A C T A U N I V E R S I T A T I S L O D Z I E N S I S FOLIA OECONOMICA 286, 2013

Czesław Domański*

RAJMUND BUŁAWSKI – THE FOUNDER OF THE ŚLĄSKO-DĄBROWSKI DEPARTMENT OF THE POLISH STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

Rajmund Buławski was born on the 30th August 1892 in Rogoźno, now known as obornicki county. He graduated from the middle school in 1912 in Wagrowiec. From 1912 till 1916 he was studying at the faculties of Law of the



universities of Leipzig, Berlin and Göttingen. In 1918 he obtained his Ph.D. degree. At the beginning of the World War II in 1939, he moved to Cracow, where was working till the end of war as the Deputy Director of the Municipal Statistical Office. He completed his habilitation at the University of Poznan in 1945, where he later lectured as an assistant professor.

Buławski started his professional career in 1916 in the People's Bank (Bank Ludowy) in Wieleń. Then he worked respectively in the county Department of Statistics in Złoczów (1917-1918), the Department of Basic Goods Supply and the Statistical Office in Prussian district in Poznań (1920-1921). He was cooperating with Stefan

Koźlikowski for a while, he edited economic statistics section of "Statistical News" in Poznań, which covered data for the Prussian district at the time. At the end of 1921, he started his work for the Central Statistical Office in Warsaw, where in 1922 he became the Chief of the Census Department and from 1931 as the Director and the General Commissioner of the Census, he was responsible for the Census Bureau. He also analyzed the results of population census in 1921 and supervised data analysts in 1931.

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He published two major papers on the census 1921 problems, entitled respectively *The organization and techniques of the elaboration of the first Polish census of the 30th September 1921*, which was published in *Quarterly Statistics* in 1930, vol. 2 and *On the occupation census conducted simultaneously with the population census of the 30th June 1921* published in *Statistics Monthly* magazine in 1923, no. 1.

In the first of the mentioned above papers, he presented his opinion at the time knowledge that concerned the relevance and importance of such a wide research. His analysis of these problems and his proposals related to the effects of censuses conducted, remain actual issues.

The statistical elaboration technique problem in the professional literature is often discussed. Many statistical handbooks authors consider this issue and present various approaches. But very rarely publications containing more than a general description of different techniques, with discussion on their specific advantages and disadvantages, can be found. Moreover, usually authors just present only the general conditions set for the discussed methods and no specific guidance necessary for the practical studies is provided.

However, the problem of the organizational practical work aspects is worse to the already mentioned ones. These issues have not been discussed yet, but many questions arise for the each teamwork and in practice at least partially answers should be found, for example at the population census time. It is ineffectual to search any reflections on the best working system, which can be used for the most effective statistical study, on the control of work systems, on the factors influencing the productivity and work quality, as well as the methods of the productivity and quality improving, on the bureau organization as a whole and its departments individually, on the recruiting employees and their training, on the optimal external work conditions (office buildings, lights, temperature, etc.), on the ways of the employees presence and absence control, on the statistics archive organization, etc. And, whoever witnessed or experienced any large statistical study, can admit that the mentioned problems are crucial for it and must be solved effectively as are the main determinants of the time and costs of the whole statistical activity.

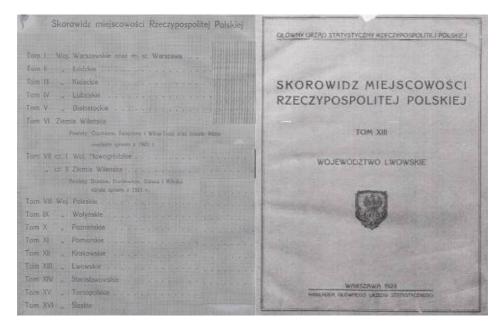
The organizational work, which is responsible and important, is generally considered to be less valued one. Therefore, because of this reason it is usually given to the lower hierarchy employees, that usually fulfill the tasks very well, but do not feel the need of the work critical analysis and usually do not see the necessity to report in print all observed problems and experiences. All statisticians - scientists, on both managerial and subordinate positions, when given less scientific but more organizational or technical duties, do not feel comfortable with it and treat it as a lower importance work. However, they do not pay less attention to this work, usually try to fulfill their duties immediately and proceed the scientific work again, such as analysis of the gained data for an example.

Regarding the mental work with a more or less mechanized profile, there is no other office that would be more appropriate than the Statistical Office to conduct research in an organization. All conditions in the office are so arranged, that the initiation of study methods characteristic for the scientific organizations work, especially the schedule, is necessary and additionally it provides relatively low costs. The profit which scientific organization makes in the Statistical Office can be high, because in addition to the regular work that takes place accordingly to the adopted long term-plan, from time to time some specific work is performed, which usually must be completed in a relatively short period, where at the same time must face all stages of the study organization. According to Chatelier these stages are as follows:

- 1) specify the aim
- 2) study on methods and operational conditions
- 3) preparation of the activity methods identified as necessary,
- 4) perform all actions accordingly to the plan
- 5) control of the obtained results.

Buławski was the editor of *The Index of Polish Cites*, the books were published by the Central Statistical Office between 1923 and 1926, and altogether 15 volumes came out. It must be emphasized that this work was based on the census of 1921 information and data was provided for every single, even the smallest village, the exact numbers on houses and population (by gender, religion and nationality) were delivered.

The Tables below present the titles of the individual volumes (by voivode-ship) and a Table of contents for a chosen Index:



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Also, it is interesting to present some pieces of information on the city of Lviv and the two cities located in the Lviv Voivodeship area: Jaryczów and Szczerzec (see the Table below).

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At the same time when Buławski was working in the Central Statistical Office, he published several scientific papers, related mainly to the occupational, social and national statistics. From his works, the following 3 papers should be mentioned as the most important ones: *The population occupational composition in Poland*, publicized in Industry and Commerce in 1927, no. 1; *The population number and its growth in Poland*, publicized in The Paper of the Administration and the National Police in 1926, no. 37-38; *The population density in Poland*, publicized in The Paper of the Administration and the National Police in 1927, no. 9.

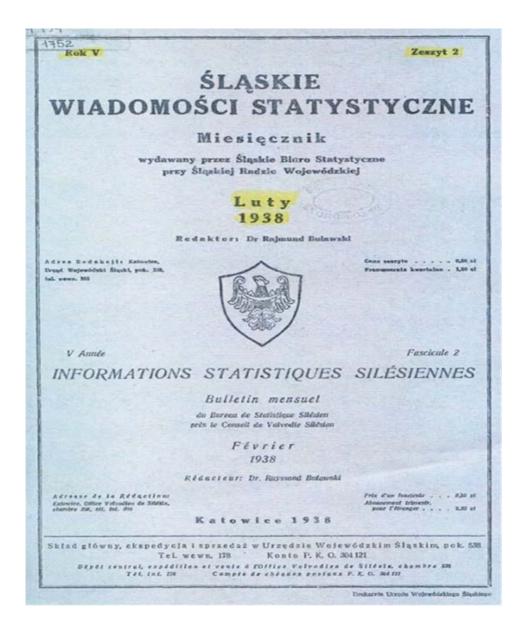
In 1931, as the General Census Commissioner he conducted the second population census and published several papers, mainly based on the census methodology and the obtained results. In 1929, in Poznan at the Universal Exhibition in Government Pavilion Rajmund Buławski prepared a special section dedicated to statistics, which enjoyed a wide interest. In July 1933 he quitted his job in the Central Statistical Office, and he moved to Katowice to organize the local Statistical Office in this town. The Statistical Office in Katowice was in the thirties, when he held the director position, next to the Central Statistical Office, the most important statistical section in Poland. In 1933, he became the editor of monthly magazine *Silesian Statistical News*, he also was responsible for the organizational side. He kept his duties till 1939. At that time he also published several papers in various scientific journals, for example *On the ideal agricultural population density in Poland* (1937) or *On about 8.8 million "unnecessary" agricultural population in Poland* (1936), where he argued about the overcrowding in agriculture with Juliusz Poniatowski.

The table of contents of the *Silesian Statistical News* magazine and its first page, which shows the "economic status" in Silesia Voivodeship (in charts), are presented below.

From 1937, he held the position of the Deputy Director of the College of Social and Economic Sciences in Katowice and he lectured statistics. In 1938 he was nominated to the function of the Faculty of Public Administration Dean. On the basis of his teaching work, he prepared a script for students in two volumes: *Vol. 1. Theoretical Statistics. Concepts, fields, the history and organization of Statistics* in 1938, and *Vol. 2. The methodology of statistical investigations* in 1939.

At the beginning of 1936, the proposed a project of the separation of Statistics Section from the Society of Polish Economists and Statisticians and he postulated the reactivation of a nationwide organization of statisticians – the Polish Statistical Association. The Association started its operations in 1912 and was operating successfully. In 1937 in Warsaw and a few large cities like Lviv, Vilnius and Sopot the Association formally resumed its creative and popularization work. In Katowice, Buławski founded the Katowicko- Dąbrowski Department of the Polish Statistical Association and became its first chairman. The department worked on important issues and many at the time economic problems. It is worth

mentioning the discussion on the Wiktor Ormicki paper presented at the third scientific meeting of the Katowicko- Dąbrowski Department of the Polish Statistical Association, which was held on the 24th November 1938 *The Silesia division into counties* (see Table *Statistical Review*, Vol. II, No. 1).



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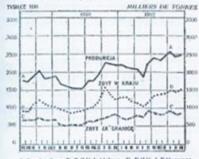
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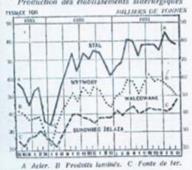
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Produkcja i zbyt wegla kamiennego Production et debit de houille



A Production. Il Débit intérieur. C Débit à l'étranger.

Produkcja hut želaza Production des établissements sidérurgiques

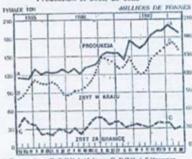


Przeciętne zarobki miesięczne calkowite robotników



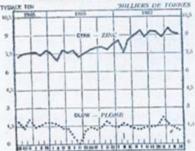
A Établissements sidérargiques. Il Usines de zine et de plonib. C Mines de houille.

Produkcja i zbyt koksu Production et débit de coke

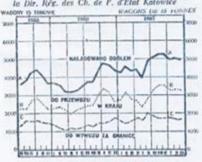


A Production. B Débit intérieur. C Débit à l'étranger.

Produkcja cynku i olowiu Production de zinc et de plomb



Przeciętne dzienne naladowanie wagosów w D. O. K. P. Katowice Nombre moyen de wegons chargés per jour dans la Dir. Rég. des Ch. de F. d'État Katowice



A Chargements-total, B Transport dans le pays.
C Exportation.

Regiony geograficzno-gospodarcze w Polsce południowo-zachodniej

REGION	Powierz- chnia km²	Gęstość zalud- nienia b) (1931)	Ludność rolnicza w % ogółu zaludnie- nia	Użytki rolne w % pow. ogólnej rolny (wieś)		
	and the same of the			(w	ies)	
Ogółem	8488.54	270.14	12.65	58.86	77.71	
Karpaty	2074.68	154.80	28,03	57.44	67.01	
Beskidy	1380,10	109.13	56,37	50,89	60,46	
Pogórze	694,58	245.54	21,57	72,06	77,31	
Nizina	2032.94	181.10	27.55	64.37	76.56	
Wschodnia	1271.06	148,28	33,58	59.68	73.30	
Zachodnia	761,88	235,84	22.67	72,42	81,15	
Wyżyna StMalop.	4380.92	366,08	4.98	56.87	71.40	
Obszar przemysł	734,38	1423,26	1,30	57.31	79,61	
Obszar okolny	1027.41	163,46	16.54	56,59	72,03	
Obszar przejśc. a) .	1337,13	110,31	42,77	52,15	68.08	
Wyżyna Małopolska	1282,00	189,60		61.37	70,70	

DECLON	W odsetkach gruntów ornych małej własności (1932):											
REGION	Zbożo- we	Oko- powe	Strącz- kowe		Przemy- słowe	Ugór						
Ogólem	58.91	27.39	0,14	9.71	0.05	3.80						
Karpaty	54.91	23.79	0.16	18.01	0.16	2.97						
Beskidy	53,25	25.03	0,03	17.87	0.25	3,57						
Pogórze	58.06	21.44	0,40	18.27	- 1	1,83						
Nizina	59.71	28.37	0.14	8,53	-	3.25						
Wschodnia	59.18	28.70	0.16	8,87	-	3,09						
Zachodnia	60,44	27,90	0.10	8,06	0.01	3,49						
Wyżyna ŚlMalop	60.73	28,85	0.14	5.74	0,02	4.52						
Obszar przemysłowy .	53.96	39,86	0.01	3.20	0.02	2,95						
Obszar okolny	58.36	30,68	0.23	4,33	-	6.40						
Obszar przejściowy	60.78	29.35	0.41	8.79	-	0.67						
Wyżyna Małopolska .	65,38	22.82	0.11	7,20	0,03	4,46						

Uwagi: Obszar objęty badaniem sięga na północ poza równoleżnik Częstochowy, na wschód zaś po południk Andrychowa; nie obejmuje on natomiast ostatnich rewindykacji terytorislnych. Wszystkie obliczenia podane w tablicy dotyczą calego obszaru. Jedyny wyjatek stanowią obliczenia struktury zawodowej (kolumna pod nagłówkiem ludność rolnicza w % ogólu zaludnienia), które odnoszą alę wyłącznie do województwa śląskiego w granicach z r. 1931.

a) Jest to obszar polożony pomiędzy wyżyną Śląską a Malopolską.
b) Obliczenia gęstości zaludujenia obejmują ludność miast i wsi razem.

Rajmund Buławski's voice in this discussion looked as follows:

The problem of dividing the Country into the economic regions is still valid, because the administrative division, which is usually taken as the basis for the statistical studies, only in the small part includes economic and social conditions of this area. From this point of view, it must be considered as artificial. If we managed to fix economic regions that were widely accepted, our statistical re-

search would benefit in many cases, would become more valuable, because it could be based on a better division, like a natural system rather than the administrative division. The conclusion of this data on the economic areas in the statistical studies, allows us not only to emphasize the structural differences between the various parts of Poland, but also allows to illustrate more effectively the territorial distribution of various economic, social, demographic and cultural phenomena and to examine their relationships to the geographical factor. The Speaker's research about Silesia economic division on the methodology level represents great progress, compared to the previous work of this topic. This caused that the Speaker was not limited only to the use of materials, which provide statistics but tried to characterize the studied area based on geographical and natural factors. The division compatibility conducted on the basis of the economic moments and physiographic division, seems to confirm the validity of the chosen method. Also, it shows that the problem of the country's division into economic regions cannot be solved only by statistical methods but some geographical issues are very important as well. The choice of statistical material used in the paper may meet with some reservations. Moreover, the problem omitted by the Speaker of the territorial distribution of industries particularly mining and steel, which play such a vital role in the economic life of Silesia, may cause criticisms.

At the beginning of the World War II he moved back to Cracow, where till the end of the war he worked as the Deputy Director of the Municipal Statistical Office. After the liberation in 1945 Buławski organized in Cracow the Scientific Council sessions dedicated to the problems of the recovered territories. He presented several papers on this issue, including On problems with Regained Lands), On problems of the Germans with the Polish origin and The Municipality teams as the vanguard of the agricultural settlement. His main activity was focused on the Polish Statistical Association work. The first organizational meeting of the Association members was held on the 22nd April 1947 in Warsaw. The meeting was started by professor Stefan Szulc who communicated that the President of the capital city Warsaw approved the statute of the Association on the 5th March 1947. At the constitutional meeting on 15th June 1947, Rajmund Buławski was elected as a member to the Council of Polish Statistical Association. In 1947 he prepared for print but did not manage to publish three methodological papers: On the nature of Statistics, The statistical communities, The Statistics of the social life in the system of sciences. These three studies were published in a single volume by the Central Statistical Office in 1960.

He died in Krakow on the 19th December 1947.

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