

The Oil Industry in Galicia until 1918 in Light of the Records of the Galician Governorate in Lviv

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Abstract: The files kept at the Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Lviv are of fundamental importance for research into the issues of the oil industry in Galicia. Of particular note is the largest ensemble in the archive – fond 146: Galician Governorate in Lviv, containing the records of the central government of Galicia. This collection has preserved a rich collection of materials representing various aspects of the development of the oil industry. They dealt with issues of the occurrence of crude oil in Galicia, the acquisition and exploitation of oil plots, the extraction and processing of oil, and the construction and operation of wells and refineries. The information on the state of the oil mines in Galicia, especially in terms of meeting technical conditions, fire protection and occupational safety, is valuable. An important place is held by files depicting issues of the creation of industrial infrastructure, including the construction and maintenance of oil pipelines, the construction of storage facilities, and the railway connection to the plants. The files also contain information on the establishment and activities of domestic and foreign oil companies and joint stock companies in Galicia. Also of interest are materials on the development of the labour movement.

Keywords: records of the Galician Governorate in Lviv, kerosene, oil industry, mines, oil companies and joint stock companies

The Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Lviv is the oldest and one of the richest historical sources in Ukraine. The stock of this archive currently includes more than 1 million archival units (about 12,000 m. b. of files). These materials are an inexhaustible source of information allowing research to be conducted on the history of the political, cultural, social, and economic history not only of Ukraine and Poland, but also of other countries of Central and Eastern Europe (Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Lviv 2005).

This text aims to present the most important materials on the issues of the oil industry in Galicia during the Austrian partition. The largest group in the archive was selected for analysis: fond 146 – the Galician Governorate in Lviv, which collects the records of the central government of Galicia (Dziadzio, Mataniak 2018: 137-167; Ślusarek 2014: 163-174). A total of 198,689 archival units have been

identified in the fond, which are grouped into 109 smaller series, called Descriptions. The large number and wide range of topics covered by the files make it possible to conclude that it is an inexhaustible source for research into the past of the Austrian partition. Files on oil industry issues are in 19 descriptions. The preserved documentation has been used in part by researchers dealing with the development of the oil industry and labour movements in Galicia (Grytsak 1986; Hrytsak 2006; Khonihsman 1958; Khonihsman 1971; Makitra, Semenyuk 2013: 108-118; Najdus 1960: 123-150). The study is a source study and was prepared on the basis of archival inventories and a search conducted in selected archival units.

Description 1 contains documents related to the formation of the government and administrative division of Galicia and the establishment of new laws. Among these files, a file on the establishment of a Galician directorate for the extraction and sale of crude oil dated 1792 was found (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 1, p. 194).

In Description 4, containing the files of the Presidium Department of the Galician Gubernium, there is a whole group of cases preserved called "Files on the situation of the oil industry in Galicia" from 1861-1913 (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 4, pp. 3,411-3,422). There you will find ordinances, reports, correspondence, proclamations, narrations, draught laws, and other materials on the issues of oil industry organisation. These included the conduct and technical supervision of oil extraction, fire safety, mine construction and the safety of those working there. The results of inspections of oil distillation and storage facilities in Drohobycz and Gorlice counties have also been preserved, especially in terms of meeting technical conditions. In order to maintain strict records and control of these facilities, reports were requested on the development of a master plan and register of pipelines and oil tanks. Much space was devoted to the issue of pollution of public waters by waste generated by the production of petroleum products and the installation of protective devices to safeguard rivers and watercourses from possible flash flooding with oil. Also valuable are the preserved oil well plans and situational sketches. Of interest to the researcher are oil taxation projects and tariffs. Correspondence is also preserved between the National Department and the Governor's Office regarding the provision of statistical news about the state of the mines in 1879-1888 by the districts or counties where there were oil mines (Bohorodczany, Brzozów, Dolina, Drohobycz, Gorlice, Grzybów, Jasło, Kołomyja, Kałusz, Krosno, Lisko, Sanok and others). In addition, we also find statistical data on the number of workers employed in the enterprises of the Borysław oil basin.

From the files of Description 4, we also learn about the opening of new shafts, such as "Lithuania," "Vilnius," and "Oil City" in Tustanowice. The reports noted information about damage caused by the deliberate release of oil from tanks and the setting of kerosene on fire, accidents spoiling equipment in mines, and mishaps in wells. Cases of fires were also mentioned, including: at the mine in Słoboda Rungurska (April 17-18, 1881), at the "Laura" shaft of the Berhand Goldstein company in Tustanowice (December 17, 1909), and the oil tanks of the "Galician Society for Transportation and Storage of Oil" in Bania Kotovska near Borysław

(September 16-19, 1909). In the wake of these events, there was talk of the need for the police to conduct inspections to better supervise oil well operations. Decisions were also taken on the construction of new oil tanks.

Intense oil production and difficulties in selling the oil caused the tanks to be overflowing. As a result, the remaining quantities of oil were simply poured away, often forming entire lakes, quite often set on fire. In order to reduce oil production, some entrepreneurs even went so far as to destroy wells (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 4, p. 3,413, k. 137). The way out of this situation was to provide subsidies for the construction of additional tanks and refineries.

In the files grouped under Description 4, we can also find information about the establishment and activities in Galicia of oil joint-stock companies, such as: "Galician-Carpathian Oil Society of Mac Garvey and Bergheim" (with American capital), "Austrian Joint-Stock Society for the Oil Industry", and the joint-stock societies "Borysław", "Dziedzice", "Schodnica", "Trzebinia". In addition to joint stock companies, there were other private companies.

Mention should also be made of files relating to the acquisition of land by owners of mines or *odbenzyniarnias* (a type of refinery). It was not uncommon for these lands to be seized from the local population without providing due compensation.

The materials preserved in Description 4 also deal with the development of the labour movement, especially the formation of workers' societies and the participation of workers in political rallies (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 4, p. 3,621, k. 252-255; p. 3,623, k. 75; o. 25, p. 483, k. 3). Also preserved are reports, cipher telegrams, written accounts, correspondence, and other records on the oil workers' strikes in Borysław and Krosno districts in the summer of 1904 (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 4, pp. 3,771-3,775). The widespread strike of oil workers in Borysław in June-July 1904 is described in detail. They demanded the introduction of an eight-hour working day at the mines and due social conditions. The number of strikers continued to grow and amounted to more than 2,000 people. Due to various threats and attacks on mines, the decision was taken to reinforce military police posts and send in the army to guard tanks and pipelines. However, these measures proved insufficient to protect businesses (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 4, p. 3,421, k. 60).

The subject of strikes by oil workers in the Drohobycz district is also covered by materials kept in Description 8 (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 8, pp. 62-63, 313, 342, 345). Inter alia, there are reports here from the Borysław district commissar containing information about incidents of shafts being set on fire by workers participating in the 1904 strike.

Also included in this description is correspondence between the Governor's Office and the district administration in Drohobycz regarding the closure of the refinery of the "Händel Brothers" company (1904), and materials regarding a complaint by an oil company in Galicia about abuses by local authorities with a request

to establish a police station in the area of the Boryslaw oil basin (1918) (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 8, p. 408, 2,722).

Description 6 preserves secret documentation (group G – "Geheime") of the Presidium of the Galician Gubernium. These fascicles also contain separate files on the development of the oil industry. Among them can be found a letter from the Ministry of the Interior in Vienna to the Governor's Office regarding the establishment of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand I Oil Society in Galicia (this news was posted in the newspaper "Węgierski Przemysł Górniczy") and an order from the Governorate sent to the district administration of Stary Sambor ordering verification of this information (1908) (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 6, p. 111, pp. 99-102). Also of interest are the reports of the district offices of Brzozów and Limanowa on the supervision of the activities of the English and French oil companies in Brzozów, Gumniska, Grabownica Starzeńska, and Sowliny (1915) (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 6, p. 118, k. 208, 229-231, 289-290, 687). Also preserved is a 1918 report by the national military police commander in Chernivtsi containing information on 16,000 Galician workers employed in the oil industry (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 6, p. 121, k. 1945).

Documentation of oil matters also appears in Description 7. This is correspondence between the Galician Gubernium (and also the Governorate), the Ministry of the Interior, the National Department in Lviv, the Presidium of the Imperial and Royal Higher National Court in Lviv, and tax offices. It dealt, inter alia, with the question of the occurrence of kerosene in Galicia (1841), draught amendments to the regulations of the National Commission for Mining and inspection of the oil industry (the statutes of this commission and a list of oil companies from 1885 to 1888 are attached), anti-Semitic speeches in the oil mines of Schodnica (1897) (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 7, pp. 2,348, 4,371, 4,689).

Among the documentation collected in Description 23, correspondence, cost estimates, and other materials relating to the oil industry infrastructure between 1886 and 1919 deserve our attention (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 23, pp. 36, 88, 282, 401, 428, 450-453, 456, 457, 465, 468, 541, 543, 546, 570, 602, 649, 701, 702, 705, 1321, 1,325, 1,394, 1,560, 1,561, 1,564, 1,566, 1,718, 1,846, 1,857, 2,765, 2,766, 4,174, 4,292, 4,982, 5,825, 6,225, 6,226). The preserved materials detail the issues of construction and maintenance of oil pipelines in Boryslav, Dobrohostów, Kołomyja, Kosmacz, Modrycz, Truskawec, Tustanowice and others. Here one can find records of the sale of land plots for the construction of kerosene processing plants, designs and plans for the construction of oil storage and tanks, a laboratory and outbuildings at the Drohobycz refinery. In addition, in correspondence between oil companies and railroad boards, the topic of building a rail link to refineries (e.g., in Nadworna, Rychcice, Trzebinia) was present. Some of the units include site plans of railway stations and projects related to the construction of separate oil tanks in their vicinity (Brody, Khodory, Kołomyja, Cracow, Przemyśl, Rawa Ruska and others).

The issue of oil industry infrastructure is also addressed in separate units, found in Description 57. The documentation they contain from 1897-1908 includes ordinances of the Land Department in Lviv and correspondence with district offices on issuing permits to entrepreneurs to install oil pipelines under roads and railways, as well as designs for these installations (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 57, pp. 632, 639 660, 693, 694, 703, 710, 722, 744).

Description 62 holds documentation on the issuance of permits for the construction of refineries and oil distillation plants in Galicia (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 62, pp. 584-588, 843). Of particular interest are the reports of the inspector of general industry for Galicia and Bukowina and the inspectors in Cracow, Lviv and Stanisławów from 1884-1890 and 1902 on the development of the oil industry (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 62, pp. 97-104).

Correspondence, minutes, statistical news, cost estimates, bills, regulations and technical plans, and other materials relating to the construction and operation of buildings and oil tanks in the localities of Drohobycz district (1909-1914) are also found in Description 68 of the Governorate set (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 68, pp. 3,378-3,406).

Descriptions 25, 25a, 58 and 70 collect materials on the establishment and activities of domestic and foreign oil companies and joint stock companies. Here one can find statutes of societies, lists of societies and their members, statistical statements, minutes of meetings, financial reports, etc. Documentation of the following societies and companies has survived: Towarzystwo Wiertników "Wiertacze", the oil workers' society "Pomoc Wzajemna" in Borysław, "Borysławskie Towarzystwo dla Transportu i Magazynowania Ropy" in Lviv, "Izba naftowa" in Lviv, "Towarzystwo dla Przerabiania Nafty", "Przemysł Naftowy" in Drohobycz, "Borysławskie Towarzystwo Naftowe", "Towarzystwa Nafciarzy" in Borysław, "Galicja", oil association in Iwonicz (*Societe nouvelle des petroles d'Ivonicz*), "Galicyjskie Karpackie Towarzystwo Naftowe" in Glinik Mariampolski, "Ropa", "Galicyjska Bazy Naftowa", "Trzebinia", oil associations in Kołomyja and Stanisławów, an affiliate association "Companie Austro-Belge de Petrole in Brüssel" in Stryj, Spółka Akcyjna dla Przemysłu Naftowego in Trzebinia, "The Petroleum Company Limited" in London and its branches in Lviv and Stryj, "Renta Naftowa", "Beskid", "Pierwsza Galicyjska Spółka Akcyjna dla Przemysłu Naftowego" in Vienna, "Związek Galicyjskich i Bukowińskich Rafinerii Nafty", "Związek Techników Wiertniczych", "Spółka Urzędników Przedsiębiorstw (firm) Naftowych Galicji", "Związek Producentów Naftowych w Galicji", "Spółka Przemysłowców Naftowych", "Lwowska Spółka Naftowa", "Spółki Akcyjnej dla Przemysłu Naftowego" in Trzebinia and other places (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 25, pp. 398, 469, 891, 1,032, 1,431, 1,433, 1,642, 2,490, 2,561, 2,584, 3,198; o. 25 a, p. 94; o. 58, pp. 241-243, 1,373, 1,849-1,859, 1,905, 2,599, 2,631-2,633; o. 70, pp. 97-100, 103, 139, 150, 151, 154, 160, 162, 184, 197, 198, 226, 228).

The topic we are taking up about the development of the oil industry is also covered by separate archival units of Descriptions 33 and 51 b. Included in them is correspondence from 1902-1907 between the Galician Governorate, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Drohobycz and Gorlice district authorities. It dealt with the following issues: anonymous reports of Hubice village residents regarding the transfer of the gathering land plots to the "Lewakowski and Company" oil company, the provision of fire protection at the site of mines and enterprises in the Borysław oil basin (1904-1906), the protest at the Karpackie Towarzystwo Naftowy in Glinik Mariampolski regarding the imposition of an additional tax (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 33, pp. 2,123 a, 3260; o. 51 b, p. 151).

Oil industry matters are richly represented in Description 55 (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 55, pp. 3, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 28-32, 34-36, 38, 39, 42, 44, 45, 48, 52, 53, 55, 59, 61-63, 65-67, 70, 71, 73, 74, 76-81, 83, 84, 86-92, 94-97, 99-101, 103-109, 111, 113, 114). Dating from 1860-1900, the documentation depicts various aspects of the oil industry. An important place among these files is occupied by, inter alia, decrees of the Governor's Office, reports of the National Treasury Directorate, tax offices, correspondence of the Ministry of the Interior, the Higher National Court and the Higher Mining Office in Lviv, district authorities on the exploitation of natural resources in Galicia, the conduct of geological surveys for oil exploration, compensation to municipalities for land plots taken over and the drilling of shafts on them, the construction of oil storage facilities and oil pipelines, and materials on the issuance of permits for exploratory and construction work. The issue is also addressed by records of protests by municipalities or individual owners regarding the taking of land.

There is extensive correspondence between the above institutions on appeals by mining and oil entrepreneurs against penalties imposed by the Governorate for violations of the law of exploitation of natural resources, protests by oil entrepreneurs regarding restrictions on the rights to drill new wells and exploit oil plots, and on tax issues, including requests by entrepreneurs not to sell property at auction for non-payment of taxes, and materials regarding the imposition of the sequester on oil companies (e.g., in the village of Kobrin near Schodnica).

Also valuable is information from the Drohobycz district office on the condition of the oil mines in Borysław, reports on the technical condition of equipment at the mines, materials on the removal of irregularities at the mines, the closure of oil wells in the Stryj district due to failure to comply with occupational safety rules, and reports from the Kołomyja district office on the pollution of the Prut River.

Also preserved are the statutes of the municipalities (Borysław, Mrażnica, Orawa, Schodnica, Truskavec, Tustanowice) regarding the maintenance of order at oil wells, reports on the necessity of organising local police in Borysław for the protection of the wells, and materials on the protests of entrepreneurs from the Stryj district on the establishment of police control at oil companies.

The Ministry of Agriculture's statistical yearbooks from 1885-1895, found in this description, include mining and oil companies. Separate units deal with the

affairs of workers employed in the oil industry, especially the issue of payment of wages and the introduction of labour books.

Description 60 preserves correspondence with the Ministry of the Interior and the Drohobycz district administration regarding the acquisition of land parcels in and around Borysław for the purpose of constructing a mine and related protests by landowners (1908-1913) (CPAHU Lviv, f. 146: NGwL, o. 60, pp. 1,337, 1,338, 1,341, 1,344). Correspondence with the Ministry of Public Works concerns the question of the use of various measures in fighting fires in oil mines in Galicia (1908) (CPAHU Lviv, f. 146: NGwL, o. 60, p. 1,339).

One case in Description 71 contains correspondence with county authorities for the years 1890-1903 regarding the issuance of permits for the establishment of law firms brokering contracts for the purchase and sale of oil plots in the Jasło area (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 71, p. 41).

Description 80 preserves lists of patents and licences for inventions related to methods of kerosene distillation (CPAHUL, f. 146: NGwL, o. 80, p. 97, k. 173, 323).

To summarise the consideration of the files stored in fond 146: The Galician Governorate in Lviv and their usefulness to the study of the history of the oil industry in Galicia of Austrian times, three important points should be noted. Firstly, the quantity of preserved materials is very large. The comments made are certainly not exhaustive of this subject; they are intended only to present the most important materials. Secondly, the wide range of topics in the surviving files makes it possible to study various aspects of the oil industry during the period in question. Thirdly, it is necessary to conduct further studies of the archival resource to develop other assemblies of central, judicial, or fiscal authorities. Such efforts could result in the preparation of an informative booklet or inventory with a characterisation of the contents of the materials.

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3. O. 6, pp. 111, 118, 121.
4. O. 7, pp. 2,348, 4,371, 4,689.
5. O. 8, pp. 62-63, 313, 342, 345, 408, 2,722.
6. O. 23, pp. 36, 88, 282, 401, 428, 450-453, 456, 457, 465, 468, 541, 543, 546, 570, 602, 649, 701, 702, 705, 1,321, 1,325, 1,394, 1,560, 1,561, 1,564, 1,566, 1,718, 1,846, 1,857, 2,765, 2,766, 4,174, 4,292, 4,982, 5,825, 6,225, 6,226.
7. O. 25, pp. 398, 469, 483, 891, 1,032, 1,431, 1,433, 1,642, 2,490, 2,561, 2,584, 3,198.
8. O. 25 a, p. 94.

9. O. 33, pp. 2,123 a, 3,260.
10. O. 51 b, p. 151.
11. O. 55, pp. 3, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 28–32, 34–36, 38, 39, 42, 44, 45, 48, 52, 53, 55, 59, 61–63, 65–67, 70, 71, 73, 74, 76–81, 83, 84, 86–92, 94–97, 99–101, 103–109, 111, 113, 114.
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13. O. 58, pp. 241-243, 1,373, 1,849-1,859, 1,905, 2,599, 2,631-2,633.
14. O. 60, pp. 1,337-1,339, 1,341, 1,344.
15. O. 62, pp. 97-104, 584-588, 843.
16. O. 68, pp. 3,378-3,406.
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