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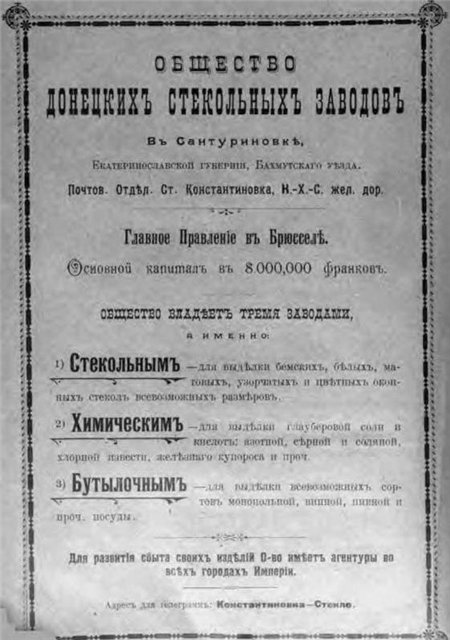
**THE BEGINNING OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLASS INDUSTRY IN DONBASS**

The glass industry, as a branch of production, was born in the antiquity when glass jewelries and then dishes were brought to Ukrainian lands from Greece.

By the middle of the 19th century glass was produced in small factories - guts. But at the end of the 19th century there were large glass factories.

The raw materials for the glass industry are primarily multicolored quartz sand, which must contain not less than 85-90% silica. The largest deposits of glass sands in Ukraine are located in Donbass and in the forest zone (about 110 million tons). The largest deposits are Avdeevske (Donetsk region), Novoselovskoe (Kharkiv) and Glebivske (Chernigivska).

A large deposits of high-quality (including coke coal) on the territory of the eastern socio-economic region of Ukraine have led to the emergence of large factories in Donbass, namely in Lisichansk and Kostyantynivka. On August 11, 1895 a plot of land was purchased for building plants. The document from the Belgian side was signed by L. Lambert, P. Noble, I. Sizle. (pic.1)



On June 14, 189, the Committee of Ministers allowed the Belgian Joint-Stock Company "Donetsk Glassworks" to begin work on the arrangement and operation of a glass plant in Santurivivka, Bakhmut district (part of the modern city of Kostyantynivka). The company was founded in 1896 and at the beginning of the 20th century three factories were jointed: glass, chemical and bottles[4, p.380]; [3, p.1]. At first there was built chemical plant and in 1896-1898 glass and bottle plants were built. In 1903 engineer ValentinLudvigovichGomon became manager of that company.

The chemical plant supplied necessary raw material for the production of glass (sulfate) for glass and bottle plants. The plant had five lead chambers for the production of sulfuric acid and five devices for its concentration, seven furnaces for the manufacture of sulfate and hydrochloric acid and other machines.

The role of chemical production was so significant that in 1911 the Company of Donetsk Glassworkers was renamed into the Company of Donetsk Glass and Chemical Plants. All products due to the improved machines and the way of production were of high quality and at the same time at quite reasonable price [3, p. 12].

The bottle factory, in its turn, supplied chemical plants with balloons and bottles for packaging and transportation of products. The bottle factory at that time had four huge baths and produced bottles of four colors: green, dark green, yellow and semi-white. It was the biggest plant in the Russian Empire (which included the territory of modern Donbass) with an annual productivity of up to 40,000,000 bottles.

There were a production of monopoly, beer, wine, sherry, champagne, zelter and other bottles. The process involved 1,600 people. The Company’s pricelist reported: "The plant employs over 100 workers for sorting goods, that’s why the quality of bottles is beyond comparison. They are distinguished by finesse and durability" [3,p.2].

Glass plant supplied chemical and bottle plants with glass. The glass factory had two pools for glass melting with total mass of 20,000 poods. The annual production was two million liters of glass mass. The plant produced window glass of different thickness, matte glass, semi-matte glass, corrugated glass, colored glass, mirror glass, glass for photos, etc.

The plant employed about 1500 people. "All goods are leaded by their workers directly to the wagons which reach the destination without reloading, which is very important for such goods as glass, chemical products and bottles," reported the price list of the Company.[3, p. 3]

Since July 1 till October 1, 1910 the South-Russian Eegional Agricultural, Industrial and Handicraft Exhibition was held in Ekaterinoslav (now Dnipro). Modern regional exhibitions cannot compare with it: none of them lasts for 100 days and they are not prepared so carefully. Two companies from Kostyantynivka took part in the exhibition. Among the glass factories which exhibited their products, the largest exhibitor was the Company of Donetsk Glassworkers from Kostyantynivka.

The exhibition was regional and included the entire South of the Russian Empire. It included five provinces (Katerynoslavska including modern Donetsk, Poltavska, Tavriyska, Kharkivska, Khersonka), Kuban region and and region of Don Army. In addition, exhibits from other regions and even from other countries were exhibited.

The grand opening of the exhibition took place on July 1 at 12 o'clock in the afternoon. The royal and government officials sent telegrams, were they expressed regrets that they were not able to attend the ceremonial opening. There were two parks for the exhibition: Central and Technical. After passing the arch at the entrance to the City Garden, the visitor was on the alley, at the end of which there was the main pavilions - the Tavride Palace. To the right from the palace the products of Kostyantynivka industrial enterprises were shown.

The exhibit of glass, chemical and bottle plants was a small, refines pavilion (see photo 1), built in a Moorish style. According that style everything - walls, roof, windows, doors - were made of multicolored glass from the plant. Huge cylinders and pyramids of bottles were displayed near the pavilion. This pavilion was declared as a real masterpiece. It was described in the press. One of these reviews was published in the PridneprovskyKrai on September 3, 1910: "The pavilion is built in Arabic-Moorish style. Almost everything that is most characteristic and attractive in the Arabic style has found its true expression in this pavilion." [5] (pic.2)



Despite the brightness of the oriental paints, visitors were impressed with the harmony of tones which testified the skill of artists and builders.

  It was promoted by those fact that the glass itself is a noble artistic material: matt, rough, patterned, golden - it gave the peculiar beauty and vitality to the pavilion, which was topped up with a magnificent dome of amalgamated glass and ended with a crescent spire. Pavilion made a great artistic impression. [5]

The Company of Donetsk glass factories from Kostyantynivka received the highest award from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry - a major gold medal - for the production of bottles, glass and case management.

The mission of the exhibition is defined as the exchange and replication of best practices. The Company of Donetsk Glass and Chemical Plants has demonstrated their production as the best. The quality of the product was appreciated. The South Russian exhibition was not the last where the Kostyantynivka industrial enterprises received the highest awards. However, it was the Ekaterinoslav Exposition of 1910 that was recognized as the most successful among all the regional exhibitions that were ever held in pre-revolutionary times.

At the peak of its development in the first quarter of the 20th century five large baths were operating at the bottle plant and production volume increased from 10 to 50 million bottles. The assortment was vast. There were four varieties of color. Bottles were blown up by craftsmen-glass blowers with the help of special tubes and molds. On the postage stamp of the beginning of the century we can see the finished goods warehouse. At that time the manufacture of pharmaceutical dishes (for medicines), later - insulators, cans, cylinders, tiles, was started.

The glass factory had two large furnaces for boiling glass mass. The guide for 1902 wrote: "On the glass factory the building connecting two pools for melting glass had about a hundred and fifty sazhen of length (nearly 320 meters)."

Since its creation and till the first quarter of the 20th century, the Company of Donetsk Glassworkers in Kostyantynivka won eight gold medals at exhibitions in Kyiv, Rostov-on-Don (twice), Kazan, St. Petersburg, Yekaterinoslav and Odessa. The glass was used for the construction of the Livadia Palace and royal buildings in the Crimea.

In 1913, the Donbass produced 2/3 of Ukrainian glass. The number of factories in Ukraine in 1913 was about 40 (in the Donbass - 10, in Volyn - 15). The total production of Ukrainian glass amounted to 6.7 million tons.

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