



## НАРКОМЫ ЗЕМЛЕДЕЛИЯ ПЕРВОГО СОВЕТСКОГО ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВА И НАЧАЛО РЕВОЛЮЦИОННЫХ АГРАРНЫХ ПРЕОБРАЗОВАНИЙ В РОССИИ (1917–1920 гг.)

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Представлен анализ деятельности первых советских наркомов земледелия в контексте переустройства аграрной экономики после революции 1917 г. Дано описание причин и особенностей земельного кризиса в России и его влияния на политическую жизнь. Проанализирован характер первых опытов преобразования сельского хозяйства на фоне революционных событий. Приход к власти в России радикальных революционных сил послужил причиной попытки проведения в жизнь проекта «социализации» земли, разработанного партией левых эсеров и поддержанного большевиками. Основу этого проекта составляли специфические представления социалистов о достижении прогресса в сельском хозяйстве лишь путем максимальной централизации аграрного производства и огосударствления земли, исключающего какое-либо частное землевладение. Отдельное место в описании занимает оценка советских законодательных актов, связанных с внедрением коллективных форм землеустройства и государственного управления сельской экономикой. Отмечено, что в течение первых трех лет развития революции были сделаны решительные шаги по реализации данного проекта. Однако практические результаты ясно обнаружили их утопичность. К 1921 г. развитие сельского хозяйства, как и других отраслей на основе огосударствления, привело к общеполитическому кризису в стране и необходимости введения нэпа. Освещена роль первых организаторов советской аграрной системы – наркомов земледелия РСФСР. Приведены некоторые биографические сведения о них, дана оценка их политических взглядов относительно способов решения земельного вопроса в стране. Статья дает оригинальную интерпретацию первых революционных преобразований аграрной экономики России, а также участия в них наркомов земледелия.

**Ключевые слова:** революция, Наркомат земледелия, Декрет о земле, В.П. Милютин, А.Л. Колегаев, С.П. Середа, крестьянство, сельскохозяйственное производство

## PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS FOR AGRICULTURE OF THE FIRST SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND THE BEGINNING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATIONS IN RUSSIA (1917-1920)

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Analysis of the activities of the first Soviet people's commissars of agriculture in the context of the restructuring of the agrarian economy after the Revolution of 1917 is presented. A

description of the causes and features of the land crisis in Russia and its impact on political life is given. The nature of the first experiments in the transformation of agriculture against the backdrop of revolutionary events is analyzed. As radical revolutionary forces came to power in Russia, the project of "socialization" of the land, developed by the Left Socialist Revolutionary Party and supported by the Bolsheviks, was attempted. The basis of this project was the specific ideas of socialists to achieve progress in agriculture only through the maximum centralization of agricultural production and the nationalization of land, eliminating any private land ownership. The assessment of the Soviet legislative acts related to the introduction of collective forms of land management and state management of the rural economy stands out in this description. It is noted that during the first three years of the revolution's development, decisive steps were taken to implement this project. However, the practical results clearly revealed their utopian nature. By 1921, the development of agriculture, as well as other sectors on the basis of governmentalization led to a general political crisis in the country and the need to introduce the New Economic Policy. The role of the first organizers of the Soviet agrarian system, the people's commissars of agriculture of the RSFSR, is highlighted. Some biographical information about them is given, and their political views on the ways of solving the land issue in the country are evaluated. The article provides an original interpretation of the first revolutionary transformations of the agrarian economy of Russia, as well as the participation of the people's commissars of agriculture in them.

**Keywords:** revolution, People's Commissariat of Agriculture, Decree on Land, V. P. Milyutin, A.L. Kolegaev, S. P. Sereda, peasantry, agricultural production

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The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Agrarian, or peasant, question is one of the most burning and urgent problems in the history of the Russian state. For decades, the question of land has been the subject of desperate clashes between various social groups, mass popular unrest and revolts, and heated disputes between political parties and their leaders. Ultimately, the problem of land tenure, on which the fate of the vast majority of Russia's population depended, became one of the main causes and the main motive of the 1917 Revolution.

After the abolition of serfdom in 1861, the development of contradictions in Russia's agrarian system proceeded along the line of confrontation between two alternative models: the peasant movement objectively expressed its struggle for the "American" (farmer's) way, i.e., for a decisive division of the landed estates and

free existence of private producers; the tsarist government and landlords sought to guide the evolution of the agrarian system along the "Prussian" way with the preservation of large estates' latifundia. At the same time among the various semi-legal and illegal (revolutionary) party groups and associations there were desperate discussions about other models of agrarian development of the country. These were socialist projects that advocated the principles of equalized land distribution (Socialists- Revolutionaries) and collective (cooperative) forms of land use (Social Democrats).

The Provisional Government, which had assumed power in the country after the overthrow of the monarchy in 1917, was clearly aware of the importance of the urgent need for agrarian reform, without which further construction of

new democratic institutions in Russia was impossible. However, the extreme internal political conditions caused by the aftermath of the First World War, the aggravation of the food crisis and the unrestrained desire of peasants to arbitrarily divide the landed estates did not allow the new government in Russia to begin radical changes in the agrarian system. The Provisional Government confined itself to transferring the Cabinet lands to the State (March 25, 1917) and the estates (March 29). It also adopted a resolution urging the peasants to refrain from unauthorized seizures and promising to put the agrarian question to the decision of the forthcoming Constituent Assembly. In May 1917, "Regulations on Land Committees" were issued, on the basis of which local bodies (committees) were formed, which prepared materials on the land issue for the Constituent Assembly.

In October 1917 a new revolution took place in Russia. Power passed into the hands of the Bolsheviks headed by Lenin. From that moment the agrarian reform and the fate of the Russian peasantry began to depend entirely on the will and interests of the people of a radical political philosophy and worldview. Ultimately, this resulted in a chain of unforeseen, largely speculative social experiments with numerous popular casualties.

An important aspect of the analysis of the revolutionary consequences in the field of land relations is the question of the influence of specific figures on the events that took place. In this connection, it is necessary to turn to the personalities of the main initiators and executors of the Bolshevik land project and to a description of the role of the first commissars of agriculture in the implementation of the Soviet agrarian policy. The scientific literature on these individuals is quite diverse. Monographic works and articles show the participation of the commissars in the development of the first legislative acts in the field of agriculture, describe collisions and forms of struggle during the development of land decrees, and also note the tragic turns in the personal fate of the commissars [1-10]. At the same time, some biographi-

cal aspects, as modern historiography notes, remain poorly studied.

The first steps to transform agrarian relations in Russia are associated with the adoption of the Decree on Land at the Second Congress of the Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies and the appointment of V.P. Milyutin to the post of the People's Commissar of Agriculture.



Миллютин  
Владимир Павлович  
(1884–1937)

Vladimir Pavlovich Milyutin was born in 1884 in the village of Tugantsevo, Lgovsk District, Kursk Province, in the family of a village teacher. He had no complete higher education, studied at the law department of St. Petersburg University, later at the Moscow Institute of Commerce, but did not finish his studies due to a passion for revolutionary ideas and illegal political activities. He joined the Party of Social-Democrats in 1903 as a supporter of its Menshevik wing. Beginning 1911 Milyutin became a professional revolutionary and as a result underwent a whole chain of persecutions by the tsarist government: repeated arrests, five years of imprisonment, and was twice exiled. The February Revolution found him in Saratov. He became the first chairman of the Saratov Committee of the RSDLP (b) and the Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies. In April 1917, as a delegate of the Saratov Bolsheviks, Milyutin was sent to the April Party Conference and there was elected to the Central Committee. He then becomes comrade to the chairman of the Petrograd City Duma.

On the eve of the armed uprising in Petrograd on October 24, 1917, during the allocation of responsibilities among the members of the Central Committee, Milyutin was appointed organizer of the food business, and the next day - the Commissar of Agriculture of the first Soviet government.

The implementation of the agrarian reform in the country began on the second day of the revolution, October 26 (November 8, New Style), with the adoption of the Decree on the

Land. The decree was based on 242 local peasant mandates drawn up on the initiative of the Social Revolutionary Party even before the Bolshevik revolution, and contained two basic provisions. First, it declared "the abolition of private property forever" and the transfer of land into "the common property of the people"; second, it proclaimed the principle of "socialization" of land, i.e., the equalized distribution of land (at the labor or consumer rate). The Socialist Revolutionary slogan of "socialization" did not correspond to the program goals and demands of the Bolsheviks, but was only a political concession to the peasantry and its political party. This was pointed out by the leader of the Communists, V.I. Lenin. In November 1918 he said: "We Bolsheviks were opponents of the law on socialization of the land. But still we signed it because we did not want to go against the will of the majority of the peasantry. ... We did not want to impose on the peasantry the alien idea that the equalized distribution of land was useless. We thought it was better that the working peasants should see with their own eyes, bear it on their shoulders that the equalized division was nonsense... The division was only good for the beginning. It was supposed to show that the land was leaving the landlords, that it was going to the peasants. But it is not enough. The only way out is in the public cultivation of the land". [11].

The implementation of the program of "socialization" of the land was an inevitable condition for the peasants' support of the Bolshevik government. The fact is that the peasantry - the basic population of the country - was no longer willing to wait for any government decision. Already since the summer of 1917, everywhere the peasantry embarked on the path of self-acquisition and partition of the landed estates. No power could stop this enormous spontaneous process, so the first thing the Soviet government had to do was to legalize and bring within certain limits the destruction of the landed estates.

Under these conditions, the small apparatus of the Commissar of Agriculture sought to master the process and to give the peasant element

any kind of organized character. In his memoirs V.P. Milyutin wrote: "Our first concern was, first of all, to contact the places. I remember that my main activity in these days consisted in sending out various kinds of emissaries to the places".

On November 3, a regulation was issued on the volost land committees, which were charged with the duty of "the speediest and most complete liquidation of all vestiges of serfdom" and the "land inventory". They also determined the area of arable land to be cultivated, allotted certain arable plots of land to villages and townships, etc. Subsequently, land committees were transformed into departments of the councils.

The entire period from 1917 to 1918 was filled with the implementation of the strengthening of new bodies with which it would be possible to regulate agriculture and connect the center with the regions.

A secondary comparative problem was the mastery of the central apparatus of the Ministry of Agriculture, where there was resistance, expressed in sabotage, strikes, refusal to work, etc." [12].

The efforts of the People's Commissar Milyutin and his staff to implement the Land Decree were unexpectedly interrupted by extraordinary political events.

On November 4, 1917, Vikzhel (the All-Russian Executive Committee of the Union of Railwaymen), threatening a general strike, demanded that the Bolsheviks establish a "homogeneous socialist government," that is, a coalition government with the participation of all revolutionary parties and movements. This was a moment of exceptional importance, predetermining the fate of the revolution and of the country as a whole. An alliance of the Bolsheviks with the other socialist parties (Socialist Revolutionaries, Mensheviks, etc.) made it possible to substantially strengthen the social base of the revolution. Rejection of such a bloc inevitably doomed the country to aggravation of inter-party disagreements, deepening of the internal political crisis, and unleashing of the civil war.

For Lenin and his supporters, however,



compromises with the petty-Bourgeois parties on such a fundamental agenda as the question of power were absolutely unacceptable. Alliances with other leftist forces, even temporary ones, when power had already been won, were judged to be unacceptable concordance with "petty bourgeois democracy" and a betrayal of the revolutionary principles.

People's Commissar Milyutin saw the future in a different light. Not sharing the radicalism of the Bolshevik leadership, he announced his withdrawal from the Sovnarkom and the Central Committee of the RCP (b).

The further career of the former Commissar, who held the post for nine days, continued in less important positions. From May 1918 he became a member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the National Economy (VSNKh), from November - Deputy Chairman of the VSNKh and simultaneously a member of the Council of Labor and Defense of the Republic. In his new position, Milyutin was one of the key figures in the implementation of the overall governmentalization and centralization of economic management under the name of "Glavkism". During this period all industry and cooperation, as well as small handicraft production, was nationalized. As a basic element of the policy of "war communism", the system of "Glavkism" undermined internal production incentives and soon led to the paralysis of the country's economy. With the transition to the New Economic Policy, it was abolished.

Milyutin turned to party and diplomatic work. In 1922-1924 he was a representative of the Comintern in Austria and the Balkans. Then he was a member of the board of the People's Commissariat of the Workers and Peasants Inspection, from 1925 - deputy chairman of the Communist Academy. At the same time, he was writing scientific articles and books on relevant topics, in particular such major works as "Agrarian Policy in the USSR" (M.; L., 1926), "History of Economic Development of the USSR (1917-1927)" (M.; L., 1927), "The History of the Soviet Union (1917-1927)", "History of the Agrarian Policy in the USSR" (M.; L., 1926). (M.; L., 1928).

While serving in high positions in public administration and academia, V.P. Milyutin shared with this system all its major flaws and fallacies, supported and developed many unreasonable ideas. During the Civil War he was an active promoter of the policy of "war communism" and a supporter of coercive measures, including those against the peasantry. Supporting the Party's course for general collectivization of the village, he sharply criticized the prominent agricultural economists, representatives of the organizational and productive direction of economic thought - A.V. Chayanov, N.D. Kondratyev, N.P. Makarov and others, who defended the idea of preservation and support of individual peasant farms as family-labor type enterprises.

Eventually, Milyutin had to share the fate of those "saboteurs" with whom he had fought and denounced in the 1920s: on July 26, 1937, he was arrested and on October 29, 1937, the Military Board of the USSR Supreme Court sentenced him to death on charges of belonging to a counterrevolutionary right-wing organization. He was shot next day. He was rehabilitated in 1956.



Коллегаев  
Андрей Лукич  
(1887–1937)

The leftist socialist-revolutionary Andrei Lukich Kolegaev was appointed the new People's Commissar of Agriculture. After the resignation of V. P. Milyutin. The nomination of this candidate for the Soviet government was an important concession of the Bolsheviks to the Left Socialist-Revolutionary Party, with which they had cooperated during the preparation and conduct of the October armed uprising in 1917. Kolegaev was a hereditary revolutionary, an active participant in a number of terrorist acts and expropriations. He was born in 1887 in Surgut, Tyumen Province, in the family of an exiled member of the Narodnaya Volya.

He was educated as a land surveyor and studied at the University of Kharkov, but did not graduate. He was expelled from the univer-

sity for his involvement in revolutionary activities, and then deported abroad. For seven years he lived in exile, where he also tried to continue his education, but was more engaged in party-political activities.

At the end of November 1917, A.L. Kolegaev was approved for the post of the People's Commissar of Agriculture. At the same time, the Collegium of the People's Commissariat, composed entirely of leftist social revolutionaries, was formed.

From that moment, the implementation of the Land Decree and the development of the accompanying agrarian laws passed completely into the hands of the Left Socialist Revolutionaries, so the period of land relations reform in the country from 1918 was called "leftist Socialist Revolutionary" [2]. The main content of the reforms at this stage of the revolution was limited to two main tasks: the final elimination of the old agrarian relations, which gave advantages to the landed estates, and the "socialization" of land, which meant its equal (equalized) distribution among the individual categories of the peasantry.

Having different views on the problem of land management, the Bolsheviks and the Leftist Socialist Revolutionaries were in complete agreement on one point: there should be no private ownership of land in Russia. On this basis, both parties strongly advocated the elimination of private farms, especially landowners' estates and large farms ("kulak") households, in which the peasant masses saw the main cause of their oppression and inequality.

On February 19, 1918 the main law of "socialization" was accepted. Like the Decree on Land, it once again proclaimed the "permanent abolition" within the RSFSR of all ownership of land, subsoil, water, forests and the like and the transfer of all land "without any redemption for the use of the working people". It was emphasized that "the right to use the land belongs only to those who work it with their own labor" (Article 3). It also established the order of distribution of the land fund for farming. The first to receive land were agricultural communes, then agricultural associations, followed by rural

societies, and only in the last turn - individual families and individuals.

Thus, the first Soviet legislation clearly reflected the peasantry's deep aversion to that form of land ownership, which was associated with landlords and rural "exploiters", and at the same time expressed the peasants' desire to share land according to the "labor norm" as a peculiar type of "peasant's socialism".

However, when discussing the specific ways of implementing the law, the lines of political division immediately emerged. The question of who should have the right to use and dispose of the land became crucial. Who would implement the "foundations of equality and justice" in the division of land? The Leftist Socialist Revolutionaries advocated that the law on "socialization" should fix the rights of local self-government bodies, represented by land committees and zemstvos, which would be entrusted with the function of distributing the land fund. However, the Bolsheviks were against it. During the discussion of the law, they succeeded in eliminating the mention of land committees and zemstvos from the text, replacing them with councils, i.e., organs of state administration, which opened the way to consistent nationalization of the land.

The Leftist Socialist Revolutionary Party's hopes for the development of peasant self-organization and initiative were dashed in favor of the Bolshevik ideals of centralization and statism, with which the leaders of the RCP(b) linked their projects for building socialism in Russia. After the approval of the law, Kolegaev bitterly said: "It was not a law of socialization but a law of nationalization of the land." [quoted from: 1, p. 292].

In March 1918 a new political crisis broke out in Russia. As a result of the signing of the Brest-Litovsk peace treaty with Germany, the Left Socialist Socialist Revolutionaries withdrew from the government by decision of the Central Committee of their party. Declaration of withdrawal was also submitted by the People's Commissar Kolegaev. Leaving his post in the government, he did not completely break with the Bolsheviks and continued to work as

a member of the People's Commissariat board, heading its three departments at once. However, Kolegaev did not stay on this position. He was sent to Kazan, where he became chairman of the Gubispolkom, focusing on the redistribution of land and the liquidation of landlord property. Kolegaev joined the Bolshevik Party in November 1918.

During the following years A.L. Kolegaev remained an active member of various Soviet organizations. In January 1919 he was appointed to a responsible position in the Red Army as the Chief of Supply of the Army of the Southern Front, and then a member of the Revolutionary Military Council (RMC) of the front. At the same time Kolegaev energetically engaged in the collection of food in the Don for the central regions of the country: he led the formation of the food squads from the workers, and organized Prodravverстка. Soon the measures of the Soviet power caused a wide dissatisfaction of the population. A major Cossack uprising began, which threatened to overthrow the Bolshevik power on the Don.

The Central Committee of the RCP (b) and the Revolutionary Military Council of the Republic took urgent measures. The commander of the Southern Front and the members of the Revolutionary Military Council, including Kolegaev, were replaced. In June 1919, by the decision of the Central Committee, Kolegaev was transferred to the post of the Chairman of the Central Department of military procurements. Later he became a member of the board of the People's Commissariat of Railways, then - a member of the Council of the Supreme Soviet of the National Economy. For some time, he also held a senior position in the Central Statutory Administration, and his last place of work was as manager of the "Uralsvetzvetmet" trust in Sverdlovsk.

The former Commissar's career and life were cut short in a period that is known from the biographies of thousands of other famous statesmen and ordinary Soviet citizens. In December 1936 Andrei Lukich Kolegaev was arrested on charges of counterrevolutionary activity and sentenced to execution. He was executed on

March 22, 1937, on his birthday.

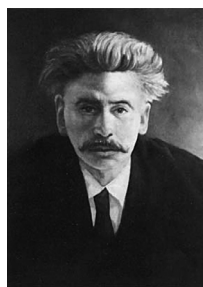
An important stage of the agrarian transformations of the Soviet power - the implementation of the program of "socialization" of land - is connected with the name of Kolegaev. This program led to two main results. First, private land ownership in the country was abolished and the most productive producers of agricultural goods - landlords, leasehold and "kulak" farms - were crushed. Second, millions of poor peasants gained access to land, which resulted in the social equalization of strata within the village by reducing the share of the upper (wealthy) and lower (landless) population groups.

However, the real picture of land redistribution turned out to be much worse than expected. As a witness to the events in the village wrote: "The enormous amount of land, divided among the mass of many millions of peasants, yielded negligible results. ... the increase of the area per eater is expressed in negligible amounts: tenths and even hundredths of a tenth per capita. In the vast majority of provinces this increase did not exceed half a tenth; only in a few did it reach one tenth".

Thus, the positive results of the partition for the small and landless strata of the peasantry were negligible. The negative results were extremely tangible. Large proprietary farms, which yielded high yields, were of great value and supplied the market with large quantities of products, were "torn apart," were destroyed" [2].

Such results of land management could not satisfy the Communist power. The Bolsheviks regarded the goals achieved as the completion of the "petty-bourgeois stage" of agrarian reform, to be followed by the "real" construction of socialism in the countryside through the introduction of collective forms of farming and state regulation of land relations.

The transition to new, "communist" forms of farming began in the summer of 1919, when the leadership of the Narkomzem was already in the hands of the Bolsheviks. The work of the People's Commissariat was headed by veteran party leader S. P. Sereda.



Серeda  
Семен Пафну́тьевич  
(1871–1933)

Semyon Pafnutievich Sereda was born in 1871 in Chernigov Province in the family of a railway employee. He finished real school in Smolensk. He was arrested for circle work. He lived in Kaluga, then in Smolensk. He was introduced into zemstvo statistics, which became his speciality. In 1903 he joined

the Bolsheviks, was engaged in revolutionary propaganda. From 1901 to 1908 Sereda worked as head of the department in the Smolensk Province Zemstvo Board, later - in the same position in Ryazan.

After the February Revolution of 1917 he was a member of the Executive Committee of the Ryazan Council, and in April 1918 was appointed the People's Commissar of Agriculture. In this position he remained until 1921. He retired due to illness.

After leaving the government, Sereda held important positions in the state apparatus for several more years: he was the Deputy Chairman of the State Planning Committee, a member of the Presidium, then the Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Economic Council of the USSR, and the Head of the Central Statistical Office of the USSR. In the last years of his life (1930-1933) he was Deputy Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the RSFSR. Died on May 21, 1933.

Short but very turbulent period of the revolution, during which Sereda was the People's Commissar of Agriculture, was characterized by radical changes in the agrarian system of Russia in accordance with the economic program of the Bolsheviks. First of all, the liquidation of the consequences of the Leftist Socialist-Revolutionary "socialization" began. By administrative decisions of the People's Commissariat of Agriculture local land committees were abolished and replaced by the land departments of the executive committees of the Soviets of Deputies. By the end of the summer

of 1918 the Central Land Committee was also abolished, along with the center of the leftist SR - the Peasant Section of the VTsIK (All-Russian Central Executive Committee). In September the first steps on nationalization followed. The estates, agricultural enterprises and land plots of national cultural, educational and industrial significance were transferred to state ownership. [13]. Even more decisive step towards governmentalization was made in December of 1918 at the congress of representatives of Land Departments, the Committee of Poor Peasants and communes. On the Bolsheviks' initiative the congress adopted a draft of a new land law, which clearly stated (Sections 1 and 2), that all the land belonged to the state and was under the direct control of the Narkomzem. In February, 1919 the All-Russian Central Executive Committee with some changes approved the draft of the law "On Socialistic Land Management and Measures of Transition to Socialistic Agriculture".

This specific document fully expressed the Bolsheviks' view of the type of agrarian arrangement which, in their opinion, best served the interests of the peasants and social progress, even if the peasants did not yet see it as beneficial to themselves.

The law stipulated that all land in the country, no matter whose use it was, was considered a single state fund, and was managed by the People's Committees and their subordinate local authorities. The best forms of land use were declared to be large state farms, communes and partnerships, "therefore, all kinds of individual land use should be regarded as passing away and obsolete"<sup>1</sup>.

The reorganization of agriculture in Russia began on these principles. Already in May 1918 in the People's Commissariat of Agriculture the Bureau of Communes was established which summarized the experience of the first agricultural collectives and practically led their construction. The government allocated 10 million rubles for its activities. By the end of 1918 all the district and provincial land departments

<sup>1</sup>The Regulation on Socialist Land Management and Measures of Transition to Socialist Farming adopted by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee on February 14, 1919. [http://www.libussr.ru/doc\\_ussr/ussr\\_442.htm](http://www.libussr.ru/doc_ussr/ussr_442.htm).



also established Bureaus of Communes with the task of registering new communes and ar-  
tels and controlling their work.

However, priority was given to the construction of state farms. Their socio-political role was seen in the fact that they would be the most progressive type of agricultural enterprises, a kind of model for all other participants in production, creating conditions for the mass transition of the rural economy to socialism. People's Commissar S. P. Sereda was the most ardent supporter and participant in the construction of state farms. Like other Bolsheviks, he shared the conviction that state farms, built on the basis of advanced former landed estates, were the key link in the agrarian reorganization of Russia; that under central state authority (Narkomzem) state farms would achieve the greatest success, since "only the center can determine which branch of agriculture needs possible development, and therefore which Soviet farms in what district should be strengthened, which tasks can be set for them". [2].

During 1919-1920 there was an intensive construction of state farms all over the country. In February 1919 there were 35 of them, and in the summer of 1920, there were 3076.

In parallel, collective farms were also created for the peasants. In 1918 there were 1579 collective farms with 16.4 thousand households, in 1919 - 6188 (81.3 thousand households), in 1920 - 10,600 collective farms (131 thousand households).

The most important task of the People's Commissariat of Agriculture of those years was the organization of the resettlement of peasants to the vacant outskirts. In particular, already by May 1918 the wave of resettlers in Trans-Urals reached 175 thousand people. Even the uprising of the Czechoslovaks and the resulting termination of ties with Siberia could not stop the movement of immigrants to the vast land of Siberia.

## CONCLUSION

The era of the first Soviet transformations left a deep mark on Russia's agrarian history. It manifested itself as a difficult search for social

reorganization of the country and normal living conditions for millions of people, where no serious reforms had been carried out for centuries at all. Under these conditions, the reorganization of the economy, including agriculture, was in the hands of the most radical revolutionary elements, and the reforms turned into a chain of continuous experiments with unpredictable results.

Collective forms of land use and centralized state management of agrarian production as the main elements of the new system did not bring positive results. Collective farms, state farms and communes created by the Bolsheviks turned out to be lifeless. Their activities quickly revealed the deep contradictions between the state interest and private initiative, the consequence of which was mismanagement, irrational management, cultivation of backward forms of production and general decay. At the end of 1920, all the main shortcomings of the Bolshevik project of economic reform became apparent. The next year the leaders of the RCP (b) had to change the economic course of the Soviet government and go to the New Economic Policy.

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