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**ORGANIZATIONAL AND ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES  
OF THE ACTIVITY OF TILLING ASSOCIATION UNION IN BUKOVYNA  
«PEASANT FUND» IN THE LATE XIX- EARLY XX CENTURY  
AS THE SPREAD OF EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC KNOWLEDGE  
AMONG THE POPULATION**

This paper examines the economic activity of tilling associations union in Bukovyna «Peasant Fund» (in late XIX-early XX century), which was intended to spread education and economic knowledge among the population. The Institution was taking care of cooperation development among the peasantry. The article describes the features of the cooperative movement in Bukovyna. There are analysed features of development, problems of the union activity of tilling associations «Peasant Fund» and its influence on the economic education development in the Western Ukraine in designated period.

Peasant Fund – is the central union of Ukrainian tilling associations known as “raifaizenky” (named after F. W. Raiffeisen) in Bukovyna that was founded by S. Smal-Stotskyi in 1903 in Chernivtsi (simultaneously organizational, auditing and financial center for all kinds of Ukrainian cooperation in Bukovyna. The leaders of this association were L.Kohut, then O.Lutskyi. In 1912 the Peasant Fund brought together 174 cooperatives, including 159 Unions of thrift and loans of Raiffeisen system, 11 consumer’s, 2 milk and 2 different ones; around 20000 members. The Peasant Fund issued, except their authorities “Visnyk Soiuzu” (“Bulletin of the Union”), (1903-1907) and biweekly “Narodne Bohatstvo” («National Wealth») (1908-1910), a series of brochures and books on cooperative and educational topics.

Over the economic crisis in 1914 the Peasant Fund has fallen under the leadership of the Regional bank. Transformed by Romanian occupation on the promotional union «North Bukovyna bank» (1924), the Peasant Fund has lost its public function. The study topic is relevant, because it gives an opportunity to analyze economic activity of union of tilling associations in Bukovyna «Peasant Fund» in late XIX – early XX century. In scientific work there is reflected the issue of economic society development in outlined period and deliberate attempts of the society to spread economic knowledge in the region among the community. The limited scope of this article does not exhaust all of the economic activity of society’s union of tilling associations «Peasant Fund» in late XIX – early XX century and spread of economic knowledge in society, but the author thought it necessary to focus precisely on indicated issue. It analyzes the economic union activities of tilling associations «Peasant Fund» and its influence on the development of economic education in western Ukraine in designated period, researches structural components of the institutionalization regarding organization of entrepreneurship activity of society and characterizes the main stages of its operating in western Ukraine lands in the late XIX – early XX century and traceability of general trends and features of influence of economic education on economic life and economic knowledge among the population.