

**MATERIAL RESOURCES OF NEWSPAPERS EDITORIALS
IN TAMBOV REGION IN 1953 – 1957**

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Key words and phrases: material base; royalty; bonus; editorial; the editor; local newspapers; a printing office.

Abstract: Material resources of regional, town and district newspapers of Tambov region at the initial stage of «thawing weather» are studied in the paper.

The editorials of local newspapers during the considered period had an unequal financial position: the editorials of district newspapers possessed the extremely limited material base in comparison with the editorials of city and, especially, regional newspapers [1. F. 10210. p. 38-41].

Most editorials of district newspapers didn't have their own transport. As a result, the editorial staff frequently could not get to the required destination to gather the information or had to thumb a lift [1. F. 10212. p. 31]. Quite often they resorted to «room style of work» i.e. the information was gathered by phone [1. F. 10212. p. 29-30].

Some editorials had their own transport, but, nevertheless, not everybody could use it for the lack of necessary spare parts [1. F. 10212. p. 27-28].

In 1956 the editor of Bondary district newspaper Borovikova raised an important aspect of «the transport problem»: «From month to month we get less feed for the horse, and it is necessary to beseech the director of a state farm or somebody else for it. Is it possible to write anything bad about this person then?». In fact, in such situations editors of newspapers became dependent, therefore they could not expose shortcomings as the Party demanded.

«The transport problem» was also the problem of the day for editorials of town newspapers. For example, the editorial of Rasskazovo town newspaper «Vpered» didn't have any transport, its editor P. Ya. Dynin spoke about it in August 1956. [1. F. 10508. p. 1-11].

Financial incentives of regional, town and district newspapers editorials were also different. Employees of regional newspapers received not only the monthly salary, but also got royalties and bonuses [1. F. 10212. p. 31]. For example, the editorial of the regional youth newspaper «Molodoy stalinez» paid royalties as big as two hundred and fifty rubles for one publication that exceeded the sizes of the royalties paid by the editorials of district newspapers by 100 - 200 times [2. F. 3. p. 181].

The bonus fund of the editorial of the regional party newspaper «Tambovskaya pravda», intended for awarding «excellent newspaper workers», accounted for 10000 rubles in 1954. Besides, the editorial had a considerable royalty fund [1. F. 9986. p. 33].

At the same time editorials of district newspapers complained about poor royalty funds, needless to say about bonus funds. So, at the district meeting of press and radio

workers in January 1955 the editor of Bondary district newspaper Borovikova said: «I ask to solve the problem of increasing the royalty for newspapers staff. In fact, it is a shame... to pay only one ruble...». Borovikova fairly noticed, that such measures as increase in the sizes of the royalties, raising financial incentives would lead to the growth of quantity and quality of authors' materials [1. F. 10210. p. 59-62].

Quite often editors of district newspapers worked as managers of printing offices, where district newspapers were issued, as printing offices and editorials shared the same premises. Most editorials of district newspapers were in cramped premises or were compelled to occupy completely unaccommodated buildings and premises, had out-of-date equipment and lacked necessary materials and stuff.

At the above-mentioned meeting the editor of Znamenka district newspaper Tatarintseva described the present state of affairs as follows: «... the building of the editorial and the printing office cover the area of 60 square meters. It is used both for typesetting and printing; besides, the press «Iskra» was made in 1900. We take excessive care of it, it is intended to print two pages, but we do only one, thus, spending a lot of time... During the last five years we kept raising the question of editorial expansion and replacement of the equipment, but it is not solved positively». Tatarintseva noted, that the same «bad» conditions were in Yurlovka district where type-setters had to wear gloves while working in winter [1. F. 10210. p. 38-41].

The secretary of Lysye Gory district committee of the CPSU A. Titova informed the regional committee of the CPSU in September 1953: «... the editorial and a printing office of the newspaper «Zarya Kommunizma»... is still in the building belonging to the collective farm named after V.I. Lenin». The building and a printing house of Lysye Gory district newspaper editorial had required refurbishment for a long time. By September 1953 materials had been delivered and labor agreement with a brigade of carpenters had been drawn up, however, the repair was delayed for uncertain time. The official reports said, that 171,4 thousand rubles had been spent on the refurbishment of editorial offices in 1952, and 161,5 thousand rubles was spent over the period of nine months in 1953, thus, working conditions in most town and district newspapers had been improved. The editorials of Kirsanov, Volchok, Mordovo, Pervomayskoe, Tokarevka district newspapers and many other district editorials, including Lysye Gory district newspaper were among them. It is known, that by September 1953 the refurbishment of the building of Lysye Gory district newspaper editorial had not started yet [1. F. 9722. p. 113].

The editorials of Rasskazovo, Glazok, Znamenka, Tugolukovo and Yurlovka newspapers were located in the premises, which didn't possess «even the minimal operating conditions». The editorial of Rasskazovo district newspaper «Vpered» had the hardest conditions: 15 employees of the editorial worked in the wet cold office, which consisted of three rooms covering the area of 37 square meters. Employees of regional committee of the CPSU noted, that the Department of Publishing Houses and Polygraph Industry of Regional Culture Board didn't take the required measures to solve the designated problems. However, the manager of this department Bykov described the situation as follows: «I think, that working conditions in the district editorials are identical. The equipment of printing offices doesn't differ...», thus, showing ignorance of the real state of affairs and the problems of the editorials and printing offices [1. F. 9724. p. 120-121].

The secretary of regional committee of L.Y.C.L.S.U. (the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League of the Soviet Union) A. Sergeev informed the regional committee of the CPSU in April 1953: «... the editorial of the youth regional newspaper has normal operating conditions. Each room seats 2 or 3 departments. The designers, proof-readers and the manager share the office with the photo laboratory. The library is located in the office of the assistant to the editor. The editorial staff are cramped for room

and suffer great difficulties at work». However, it is necessary to notice, that operating conditions in the editorial offices of regional newspapers «Tambovskaya pravda» and «Molodoy stalinez» were much better than in the editorials of town and district newspapers where there was lack of space, necessary materials and stuff. Besides, the editorial of the regional youth newspaper received two more rooms in 1953 [2. F. 1158. p. 31]. In 1956 the editorial of the newspaper «Tambovskaya pravda» got the car GAS-69 and the truck – ZIS-5 from the regional committee of the CPSU while the editorial had its own motor transport [1 was. F. 10589. p. 14]. The inventory of the newspaper «Molodoy stalinez» editorial impress greatly– it was provided with everything – from automobiles, cupboards, sofas, tables, chairs, cabinets and other pieces of furniture including radio receivers, cameras, typewriters, clocks, screw-drivers, glasses, etc. [2. F. 8. p. 12-21].

Newspapers editorials had difficulties because of the out-of-date polygraph equipment as well as its replacement by the new one. In 1953 new polygraph equipment was installed in regional printing offices: regional printing offices got new printing machines, machine tools and other equipment, district printing offices got about eighty printing machines and machine tools. On the whole more than 120 units of the polygraph equipment by total cost of 1 million 116 thousand rubles was installed [1. F. 9724. p. 118-120]. But not always the editorials had qualified specialists to work with the modern equipment. Thus, in July 1953 the newspaper «Tambovskaya pravda» started to use the new machine, but missing deadlines of newspaper publishing was reduced to a system [1. F. 9733. p. 19]. Before installation of the new equipment Kirsanov district newspaper was frequently set as an example but after the installation of two new printing machines, «... the newspaper became so bad, that took the last place in the region». There were plenty of such examples [1. F. 10210. p. 55-58].

The editorials of local newspapers were often badly supplied with necessary materials and stuff. For example, in January 1955 at the regional meeting of press and radio workers the editor of Pichaevo district newspaper Belkin spoke about serious problems with the obtainment of copying press: «During my working life there was never such a situation with paper... we have to send a telegram to Moscow, explaining difficulties with paper, then it is necessary to transfer money beforehand ...». Similar difficulties arose with the obtainment of the font and other polygraph materials [1. F. 10210. p. 47-49]. However, despite the remarks made by Belkin and other editors of district newspapers this position did not change for the better [1. F. 10212. p. 27-28].

The editorial of Morshansk town newspaper had similar problems, the secretary of Morshansk district committee of CPSU Skachkova spoke about it in September 1955: «Our editorial is very badly supplied with materials... if some parts break down, it is necessary to go to Moscow, because there's no centralized supply of these parts ... We draw up contracts for paper, make schedules, but actions aren't suited the to the word» [1. F. 10212. p. 32-34].

Thus, during the analysis of archival documents the author has made the following conclusions.

The editorials of district newspapers possessed the extremely limited material base in comparison with the editorials of town and, especially, regional newspapers. Operating conditions and financial position of the editorials of district newspapers were unequal: some editorials, for example, had transport, others did not, some were located in their own buildings, others huddled in the buildings of the collective farms which were not intended for it.

The editorials of regional newspapers «Tambovskaya pravda» and «Molodoy stalinez» were in the most favorable position; they were completely provided with necessary materials, equipment and inventory, they had their own buildings, transport, considerable royalty and bonus funds.

Financial incentives of editorial staff of regional, town and district newspapers were different. Regional newspapers staff received royalties 100-200 times bigger, than those of district newspapers. Besides, regional newspapers editorial staff in contrast with district one had significant bonus funds.

Most editorials of district newspapers had out-of-date and overage polygraph equipment, that's why there were problems in the course of newspapers edition. Difficulties also existed in the editorials where new polygraph equipment had been installed as the editorials lacked qualified specialists to work on it. This problem was also urgent for the editorials of town and regional newspapers.

Practically every editorial of district and town newspapers lacked necessary materials and stuff, were badly supplied with them and lacked for space.

References

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Формирование материальной базы редакций газет Тамбовской области в 1953 – 1957 гг.

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Ключевые слова и фразы: гонорар; материально-техническая база; местные газеты; премия; редактор; редакция; типография.

Аннотация: Изучена материальная база областных, городских и районных газет Тамбовской области в начальный период «оттепели».

Formierung der materiellen Basis der Zeitungsredaktionen des Gebietes Tambow in den Jahren 1953 - 1957

Zusammenfassung: Im Artikel ist die materielle Basis der Gebiet-, Stadt- und Bezirkszeitungen des Gebietes Tambow in der Anfangsperiode des "Tauwetters" erlernt.

Formation de la base matérielle de la rédaction des journaux de la région de Tambov dans les années 1953-1957

Résumé: Dans l'article est étudiée la base matérielle des journaux de la région, de la ville et du village qui ont été publiés dans la région de Tambov dans la période initiale du «dégel».