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## **THE SOCIAL SITUATION OF MIGRANTS IN THE PROVINCE OF ALEXANDRAPOL IN 1914–1920<sup>1</sup>**

**Key words:** *First World War, Alexandropol, refugees, Eastern Armenia, Caucasus front, “Brotherly Aid Committee”, migrants.*

The history of the First World War and its subsequent two years is perhaps one of the most thoroughly explored issues of the Armenian historiography. Throughout the past century, dozens of memoirs and scholarly works have been published in the homeland and the Diaspora. There is a substantial amount of published material of documentary origin. Nevertheless, some issues, such as the number of refugees settled in the territory of Eastern Armenia, the issue of newcomers' settlement, the social situation of the migrant population, orphanage and so on, have never been seriously investigated.

The results of our recent studies published in Armenian and foreign scholarly journals shed light on the above-mentioned issues. Carrying out our research in conjunction with the following archival data and time frame we make a study of the social conditions in Alexandropol province in the period of 1914–1920.

Military operations on the Caucasus front started in 1914, at the beginning of November. Almost at the same time the first refugees appeared. The difficult task of accepting, listing and settling them down, was on the shoulders of social organizations acting in the Armenian-populated areas of Transcaucasia. For instance, the branch office of the “Brotherly Aid Committee” hosted 18 hostels for 100–250 people in the town<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> “The research has been undertaken under the auspices of the State Committee of Science, RA Ministry of Education and Science within the scope of the research theme coded as 18SH-6A007”.

<sup>2</sup> ՀԱՍ, ֆ. 57, ց. 2, գ. 1311, թթ. 23–24:

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The first 3,000 refugees got to the province in 1914, in the middle of November and by the end of January, 1915, their number reached 6909<sup>3</sup>. Due to the residents' voluntary donations, those people were provided with lodging, fuel and food free of charge<sup>4</sup>.

No significant problems were carefully dealt with in spring, 1915 either, when the immigration of the Western Armenians began.

Gevorg Mkrtumyan, who was sent on a business trip from Astrakhan to Alexandropol, gave a high appreciation of the activities of local public organizations in the field of care for migrants<sup>5</sup>.

On the pages of the periodical "Mshak", he wrote about the problems of migration: "In order to improve the situation of more than 8,000 refugees in the country and around 80 villages, local organizations were able to join the province's territory to the region, and then appoint the "personnel", trying to find the solution to the distribution of food and clothing. And all this was just done with 64,000 rubles<sup>6</sup>.

The first serious problems in the affairs of the refugees' placement in the province and providing them with basic living conditions emerged in summer 1915 when about 200,000 Christians from the Vilayets of Van, Bitlis and Erzurum passed to Eastern Armenia due to the withdrawal of the Russian troops. According to Al. Khatisyan, the number of Western Armenians established in the province of Alexandropol in those days was around 31.000. On the same days in Yerevan there were only 19800 and in the province of Etchmiadzin 16000 migrants<sup>7</sup>.

It was decided to accommodate 4,000 people in Pambak villages. 130 people were accommodated in large villages and 100, in small ones. For example, Mets Gharakilisa, though with a population of more than 10000 people, had a large

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<sup>3</sup> Однодневная перепись беженцев из Турции, Персии и из мест, пограничных с Турцией (армян, айсоров, греков и пр.) 1914–1915 гг. Перепись произведена 30-го января 1915 г., Эривань, 1915, с. 26–31. Ալեքսանդրապոլի գավառը վիճակագրական նյութերում (XIX դ. – XX դ. սկիզբ), փաստաթղթերի և նյութերի ժողովածու, աշխատասիրությամբ Ա. Հայրապետյանի, Ե., 2011, էջ 232–235:

<sup>4</sup> One person was given two pounds per month or 2 kg 720 g of bread (See: Համառոտ տեղեկագիր Ալեքսանդրապոլի ազգային կենտ. Յանձնաժողովի գաղթականական սեկցիայի, Գաւառի ծայն, Ալեքսանդրապոլ, 1915, 11 յունւարի, էջ 3):

<sup>5</sup> Մկրտումեան Գ., Փախստականների մօտ, Մշակ, 1915, 13 մայիսի, էջ 3:

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Աթանէսեան Ա., Մշակ, 1915, 17 հոկտեմբերի, էջ 3:

number of empty and light premises, pharmacies, food markets and other facilities to offer to 130 refugees only<sup>8</sup>.

The situation was tough in the Alexandropol hostels. “There were 6000 migrants in the town,” – wrote A. Safrastyan, a reporter from “Mshak”; a small number of those had been settled in private homes and provided with basic living conditions, and most lived in dormitories in favourable conditions.” According to the author of the article, there were up to 15 families who lived in the rooms with broken windows – hungry, without bed and clothing<sup>9</sup>.

The issues related to the food supply were solved by the end of the year. The overwhelming majority of the migrants preferred to be accommodated with former villagers instead of the humid basements of the city. According to Atrpet, this part of the migrants were well provided for, they received flour and other essential supplies from non-governmental organizations. They continued to benefit from the peasant’s stocks<sup>10</sup>.

Unfortunately, in those hard days for the Armenian people, the social organizations that were to heal the wounds of the people, began to criticise each other in the Eastern-Armenian periodicals, thus using the national tragedy for their benefit.

For example, in December 1915 in № 278 issue of the “Horizon” Karapetyan’s editorial came out entitled “Complaints” where the author, based on unverified facts, accused the Alexandropol Committee of “Fraternal Aid” of complete inaction.

According to the reporter, at the end of October, 12000 of the 14500 inhabitants of Alexandropol province were in a less favorable condition than in the villages. The remaining 2500 settled in the hostels of the city were in constrained conditions<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> **Ականատես**, Փախստականների վիճակը, Մշակ, 1915, 13 օգոստոսի:

<sup>9</sup> **Շալճեան Ա.**, Տպաւորութիւններ հայ գաղթականների վիճակից, Մշակ, 1915, 11 նոյեմբերի:

<sup>10</sup> **Ատրպետ**, Փախստականները Ալեքսանդրոպօլի գաւառում, Մշակ, 1915, 12 նոյեմբերի:

<sup>11</sup> **Խմբագրական**, Բողոքներ, Հորիզոն, Թիֆլիս, 1915, 12 դեկտեմբերի:

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The article, which was more like a verdict, was promptly redefined in the Official Bulletin of the Armenian Caucasus Cooperative, "Hambavaber"<sup>12</sup>, which allowed supposing that the author was the real client of the editorial.

According to the official statistics, in the given period there were 22815 migrants (instead of Karapetyan's 14500), 15971 of whom were settled down in villages, 4240 in the city's private homes and 2604 in the hostels<sup>13</sup>.

The refugees were provided with fuel; they were given 15 kopecks (Russian coins), as well as soap, warm water and clothing. With the guidance and support of "Youth Unity" and "Alagyaz Children" companies a hospital was opened for them.

It should be noted that thanks to the collaboration between "Fraternal Aid" and "Union of Cities", the death rate in the province of Alexandrapol was very low. According to the clergyman Artak's reference presented to the Armenian Patriarchate in June 16, 1916 only 1164 migrants died from cold and starvation<sup>14</sup>, whereas according to B. Ishkhan Khanian accounts, only at the end of August, 1915 2135 people became victims of hunger and epidemics<sup>15</sup>.

Ishkhan A. Arghutyan the Yerkeynabazuk, who was sent there in November 1915, described the state of immigration in the province of Alexandrapol as quite satisfactory. According to him, there were newcomers in all 189 villages of the province: they had free lodging and received cash allowances. Those who were in Pambak were well-off. They had about 1000 heads of large cattle and picked up firewood from forests, got 200 stoves, warm blankets and clothes. The issue of employment was also settled to some extent. 100 people were employed in the local copper mine, while 300 people were working on the construction of the Kars railway and the Sarighamish highway<sup>16</sup>.

July, 1916 was marked by the new withdrawal of the Russian troops. The first groups of Western Armenians moving to Alexandrapol province were settled in

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<sup>12</sup> **Քրոնիկոն**, Համբաւաբեր, Թիֆլիս, 1916, 3 յունուարի:

<sup>13</sup> Ալեքսանդրապոլի «Եղբայրական օգնութեան» կոմիտե, Նամակներ խմբագրութեան, Հորիզոն, 1916, № 8, 14 յունուարի:

<sup>14</sup> ՀԱԱ, ֆ. 57, ց. 2, գ. 1306, թ. 3-7:

<sup>15</sup> **Իշխանեան Բ.**, Աղէտի եւ տառապանքի աշխարհից, Մշակ, 1915, 17 սեպտեմբերի:

<sup>16</sup> **Իշխան Ա.Մ.**, Արդութեան-Երկայնաբազուկի զեկուցումը փախստականների մասին, Մշակ, 1915, 8 դեկտեմբերի:

Pambak. American aid organizations distributed clothes and blankets<sup>17</sup>. In Mets Gharakiliss, a well-stocked grocery store also opened in August for caring to the needs of the migrants<sup>18</sup>.

The situation was much more complicated in Alexandrapol and the surrounding villages. In August 8000 semi-hungry Sassounians settled there<sup>19</sup>: “To meet the newcomers’ basic needs, the distribution of flour was temporarily replaced by monetary handouts, but this policy led to flour inflation”<sup>20</sup>.

By the end of the year 1370 other Sassounians settled in the villages of Eastern Shirak<sup>21</sup>. In spite of all the efforts, local public organizations did not manage to solve the problems of refugees’ everyday life on the threshold of winter. In this situation, Archbishop of the “Fraternal Aid”, the Governor of Alexandropol Kalandadakhishvili and Mayor Kamsarakan appealed for help: save the poor war veterans from the grips of hunger<sup>22</sup>.

By the end of the year, by the joint efforts of the Alexandrapol Police Committee of the “Fraternal Aid” and the representative of the Armenian Migrant Assistance Coordinator Major Maynard, 15 walnut and cotton processing workshops were established in the province. According to the newspaper “Ashkhatanq”, this provided 40 men and 1505 women with work. That is, on average, about 6000 people improved their living conditions<sup>23</sup>. Another two workshops were set up in Alexandrapol by the Sassoun residents in February, 1917<sup>24</sup>.

In spring, 1918 the military-political situation in the region dramatically changed. The Turkish-Transcaucasian war, which began on April 1, spread a new panic among the Armenians. After the conspiracies of Kars more than 100000 people moved to the province of Alexandrapol<sup>25</sup>. A year after the fall of Kars, the

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<sup>17</sup> **Յ.Յ. Մեծ-Ղարաքիլիսէի շրջան**, Աշխատանք, Երեւան, 1916, 1 հոկտեմբերի:

<sup>18</sup> **Գաղթական**, Գաղթականների վիճակը Համամլուի շրջանում, Համբաւաբեր, 1916, 16 հոկտեմբերի:

<sup>19</sup> Փախստականների վիճակը, Մշակ, 1916, 1 նոյեմբերի:

<sup>20</sup> **Աշոտ**, Ալեքսանդրապոլի փախստականներ, Աշխատանք, 1916, 10 օգոստոսի:

<sup>21</sup> Սասունցիների ներկայացուցիչները Թիֆլիսում, Մշակ, 1916, 18 դեկտեմբերի:

<sup>22</sup> Փախստականների վիճակը, Մշակ, 1916, 1 նոյեմբերի:

<sup>23</sup> **Արմենակ Փ.**, Ամերիկացիները մեր մէջ, Աշխատանք, 1917, 30 սեպտեմբերի:

<sup>24</sup> **Երեւանցի**, Փախստականները Ալեքսանդրապոլում, Աշխատանք, 1917, 8 փետրուարի:

<sup>25</sup> Նոր փախստականութիւն, Մշակ, 1918, 17 ապրիլի:

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Turks occupied Alexandropol and the villages of Eastern Shirak, and on May 28 they entered Mets Gharakilisa. Moreover, ten thousand survivors escaped from the Turkish yoke to Etchmiadzin and Pambak. According to the report, approximately 200000 people were in Pambak on the eve of the Turkish invasion<sup>26</sup>.

In the occupied regions, the Turks set about the physical extermination of Armenians, as a result of which the ethnic background of the Armenian population was affected. According to official statistics, about 18000 people (12000 killed, 6000 captives) were killed in that genocide<sup>27</sup>. Meanwhile, according to our recent studies, about 20000 people have been slaughtered in Alexandropol, Eastern Shirak and Pambak villages, and 6000 have fallen victim to the famine and epidemic diseases, and more than 15000 were captured and abandoned in the depths of the Empire<sup>28</sup>. The Ottoman domination also struck a heavy blow to the economy of the province. According to G. Khoyetsyan's calculations, the Turks took about 50000 large and 100000 small cattle, more than 5000 horses, 2.5 million pounds of wheat and 1 million pounds of barley<sup>29</sup>.

In autumn 1918 the defeated Ottoman Empire began to withdraw its troops from the occupied territories. After the Turks' withdrawal, the administrative image of the province of Alexandropol changed. By the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Armenia, the region of Pambak (Mets Gharakilisa District) became part of the newly formed Dilijan province, and in eastern Shirak province the new province of Alexandropol was formed, with 4 settlements and 129 villages<sup>30</sup>.

<sup>26</sup> **Էջիբեկյան Հ.**, Ղարաքիլիսայի ճակատամարտը (Տեղեկագիր հասարակական գիտությունների, 1947, էջ 57):

<sup>27</sup> ՀԱԱ, ֆ. 121, ց. 1, գ. 91, թ. 179: ՀԱԱ, ֆ. 202, ց. 1, գ. 1271, թ. 47: ՀՀ ԳԱԱ պատմության ինստիտուտ, Լեոյի ֆոնդ, ց. 1, գ. 253, թ. 1:

<sup>28</sup> See: **Հայրապետյան Ա.**, Ժողովրդագրական գործընթացներն Ալեքսանդրապոլի գավառում 1918 թ. մայիս-նոյեմբեր ամիսներին, ՀՀ ԳԱԱ ՇՀՀ կենտրոնի «Գիտական աշխատություններ», հ. 21, Գյումրի, 2018, էջ 113–127: **Նույնի՝** Օսմանյան ցեղասպանական քաղաքականության շարունակությունը Ղարաքիլիսայի շրջանում (1918 թ. մայիս-հոկտեմբեր), Հովհաննես Թումանյանի ծննդյան 150-ամյակին և Վանաձորի պետական համալսարանի հիմնադրման 50-ամյակին նվիրված միջազգային գիտաժողովի նյութերի ժողովածու, Վանաձոր, 2019, էջ 254–262:

<sup>29</sup> **Բաղայան Խ.**, Գերմանա-թուրքական օկուպանտները Հայաստանում 1918 թ., Ե., 1962, էջ 19:

<sup>30</sup> ՀԱԱ, ֆ. 203, ց. 1, գ. 4, թ. 20:

In the hope of moving to Kars, the migrants' caravans moved to Alexandrapol from different provinces of Transcaucasia. According to the data of the Central Statistical Bureau of Armenia, in January 1919 in the province of Alexandrapol, the number of the population reached 152414, of which 118053 were natives, 31989 were Western Armenians, and 2,372 were Russian-Armenian refugees<sup>31</sup> (for comparison, in 1915 the province had 226740 inhabitants)<sup>32</sup>. During the next month, 25,000 other refugees from Georgia moved to Alexandrapol for passing to Kars<sup>33</sup>.

Unfortunately, peace did not last long. The emerging Turks provoked the Armenian-Georgian war, which became evil for the population of the economically depressed province. The urban authorities of Alexandrapol, with the hope of saving the hungry population, on December 30, appealed to the Armenian government to keep away from the extreme unwanted war, to seize the last stocks of bread and to end the conscription<sup>34</sup> but there was no result. In February, 1919 when the railway communication between Kars and Jajur stopped due to winter snowstorms, the issue of the food supply came to a dead end, and the province appeared in the clutches of hunger.

The Migration Committee of urban force on Alexandrapol which was called to provide refugees with food, failed on the way of its mission. The main reason for the failure of the supply of provision was the wrong management of the work. The caregiving activities aimed at helping the migrants were on the shoulders of two diverse structures: Ministry of Supply of Provision of RA and AmerCom of the Middle East (hereinafter: Amercom). Their uncertified actions led to the starvation and death of thousands of people<sup>35</sup>. The spread of hunger was also stimulated by the fabulous loyalty of the local officials, "when the bread was consumed by 100,000 people, while 30,000 refugees were still hungry"<sup>36</sup>.

The city turned into a dwelling place of beggars and ill people, and the colony was so depressed that "the mother threw her half-alive child into the streets to

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<sup>31</sup> ՀԱԱ, ֆ. 127, ց. 1, գ. 2976, թ. 20:

<sup>32</sup> Данные о пространстве и населении Закавказья («Кавказский календарь на 1916 год», отд. III, Тифлис, 1915, с. 37).

<sup>33</sup> Գաղթականության մէջ, Ջանգ, Երեւան, 1919, 12 յունւարի, էջ 5:

<sup>34</sup> ՀԱԱ, ֆ. 105, ց. 1, գ. 3003, թ. 3:

<sup>35</sup> ՀԱԱ, ֆ. 205, ց. 1, գ. 689, թթ. 45–49:

<sup>36</sup> Դրսեցի, Պօլիգոնների գիշատիչները, Յառաջ, Երեւան, 1920, 25 յունւարի:

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take the rationed food.”<sup>37</sup> The situation was worse in the villages. The hunger and epidemic diseases reached an unprecedented scale. According to the eyewitnesses, there was no dog or cat left in the yards, and people like animals were eating greens for days long in mountains and fields<sup>38</sup>.

Orphans were relatively in good condition. On April 12, 1919 the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia, Sahak Torosyan, and the representative of the AmerCom in Armenia, Captain Elder, gave care and attention to the orphanages, separate stations, as well as wandering orphans in Armenia. The ministry would only have supervision of the educational-cultural and moral-political environment. Since May 1, 1919 the acting orphanages and the hospital of orphans were passed under the control of AmerCom factual caretaking<sup>39</sup>.

The inability of the urban authorities to improve the situation of immigration had led to extreme escalation of relations between the parties, transforming Alexandropol into a stage of military actions. After two dead bodies were found in one of the districts of the town, the two sides fought against each other with two hostile armies and pistols. “Urban authorities resorted to extraordinary measures to suppress the internal war, suspended military operations, but could not blame their motives,” – the periodical writes<sup>40</sup>.

Extreme immigration tried to solve the issue of paramilitary actions by force. Illegal acts and looting were widely spread in the province. Attacks by militant armed groups on the villages, cattle theft and looting continued until the end of the year. The situation did not change even after 1919 when martial law was declared in Alexandropol<sup>41</sup>. On September 4, 1919 the Governor of Kars, S. Ghorghanyan wrote in his report about the state of Alexandropol expressing his Concern: “Such a collapse of the government in the district infects the environment. Take a lot of tough measures and tackle the anarchy, unless it's too late and as long as it's within our power”<sup>42</sup>.

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<sup>37</sup> Պօլիգոնում տեղադրուած գաղթականութեան ծանր վիճակը, Մարդկայնութիւն, Ալեքսանդրապօլ, 1919, 28 մարտի, էջ 2:

<sup>38</sup> Սովը գաւառում, Ժողովուրդ, Երեւան, 1919, 18 մայիսի:

<sup>39</sup> ՀԱԱ, ֆ. 105, ց. 1, գ. 2853, թ. 153:

<sup>40</sup> Հին ցաւը, Հայաստանի ծայն, Երեւան, 1919, 20 նոյեմբերի:

<sup>41</sup> ՀԱԱ, ֆ. 201, ց. 1, գ. 138, թ. 35:

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., թ. 66:

For the sake of justice, let's mention that the bulk of immigration was not out of ordinary steps, despite the extreme material situation.

In August 1919, the supply of food in the province finally came to a dead end. Desiring to provide shelter for refugees living in the city and to clarify their food supply, the local American Committee refused to provide food to the hostels, demanding that they be resettled in the 59 former hostels of the "Polygon" military base. This led to new challenges. Indeed, after the ten-day collapse, people had to accept the terms of the committee.

The periodical "Haraj" has frequently commented on the issues of refugee empowerment in the "Polygon", highlighting the steps of the American Councils to help them, and presenting the entire chain of events that led to migration<sup>43</sup>. The only way out was to provide the villages of Eastern Shirak and Kars with agricultural produce after the Turkish invasion<sup>44</sup>. The periodical has considered the AmerCom's program for picking up more than 24000 migrants in "Polygon" dangerous environment because:

1. the concentration of emigration in one place would lead to the increase of crimes,
2. accumulating masses of people in buildings where rooms were not separated from each other would not bring down the morbidity and would surely contribute to the outbreaks of illnesses (including the sexually transmitted diseases).
3. The buildings of the barracks provided to the migrants would be transformed into ruins within a short period of time.

Unfortunately, the newspaper's predictions soon became reality. The AmerCom failed to achieve tangible results in food supply. By limiting the amount of unnecessary expenditure, the Committee began to use the free labour of the migrants. "It was possible to see how the doors were opened nightly and the food and clothes disappeared on the way to Polygon, how some people got some

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<sup>43</sup> **Դրսեցի**, Ամերիկեան նպաստամատուցը Ալեքսանդրապօլում, Յառաջ, 1919, 3 դեկտեմբերի: **Դրսեցի**, Խորթ զաւակները, Յառաջ, 1919, 9 դեկտեմբերի: **Դրսեցի**, Պօլիգօնների գիշատիչները, Յառաջ, 1920, 23 յունարի: **Դրսեցի**, Պօլիգօնների գիշատիչները, Յառաջ, 1920, 25 յունարի:

<sup>44</sup> **Ալեք**, Ալեքսանդրապօլի գաղթականների վիճակը, Յառաջ, 1919, 13 նոյեմբերի:

### **The Social Situation of Migrants in the Province of Alexandrapol...**

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clothes”, – wrote Dr. S. Pirumov in his report presented to the Minister of Care of RA<sup>45</sup>.

Other predictions also became reality. In the course of several weeks, barracks were converted into ruins, windows and doors were removed, broken glass was replaced with plates dropped out of the roofs, and the heating system and toilet were dismantled. The community life led to the spread of morbidity and venereal diseases among the population. Significant distinctions were made in cases of inflammation. According to S. Pirumov, dormitories had amassed up to 25 people, but the bodies were not handed over for weeks, because the hostages used the food of the dead<sup>46</sup>.

The only way was to quickly dismantle the hostels. It was necessary to deport immigrants early in the villages of Kars and Alexandrapol, to provide them with shelter and labor, and in this way saving the lives of tens of thousands of innocent people.

The first attempt to relieve the “Polygon” was made in December 1919, but it did not yield significant results. From the 2,200 migrants, only 300 were moved. Without trusting the authorities, the refugees rebelled and refused to leave the hosts. On January 9, 1920 Robinson, the Amercom representative, presented the following lines in his report: “... no one wants to leave Polygon, many lie down on the ground and do not want to board the train. I threatened to withdraw food of the obstinates”<sup>47</sup>.

At the end of January, 1920, the attempt of emptying “Polygon” was repeated: 500 Kars dwellers, 300 Knusciner and 347 Sasounners were sent to Kars. Another 500 Kaghzvanciner were sent to their former residences<sup>48</sup>. Over the next two weeks, most of them did not survive the difficulties of the winter road and were deprived of their living conditions in new places of residence, and moved to Alexandrapol<sup>49</sup>.

The third and the last phase of emptying the hostels began in February, 1920. This crucial and seemingly hopeless mission was made possible only thanks

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<sup>45</sup> ՀԱԱ, ֆ. 205, ց. 1, գ. 801, մաս 2, թ. 206:

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Պոլիգոնի գաղթականները, Յառաջ, 1920, № 9, 13 յունւարի:

<sup>48</sup> ՀԱԱ, ֆ. 205, ց. 1, գ. 801, մաս 1, թթ. 41, 54:

<sup>49</sup> Ibid., գ. 830, թթ. 5:

to the activities of Smbat Boroyan and Onik Mkhitarian, special representatives of the Ministry of Care of the Republic of Armenia in the Kars-Alexandrapol region.

To avoid possible shocks, 3–5 groups of refugees were sent to study the abandoned villages of Kars and Alexandrapol. At the same time, 500 militaries of militia (300 horsemen, 200 infantrymen) were formed from the emigrants of “Polygon” to protect those villages from the Turkish-Tatar assaults.

The great shift of immigration, as a result of which whole Alexandrapol got emptied, began on of February 24, 1920. Within a month 25–26000 western Armenians and 9 to 10000 Caucasian Armenians left the city- of the 5000 Bassen dwellers, 4000 were settled in the district of Selim, and 1000 in the empty villages of Alexandrapol. The remaining 29400 were located in the province of Alexandrapol and 15 villages of Kars region<sup>50</sup>. In the new settlements, the migrants were supplied with houses, arable lands, grasslands, forage and other necessities.

To conclude this brief study of the social situation of the migrants in Alexandrapol province in 1914–1920, the following is to be noted:

- between 1914 and 1917 the province received about 95000 immigrants. Some of them stayed in the same place while the others left. The public organizations carried out their mission, i.e. they received thousands of people suffering from the Genocide and the war;
- in 1914–1917 the province received about 95000 immigrants. Some of them stayed there, the others left. The commitment of thousands of young people to the genocide and the hard work of ensuring the living conditions of the victims of the war and the genocide have been supported by the public organizations.
- unfortunately, in spring, 1918, at the Caucasian front of World War II the military situation changed. The disgraceful investiture of Kars followed the fall of Alexandrapol. The Ottoman domination struck a heavy blow to the economy of the province. After the Turks left, the administrative reformed state appeared in an endangered state both socially and economically. This immediately affected the situation of about 50,000 immigrants. The misery led to the barriers and the spread of the illnesses. There were significant proportions of death cases. The situation was corrected only in spring, 1920 when the Ministry of Care of the

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<sup>50</sup> ՀԱՍ, ֆ. 205, ց. 1, գ. 830, թթ. 9–10:

Republic of Armenia succeeded in rescuing 36000 migrants from the province of Alexandropol.

## ԳԱՂԹԱԿԱՆՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՍՈՑԻԱԼԱԿԱՆ ՎԻՃԱԿԸ ԱԼԵՔՍԱՆԴՐԱՊՈԼԻ ԳԱՎԱՌՈՒՄ 1914–1920 ԹԹ.

ՀԱՅՐԱՊԵՏՅԱՆ Ա.

### Ամփոփում

*Քանալի բառեր՝ Առաջին համաշխարհային պատերազմ, Ալեքսանդրապոլ, փախստականներ, Արևելյան Հայաստան, Կովկասյան ճակատ, «Եղբայրական օգնության կոմիտե», գաղթականներ:*

Առաջին աշխարհամարտի տարիներին և դրանից հետո Ալեքսանդրապոլի գավառում ապաստանած գաղթականության սոցիալական վիճակը գործնականում բաժանվում է երկու որակապես տարբեր փուլերի: Առաջինն ընդգրկում է 1914–1917 թթ. ընկած ժամանակահատվածը: Այս ընթացքում գավառն ընդունեց մոտ 95000 մարդ: Տեղի ազգաբնակչության և այստեղ գործող հասարակական կազմակերպությունների համատեղ գործողությունների շնորհիվ լուծվեց նորեկների ֆիզիկական գոյության հարցը. գաղթականությունն ապահովվեց բնակարաններով ու ապրուստի տարրական միջոցներով: Սկսած 1916 թ. փորձեր կատարվեցին նաև գաղթականներին աշխատանքով ապահովելու ուղղությամբ:

1918 թ. գարնանը Կովկասյան ճակատում ռազմա-քաղաքական իրավիճակը փոխվեց: Օսմանյան վեցամսյա տիրապետությունը ծանր հարված հասցրեց Ալեքսանդրապոլի գավառի տնտեսությանը: Թուրքերի հեռանալուց հետո վարչական վերափոխումների ենթարկված գավառը հայտնվեց սոցիալ-տնտեսական ծայրահեղ ծանր դրության մեջ, ինչն անմիջապես ազդեց այստեղ կուտակված շուրջ 50000 գաղթականների վիճակի վրա: Թշվառությունը հանգեցրեց բարձր անկմանն ու հիվանդությունների տարածմանը: Ահռելի չափեր ընդունեցին սովամահության դեպքերը: Անհուսալի թվացող վիճակը շտկվեց միայն 1920 թ. գարնանը, երբ շուրջ 36000 գաղթականների հաջողվեց տեղավորել Ալեքսանդրապոլի և Կարսի լքված գյուղերում:

## СОЦИАЛЬНОЕ ПОЛОЖЕНИЕ БЕЖЕНЦЕВ В АЛЕКСАНДРОПОЛЬСКОМ УЕЗДЕ В 1914–1920 ГГ.

АЙРАПЕТЯН А.

### Резюме

**Ключевые слова:** Первая мировая война, Александрополь, беженцы, Восточная Армения, Кавказский фронт, Комитет братской помощи, беженцы.

Обустройство беженцев, нашедших убежище в Александропольском уезде во время Первой мировой войны и последующие годы, охватывает два качественно разных этапа. Первый – с 1914 по 1917 гг., когда уезд приютил около 95000 человек. Благодаря совместным усилиям населения уезда и местных общественных организаций был решен вопрос физического существования беженцев, которые были обеспечены жильем и элементарными средствами существования. Начиная с 1916 г. беженцев пытались обеспечить также работой.

Весной 1918 г. на Кавказском фронте изменилась военно-политическая ситуация. Шестимесячное османское господство нанесло тяжелый удар по экономике уезда, что сразу же сказалось на положении обосновавшихся там 50000 беженцев. Нищета привела к моральной деградации и распространению болезней. В уезде свирепствовал голод, унесший многие жизни. Положение улучшилось лишь весной 1920 года, когда около 36000 беженцев были поселены в обезлюженных деревнях Александрополя и Карса.