Țara românească»⁷
Since the end of the 19th – beginning of the 20th century in the territory of Northern Bukovyna, which was apart of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and in the Khotyn County, which belonged to Russia, along with handicrafts, manufacturing began to emerge, on the basis of which the industry of the region was gradually formed.

Unequal natural resources of Northern Bukovyna and Khotyn region, diverse economic policies and legislation (due to their being a part of different states in the past) led to various degrees of development of certain parts in the area at the time of joining the Kingdom of Romania. The highest positions in the development of industry were occupied by the counties of Northern Bukovyna. Although both territories were the agricultural outskirts of two empires, from which raw materials or semi-finished products were exported.

However, World War I interrupted industrialization and destroyed the lion’s share of the industrial potential of the area. A new stage in the development of industry in Northern Bukovyna and Khotyn region was the interwar period, which included, firstly, difficult reconstruction processes, which were more or less observed in all existing branches of industry before 1914 and, secondly, the modernization of old and the emergence of new ones.

From the general tendencies of development practically of all branches of industry of studied territories in 1918–1940 is obvious the cyclical nature of their functioning, which is well traced in the economies of most countries between the two world wars. In Northern Bukovyna and Khotyn region is also clearly observed a period of prosperity in the mid-1920s, followed by difficult years of the Great Depression (late 1920s – first third of the 1930s), a new economic boom, which occurred in 1935–1937 again led to the crisis of the late 1930s.

The forest, food, textile and chemical industries were the most actively developed. The vast majority of enterprises were factories. As Romanian laws defined, they included those that employed 20 or more workers and used machine labor with a capacity of 5 hp. Steam, water, wind, gasoline and electric engines were used.

Before proceeding to consider the situation of forest industry in the region after World War I, it should be noted that statistics for 1918–1920 are almost completely absent. After all, the Industrial Inspectorate in Chernivtsi was established only on May 1, 1920, and before that there was no body in the General Secretariat of Industry and Trade of Romania that would collect statistics in this area. There was nothing like this in the counties’ prefectures. Therefore, only as of 1921 was it possible to collect the necessary data.

Having identified the general tendencies in the industry development of the region, we turn to consider the condition of the forest industry. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to separate from the available materials data that apply only to northern Bukovynian counties. However, the general statistics for the whole of Bukovyna, which are available, are also very revealing. In particular, in the forest sector, in all of Romania it was the most developed in the counties of Bukovyna. Here 50% of the forests belonged to the Religious Fund, 37% to private owners, 12.7% to communities, and 9.3% to the state. As the largest owner of forest lands, the Religious Fund had at its disposal plots in 32 forestries, a large number of well-trained engineering and labor personnel. It provided excellent care and reproduction of forests. In general, it was an example for other owners. It sold wood to both commercial firms and small buyers for various needs.

Before World War I, Bukovyna produced 1.6 million cubic metres of forest. A part was sent to Galicia, and the most were processed on site (sawed into boards, shingles). There were also 4...
furniture factories, the products of which were practically irrelevant against the background of the general indicators of the forest industry. However, there was no factory for the production of paper and pulp. Thus the forest industry produced mainly semi-finished products16.

As of 1921, there were 108 factories in the forest industry in Bukovyna with a capacity of 6,006 hp. and a staff of 4,190 people. The cost of production was 265.5 million lei, despite the fact that the industry produced 620 thousand cubic meters of products and worked at half capacity due to difficulties in transporting timber17. Of the 150 sawmills that existed in woodworking factories before 1914, 75% were operational in 1921 (they were quickly restored). Also during 1918–1922, 25 new sawmills were built18.

But despite all efforts, the industry as a whole was on the verge of collapse. It was necessary to improve the transport network, purchase additional carriages and establish sales abroad19. There were problems with cheap lending to forest producers and traders20. Due to the lack of vehicles, the Bukovynians tried to process more wood on site, which caused new problems: the need for expensive foreign equipment for woodworking and qualified specialists, who were in short supply. The fight against competition in the domestic market of finished wood products was also considered important, as imported products were cheaper and had to be stopped. Of all that was required in the early 1920s to improve the functioning of the forest industry, the state reduced only transport costs. In general, taking into account the outlined problems and incomplete reconstruction after the hostilities of 1914–1918, the forest industry worked at 50% of its capacity21.

As for the northern counties, in 1921 there were 29 enterprises in this industry. They used equipment with a capacity of 1,665 hp and a staff of 1,039 people. The total value of their products was about 75 million lei, as they also worked on half of their production capacity22. Khotyn County in 1922 had only 3 sawmills23.

Among the 55 largest woodworking factories in Bukovyna (those, which had the equipment with a capacity more than 15 hp), 20 were in it northern part. In Chernivtsi County: Joint-Stock Company f. Wood Industry «Goetz» (Societatea pe acţiuni p. industria lemnului «Goetz»); Storozhyntsi County: E.H. Friedmann, Engel & Glasberg Sawmill (E.H. Friedmann, Engel & Glasberg ferestrău), Wood Factory Coșciuia (Fabrica de lemn Coșciuia), Timber Factory Budineț (Fabrica de cherestea Budineț), «Rarăul» Sawmill («Rarăul» ferestrău), «Romanian Forest» Sawmill («Pădurea Românească» ferestrău), Steam Sawmill Rudich Brothers (Ferestreu cu aburi Frații Rudich), Steam Sawmill M. Margulies (Ferestreul cu vapoți M. Margulies), Steam Sawmill Achner Brothers (Ferestreu cu aburi Frații Achner), Sawmill Harth, Mechel & Co. (Ferestreu Harth, Mechel & Co.), Brunstein & Jahr Steam Sawmill (Brunstein & Jahr Ferestreu cu aburi), Mendel Gottesmann Sawmill (Mendel Gottesmann ferestrău), Steam Sawmill Simon Auslender (Ferestreu cu aburi Simon Auslender), Ana and Ştefania Grigorcea, Sawmill (Ana și Ştefania Grigorcea, ferestrău), Mendel Deligdisch, Sawmill (Mendel Deligdisch, ferestrău); Vyzhnytsia County: «Forestiera» («Forestiera»), Sawmill Karl Bilgrey & Co. (Ferestreu Karl Bilgrey & Co.), Sawmill Marcu Fischer (Ferestreu Marcu Fischer), Karl Greif Sawmill (Karl Greif ferestrău); and Kitsman County: Eng. Abel & Saul Suchestov, Sawmill (Ing. Abel & Saul Suchestov, ferestrău)24.

Inclusively until 1929, the forest industry in the region was generally developing successfully. The number of sawmills has doubled compared to 1921. But due to the global economic crisis, the demand for lumber and various wood products fell sharply, so in 1930 the number of existing sawmills fell by three times. And then, they worked part-time. All warehouses were clogged with lumber as Germany, a major importer of Bukovynian timber, experienced a construction crisis and a large amount of cheap Soviet timber appeared in European markets25.

In the following years, the tendency to reduce sawmills continued, as the price of one cubic meter of forest in 1931 compared to 1914 fell by 2 times, to the crisis in Germany was added to the crisis in Greece. Thus, the traditional European markets for sale of Bukovynian forest were actually lost. Instead, the active search for new markets in 1931 opened the export of boards to
France. In the second half of 1933 the situation in the forest industry improved. The number of working sawmills began to reach pre-crisis levels. And in 1935 all enterprises of the industry worked in full.

In 1936, things were going well in the forest industry of Northern Bukovyna, as well as throughout Romania. Among the large factories in Storozhynets County, there were 22, and in Chernivtsi County – 4. The main supplier of logs remained the Religious Fund, which began to raise forest prices, which could again lead to lower profitability and reduced woodworking enterprises. This trend persisted until the end of Romanian rule in the region. In Chernivtsi, the forest industry included a woodworking factory, 6 furniture factories, a wooden barrels factory, 2 wooden nails factories, 2 cardboard factories and 2 factories of various paper products. Then in Chernivtsi County there were 4 woodworking factories (2 in Nyzhni Lenkivtsi, 1 in Stara Zhuchka and Adlersberg Brothers Timber Factory (Fabrica de cherestea Fraţii Adlersberg) in Nepolokivtsi, a box factory in Luzhany, and a cardboard and paper factory in Nyzhni Lenkivtsi. Storozhynets County had the best indicators in this regard: 25 wood processing factories (3 largest in Storozhynets), a furniture factory in Banyliv and a plywood factory in Krasnoilsk. Khotyn County had only 3 woodworking factories.

One of the oldest woodworking factories operating in the region in 1918–1940 was the Joint-Stock Company f. Wood Industry «Goetz». It has operated as P. & C. Goetz & Co (P. & C. Goetz & Co) since the 19th century. At that time, brothers Paul and Carol founded woodworking enterprises in Chernivtsi and Vatra Dornei. Chernivtsi factory had a convenient location on the bank of the Prut (raw materials came from the Cheremosh Valley through the Prut). Their products (mostly timber and boxes) had good reviews not only in the region but also abroad. In the early 1920s, the company expanded considerably: Chernivtsi factory already included 8 sawmills employing 500 people, and was opened a woodworking factory with 14 sawmills in Galați. In 1924 «Goetz» united with «Romanian Forest» («Foresta Română») society. And in June 1924 they entered industrial group «Rosenberg» («Rosenberg»).

Chernivtsi also housed a central office of Spruce (Molidul) woodworking factory, a company founded by O. Kreindler, M. Kreindler and others, and Regional Bank (Banca regională) in 1920. Spruce sawmills were located in Câmpulung County and had 500 employees.

In the early 1920s, wood processing was carried out by «Bukovyna» Joint-Stock Company («Bucovina» Societate pe acţiuni), which had sawmills in Câmpulung and Rădăuți counties, and its administration was located in Chernivtsi. It was one of the most important industrial enterprises not only in the region but in the whole of Romania. The company was founded by M. cav. de Anhauch in the early 20th century, but Religious Fund also received profits, as «Bukovyna» Joint-Stock Company leased its forest lands.

The largest furniture factory of region «Ant» («Furnica») was located in Northern Bukovyna. It was founded by M. Schindler and T. Prokopovici in 1919 as a limited liability company. During 1920, it bought an enterprise that existed before the war and on its basis developed further. Initially, on its equipment (woodworking machines) with a capacity of 33.5 hp 60 people worked. And in 1928 already were 115 hp and 100 employees. Parquet, various types of furniture, windows, doors and various carpentry products were made here. The total cost of products, which were valued for good quality and low price, in 1921 amounted to 2 million lei. «Ant» worked in both domestic and foreign markets, exporting wood products to Germany, Italy and Belgium.

A workshop «Ferdinand Motylewski in Chernivtsi» («Ferdinand Motylewski in Cernăuți»), founded in Chernivtsi in 1892, was one of the enterprises that processed wood in Northern Bukovyna. It used a 2 hp engine and had an iron workshop. Carriages, carts for 500 thousand lei per year made 9 workers.

The old traditions of work in the industry, started in 1789, were continued in Romanian times by «Nikolaus Zajacskowski & Sons, Barrels Factory with Electric Power» («Nikolaus Zajacskowski
& Fii, fabric de butoae cu forță electrică»)⁴⁷, 50 workers of which produced products for the needs of population of Romania and for export⁴⁸.

In 1926, a factory for the production of wooden nails «Astra» («Astra») was opened in Chernivtsi, which had a steam engine with 10 hp and 10 workers. The following year, after its opening, its income was 1.5 million lei⁴⁹.

Among the enterprises of the paper industry in 1921 in Chernivtsi was Wallpaper and Paper Bags Factory «Tapa» Limited Liability Company in Chernivtsi (Fabrica de tapete și pungi de hârtie «Tapa» societate cu garanție limitată în Cernăuți), the only one in Bukovyna, which produced wallpapers and paper bags. It has equipment for 5 hp and 17 workers who produced products worth 700 thousand lei a year⁵⁰.

In 1920 a paper factory «Biedermann and Kindler» («Biedermann and Kindler») was established in Chernivtsi, as of 1925, it had electrical equipment with a capacity of 16 hp and more than 50 workers⁵¹.

It should be noted that in almost all villages of the region, located near the forests, the peasants, depending on demand, produced shingles⁵².

**Conclusions.** Thus, the interwar period became a new stage in the development of industry of Northern Bukovyna and Khotyn region. The functioning of it under the rule of Kingdom of Romania is characterized by cyclical nature, which, despite certain peculiarities, consisted of repeated periods of rising development of almost all industries, which led to decline.

One of the most developed industries was forest one. In particular, after overcoming the consequences of World War I, in it was observed the expanding of production and increasing of enterprises number (for the study period from 32 to 48) related to the timber harvesting and its processing. Moreover, this growth related only to the northern Bukovynian counties – the number of forest enterprises in Khotyn County remained unchanged.


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13 А. Рăşcanu, Bucovina din punct de vedere industrial, р. 112.

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