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Summary of the doctoral dissertation entitled "Lime industry in the area of historic Noteć District in the years 1772/76-1945"

The aim of the dissertation is to examine and present the development of the lime industry in the area of the former Noteć District from the establishment of this administrative unit (1772-1776) until 1945. The first chapter presents the goals and layout of the work and discusses the material base and methods used. It also provides the origins and characteristics of the Noteć District, as well as basic information regarding the lime industry. The second chapter presents the main results of research on the past of individual lime works and their locations. The third chapter contains an analysis of the development of the lime industry in the Noteć District in the analyzed period, based on the research results presented in the second chapter and comparative information. The periodization of the development of limestone industry in the studied area and changes in its geographical distribution was established. These issues were presented against the background of the state of limestone industry in other selected regions. In the pre-industrial period, lime production in the Noteć District was carried out mainly in large estates, using small and simple to construct field kilns. Establishing the so-called industrial freedom meant that bourgeois and merchant capital began to enter the industrial sphere. Thanks to him, limeworks were established that had no ownership connections and economic with landed estates or private urban centers. They were built in places that facilitated the convenient transport of raw materials, mainly limestone from Rüdersdorf, as well as the export of the finished product. Such conditions occurred in the areas through which the Odra-Noteć-Bydgoski Canal-Brda-Wisła waterway ran. The existence of this route contributed to the formation of several lime production centers, which in the mid-19th century played an important role in the development of the Noteć District lime industry. At that time, the first factory-style lime plants were also established. Such a dynamic development of the lime industry throughout the country and in neighboring areas led to an excessive expansion of the lime production potential, which significantly exceeded the possibilities of its consumption. The resulting overproduction, combined with other factors (including the development of railways and growing interregional and international trade), resulted in a process of industrial concentration. Small local limestone factories, which were unable to compete with large-scale industrial enterprises, were losing their importance. Production was increasingly concentrated in regions rich in deposits of good-quality limestone rocks, and in very favorable cases also rich in hard coal (e.g. Silesia and the

Rhineland). From the 1860s, the number of limeworks in Prussia began to decline at a very rapid pace, and a similar trend occurred in the areas of the former Noteć District, where only large-scale industrial plants in Piechcin and Wapienno, built in the 1870s and 1880s, remained. At the beginning of the next century these two plants were important enterprises in the German lime industry. In the interwar period, the lime plants on the Noteć River were part of the lime industry of the reborn Poland. Compared to the lime factories from the former Russian and Austrian partitions, the plants in Piechcin and Wapienno stood out due to their size, production organization and technical equipment. In the interwar years, 14-20% of the lime produced by the entire Polish lime industry came from these two plants. In technical terms, the limeworks in the Noteć District did not differ much from each other until about the middle of the 19th century. Lime burning took place in field kilns, and all work was done manually. Quite late, in the 1950s, some limeworks on the Noteć River began to use shaft furnaces and Rumford furnaces. However, the Hoffmann ring furnace appeared very quickly in this area, built in 1863 in a limeworks owned by Neumann in Bydgoszcz. At that time, it was the most modern construction used for burning lime. In the 1880s, such furnaces were also built in the plants in Piechcin and Wapienno. These two companies developed very dynamically and maintained a high level of technical equipment until World War I.