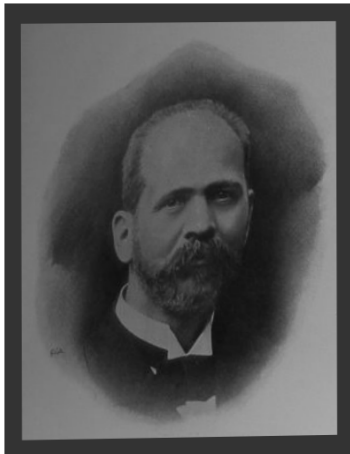


*Czesław Domański\**

### **JÓZEF KLECZYŃSKI (1841–1900)**

In 2011 exactly 170 years passed since the birth of Józef Kleczyński – a distinguished scholar, a professor of statistics and administrative law, and the founder and head of the Municipal Statistical Office in Cracow.



Kleczyński was born on 27 of October, 1841 in Ichnatow, in Podolia Province, and died on 21 September, 1900 in Zakopane.

He commenced his university education in 1862 at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Main School in Warsaw but he managed to complete only the first semester of his studies. Like most of his patriotic contemporaries he took part in the national uprising which broke out in January 1863. In May the following year Kleczyński decided to emigrate from Poland– he first went to France and then to Germany. In Heidelberg he took up studies at the local University, where in 1867 he was conferred a doctor's degree. Two years later he returned to Poland and settled in Cracow. In 1875 he moved to Lvov and started working for the National Statistical Office. Throughout that time he was an active publicist and wrote numerous articles in the field of socio-economic statistics and statistical research organization which were published in various periodicals e.g. "Statistical News on National Issues". In 1880 he qualified himself as an assistant professor of statistics at the University of Lvov and became head of Chair of Law, Administration and Statistics. Next year he left Lvov due to his appointment for the post of associate professor of statistics and administrative law at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow.

In the initial period of his Cracow years he was the co-editor of a respected periodical called "The Polish Review", as well as the founder and head of the Municipal Statistical Office functioning since 1884.

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In the year 1887 Józef Kleczyński became a full professor, and 11 years later the President of the Jagiellonian University. In 1891 he was elected a member of the International Statistical Institute and a corresponding member of the Cracow Academy of Science and the Central Statistical Commission in Vienna. As mentioned above, professor Kleczyński's scientific and journalistic activities were extremely varied, and many of his publications were devoted to socio-economic issues and problems of organization and functioning of national and international statistical bodies.

However, the core of his writings was related to the history of Polish statistics. The most important of his works include: „Über die Berechnung der Bevölkerung zwischenden zahlungs – Periodem” (“On Calculation of Population Number between Censuses”), (1879), „Statistics Organization in Austria”(1883), „Municipal Statistical Offices ” (1884 ). It is worth mentioning here that statistical yearbooks called „ Statistics of the City of Cracow” were published on Kleczyński's initiative and under his editorial guidance. In the years 1887–1900 six such yearbooks that provided data on population movement, municipal housing, city sewage systems, education, finances and religion were published by the Municipal Statistical Office.

In the aforementioned study entitled „On Calculation of Population Number between Censuses” Kleczyński considers possibilities of calculating population number between two censuses if such censuses were conducted in short periods of time e.g. four years. According to the author in case when censuses are held in short, four- year periods, it is sufficient to take into account changes resulting from number of births and number of deaths. On the other hand, when censuses are conducted less frequently e.g. in ten-year intervals then it is necessary to include population growth rate and migration processes. In this case the calculation method is as follows: one should start with comparing the results of two consecutive censuses. The arising difference constitutes either population growth or population loss. Then the obtained result should be compared with population growth rate in the same period of time. The numbers will enable to calculate two growth indexes: one for the real increase in population between the two censuses, and the other – for increase in population under the assumption that migration did not occur. If the increase calculated on the basis of census data is higher than population growth rate than the difference is a positive migration balance; if, on the other hand, it is lower – then the obtained number would indicate a negative migration balance in the period between the censuses.

Kleczyński devoted a lot of time and effort to setting up various statistical institutions in Poland and promoted international cooperation in writing and publishing statistical studies. He voiced his opinions in the work entitled “Municipal Statistical Offices” (1884). According to the author “Statistical offices can be compared to laboratories where various connections and interplay be-

tween social phenomena are studied”. And elsewhere: „...If statistics is assumed to be a new science, then establishment of separate offices for data collection is even newer, and similar municipal institutions are the newest”.

In 1885 Kleczyński published in the columns of “The Polish Review” an extensive article entitled „International Statistical Institute” which was the first study in Polish devoted to the Institute. In the article he proposed that an international statistical institution, official in character, be established. His idea was put into practice after nearly 100 years. In close co-operation with International Statistical Institute a new body was set up – the International Statistical Bureau – an organ of the United Nations.

Kleczyński’s interests are reflected in yet another type of his writings, mainly based on source materials – the ones related to reconstruction of Poland’s past. In one of the first studies of that kind entitled “Population Censuses in the Republic of Poland” he examined demographic problems against the historical background. He stressed the fact that thanks to first population censuses it was possible to define the population structure by sex, occupation and social background.

The works of Kleczyński have undoubtedly contributed to the development of the Polish statistical thought. He emphasized the importance of statistics saying that: “There is a need for every specialist or a statesman to employ data collected by statisticians” .

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