

## ROMANIAN-RUSSIAN DOCUMENTS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF DOBROGEA (JUNE 1877-NOVEMBER 1878)

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**Abstract.** The present study presents and analyzes the Russian administration installed in Dobrogea after the occupation of the region by the Tsarist troops at the beginning of June 1877 and until November 1878, when most of the region (Constanța and Tulcea counties) was taken over by Romania following the decision of Berlin Congress (July 13, 1878). Romanian documents, due to the Dobrogea research team, led by Colonel Stefan Fălcoianu before the installation of the Romanian administration and army in the province, have been used. Russian sources from the Foreign Policy Archive of the Russian Empire archive are also highlighted.

**Keywords:** Dobrogea, Russian occupation, administration, Ivan Vasilievich Beloterkovetz

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The April 1877 Chronicle of Southeast Europe records the opening of the military stage of the new phase of the “Oriental Crisis” unleashed in the Balkans in 1875.

For the European front, the Russian commander planned two military operations. Both started from the south of Bessarabia where Russia had deployed important military forces. The first consisted in the movement of three military divisions through Romania towards the Danube, where in the Zimnicea area they were to carry out military actions to cross the river and advance towards the fortress of Plevna, strongly reinforced by the Ottoman command with a system of fortifications.

Since Dobrogea was part of the Ottoman Empire with a special geopolitical position, the leadership of the Russian troops assigned the 14th Army Corps to occupy the region.

The Turkish army had important effective forces concentrated in the fortresses on the Danube, and a squadron on the river that could endanger the missions of the Russian troops.

Under the command of General Apolon Ernestovici Zimmerman (1825-1884), the 14th Corps forced the Danube on the night of 9/21 and 10/22 June 1877 north of Măcin to land on the right bank of the river. On various floating means, the Russian military managed to build the bridgehead, creating the conditions for the

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Russian units to cross to the right of the river. The Ottoman command expected the Russian army to cross the river at Ghecet (Smârdan), a somewhat traditional point also used in other wars by the Russians to invade Dobrogea. It was a successful maneuver to mislead the Ottoman troops. At an alert pace, the Russian 14th Corps advanced in the direction of the main Dobrogean towns. It should be emphasized that an important role in the operation to force the Danube was played by the Russian-Romanian fleet that managed to annihilate two important ships from the Turkish squadron, the “Lufti Djelil” gunboat and the “Hivzi Rahman” monitor, a success that discouraged the Turkish flotilla.<sup>3</sup> Actually, the Ottoman troops in Dobrogea no longer mattered, being forced to retreat to the south.

From a report of Ivan Vasilievich Belotzerkovetz, governor of Dobrogea, dated April 26, 1878, addressed to Prince Dondukov-Korsakov, commissioner of the Russian Empire in Bulgaria, we learn that in Tulcea the Russian administration began to be “*established at the moment when the Russians troops crossed the Danube on June 10; in its final structure it was established on July 20 last year (sic)*”.<sup>4</sup>

After the advance of the Russian troops in Tulcea, the “*college advisor*” T.Z. Yuzefovich was appointed to lead the administration. Not long after, he was made available to General Zimmerman, and Ivan Vasilievich Belotzerkovetz, who had been attached to the 14th Corps since the beginning of the campaign, was appointed in his place.<sup>5</sup>

Ivan Vasilievich Belotzerkovetz was born in the family of a captain of Orthodox religion on June 17, 1844 (the year of death is unknown). Historical sources tell us that his father received the rank of officer after the birth of his son.

Starting from September 15, 1862, the young Belotzerkovetz attended the courses of Larinsky Gymnasium in Petersburg at the Department of Oriental Languages. After two years of study, by Imperial Order of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dated October 24, 1864, he was sent to an internship at the Russian Embassy in Constantinople, an important representation where he became familiar with diplomatic activity and, undoubtedly, he perfected his knowledge of the Oriental languages.

He returned to Petersburg to brilliantly pass the exams in Arabic-Persian-Turkish-Tatar Studies at the Imperial University. Based on the level of training in

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<sup>3</sup> George Petre, Ion Bitoleanu, *Tradiții navale românești [Romanian Naval Traditions]*, Editura Militară, București, 1991, p. 135-137.

<sup>4</sup> Apud *Dobrogea în izvoare istorice noi: anii 1877-1878 și 1906 [Dobrogea in New Historical Sources: the Years 1877-1878 and 1906]* (Editors prof. univ. dr. Valentin Ciorbea, dr. Cornel Țucă, dr. Cornelia-Elena Bobe), Editura Academiei Oamenilor de Știință din România, București, 2021, p. 25.

<sup>5</sup> We will point out the landmarks of his activity as they appear in historical sources, Belotzerkovetz being the most important official in Dobrogea with a major role in the installation and functioning of the Russian administration in the region.

the knowledge of the respective languages, the University Council awarded Ivan Vasilievich Belotzerkovetz "*the academic degree of candidate of sciences*".<sup>6</sup>

By a new decree of the Senate of the Imperial University of March 4, 1865, Belotzerkovetz is promoted to the status of "*college secretary of the candidate rank of the University of St. Petersburg*", dated December 10, 1864.

The experience gained during the years of practice at the Russian Embassy in Constantinople earned him the appointment on May 1, 1866 to the position of assistant to the secretary of the Russian mission in the capital of the Ottoman Empire.

After almost two years of activity in Constantinople, he received the position of secretary and translator at the Russian Consulate in the city of Ioannina in Greece. From here, on April 8, 1873, he was appointed vice-consul of Russia in Tulcea. He worked in Dobrogea for almost a year and eight months, enough time to get to know the province and gather important data about the existing realities. On December 14, 1874, he was transferred to the Russian Embassy in Constantinople where he held the position of "*3rd translator*". He impeccably performed his duties, which brought him the promotion to the rank of "*Counselor of the Court*" on February 20, 1875, by decree of the Russian Senate. At the same time, his seniority for that rank was recognized and he was rewarded with the sum of 800 rubles.

After the reopening of the "*Oriental Crisis*" he was co-opted into the service of the Office of the Chief of Civil Affairs of the Active Army. From here he was posted, as stated above, to General Zimmerman.

From the documents obtained from the Foreign Policy Archive of the Russian Empire, through the kindness of Mrs. Consul General of the Russian Federation in Constanța, Tatiana Mihailovna Gruško, we learn that on March 7, 1877 Belotzerkovetz submitted a report to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senator M.K. Ghirs on the administrative situation of Dobrogea, population statistics, the telegraph, the officials, schools and natural resources of the province. The population data were those collected before the war from the position of vice-consul. 28,000 families lived in Tulcea, of which 15,000 were Christians and 13,000 were Muslims.<sup>7</sup> The report requested from Belotzerkovetz reveals the interest of the Russian Foreign Ministry for Dobrogea in the perspective of preparation for the occupation of the region.

As an attaché to the 14th Army Corps, Ivan Vasilievich Belotzerkovetz participated in the campaigns carried out in Dobrogea in 1877. Based on the order received from General Zimmerman, on June 15, 1877, with the Cossack detachment of General Shamshev, he carried out the restoration mission in Babadag of the civil administration and the subordination of the city to the head of Tulcea T.P.

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<sup>6</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 23-24.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 15.

Yuzefovich. The detachment also had the mission of searching the Circassian villages and disarming those who had weapons.<sup>8</sup> The mission lasted until June 27, 1877, after which Beloterkovetz returned via Măcin to Brăila to the commander of Corps 14 to report the results of the mission to General Zimmerman.

The second assignment consisted of accompanying the Cossack detachment commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Count Orlov-Denis from Medgidia to Constanța on 3 July 1877, where he “*established the civil administration in Köstence*”.<sup>9</sup> Between July 11 and 14, 1877, with another detachment of Cossacks commanded by Major General Andryanov, he carried out the mission of occupying the city of Mangalia. The fourth mission performed by Belotzerkovetz, as attached to the 14th Corps, according to the report of Lieutenant General V. M. Veriovkin, who took over the command of the 14th Corps, was to accompany General Zimmerman in the reconnaissance of the village of Davintinchioi (?) on June 31 and on July 1, 1877 of the city of Medgidia.

On July 1, 1877, Prince Cerkassky, State Councilor, Head of Civil Affairs subordinate to the Command - Head of the Active Army, notified Belotzerkovetz and Yuzefovich in a letter that the Grand Prince, Commander-in-Chief of the Active Army (Nikolai Nicolaevich Romanov (1831- 1891), brother of Tsar Alexander II, Grand Duke, Supreme Commander of the Russian Campaign Army in the Balkans) that he “*is pleased to appoint the Court Counselor Belotzerkovetz to the position of interim governor of Tulcea*”. Yuzefovici was placed at the disposal of the commander of the 14th Corps, General Zimmerman. By the same letter, Major-General Anucin was ordered to accompany Belotserkovetz with several officers “*to fill the positions in the civil leadership ranging from four to five, and to provide 10,000 rubles for administrative expenses.*”<sup>10</sup> Practically the two had to deal with the organization of the Russian administration.

The management of the administration had to be done on the basis of the provisions written in the document “*Fundamental elements of management*” approved by the Grand Prince Commander-in-Chief.

Belotserkovetz and Major-General Anucin were asked to appoint a deputy governor with a salary of 4,500 rubles, district chiefs and police chiefs in important localities. For the post of treasurer, the appointment belonged exclusively to Belotzerkovetz, but Prince Cerkassky recommended the Bulgarian Economov, whom he considered suitable for the position. The letter stated that “*locals could be used as clerks and translators*”. Moreover, the “*Fundamental elements of management*” stipulated that the governor has the right to hire “*three officials with*

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<sup>8</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 17.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 34.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 18.

*special duties*”, “*a senior with a salary of 2500 rubles and two minors with a salary of 1200 rubles*”.<sup>11</sup>

On July 9, 1877, Adjutant General Artur Adamovici Nepokoicitzsky, the Chief of Staff of the Russian Army in the South-Danube campaign, appointed several interim governors, including “*Court Counselor*” Ivan Vasilievichi Beloterkovetz in Tulcea.<sup>12</sup> He took over the post a month after Russian troops had occupied Dobrogea.

Before presenting the situation of the Russian administration, we specify that for the work performed in his career, Beloterkovetz received several decorations from Russia, the Order of “*Saint Stanislav*”, 2nd class and the Order of “*Saint Ana*”, 3rd class. From the Turkish State the “*Medgedie*” Order, 3rd class. Carol I awarded him, at the proposal of Colonel Ștefan Fălcoianu, whom he recommended because he supported the former in “*the most affable manner for the fulfillment of the mission*” in Dobrogea, the “*Cross of the Crossing of the Danube*” medal.<sup>13</sup>

We owe the only detailed presentation of the Russian administration of Dobrogea to Colonel Ștefan Falcoianu contained in the “*Report of the M.S.M. no. 121/19.X.878 regarding the results of the studies and general recognitions made in Dobrogea (The part decided by the Berlin Congress to join Romania)*”. Under the title “*The current governing system of Dobrogea*”, Falcoianu summarizes the findings from the study of the documents made available by the governor Ivan Vasilievich Beloterkovetz and the research carried out on the ground.

From the beginning, Fălcoianu states that the Russian government “*preserved with very small changes the system of government that existed before in Dobrogea*” (sic!). Practically at the head of the administration was the governor general, supported by a sub-governor and secretary, who “*manages all the affairs of the province: administration, justice s.c.l. (and the others o.n.)*”.<sup>14</sup>

The territory was divided into six districts: Sulina with Chilia department; Tulcea with Mahmudia, Isaccea, Babadag and Măcin suburbs; Medgidia with Hârșova, Cernavodă and Constanța. Mangalia was included in the Varna sandgeac, together with the southern area of Medgidia and Silistra - led by prefects with administrative and judicial powers. There is only one court in Tulcea. A “*Judicial Council*” led by the prefect was created to settle cases between citizens and oversee the collection of taxes.

At the level of the cities of residence, *the Communal Council* composed of the president and three members is organized. His main duties were to collect taxes, judge commercial cases and carry out the orders sent by the governor. Prefects were

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<sup>11</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 19.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 20.

<sup>13</sup> Apud *Dobrogea în isvoare istorice [Dobrogea in historical sources]*, p. 38.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 58.

appointed by the governor as members of the Judicial and Communal Councils. They were chosen in each county from among the notables of the city, prestigious personalities who proposed a list of 12 people to the governor. The governor chose the president and three members. The governor also appointed three honorary members. At the level of the rural communes, the administration was made up of mayors. The function was honorary, their role consisted in assessing the agricultural production and the tithe paid by each inhabitant, the data being recorded in the "răbóge" (register). He could also solve "*small misunderstandings that would arise between the inhabitants*" (sic!).<sup>15</sup>

Colonel Fălcoianu noted that order in Dobrogea was ensured by 201 gendarmes or guards, 28 sergeants, 39 mounted guards and 134 pedestrians. There was also a forest guard of 12 members, 6 in Tulcea and 6 in Babadag.<sup>16</sup>

The concrete situation of the officials of Tulcea county, in fact of Dobrogea united to Romania, is tabularly represented in the "*Booklet no. 6. The inventory of authorities and official persons in service in Tulcea district, according to the budget drawn up by the competent superior, after the approval of the governor*", part of Ștefan Fălcoianu Report.<sup>17</sup>

We will further present the structures of the Russian administration that operated in Dobrogea united to Romania by the decision of Berlin Congress in the order presented in the document.

We deduce from the table that Ivan Vasilievich Belotzerkovetz began his work as a governor on July 1, 1877, earlier than receiving the appointment, with a salary of 5687.50 rubles. Annually he appears with a salary of 22750 rubles. Nicolai Grigorevici Dascalov was appointed vice-governor. He took office on the same date with a salary of 3650 rubles. The head of the chancellery was appointed Lavrenti Ivanovich Djani, with the rank of "*city councilor*." He started the activity in 1878; the historical source does not specify the day and month, but only the salary of 2437.50 rubles.

From August 1, 1877, Teodoru Economov, advisor for works at the Russian State Authority, was employed with a salary of 1,200 rubles.

The first official with special assignments, Neodosie Venglischi, was hired on February 1, 1878 with a salary of 2031 rubles. The second official with special duties, Alexei Plotnicoff, former counselor at the Russian Consulate in Ismail, appears as an employee from August 18, 1877 with a salary of 720 rubles.

The next in the list of payroll is Alexandru Ivanov, a local, a servant with special missions, the source does not mention which, from June 1, 1878 with a salary of 720 rubles. In the scheme of officials who worked directly with the governor there were two translators for local languages, Georgi Romanovski and

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<sup>15</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 58.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 59.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 146-167.

Ivan Teodoru, a local, probably Romanian. Both were employed from January 1, 1878 with the salary of 750 rubles. From May 10, 1878, Tulcea district doctor, Geno Ianculol, a local, with a salary of 1,200 rubles, also appears in the document. In the budget, sums were provided for the smooth functioning of the governor's office: 1,500 rubles for postal fees and 3,000 rubles, the salaries of the “*writers*”, the clerks who wrote the documents. The amount of 300 rubles was provided in the budget for the purchase of a lithography.

The city of Tulcea had a Police Service, led by Anatoli Poloncov between July 17, 1877 and July 1, 1878. The monthly salary provided was 2031 rubles. The service had in its budget allocated the amount of 1200 rubles for the settlement of trips and “*extraordinary*” expenses. Secretary of the Police Service was Vasile Martinov, paid with 450 rubles. The service had an office and clerks, it is not stated how many; the budget tab provided only 450 rubles for expenses. In the structure there are 3 commissars with salaries of 550 rubles. They still had 400 rubles allocated in the chancellery for various needs.

Police officers, with the rank of sergeant, 3, and salaries of 330 rubles. Next were 2 “*guards*” paid with 220 rubles and 30 foot “*guards*” with 137.50 rubles monthly salary. In total, the budget tab provided for them amounted to 11786 rubles.<sup>18</sup>

The budget also provided for Tulcea *City Council* with salaries and the amount for the chancellery. President George Yenov was paid 990 rubles. Three members, Ivan Ceusev, Matvei Grigorov and Vasile Cranov, member and secretary, each received a salary of 660 rubles. The service had 1 notary with 330 rubles, 2 clerks, “*writers*”, with 165 rubles each, 1 “*carrier*”, his activity is not very clear, but we estimate that he could be a courier, he received 132 rubles. The maintenance of the chancellery was provided by the amount of 169.97 rubles. A total of 3931.97 rubles.

*Tulcea Judicial Court* had 8 employees: the President, Georgie Velcev with 900 rubles, 2 members paid with 660 rubles each, 1 secretary with 330 rubles, 1 notary with 165 rubles, a much lower salary than the notary of Tulcea Municipal Council. The court had 3 “*bearers*”. Chancery expenses were fixed at 169.97 rubles.

*Tulcea area*, as it appears in the document, had a head of the administrative structure, a prefect - military with the rank of “*lieutenant-colonel*”, named Neculai Haudeacof, with a salary of 2031 rubles. He also had an amount of 1200 rubles for transport and “*extraordinary expenses*”. A secretary, local, paid 650 rubles, 2 translators 450 rubles each. 900 rubles were provided for the salaries of the writers, the secretary and various office expenses. The district doctor A. Bâleacu, probably Romanian, received 650 rubles, half of what Tulcea city doctor received.<sup>19</sup> The doctor had allocated 300 rubles for travel and the procurement of medicines.

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<sup>18</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 146-148.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 148-149.

*The County Council of Tulcea* had 8 employees: the President, M. Shopov, with a salary of 990 rubles, 3 members, one of whom also held the position of secretary, with a salary of 660 rubles. The notary with 330 rubles, 2 “writers” with 165 rubles, a “carrier” with 134 rubles. The Chancellery of the County Council had a budget of 169.97 rubles.

The guard was provided by 6 sergeants on horseback, with a salary of 330 rubles. In the description of the government system of the province, Fălcoianu states that there were 9 sergeants in Tulcea district. The table shows 30 foot guards salaries of 137.28 rubles per month. In Fălcoianu’s document, 5 mounted guards and 48 pedestrians are mentioned.<sup>20</sup>

*The Area of Sulina.* The ruler of the land was an officer, “lieutenant-colonel” D. Mihail Costârco, a prefect, with a salary of 2031 rubles plus 1200 rubles for various expenses. The structure also includes the secretary paid 650 rubles, 2 translators with a salary of 450 rubles. 900 rubles went to the services of the chancellery, to the clerks who wrote the documents and servants. The deputy doctor of the area was Dr. Jindzanovschi, who also served the 31st infantry battalion. The salary was 625 rubles, and 300 rubles were allotted for transport and medicine.

*The municipal council* has the same structure as other similar institutions. President Adrian Obodenco with a salary of 900 rubles, 3 members of which 1 holds the secretariat with a salary of 660 rubles. A notary with 330 rubles per sheet. A “carrier” paid 122 rubles. The chancellery received, like the other offices, 169.97 rubles.

The police service was provided by 3 sergeants, with a salary of 231 rubles each, and 9 guards with 137.30 rubles each.

Sulina had a *Judicial Council*. The document shows only 2 members with 660 rubles remuneration, a “bearer” and the chancellery budget of 169.97 rubles. The total budget of Sulina was 13760 rubles.

Part VII of the document presents the framing of Babadag area. Major Degbi was appointed head of the administration with a salary of 2031 rubles plus 1200 for transport and special expenses. The secretary received 650 rubles, the 2 translators 450 rubles each. 900 rubles for office “expenses”, plus the salaries of the “writers” and “servants”. The local doctor, Adolf Gelbert received 625 rubles as a salary and 300 rubles for transport and medicine.

*The council of the area* was chaired by Slanco Donev with a salary of 990 rubles, 3 members with a salary of 660 rubles, 2 notaries paid with 330 rubles. A “carrier” with 132 rubles.

*The county council* was headed by president Chirilov Vasiliev with a salary of 990 rubles and 2 members with 660 rubles, 1 notary with 165 rubles. The council employed 2 “carriers” with horses for travel and a salary of 198 rubles. The chancellery had 169.97 rubles at its disposal.

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<sup>20</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 59.



The police service was provided by 7 mounted sergeants with salaries of 330 rubles, 10 mounted guards at 219.96 rubles per month, 2 foot sergeants paid with 166.20 rubles and 22 foot guards with 137.40 rubles monthly. The total amount allocated for Babadag was 21773.56 rubles.

*Chiustenge area.* The administrator of the land, Alexander I. Brandenburg, captain, was paid 2031 rubles. For transport and special expenses he received 1200 rubles. The secretary received 650 rubles, the translator 450 rubles. The same amount of 900 rubles was for the clerks, servants and other expenses incurred in the chancellery. The land doctor, Petr Petrovich, received 625 rubles and 300 rubles for medicine.

*The county council* was headed by the president Mih. Milosev. He received a salary of 990 rubles. The 3 members, of which 1 was the secretary, had a salary of 660 rubles each. The notary received 330 rubles, 2 “writers” with 165 rubles, and the chancellery received 169.97 rubles.

*The Judicial Council.* The president was Stepan Cobaecief, 2 members, 1 notary, 2 “writers”, 1 “bearer”, received the same salary as the officials of Tulcea Judicial Council.

Security and order in Constanța county, less in Medgidia, was provided by 2 mounted sergeants with 300 rubles a salary, 10 mounted guards with 240 rubles salary, 2 foot guard sergeants paid with 240 rubles and 20 guards with 180 rubles. Medgidia police consisted of 4 mounted guards with a 219.75 rubles and 8 foot guards with 137.50 rubles. The total budget allocation of Chiustenge area was 21893.40 rubles.

*Cernavodă-Hârșova area* was ruled by Colonel Alexandru Martens with 2031 rubles a month and 1200 for transport and special expenses. A secretary paid 650 rubles. The same amount of 900 rubles for chancellery officials.

*Cernavodă municipal council.* President Bogdan Mincev with 660 rubles salary, 3 members with 550 rubles each, 1 notary with 330 rubles, 1 “writer” with 165 rubles. Office expenses - 169.97 rubles.

*Cernavodă County Council* - was headed by D. Bodarev, salary 660 rubles. It had 2 members, each with a salary of 550 rubles, 1 secretary with a salary of 330 rubles, 2 “bearers” paid 132 rubles each. The chancellery had established the amount of 169.97 rubles.

The police of the Cernavodă was provided by 9 guards, 2 on horseback and 7 on foot. The mounted guards received a remuneration of 330 rubles, and the others 137.28 rubles each.

Hârșova police had only 6 guards, 2 on horseback with 330 rubles and 4 pedestrians with 137.28 rubles. Total expenses for the Cernavodă-Hârșova region – 15391.99 rubles.

The area of *Măcin*. The administrator was Major D. Neculai Marevu, paid 2031 rubles, plus 1200 for expenses. The secretary-translator received 450 rubles.

Second translator, same pay. The chancellery with its officials received 900 rubles annually. The country doctor, Neculai Todopob, 625 rubles and another 300 rubles for transport and medicine.

*The municipal council.* President C. Tonevu with a leaf of 975 rubles. The other 3 members, of which 1 was also secretary, received 660 rubles. The notary received 330 rubles, the 2 “writers” 165 rubles, the “bearer” 132 rubles, and the chancellery received 169.97 rubles.

*The County Council.* President Ștefan Vulpe and the 2 members received 660 rubles, the Secretary 330 Ruble, the official 165 rubles, and the couriers 132 rubles each. The chancellery 169.97 rubles.

Hârșova police were classified with 3 sergeants with 330 rubles each, 6 guards with 220 rubles and 18 on foot with 137.50 rubles.

Măcin area received 17566.94 rubles, and the entire administration of the Tulcea blood 149071.98 rubles.<sup>21</sup>

Other services and structures are provided in the inventory of the authorities of Tulcea:

*Tulcea Judicial-commercial Council.* The president was M. Panicerschy assisted by 2 members, paid with 660 rubles each. The secretary with 330 rubles, the notary with 165 rubles and the courier with 132 rubles. In the structure of the respective council, the training judge received a salary of 660 rubles.

*Passport Office.*<sup>22</sup> It had 1 head with salary of 821.70 rubles, 1 notary with 495 rubles. The captain of Tulcea port, G. Milea, received a 410.85 rubles.

*The customs of Tulcea* was well organized. The head of the customs, Georgi Carlovsky, received 821.70 rubles, the secretary 495 rubles, the notary 396 rubles, the second 295 rubles, and the help of the first notary 346.50 rubles. In the payroll there was the function of “price checker”, paid with 396 rubles, which controlled and appreciated the goods. The customs service had its police called “guardian”: 2 sergeants paid with 198 rubles and 14 guards with 458.40 rubles, 1 on horse with 346.50 rubles, 1 customs police with 178.20 rubles. At the Fishery of Tulcea there was a supervisor of 396 rubles, and his help, 247.50 rubles.<sup>23</sup>

*The customs stationing* was provided with sailors: 1 schiper, a small ship commander, with a salary of 237.60 rubles, 2 sailors with 178.20 rubles. A customs policeman did service at the stationary for 2247.20 rubles.

*Tulcea Municipal Council* had a taxcollector's function, dealing with the gathering of the rents from the Turks' houses, paid with 165 rubles.

*Tulcea prison* had 3 officials. The director, Dimitri Lazarov, paid with 297 rubles, and the other 2 officials with 137.50 rubles each. In total, the budget provided for Tulcea 13189.25 rubles.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 158-159.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 160-161.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 160-161.

*Isaccea area* had 2 officials. The head, Semion Sculeschy, paid with 594 rubles and the secretary with 346.50 rubles.

*Mahmudia*. The head of the area, Ispas Socolov, received 594 rubles salary and the secretary 346.50 rubles.

The forest guard had 5 employees with 294 rubles salary.

“*Customs separations*”, i.e. customs offices. At Mahmudia 1 the Customs guard paid with 346.50 rubles and 1 aid with 158.40 rubles. At Isaccea 1 customs official with 396 rubles and 2 aid with 158.40 rubles. At Chilia Veche a customs officer with 346.50 rubles and 2 aids with 158.40 rubles each.

Uzlina 1 Office had 1 customs official paid with 198 rubles. The village of Enichioi had a larger customs with 1 customs officer with 346.50 rubles and 3 helpers remunerated one with 158.40 rubles, and the others with 198 rubles.

In the village of Pardina there was 1 Customs official paid with 247.50 rubles. In the village of Valcovul Nou 1 customs officer with 346.50 rubles salary and 1 helper with 158.40 rubles. In Periprava 1 customs officer with 247.50 rubles. In Prislavu 1 customs officer with 198 rubles. At Dunavăț 1 helper with 158.40 rubles.

In total in Tulcea County the respective services had allocated 8725.20 rubles.<sup>24</sup>

In Sulina County, 1 cashier deputy and 1 police reviewer were paid with 495 rubles. The direction of the quarantine had 5 employees, of which the secretary received 660 rubles, and the other officials 165 rubles each. The Customs from Cherdeles - 1 customs officer with 445.50 rubles and 2 helpers with 198 rubles. The total for Sulina was 3150.50 rubles.

In Babadag County, there were other officials like 1 cashier with 455 rubles, the police reviewer with 455 rubles, the police secretary with 346.50 rubles. The Forest Guard had 1 sergeant-garde with 246 rubles and 4 guards with 211.20 rubles each. An official called “*supervisor of the Salt Store from Chiustenge*” (sic) received 246 rubles, and the Government cereal caretaker, 330 rubles, the measurement man received 198 rubles, and the taxcollector 330 rubles.<sup>25</sup>

The customs office was also in Sarichioi with 2 employees, 1 customs officer with 346 rubles and a guardian with 158.40 rubles.

*The police of the city of Chiustendje* also had 1 reviewer with 495 rubles, notary, passport official with 247 rubles and 1 cashier with 495 rubles.

*Constanța Customs* had 8 employees: 1 chief, Petru Ogneanov, with 495 rubles salary, his help 396 rubles, 1 notary 300 rubles and 5 aids with 264 rubles.

The direction of the quarantine was led by the captain of Port Neculai Macri paid with 821.70 rubles. It also had 3 sailors with 264 rubles salary. A collector for taxes paid with 294 rubles.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 162-163.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 164.

*Medgidia area* - chief Grigorie Bogoroș paid with 594 rubles, 1 secretary with 346.50 rubles and 1 police inspector with 487.50 rubles. Total for Constanța 6971.70 rubles.

*Cernavodă -Hârșova County*. It had 1 police inspector with 495 rubles salary and 1 secretary paid with 395 rubles.

*Cernavodă customs* had 5 employees: the head of the Customs, Angel Todonov, with 495 rubles and so-called “*guardians*”, 4, paid with 138.60 rubles.

*Hârșova customs* was led by Iordan Comburov and 2 helpers with 138.60 rubles. Măcin area also had 1 police inspector with 495 rubles and 1 secretary with 346.50 rubles.

*Customs*. In the city of Măcin the customs office had: the head of the customs, V. Volcanov, with 495 rubles salary, 4 “*guardians*” with 132 monthly rubles. In the village of Pod-Bași there was 1 customs point with 2 employees: 1 customs officer with 330 rubles and 1 helper with 132 rubles.

Azacia 2 employees, 1 customs officer with 330 rubles and the helper with 132 rubles. In the village of Pisica, also 2 employees: the customs officer received 198 rubles, and the helper 132 rubles. In the village of Luncavița the customs officer also had 198 rubles, and the helper 132 rubles. In Peceneaga was employed 1 deputy cashier to hold with 495 rubles, and the secretary received 165 rubles. Total budget for Măcin Land 4438.50 rubles.

The total budget of the Tulcea was 1878 193410.28 rubles.<sup>26</sup>

Ștefan Fălcoianu also informs us that when important decisions had to be taken at the level of the sandgeac, the governor summoned one or two notables from the communal and county councils from all districts and organized the general meeting.<sup>27</sup>

It can be concluded on the basis of the documents gathered by Colonel Ștefan Fălcoianu that a well-framed military-civil administration operated in Dobrogea. The document captures the relatively large number of customs offices, proof of the export made by the inhabitants of the region. Most officials are by names, Russians and Bulgarians. Of course, the leaders of the Administrative structures were Russian military. Also by name two Romanians can be identified. No Muslim appears as an official in the Russian administration.

Salaries were paid in rubles. It is understandable that between June 1877 and November 1878 the currency circulating in the region was the ruble.

The last assignment as a governor of Dobrogea fulfilled by Ivan Vasilievici Belotzerkovetz on the basis of the telegram transmitted by Baron Dimitri Feodorovici Stuart, diplomatic agent and general consul in Bucharest, was the fulfillment of the disposition of N.K. Ghirs by which he “*authorizes you through*

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<sup>26</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 166-167.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 106.

*me to proceed to hand over Dobrogea to the Romanian Commission chaired by Nicolae Catargi*".<sup>28</sup>

The commission for taking over Dobrogea led by Nicolae Catargi met on November 6, 1878, and on November 10 "*the appointment of the first officials began*" as they were to take various functions in Dobrogea.<sup>29</sup> On November 14, 1878, Nicolae Catargi Commission arrived in Tulcea, where he officially took the administration of the region. Basically the Russian administration ended its activity on November 23, 1878, when Remus Opreanu was installed as Prefect of Constanța.

The Romanian administration started its activity in Dobrogea on the basis of two documents approved by the Parliament, *the Regulation for the administrative division and organization* and *the Regulation of public administration on the judicial organization, the composition and procedure of the judicial authorities in Dobrogea*. The respective normative acts prepared the transition from the Russian to the Romanian administration in Dobrogea, united to Romania and the beginning of the integration process.

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<sup>28</sup> *Dobrogea în izvoare istorice noi [Dobrogea in new historical sources]*, p. 37.

<sup>29</sup> Iosif Colcer, Viorel Măgureanu, *File din istoria Dobrogei [Pages of the history of Dobrogea]*, Inspectoratul pentru cultură al județului Tulcea, 1998, p. 148.