

## ARTICLES

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### GROUP PORTRAIT OF THE GALICIAN OIL ENTREPRENEURS

**Abstract:** When presenting the careers of entrepreneurs operating on Polish soil at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, researchers usually focus on individuals operating in the most industrialised areas, especially the Kingdom of Poland. Much less attention has been paid to successful entrepreneurs in Galicia. Studies on Galician entrepreneurship have mainly taken the form of biographical entries in encyclopaedias and lexicons and in the Polish Biographical Dictionary. These are profiles of individual business leaders of the Austrian partition, while far fewer works deal with the issue of entrepreneurs as a group, despite the fact that there are many sources for such research. This article is an attempt to create a group portrait of a number of Galician oil entrepreneurs who played an exceptional role in the economic, the social, and the political life of Galicia.

**Keywords:** Galicia, oil industry, entrepreneurs, constructors, patriots

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## INTRODUCTION

The Polish lands entered the path of capitalist development much later than many other countries in Western Europe. The partitions and the lack of independence, as well as the system of economic and political dependence on the partitioning countries, had a significant impact on the deformation of Polish capitalism and the weakness of the Polish bourgeoisie, which was highly differentiated in each of the partitions, marked by different economic and social, political-legal, and national-religious relations. In the Polish lands, the representatives of this social group were mostly of foreign origin – Jewish and German, and to a much smaller degree Polish. Perhaps these and other features of the initial development of

Polish capitalism meant that for a long time researchers' interest was directed more towards the nobility and the noble lineage of the intelligentsia, leaving aside the history of the new social class forming in the 19th century (Cierniak-Szóstak, 2008: 399).

Researchers into the economic history of the Polish lands at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries have tended to focus on the careers of great entrepreneurs, most of whom conducted their business activities on the territory of the Kingdom of Poland. These were above all the founders of the modern textile industry (e.g., Ludwik Geyer, Traugott **Grohmann**, Karol Wilhelm Scheibler, and Izrael Poznański), the metal and machinery industry (e.g., Stanisław Lilpop), as well as bankers (e.g., Leopold Kronenberg, Hipolit Wawelberg). In the case of Greater Poland, the leading figure was of course Hipolit Cegielski (Rosołowski et al., 2018: 107–111 et seq.). A comprehensive characterisation of Galician entrepreneurs is much less common in the literature, which is certainly a result of the conditions under which the local industry operated at the time. In the case of Galicia, attention has been paid to the development and the main representatives of the food industry. This has been the case for the sugar industry (Chrobak, 2021), the distilling industry (Michalewicz, 1988), as well as the brewing industry (Franaszek, 2016: 43–57). Attention has also been paid to representatives of the Zieleniewski family, who started their industrial career in a modest workshop which they transformed into a powerful joint-stock company (Małecki, 1979: 299–301). In the case of the oil industry, most mention has been made of Ignacy Łukasiewicz and Stanisław Szczepanowski (Franaszek et al., 2021; Brzozowski, 1974; 1994; Kuberski, 1997).

## A MODEL OF THE GALICIAN OIL ENTREPRENEUR

Writing about the “model of the Galician industrialist” Walentyna Najdus-Smolar postulated to focus on the following problems:

The pioneers of great industry in Galicia (of course “great” on the Galician scale), the social background of factory owners and the owners of mines and steelworks; natives and foreigners; nationality; from which sources did they draw the capital necessary to launch or expand their enterprises? Were they professionals in a given branch of production? Professional preparation of successors; what changes occurred to the type of the Galician industrialist during the lifetime of their successors? Did the transition to joint-stock associations erase the image of the Galician industrialist? (Najdus-Smolar, 1993: 85).

Some of the above assumptions can be adopted and applied, and even extended. When characterising Galician oil entrepreneurs, one should also present them as inventors and rationalisers. Attention may be drawn to their creation of branch organisations, the establishment of a professional press, as well as their involvement in political and social life, both on a local and a national level. It is certainly impossible to answer all of these questions, which is due to the limited biographical information, but above all to the extremely diverse composition of this group. While at the beginning of the development of the Galician oil industry only a relatively small number of people could afford to undertake serious activities related to oil exploitation, at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, with the discovery of extremely rich deposits in eastern Galicia, an increased number of people, often completely by chance, became involved in this endeavour. The belief in one's lucky star and the hope for quick enrichment from oil extraction were particularly evident during the so-called Schodnica (Skhidnytsia) and Borysław (Boryslav) oil rush. At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, some 15,000 wells were drilled in Borysław alone. People of all professions left their jobs and headed east to Galicia. In the case of Borysław, this phenomenon is described by Stanisław Nicieja:

In Borysław, at the dawn of its European career, there was unimaginable overexploitation. Oil rigs were standing one next to the other. In a poor country, wealth exploded like a geyser. Everyone who had any pennies bought a plot of land, steel and diamond drills, hired drillers and believed that a stream of "black gold" was about to gush out (Nicieja, 2012: 206).

Writing about the "oil fever" in Schodnica, Stanisław Szczepanowski drew attention to the long-standing economic backwardness of the country and to the lack of adequate economic knowledge, which made it difficult to make effective use of Galicia's oil deposits:

As if some gold mine had been discovered, a general fever prevailed, and everyone was trying to get at least some share in the companies that were being set up. For is flowing oil not the same as flowing gold? Now after five years of hard work, after many disappointments, rewarded from time to time with intoxicating successes, we know that this conversion of oil into gold is not so easy, that between oil and its equivalent in gold stands all of our ineptitude in economic matters and the century-long neglect of the development of the productive forces of our country (Wnęk, 2015: 204).

In view of the vast number of people who tried their luck in oil ventures, as well as people who were usually not prepared in any respect,

this study should be limited to a smaller group, the members of which can be considered an entrepreneurial elite. These were people who not only achieved business success, but with their actions contributed to the development of the Galician oil industry, and moreover, to the civilisational progress of this backward province of the Habsburg Empire. In characterising this entrepreneurial elite, this article considers the following issues: pioneers, origins, success in the oil business, education, constructors and rationalisers, integration and organisational activities, concern for professional education, public activities, and patriotism.

## PIONEERS

The term pioneer of the Galician industry refers to people who initiated important, even ground-breaking processes. Ignacy Łukasiewicz, who was the first to successfully distil crude oil to obtain a flammable liquid called petroleum, should obviously be counted among them. Thanks to him, the kerosene lamp was the main source of artificial light for many years until the spread of electricity. Łukasiewicz was also the founder of the first oil mine in the world. This mine was established in 1854 in Bóbrka in Subcarpathia. It was also thanks to him that the first industrial oil distillery was built in Ulaszowice in 1856 (Franaszek et al., 2021: 41, 44, 52–54). The pioneers of drilling in Galicia were Robert Doms and Henryk Walter. It was they who, in the early 1860s, initiated free-fall drilling. The first shaft using this system was drilled by Robert Doms in Borysław in 1861, and the following year, using the same system, Henryk Walter drilled an oil well in Bóbrka. Walter's works were of particular importance as western Galicia was the main area of oil exploitation at that time. Walter's drilling took place in the most important oil mine at that time, which was Bóbrka, and it was this drilling method that was commonly used during the next 20 years. As a result, digging oil wells with a shovel and pickaxe was abandoned relatively quickly (Franaszek 1991: 62–63). An advance in drilling was the use of steam engines to drive the drilling crane. In Galicia, this occurred in the late 1860s and early 1870s. This was done independently by Albert Fauck, drilling in Klęczany, and William Schütte in Męcina and Bóbrka (*Kopalnictwo i przemysł...*, 1924/25: 11–12). The list of pioneers of the Galician oil industry also includes William Mac Garvey. It was this Canadian entrepreneur who introduced a new drilling

method, known as the Canadian method, which revolutionised oil drilling in Subcarpathia. Thanks to the Canadian drilling method, the possibility of conducting drilling works in the western part of Galicia were greatly expanded, and at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, deep oil deposits were discovered in its eastern part, which proved to be the most productive (Franaszek, 2009: 207).

## ORIGINS

When talking about the origins of Galician oil entrepreneurs, attention should be paid to their social and national background. Among those engaged in oil exploration were representatives of the landed gentry, clergy, officials, as well as burghers and peasants. They were all hoping to get rich quick. However, people of landed gentry origin played a special role in this respect, as it was the landed gentry that owned large areas of land where oil exploration and production could be conducted. It was for this reason that representatives of this social group accounted for a considerable proportion of the Galician oil entrepreneurs. At the very dawn of oil mining, Tytus Trzeciecki came to Ignacy Łukasiewicz, who at that time was in Gorlice. Trzeciecki was the owner, ruined by the peasant uprising of 1846, of the village of Polanka near Krosno. Trzeciecki became interested in the possibility of oil exploitation and sought a specialist in its distillation. He proposed Łukasiewicz to establish a company to extract oil that he had noticed leaking naturally from the estate of Karol Klobassa, his neighbour, and the owner of Bóbrka. However, Klobassa considered the venture too risky and did not want to get involved in it. Despite this, he allowed the use of his land, not collecting the rent of 100 guilders a year until 1858. However, after 1861, seeing the possibility of gaining considerable income, Klobassa also entered into a partnership with Trzeciecki and Łukasiewicz (Franaszek et al. 2021: 57–58).

The noble origins of Łukasiewicz himself have not been established. The status of his ancestors, impoverished landowners, is also unclear. His baptismal certificate refers to his father as a “possessor”, which this is not sufficient proof of his owning large landed estates but may indicate that he belonged to the impoverished gentry. However, the Łada coat of arms attributed to the Łukasiewicz family does not appear next to this name in any heraldry. Ignacy Łukasiewicz did not become the owner of a large

estate until 1865, when he purchased the estate in Chorkówka, with the adjoining grange of Leśniówka (Brzozowski, 1974: 5–7). A considerable number of oil mines were owned by countess Jadwiga Straszewska in Lipinki and count Adam Skrzyński in Libusza (Lorenz et al., 2017: 202). In turn, Maria Lubomirska established oil mines in Schodnica and then in nearby Urycz (Urych) (Brzozowski, 1994: 43). Intellectuals of bourgeois origin participated in business activities in the oil industry. This was the case with the prominent constructor Waław Wolski. As a wealthy businessman, Władysław Długosz, the son of a lesser court official, came into possession of the village of Siary near Gorlice, buying it from his father-in-law Władysław Dembowski (Wójcik, 2015: 328–329).

Most oil entrepreneurs came from Galicia. However, there were also Poles living in other parts of the partitioned Poland. The best known is Stanisław Szczepanowski, who came from Kościan in Greater Poland. Participants in the January Uprising came here from the Kingdom of Poland. One of them was Adolf Jabłoński, who was persecuted by the tsarist authorities and after the demise of the uprising stayed in many countries before finally settling in Galicia. Here he cooperated with Łukasiewicz, and after his death served as director of the mine in Bóbrka. Galicia was also visited by foreigners, who in their peregrination for the new raw material that promised such great profit, undertook industrial activity here with greater or lesser success. The best known and at the same time most successful foreigner was William Henry Mac Garvey, not without reason called the “Petroleum King” (Franaszek, 2009: 206). He came to Galicia from Canada, via Germany where he conducted drilling work. Albert Fauck was a German born in Słupsk (Stolp). He contributed significantly to technical progress in Galician oil drilling. Among the Anglo-Saxons who were active in the oil fields of Galicia there were James Perkins, Elgin Scott, C. (first name unknown) Crosby, and Mac Intosh (Brzozowski 1994: 42–43).

## SUCCESS IN THE OIL BUSINESS

The vast majority of the oil elite achieved considerable business success. Oil brought in huge revenues, which they knew how to use to further multiply their profits. Indeed, there have been cases when excessive involvement in business ended in disaster, or vice versa – initial bankruptcy turned into success over time. In characterising successful people, we

should again start with Ignacy Łukasiewicz. A landmark in Łukasiewicz's career as an entrepreneur came in 1861. It was then that the Klobassa-Trzeciecki-Łukasiewicz partnership was established, with each of them contributing 1000 guilders. From that moment on, for over 20 years until his death, Łukasiewicz participated in the oil industry (Franaszek et al., 2021: 58). By the mid-1860s, the company was bringing in about 40,000 guilders a year, which was an exceptionally hefty sum as two villages could be bought with it. In the mid-1860s, Łukasiewicz was already so wealthy that a manor house was built for him in Chorkówka, as well as a modern refinery. Łukasiewicz did not limit his economic activity to the mine in Bóbrka and the refinery in Chorkówka. With considerable capital at his disposal, he invested in other mines, becoming their owner or co-owner in Wójtowa, Ropianka, Podgórzyn, Ropa, Smereczne, Wilsznia near Dukla, Nowosielce-Gniewosz, Uherce Mineralne and Solina (Brzozowski, 1974: 136, 145-146).

Stanisław Szczepanowski's discovery of rich oil deposits in Słoboda Rungurska (Słoboda), in Eastern Galicia, in 1881, made this village an important centre for oil exploitation. It was also in this village that Szczepanowski established the first factory in Galicia, whose main production profile was the manufacture of drilling tools. Szczepanowski was also credited with the discovery of oil deposits in Schodnica. However, his attempts to start lignite mines were completely unsuccessful. Debts contracted with the Galician Savings Bank led to the bankruptcy of Szczepanowski's companies, which undoubtedly affected his health and led to his premature death.

The fortunes of Władysław Długosz were quite different. With a diploma in technical management of oil mines, he conducted drilling works commissioned by other entrepreneurs. The unsuccessful beginnings of his own business ended with the loss of his entire capital. At that time, he became director of the Galician Carpathian Oil Company, and it was thanks to his persistence that rich deposits of oil were discovered in Borysław in 1896, which launched the career of this particular oil centre. Subsequent drilling work, already conducted on his own account, brought him huge profits, thanks to which he entered the ranks of the serious oil entrepreneurs ('45-lecie Prezesa...', 1931: 270).

The figure of William Henry Mac Garvey, from his early days in Galicia, is associated with remarkable success in the oil business. His unique position among the oilmen was due to the fact that he introduced the so-called Canadian system, which was used to reach rich deposits of



oil. In a brief time, Mac Garvey became a leader in drilling in Galicia. His practical sense and commitment to business led him to buy up vast areas, which he turned into oil fields. He did not waste his accumulated capital but invested by establishing an oil refinery and a factory for drilling tools in Glinik Mariampolski, and finally by co-founding the most powerful company in the Galician oil industry, the Galician Carpathian Oil Company. He was an industrialist of his time, and as one of the most important actors in the development of the oil industry in Galicia, he also became a progressive economic activist. He was one of those participants and at the same time representatives of the turbulent phase of capitalist industrialisation which brought energetic and enterprising individuals to the peak of their economic and social, and often political careers (Franaszek, 2009: 209–210).

## EDUCATION

It should be stressed that the people who were driving the changes in the Galician mining industry were highly educated. As is generally known, the founder of the Galician oil industry, Ignacy Łukasiewicz, was a pharmacist by education. He studied in Cracow at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Jagiellonian University but obtained his master's degree in Vienna in 1852 (Franaszek et al., 2021: 35). But for the most part, this group consisted of people with profound professional knowledge acquired through technical or mining studies. Stanisław Szczepanowski studied at the general technical faculty of the Polytechnic Institute in Vienna, then obtained an engineering degree at the *École Centrale des Artes et Manufactures* in Paris. To further his knowledge, he continued his studies in economics and chemical technology in London (Malak, 2015: 227). The majority of Galician petroleum engineers were graduates of the Leoben Mining University (*Montanuniversität*), a school with a mining profile most easily accessible to Poles in the Austrian monarchy. Among those who studied there were Henryk Walter, Franciszek Zamojski, Julian Fabiański, Kazimierz Gąsiorowski, Stanisław Jurski and Ludwik Zdanowicz. Waclaw Wolski, on the other hand, graduated from the mechanical engineering department of Polytechnic Institute in Vienna. Leon Mikucki and Antoni Błażowski were also graduates of this Polytechnic Institute. Władysław Dunka de Sajo, Zygmunt Bielski and Władysław Szaynok studied at



the mechanical department of the Lwów (Lviv) Technical Academy. Stanisław Olszewski graduated in geology, mineralogy and chemistry from the Jagiellonian University, Stefan Bartoszewicz in technical chemistry from the technical university in Karlsruhe, Ludwik Stocker from the technical universities in Lwów and Zurich, Zenon Suszycki from the *École des Mines Supérieure* in Paris, Leon Syroczyński from the Mining Faculty at the University of Liège, and Władysław Długosz completed his technical studies in Prague. Adolf Jabłoński, an alumnus of the Agronomic Institute in Marymont near Warsaw, studied geology, mining and chemistry at the University of Virginia during a year and a half stay in the United States. Kazimierz Odrzywolski was a graduate of the chemistry and technology department of the Cracow Academy of Industry and Technology (Franaszek, 1991: 39).

## CONSTRUCTORS AND RATIONALISERS

The leaders of the Galician oil industry made enormous contributions to the improvement of drilling methods. At the end of the 1870s and the beginning of the 1880s, Albert Fauck made the most serious attempt to modify the free-fall system, which had been used in Galicia since the early 1860s. He succeeded in developing a shear that automatically released the well drill at its highest position in the drilled hole. This eliminated the major drawback of having to manually drop the drill. But the greatest creativity was displayed by Galician constructors when innovating a device called the "old crane", with which Mac Garvey arrived in Galicia. The most important improvements were introduced by such oil entrepreneurs as Waclaw Wolski, Kazimierz Odrzywolski, Felicjan Łodziński, Julian Timoftiewicz, Władysław Pruszkowski and others. Soon people were no longer talking about the Canadian system but about the Galician-Canadian or Polish-Canadian system. Even more creative were the Galician designers in the case of so-called hydraulic drilling, although its solutions did not find a wider practical application. Two hydraulic drilling rigs were developed by Albert Fauck. One of them was the "Rapid" crane, and the other the "Express" crane (Bielski, 1904). In the field of hydraulic drilling a number of constructions emerged in Galicia, some as outstanding as Waclaw Wolski's battering ram, others less known, and others - as Wolski wrote - which had only "museum value". In 1901 a great revelation was

the drilling of a 510-metre-deep shaft in Borysław by Leon Mikucki, using a crane of his own design, in just two months. In 1909, when assessing a hydraulic drilling device of his own invention, Victor Petit achieved 50% better results than the Canadian method. In 1899, Joseph Howarth and Władysław Pruszkowski built for the first time a hydraulic drilling device with an engine placed in the borehole, directly above the drill. Bonifacy Wiśniewski, Stanisław Janiszewski, Walery Siferski and Waclaw Wolski also worked on similar designs. An absolute novelty was the attempt to use the phenomenon of the water hammer effect in drilling rigs, which is caused by the sudden stopping of a rushing stream of water pumped under high pressure. This phenomenon was used by Waclaw Wolski in his construction, for which the name "drilling ram" was adopted. Wolski's "ram" was the pinnacle of technical achievement in the field of hydraulic rig improvement. It was considered by many experts, also from other countries, as one of the best ideas in drilling technology in the world (Franaszek, 1988: 90-92).

Thanks to their knowledge, skills and creativity, Galician oil workers gained widespread recognition in the oil world at the time. The best evidence of this was their participation in the International Petroleum Congress. By 1914, three such congresses had been held – the first in 1900 in Paris, on the occasion of the Exposition Universelle, the second in 1905 in Liège, and the third, in 1907, convened in Bucharest. In all these congresses the Galician economic activists took an extremely active part, presenting papers and organising the deliberations of the various sections ('Sprawozdanie...', 1909: 33).

The Galician oil miners had extended knowledge in the field of oil mining and an excellent mastery of the drilling craft. For this reason, they became a sought-after professional force in all countries of the world where oil was prospected and exploited. In the first place, Poles went to countries neighbouring Galicia, namely Romania and Russia. In 1899, Wit Sulimirski and a group of twelve Galician drillers and workers assessed the applicability of the Canadian drilling method in the conditions of Caucasian oil mining. Oil entrepreneurs from Galicia were coming to the United States – the country leading in terms of oil production. In 1872/73, Wiktor Klobassa resided in the United States with Adolf Jabłoński. In 1880, Felicjan Łodziński also went to the United States. In the Pennsylvania mines, he learned the secrets of rope-drilling. Between 1895 and 1898, Stanisław Jurski worked in a gold mine in Colorado, and later drilled for oil in the Los Angeles area. In the 1880s and 1890s, Poles participated in oil exploration work

in Argentina, using improved Canadian drilling cranes brought from Galicia. Among them were Rudolf Zuber, Kazimierz Odrzywolski, Antoni Błażowski, Michał Rieger, Stanisław Czerwiński and Jan Zeitleben. Polish oilmen used the Canadian drilling method while searching for oil in Java and Sumatra. Jan Fedorowicz went to New Zealand with a Canadian crane (Franaszek, 2002: 378–379).

## INTEGRATION AND ORGANISATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Due to the dispersed nature of the oil industry, all initiatives aimed at integrating the environment were of immense importance. On the one hand, they served the purpose of exchanging experiences and views as well as presenting the latest technical solutions, while on the other, they defended the interests of Galician oil entrepreneurs. All leading Galician economic activists participated in these activities. They took a variety of forms. A special role in the history of the Galician oil industry was played by the professional Galician oil press. When the “Przegląd Techniczny Naftowy” (“Technical Petroleum Review”) was founded in 1907, the purpose of the publication was specified as follows:

Undertaking the publication of a technical petroleum journal, our objective is to consolidate the scientific and practical achievements to date, to record everything that has had to do with progress in this field, and at the same time to strive to arouse the interest of the widest possible public, to raise in individuals a passion for their profession and to encourage them to creative work that can only give them satisfaction in life (Franaszek, 1991: 45).

In the face of enormous communication difficulties, professional journals became the basic link between Galician oilmen. The professional press was one of the main driving forces behind the efforts to modernise the Galician oil industry, as well as the primary source of information on the changes taking place in both the domestic oil industry and the oil mines of other countries. The press was often the scene of heated discussions and polemics. The first Galician oil magazine, “Górnik” (The Miner), published between 1882 and 1886, played an extremely vital role during the introduction of the Canadian drilling method. Among Galician petroleum periodicals, the most important was “Nafta”, published from 1893 onwards. Its editorial board included leading representatives of the Galician oil industry, such as W. Wolski, A. Błażowski, and Z. Suszycki.

In 1911, the Związek Techników Wiertniczych (Association of Drilling Technicians) started to publish its own periodical named "Ropa" (Crude Oil). It focussed on the issues of drilling techniques and petroleum geology (Franaszek, 1991: 45–46).

The need for an organisation of oil professionals and activists came to mind. In 1876, at a convention at Jasło, an informal committee was formed to promote the interests of the oil industry, with Ignacy Łukasiewicz as chairman. In June 1879, the viceroy approved the statute of the Oil Society of Galicia, which in 1881 adopted the name The National Oil Society (Krajowe Towarzystwo Naftowe / KTN). The Society was based in Gorlice and later in Lwów. The Society was active until 1939. Its first president was Ignacy Łukasiewicz, and from 1881 until 1915 the Society was headed by August Gorayski. Among the leading activists of the KTN one could meet all the outstanding representatives of the Galician oil industry: Stanisław Szczepanowski, Waclaw Wolski, Leon Syroczyński, Tytus Trzeciecki, William Henry Mac Garvey, Leon Mikucki, Stefan Bartoszewicz, Bolesław Łodziński, Władysław Długosz and others. The KTN became the organisation representing the interests of the oil mining industry vis-à-vis both the Viennese and the Galician authorities. KTN representatives joined national and state economic institutions (e.g., the Chamber of Commerce in Lwów, the Agro-Industrial Council, and the State Railway Council), gaining influence on the decisions of these bodies, especially in matters relating to the oil industry. The KTN was an advocate, initiator and organiser of various actions aimed at transforming oil mining into a modern branch of production.

Among the founders and leading activists of the Society of Petroleum Technicians (Towarzystwa Techników Naftowych / TTN), established in 1893, there were the most active activists, constructors and rationalizers of the national oil mining industry: Antoni Błażowski, Waclaw Wolski, Rudolf Zuber, Felicjan Łodziński, Tytus Trzeciecki, Kazimierz Odrzywolski, Zenon Suszycki, and others. In 1905, the Union of Drilling Technicians (Związek Techników Wiertniczych / ZTW) was established. Its founders included Władysław Dunka de Sajo, Stanisław Glazor, Jan Longchamps de Berier, Mieczysław Longchamps de Berier, and Paweł Setkowicz (Franaszek et al., 2021: 154–155).

## CONCERN FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

The elite of the Galician oil workers consisted of people who strove to create a professional oil education system. As early as 1875, Ignacy Łukasiewicz proposed the establishment of a lower mining school for oil mine workers in Bóbrka. This initiative did not come to fruition. The introduction of the Canadian drilling method forced the need for appropriate training for professionals. In October 1885, the Practical Canadian Drilling School was established at Ropianka near Dukla. Its organiser and first director was Zenon Suszycki. In 1888 the school moved to Wietrzno near Krosno. The works of Adolf Jabłoński, *Kopalnictwo naftowe* (Oil Mining) and Marcin Maślanka, *Zarys kopalnictwa naftowego* (An Outline of Oil Mining) were used as the basic textbooks. As a result of the merger of the National Mining School for custodians of earthwax mines in Borysław with the Practical Canadian Drilling School in Wietrzno, the National Mining and Drilling School in Borysław was established. Its director was Kazimierz Gąsiorowski until 1903, Kazimierz Szumski in the years 1903–1913, and after him Kazimierz Miński.

The community of domestic oilmen also took steps to educate professionals with a higher technical education in the field of oil mining, who in future were to be responsible for introducing improvements, designing new rigs, and working out theoretical issues in the field of oil mining. However, the measures taken met with strong resistance from the Viennese authorities. Vienna also refused to allow the establishment of a Mining Academy in Cracow. It was not until the 1891/92 academic year that the authorities allowed the introduction of lectures on oil mining and the chemical technology of petroleum products into the curriculum of the Lwów Technical Academy. In 1898, the general mining course was transformed into a course focused on oil mining, the completion of which granted the right to manage oil mines (Frasaszek et al., 2021: 157–160).

## PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

Many oil entrepreneurs were actively involved in public activities. In this way, they tried not only to secure the interests of the oil industry, but primarily, they cared about the civilisation development of the whole province. Such was the attitude of Ignacy Łukasiewicz. In 1868, he became a mem-

ber of the Krosno County Council, in which his partners Tytus Trzeciecki and Karol Klobassa had already sat. During the 14 years of his work for the county council Łukasiewicz was a member of several committees, but by far the most important for him were road issues, which were also particularly important for the development of the oil industry. In October 1876, he was elected a member of the National Assembly (Sejm) in Lwów. He was a member of the national culture committee, which dealt with the issues of the civilisation of Galicia. He was one of the initiators of setting up a mining commission within the National Assembly. Łukasiewicz concentrated on the issues closest to him, concerning the oil industry. In 1878 he became chairman of the mining commission, and two years later he headed the petroleum commission. He held his seat as a member of parliament until his death in 1882. (Franaszek et al., 2021: 81–87).

Stanisław Szczepanowski is best known for his work *Nędza Galicji w cyfrach* (The Misery of Galicia in Figures), in which he pointed to the disastrous state of the provincial economy, which was documented in statistical tables included in the book. Szczepanowski, and with him other economic activists, pointed to the poverty of the Galician countryside, which limited the internal market, which in turn was one of the factors impeding the development of industrial production (Szczepanowski, 1888). In 1886, he was elected to the parliament in Vienna, where he remained until 1897. In parliament, he served on many committees for the benefit of the Galician economy. Between 1889 and 1899 he was also a member of the Galician National Assembly, working in the mining, industry, and education committees. In the first half of the 1890s, he was a member of the editorial board of the exclusive quarterly “*Ekonomista Polski*” (The Economist of Poland). At the end of the 1890s, he published the daily “*Słowo Polskie*” (The Polish Word) newspaper in Lwów and participated in the first all-Polish conventions in Rapperswil. He was a co-founder of the People’s School Society and an organiser of the Union of Trade and Economic Associations in Lwów (Brzozowski, 1994: 46–48).

Łukasiewicz’s successor as president of the KTN, August Gorayski, was a member of the Galician National Assembly starting from his fourth term in 1877, and then from 1877 to 1913, i.e., for consecutive terms up to and including his ninth term. He was a member of the Austrian House of Lords, and previously Speaker of the Krosno District. Władysław Długosz became a member of the National Assembly in 1908, assumed a seat in the Austrian Parliament in 1911, and a few months later became Minister for Galicia, a post he held until the beginning of 1914. At the end of the



First World War, he took over the Ministry of Agriculture in the Polish Liquidation Commission established in Cracow. In 1922, he was elected to the Polish Senate ('45-lecie Prezesa...', 1931: 269-271).

## PATRIOTISM

The concept of patriotism should encompass involvement in conspiratorial organisations, direct participation in armed struggle, as well as support for these activities. Ignacy Łukasiewicz wholeheartedly participated in the work of independence organisations in his youth. While working in a drugstore in Łańcut, Łukasiewicz found himself in the Łańcut cell of the Conspiracy of Polish Democrats, headed by Aleksander Tarłowski. After the arrests of its activists, he moved to Rzeszów, where he was sworn in by Edward Dembowski as an agent of the emigration Centralisation of the Democratic Society. In 1845, the Centralisation began preparations for an uprising which was to encompass Greater Poland and Galicia, and then move armed operations to the Kingdom of Poland. In February 1846, shortly before the planned date of the uprising, Łukasiewicz and a group of conspirators were arrested. During the investigation, which lasted almost two years, Łukasiewicz was held in the prisons of Rzeszów and Lwów. After his release in December 1847, he was ordered to live in Lwów, with the obligation of reporting to the police every week (Brzozowski 1974: 18-32).

Many workers of the Galician oil industry took part in the January Uprising and some of them – after its demise – found refuge in Galicia and employment in the oil companies. This was the case with two of Łukasiewicz's colleagues. Henryk Walter persevered to the end of the uprising, fighting as captain of sharpshooters in Józef Hauke-Bosak's unit, among other positions. Heavily wounded in the battle of Huta Krzeszowska, he returned to Galicia, engaging in oil mining ventures. He was also the head of the mining office in Lwów. Adolf Jabłoński spent two years in the Warsaw citadel and four years in a penal company for his membership in clandestine student circles. In the Russian army he reached the rank of captain. He then took an active part in the uprising, acting, among other things, as military chief of the Łęczyca district. After the demise of the uprising, he travelled via Greater Poland and Germany to Bóbrka, where Łukasiewicz handed over to him the technical management of the mine (Brzozowski, 1974: 123-124, 131-132).



Jan Nepomucen Gniewosz, publisher of the Mining Review, Bronisław Deskur, cavalry major and owner of an oil mine, Józef Kwapiński, Feliks Podolski and many others fought in the uprising. Members of the National Government were Eugeniusz Zieliński, Wojciech Biechoński and Mikołaj Fedorowicz. Apart from direct participation in the fighting, the oil workers supported the uprising financially and helped its victims. This is what the shareholders of the Łukasiewicz–Trzeciecki–Klobassa company did. With the outbreak of the First World War, workers in the oil industry were often dismissed from military service because of its importance to the army. Despite this, they volunteered to join the newly formed Polish Legions. Engineer Władysław Dunka de Sajo enlisted in the 1st Belina Lancer Regiment. Ludwik Włoczewski, Stanisław Niesytto, Damian Wandycz, Stanisław Niezabitowski and many other oil industry workers also fought in the Legions. When the war ended, they joined in the fights to defend the country's borders against the Ukrainians and the Bolsheviks (Pietrusza, 1995: 568–574).

## ENDINGS

In his 2009 article, Tomasz Kargol states:

The issue of entrepreneurs and the formation of economic elites in Galicia is not one that has been widely discussed in Polish historiography, especially compared to the state of research on the bourgeoisie in the Kingdom of Poland. This does not mean that Galicia was devoid of successful entrepreneurs (Kargol, 2009: 199).

He then goes on to show that studies on Galician entrepreneurship have mainly taken the form of biographical entries in encyclopaedias and lexicons and in the Polish Biographical Dictionary. These are profiles of individual business leaders of the Austrian partition, while far fewer works deal with the issue of entrepreneurs as a group, despite the fact that there are many sources for such research. He therefore rightly postulates the preparation of biographies of industrialists, often less known, but who played a vital role in the development of the Galician economy. This is one of the necessary conditions for a complete reconstruction of the economic history of Galicia (Kargol, 2009: 216).

This article has been an attempt to paint a collective portrait of an “elite” group of oil entrepreneurs. Of course, each of the elements of this portrait presented could be further developed, or even a separate article

could be written about each of them. The list of issues covered can also be expanded to include further details, such as personality, mentality, interests and extra-professional activities and lifestyles. The above characteristics show the internal diversity of this group, with many similarities between its members.

The development of the Galician oil industry faced many and varied obstacles, such as the weakness of domestic capital, the struggle against unfair foreign competition, and insufficient support from the central government. Despite these problems, the oil industry played the role of an extremely important economic stimulator and fostered positive civilisational changes in this one of the poorest provinces of the monarchy. Ignacy Łukasiewicz, by developing a method for distilling crude oil, initiated a new era in the history of mankind. Many other Galician engineers and oil entrepreneurs followed his path, contributing to the rapid and rational development of a completely new industry. Galician entrepreneurs were fully aware of the importance of the oil industry for economic development and the unique role it could play in the civilisational progress of Galician society. This is evident from the words spoken by Stefan Bartoszewicz to the activists of the Polytechnic Society in Lwów in October 1907:

We are a small country, and we are a nation that cannot think of any external or colonial expansion, which should therefore all the more eagerly expend all its energy on internal work, on making proper use of the riches that nature has given us. And nature has fortunately given us oil springs, thus it has given us a product of universal and mass use, which interests and must interest the whole world, so our oil industry can also have not only an economic but also a political and national significance for us; through this industry, surrounded by zealous care, Galicia can stand out in the eyes of other countries and grow in economic strength ('O kongresie naftowym...', 1907: 303).

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