

for transportation to Nizhny Novgorod for Solikamsk industrialists was set – 6 kopecks per pood, but the price had increased in 1788, and on March 24th, 1788 a decision was made to set up warehouses at the mouth of the Kama river. But this salt delivery arrangement proved ineffective and in 1792 it was returned to the previous practice of salt delivering to Nizhny Novgorod (Bogdanov 2014: 94–96). As for the neighboring Vyatka governorate, salt was sent there directly from Perm by road. The length of the postal route from Perm to the borders of the Vyatka province was 130 versts, i. e. nearly 148 km (SPbB ARAS, f. 27, l. 1, fl. 128: 22 rev.).

No information was found in Hermann's papers about the purchase price for salt – the price that the state paid to salt producers. This is quite understandable: Hermann collected documents of the Perm namestnichestvo, the central administrative acts could be missing in his collection. At the same time, the purchase price for Perm salt for the 18th century is well known from state administrative documents (Bogdanov 2014: 96).

However, documents from the Hermann's fond contain information on the price of salt that was on sale: 1783–1790 – 35 kopecks per pood (this is slightly more than two kopecks per kilogram), 1791–1795 – 40 kopecks per pood (2.5 kopecks per kilogram) (SPbB ARAS, f. 27, l. 1, fl. 128: 47). For comparison, prices for basic food products in Solikamsk district in 1785: rye – 1.25 kopecks per 1 liter; wheat – 1.9 kopecks per 1 liter, barley – 1.19 kopecks per 1 liter, oats – 0.76 kopecks per 1 liter, wine – 3 rubles per bucket (24 kopecks per 1 liter) (SPbB ARAS, f. 27, l. 1, fl. 128: 41–43).

6 CONCLUSION

The first systematized data on this issue were presented by Hermann in a work that he dedicated to Ekaterina Dashkova and which was reported to the Academy of Sciences on February 11th, 1788 (SPbB ARAS, f. 1, l. 1, fl. 39: 10) – *Description of Perm salt factories, with suggestions for their correction (Beschreibung der Permischen Salzwerke, mit Vorschlägen zu ihrer Verbesserung)*. At the same time, documents with later information are stored in the archive fond. It was collected by Herman after the completion of the named work, and therefore offer new historical materials.

Hermann appeared in the Urals at a rather significant time. Catherine II, having come to the throne, thoroughly engaged in the “salt” business and on June 16th, 1781 issued a new *Charter on Salt*, which completed the new organization of the state salt trade. Although Hermann was not yet in the Urals at this time, the documents he collected start from this year. Hermann's papers reflect the subsequent crisis years and further time; the latest data relate to 1795 (when Hermann left the Urals), i.e. the time of the end of the Empress reign and, accordingly, of the subsequent state changes. The data presented in Hermann's papers reflect an important time for the Perm salt industry during the second half of the reign of Catherine II.

It is important that the information in Hermann's papers does not differ from the statistical data of other official documents of the time. Information about the presence of its own salt in the governorates of the Russian Empire is identical, as well as information about which province is supplied with which salt. The figures for the volume of salt production in the Perm namestnichestvo are close: the provided above information from Hermann's papers (SPbB ARAS, f. 27, l. 1, fl. 87: 58–58 rev.) is comparable to the information, that is provided in other documents of the time and collected in Bogdanov's book (Bogdanov 2014: 95). There are also many copies of Imperial decrees and official orders for the Perm namestnichestvo in Hermann's documents. All this speaks in favor of the objectivity of the by Hermann collected information and the possibility to use it as a full-fledged source on the history of salt production in the last two decades of the 18th century. It is important that these documents reflect repeatedly the known problems of the industry in 1783.

We will not find in the documents of the Hermann's fond fundamentally new information about the equipment of salterns. It was, in general, the same throughout the Empire and did not change in principle for several centuries. On the technical side, the salt works is well described in the known works (Logunov & al. 1995, Bogdanov 2014, Chivtaev 2017). At the same time, the documents of the Hermann's fond provide important information about the volume of

production and allow us to determine the place of the Perm namestnichestvo (Solikamsky district) in the general economic picture of salt production in Russia at the end of the 18th century. Even more valuable are the rare data that allow us to determine the cost of construction and maintenance of salterns, and hence – the prime cost of salt, and to obtain justification for both the purchase price and the sale price for salt. All this makes the documents of Hermann's fond a valuable source for the economic history of the reign of Catherine II, in particular – for the history of the Perm salt industry, that was just partially reflected in the work of Herm himself in 1789.

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