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SOURCE Vatan.

SURVEY OF TURKEY'S TRABZON PROVINCE

The following is one of a series of surveys of Turkish provinces published in a special weekly supplement of the Istanbul daily newspaper Vatan.

General

Trabzon Province has a surface area of 4,541 square kilometers. The east-west Northern Anatolia Mountains encircles the area as far as Harsit, with narrow deep valleys extending to the coast between ridges which rise up to 3,000 meters. The cultivated area is located on these ridges at an elevation of 1,000 to 2,000 meters. The higher ground constitutes the pastures and plateaus. The approximately 600 villages are located here. The most important peaks are Zigana, Kolat, Cakil, Gol, Karakaban, Ziyaret, Pulat, Soganli, and Haldizen. The important plateaus are Beypinari, Karadag, Harman, Tepecik, Sultanmurat, and Mescit. The main streams are Baltaci, Solakli, Humurgan, Karadere, Yanbolu, Dirana, Degirmendere, Sera, Kalanima, Fal, Camlik, and Akhisar. Flow is heaviest in the winter; there are many small streams which dry up completely in summer.

The climate is moderate in summer and cool and rainy in the winter. The weather resembles that of the Mediterranean area, except for a greater humidity. Rainfall is about 1,041 millimeters a year; rain falls about 159 days out of the year. Enough rain falls in the summer months to produce abundant crops.

Education

There are primary schools in 236 of the province's 585 villages. Of these, about 20 are located in a central position so as to serve from five to six villages each. Also, 23 new schools are scheduled to be built in 1952 - 1953 in villages not now possessing them. Of the province's 35,780 children of school age, 24,036 are attending school. The province's teaching staff numbers 611, i.e., 450 in primary schools and 161 in secondary and other schools.

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In Trabzon itself, there are 12 primary schools, a lycee, a commercial lycee, a teachers school, a girls secondary school, a men's trade institute, a girls trade institute, and a girls evening trade school.

In addition there are secondary schools in Akcaabat, Surmene, Of, and Vakfikebir district centers, and a village institute is located on the Black Sea shore in the Besikduzu Subdistrict of Vakfikebir District, with an enrollment of 565. The institute is reported to be in the process of liquidation. The present students, all male, will be assigned to other institutes, while the present establishment will be converted into a girls village institute whose students will come from 164 different districts in 26 provinces.

Health

The principal health problem is tuberculosis, caused by the low living standards. Second comes intestinal troubles such as hookworm. Malaria has been almost eradicated.

The 350-bed Trabzon Model Hospital is the best in eastern Turkey and serves not only Trabzon but also the neighboring provinces. There is also a 60-bed tuberculosis hospital in Trabzon. Construction is now under way on a 1,000-bed tuberculosis hospital. This year, a nurses school will be opened at the Model Hospital.

There are dispensaries in Akcaabat, Surmene, Vakfikebir, Of, and Macka; construction has begun on health centers in Vakfikebir and Of.

Public Works

In 1951, the Ministry of Public Works spent 120,000 lira to bring potable water to 61 villages. Funds in 1952 were 400,000 lira for 100 villages.

Government appropriations for village roads were 100,000 lira in 1950, 220,000 lira in 1951, and 405,000 lira in 1952.

The 1952 road program calls for building or completing the following roads: Oksu-Suva; Suva-Ile, Oksu-Zangariya, Zafanos-Kavala, Kavala-Komera, Hos-Hosmesaloz, and Macka-Larhan. Also, with 380,000 lira from the Public Works Ministry and 31,000 lira from the provincial budget, work is continuing on the widening, stabilizing, and construction of bridges, culverts, and retaining walls on the following roads: Surmene-Koprubasi, Of-Hayrat, Karadere-Bifera, Serasor-Derecik, and Besikduzu-Salpezari.

Trabzon Municipality

In 1952, the city had a budget of 772,544 lira, plus a 503,000-lira annexed budget for the water and electric administrations. The water system was completed in 1941; water is pumped 5 kilometers from three wells at a place called Degirmendere. The electrical system was completed in 1929. The power is brought to the city by a 20-kilometer transmission line from a hydroelectric plant at Visera. Increasing power demands have led to studies of the possibility of building another plant.

Currently, the city has a project to construct about 200 medium-priced houses at a total cost of 170,000 lira.

The city has a total of 72 kilometers of streets; the 1952 budget includes 51,716 lira for paving.

Handicrafts in Trabzon include hand-loom weaving, goldsmithing, and copper-smithing.

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At one time Trabzon was an important commercial center, but it has declined considerably. The completion of the Trabzon-Iranian transit highway was expected to bring great expansion, this, in large part, has failed to materialize because of (1) lack of a good harbor; (2) customs difficulties; and (3) absence of the necessary commercial organization. Now that a port has been built, expansion is expected to begin. For example, Cumhuriyet Odabasoglu, a director of the Altamisort Transport and Warehouse Company, established by Sirri Altamisort, signed an agreement with certain Iranian companies on 11 March 1952 for the handling of about 50,000 tons of goods over the transit highway.

The town and province contain many tourist attractions, but as yet, there are no suitable hotel accommodations. There are 32 hotels in the town, of which only two are at all suitable for tourists. The city is now taking steps to build a 400,000-lira municipal hotel. Another tourist attraction is the mineral springs; that of Kisarna is reputedly the best in Turkey, and its waters are bottled and sold throughout the country.

Other economic developments include a fertilizer factory planned by the Eti Bank, a tile and brick factory built by a company operated by Ekrem Ongan and his family, and a cement factory being built by Nejat Ongan.

Akcaabat District

Akcaabat, formerly known as Pulathane, is the province's largest and richest district. There are 88 villages in the district.

Tobacco forms the main crop of 77 villages; annual production is 3,200,000 kilograms. To obtain good crops, fertilizer must be used; and at present, the area uses more fertilizer than any other area in Turkey. Olives are also grown; annual production is about 400 tons. At present, the number of trees is only about one fourth of that 50 years ago, as the result of frequent fires. Other agricultural products include corn, potatoes, wheat, beans, barley, garlic, rye, chick-peas, hazelnuts, cherries, plums, apples, pears, walnuts, quinces, chestnuts, figs, oranges, lemons, and mandarin oranges. Truck farming also is important, producing string beans, cabbage, leek, spinach, eggplant, okra, cucumbers, onions, squash, tomatoes, melons, and watermelons.

Before construction began on the port of Trabzon, Akcaabat was considered the safest Black Sea port east of Sinop, being sheltered from all winds except those from the north, northwest, and northeast. Up to now, no ship has ever been known to sink or run aground there. It is large enough to shelter 50 freighters. There is an iron wharf built 14 years ago by the municipality.

There are two primary schools and a secondary school in the district center, and primary schools in most of the district's villages.

The town of Akcaabat is divided into three quarters: Durbinar, Orta, and Nefsipulathane. It has a sufficient water and electric supply.

Two prominent contemporary natives of Akcaabat are Hasan Suka, former premier, and Faik Ahmet Barutcu, former deputy premier and present PRP deputy for Trabzon.

Of District

The district contains 80 villages, but each is so spread out that it can be said that every part of the district is inhabited. There are primary schools in 30 of the villages, and a primary and a secondary school in the district center.

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The living standard of the people is relatively high; homes are attractive and well kept, and even in the villages many radios and fancy lamps are to be found.

The poorer section of the populace has long been in the habit of emigrating. At present, many have applied to the land distribution committee in Samsun and Mus.

Cattle-raising is an important occupation; there are about 30,000 head of cattle in the district. About 4 million liras' worth of hazelnuts are grown annually. Some beans, butter, and fruit are exported. Two thirds of the district's corn needs are fitted locally. The area has just been given permission to grow tea, and a small tea factory is expected to be built, since shipping the crop to Rize would be impractical.

Some weaving is done in the district, mostly of towels, undershirts, sheets, etc.

Of District is noted as a source of men of religion and merchants. The old madrasah system of education still continues in Of: a school run by Haci Dur-sun Guvali has about 300 students from all over the country. Merchants born in Of are to be found all over the country, especially in the textile business.

Surmene District

The district contains 85 villages, about 30 of which have primary schools. There is also a primary and a secondary school in the district center.

The people of Surmene have long been known as seafaring people. Sixty years ago, most of the trade between the Black Sea area and Russia, Rumania, and the Mediterranean was carried in sailing ships made in Surmene and having Surmene as their home port. Fishing is still an important occupation; fish are caught primarily not for food but for the fish-oil industry.

Tea growing has just begun in the district. The government is conducting tests on 5,000 donums, while private enterprise has devoted 500 donums to the growing of tea.

The last census indicated that about 25,000 natives of Surmene have emigrated to find work elsewhere as merchants, sailors, workers, and craftsmen. It is estimated that they send back to Surmene about 1.5 million lira annually.

Vakfikebir District

The district, which includes 135 villages, is known primarily for its butter, of which 300,000 kilograms are exported annually. The next most important product is hazelnuts with an annual crop of 3 million kilograms. Other important crops are corn and tobacco.

A major source of income for the district is an estimated 50,000 lira a month, which is sent back to families by persons who have gone elsewhere to find work, especially to the coal-mining area.

There is one primary and one secondary school in the district center, and primary schools in only 39 of the 135 villages.

The town of Vakfikebir has an annual budget of only 35,000 lira and must borrow from the Provinces Bank from time to time. The electric supply is insufficient. Water is now obtained from springs and fountains; measures are now being taken toward the construction of a new water-supply system.

Land disputes between villages of the Vakfikebir and Akcaabat districts are frequent.

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