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Agricultural Changes in Xinjiang in the Sixth Year of Guangxu's Reign from the Perspective of the Monument for Building Qarqi Canal

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Abstract The Monument for Building Qarqi Canal was inscribed in the sixth year of Guangxu's reign in the Qing Dynasty (1880). This inscription made a detailed record of the event when the Qing army expelled the invading army of Mohammad Yaqub Beg, whenever the Qing army regained a place, it immediately started recruiting exiled people, restoring agriculture, building water conservancy and did other rehabilitation works. The army of the Qing Dynasty successively established rehabilitation bureaus in various parts of southern Xinjiang to be responsible for the rehabilitation works. These once again set off a climax in the development of water conservancy in multi-ethnic areas in Xinjiang, and laid the foundation for the rapid development of agricultural development and water conservancy in Xinjiang during the Guangxu's reign in the Qing Dynasty.

Key words Monument for Building Qarqi Canal, Guangxu's reign in the Qing Dynasty, Appeasing refugees, Restoring agriculture, Building water conservancy projects

1 Introduction

After the establishment of the Qing Dynasty, the Qing government implemented the policy of reclamation for guarding the frontiers to develop agriculture in Xinjiang. In the middle and late Qing Dynasty, Khanate of Kokand officer Mohammad Yaqub Beg invaded southern Xinjiang one after another, which caused a large number of people to disperse and the fields were barren. Xinjiang is located at the intersection of Eastern and Western cultures, and has always been receiving much attention. According to records of historical documents, Xinjiang had agricultural planting very early, but due to the unique geographical environment of Xinjiang, the development of southern Xinjiang and northern Xinjiang was not kept in pace. According to records of *Biography of the Western Regions* in the 96th Volume of *History of the Former Han Dynasty*, in the Han Dynasty, there was agriculture and animal husbandry in southern Xinjiang, and the agricultural tradition was maintained until the Qing Dynasty, but the northern Xinjiang had always been dominated by animal husbandry. In the first year of Guangxu's reign, the Qing government ordered official Zuo Zongtang to regain Xinjiang. Whenever the Qing army regained a place, it immediately began to recruit and appeasing people in exile, restore agriculture, build water conservancy and did other rehabilitation works. In addition, the Qing army successively established rehabilitation bureaus in various parts of southern Xinjiang to be responsible for the rehabilitation works. The Monument for Building Qarqi Canal clearly and vividly reflected the above policies and measures.

2 Contents of the inscription

The Monument for Building Qarqi Canal is wooden monu-

ment, 2.42 m high, 0.85 m wide and 0.15 m thick. It was inscribed in the sixth year of Guangxu's reign in the Qing Dynasty (1880). It is now stored in the Museum of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The top of the monument is curved, with a relief picture of two dragons playing with a pearl. The inscriptions were engraved vertically, in regular script, with a total of sixteen lines, each line ranging from 4–36 characters. There were many points of missing in the text and there was no punctuation mark. The inscription was written by Wang Yulin, an officer stationed at Qarqi Battalion. This inscription made a detailed record of the event when the Qing army expelled the invading army of Mohammad Yaqub Beg, whenever the Qing army regained a place, it immediately started recruiting exiled people, restoring agriculture, building water conservancy and did other rehabilitation works. In addition, the Qing army successively established rehabilitation bureaus in various parts of southern Xinjiang to be responsible for the rehabilitation works.

The basic contents of the inscription are as follows: After the pacification of southern Xinjiang in the fourth year of Guangxu's reign, the first cavalry battalion led by Wang Yulin was stationed in the Qarqi area according to Zuo Zongtang's order. After the troops were stationed, Huang Yunxuan, who was in charge of the rehabilitation works of Karaqal and Korla at that time, asked Wang Yulin's army to take care of the aftermath of the Qarqi area, considering the weakness of the local people. Wang Yulin immediately set out to investigate the history and current situation of local water conservancy. Before that, the old canals dug by Marquis Yang (Yang Zengxin) in Qarqi disappeared because there were too few residents and they were not used for a long time. Wang Yulin recruited the people in exile and actively prepared the materials for farming. However, due to the serious shortage of water in the farmland, these farmers had to rely on the spring water dug be-

low the mountain for irrigation, but there was no water from the highlands for irrigation. In the fifth year of Guangxu's reign (1879), Wang Yulin decided to build the Qarqi Canal after discussing with Huang Yunxuan. The total length of the canal was 40 km, and the project volume was huge. Apart from the entire battalion of soldiers, Wang Yulin also used his own money to hire folk men and craftsmen, supplied food and paid wages every day. It took half a year to build the ditches back and forth, and this monument was erected to commemorate the event after it was completed.

3 Agricultural conditions in Xinjiang before the inscription of the monument

After the establishment of the Qing Dynasty, the Qing government always worked hard to unify the Western Regions. Kangxi pacified the Galdan rebellion, and Qianlong completely defeated the rebellions of Junggar and Yaerqiang Baishan clan Dahezhuo and Xiaohezhuo, and unified the north and south of the Tianshan Mountains. At this time, Xinjiang experienced the separatism of the Chagatai vassal kings in the Yuan Dynasty, the civil strife of Oirat during the Ming Dynasty, and the internal separatism in East Chagatai. Large areas of land and population were lost, the countryside was barren, and production was depressed. The Qing government implemented the policy of reclamation for guarding the frontiers. On the one hand, it absorbed the Uyghur farmers in southern Xinjiang to form Huitun (a policy pursued by feudal rulers since the Han Dynasty, having garrison troops open up wasteland and grow food grain), and on the other hand, it implemented the policy of emigrating and defending the border. The Qing government took various measures such as military settlements and criminal settlements to relocate green battalion soldiers, people, and criminals from the interior into Xinjiang. These measures promoted Xinjiang to accumulate a large number of agricultural populations, resulting in a sharp increase in the labor force engaged in agricultural production, opening up the situation for the reclamation of fields in Xinjiang. At the same time, the migrating population brought new varieties of crops and vegetables and planting techniques, and together with the local people, they promoted the progress of local agriculture and brought the level of agricultural development in Xinjiang to an unprecedented level. With the further development of reclamation, a large number of inland population moved westward, a large area of land in Xinjiang was reclaimed, social economy was restored, and the frontier was consolidated.

In the middle and late Qing Dynasty, Xinjiang was affected by the overall situation of the whole country, and the situation also underwent huge changes. After the Opium War, China gradually entered a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society. With the decline of the Qing government's national power, social contradictions continued to intensify, and the people's resistance struggle became increasingly intense. Especially under the continuous influence of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom Movement, the Nian Rebellion,

and the Shaanxi – Gansu Hui People's Uprising, the Qing government's defense system in the Northwest almost collapsed. The Qing government's rule over Xinjiang was also unable to do what it wanted, so that all kinds of production in Xinjiang stagnated, food and payment were cut off, and the living standards of the people deteriorated sharply. The resistance struggles in various regions also happened one after another, which finally led to the great political turmoil in Xinjiang in the 1860s. Prominent incidents such as the Changger Rebellion in South Asia and the armed invasion of Khanate of Kokand officer Mohammad Yaqub Beg occurred one after another. In the third year of Tongzhi's reign, Khanate of Kokand officer Mohammad Yaqub Beg invaded southern Xinjiang. In the eighth year of Tongzhi's reign, Mohammad Yaqub Beg sent troops to capture Urumqi, and implemented a brutal rule in southern and most parts of northern parts of Tianshan Mountains. In March of the first year of Guangxu's reign, the Qing government ordered Zuo Zongtang to mobilize and command troops and manpower from several provinces in the northwest to recover Xinjiang. At this time, the houses along the road from Karaqal to Korla were burned down. When Bai Yanhu and Bek-kuli bek, the son of Mohammad Yaqub Beg, fled westward, they forcibly robbed people along the way, causing hundreds of thousands of people to be displaced. In September of the third year of Guangxu's reign, when the Qing army recovered Karaqal and Korla, most of these places were empty and desolate. The Qing army then pursued the bandits westward, passing through Qarqi on the way. These reflect that the war caused a large number of people to disperse, and the fields were barren, which caused huge damage to the local economy and society. At this time, Xinjiang was a dilapidated and desolate scene.

4 Agricultural measures in Xinjiang at the time of engraving the monument

According to the inscription content of the Monument for Building Qarqi Canal and related documents, the measures to develop agriculture in Xinjiang at this time included the following three points.

4.1 Appeasing refugees When the Qing army expelled the invading army of Mohammad Yaqub Beg, whenever the Qing army regained a place, it immediately began to recruit the exiled people, restore agriculture, build water conservancy and did other rehabilitation works. The Monument for Building Qarqi Canal mentioned that Wang Yulin summoned the exiled people in the Qarqi area to actively carry out agricultural production. Due to years of war, the population of Xinjiang has decreased sharply. For example, when Tsarist Russia occupied Ili, the population of Ili was looted by Tsarist Russia, and a large number of families became separated. For another example, when Bai Yanhu and Bek-kuli bek, the son of Mohammad Yaqub Beg, fled westward, they forcibly robbed people along the way, causing hundreds of thousands of people to wander about homeless. A large number of laborers were displaced and had no food or clothing, which caused great difficulties for the recovery of Xinjiang's economy at that time. Therefore,

the recruitment of exiled people was the first prerequisite for solving all the problems after the war.

4.2 Restoring agriculture and building water conservancy projects According to the *Chronicles of Korla City*, Qarqi is located at the southern foot of the Tianshan Mountains and on the northeast edge of the Tarim Basin. The land in Qarqi is fertile, the climate is mild, the sunlight is sufficient, the temperature difference between day and night is large, and the frost-free period is more than 180 d. However, at that time, due to the chaos of war, everything of Qarqi area was waiting to be taken up. The Monument for Building Qarqi Canal mentioned that besides the whole battalion of soldiers, Wang Yulin used his own money to hire folk men and craftsmen, supply food and pay wages every day, hoping to repair the Qarqi canal as soon as possible and restore the agriculture. In addition, river canals were also built in Kaxkar, Yakan, Hami, Barkol, Guchengzi, Urumqi, Manas, Turpan, Karaqal, Korla and other places, and karez was also built in Turpan.

4.3 Establishing the rehabilitation bureau In the third year of Guangxu's reign (1877), after the Qing army expelled the invading army of Mohammad Yaqub Beg and recovered Xinjiang, in order to restore and develop agriculture and water conservancy, ensure the supply of food and grass for the army, and carry out various rehabilitation works, Zuo Zongtang and others set up temporary ruling institutions in various places in Xinjiang, namely, the rehabilitation bureau. The Xinjiang rehabilitation bureau was divided into a general bureau and a branch bureau. It was first established in the Northern Xinjiang Township Organ (Didao), and later expanded to Turpan and other cities in southern Xinjiang. By July of the ninth year of Guangxu's reign (1883), a total of ten rehabilitation bureaus had been established in Xinjiang. Liu Jintang took the charge of each rehabilitation bureau, so that the work of the rehabilitation bureau could be cooperated with the soldiers in the battalion. These made Xinjiang, which was dilapidated and desolate in the past, into a land of prosperity, and Xinjiang's agri-

culture and water conservancy gradually recovered and developed rapidly.

In addition to the above measures, the Qing government also implemented other policies to restore agriculture in Xinjiang. For example, Liu Jintang's *Mintun Regulations* stipulated that regardless of father and son, brothers or companions, money could be lent for farm tools, house repairs, cattle, and seeds. The conditions offered were very preferential. Basic means of living (food, housing) and means of production were provided by public loans. Even a very poor person could start labor and production as long as he borrowed from the public according to the regulations.

5 Conclusions

The Monument for Building Qarqi Canal recorded in detail that the Qing army appeased refugees in the north and south of the Tianshan Mountains, restored farmland, and established the Xinjiang rehabilitation bureau to carry out rehabilitation work, as well as Qarqi's soldiers of the Qing army repairing the canal. It reflected the situation that the soldiers and civilians of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang fought side by side to jointly develop and build frontier farmland and water conservancy, build an agricultural economy, and rebuild their homes. These once again set off a climax of developing Xinjiang, which laid the foundation for the rapid development of agricultural development and water conservancy in Xinjiang during the Guangxu's reign.

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Product Processing under the new situation, make up for the shortcomings of online teaching, and improve the quality evaluation system of online teaching, it is especially necessary to optimize the teaching content, organize the online teaching process and design the online assessment, so as to improve the teaching quality of Animal Product Processing. There is still a lot of variability in online teaching in the future, not only for Animal Product Processing, but also for other core courses of food major. It is hoped that this paper can provide some reference for online teaching of food major in colleges and universities.