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Reasons for Refusing Employees of Civil Institutions of the Kaluga Gubernia in Receiving Class Ranks in 1849–54: Based on Materials of Short Records of Service

Abstract

In the article draws on the complex of short records of service of officials and clerical servants of various departments revealed in the State Archive of the Kaluga Region and introduced into scientific use, to establish reasons for refusing local government officials in receiving class

ranks. It is to be noted that during the reign of Nicholas I, when producing class ranks, it was necessary to take into account not only the length of service in the previous rank, but also to maintain strict adherence to other legislative norms: i.e. correspondence of rank to class of the position held, positive review of the superiors, correct compilation and timely submission of the award documentation. Analysis of retrospective information contained in short records of the employees of gubernia, uезд, and town institutions reveals real reasons for rejecting petitions for awarding class ranks to the employees of the Kaluga institutions in 1849–54. For the most part, it was due to failure to comply with elementary rules of clerical work: not including all necessary information in formal and short records, incorrect paperwork. It was also in no small part due to violation of established deadlines for receiving official documents from the employees themselves or to absence of some documents. The study has registered no cases of refusal of requests for promotion to class rank bypassing the most important requirement of the legislator – production to the rank according to the class of position. The author believes that the heads of institutions, prior to allowing the awarding of employees with class rank, established how it would correspond to the class of their post and whether or not it would conflict with the current rules. It may be concluded that the legislation of Nicholas I in rank promotion in the daily practice of local institutions in the late 1840s – first half of the 1850s was well observed, reasoning from formal documentary and partly legal requirements, without taking into account other factors that played an important role in this case.

### Keywords

Historical sources, short records of service, civil ranks promotion, law, length of service, servants of local institutions, documents about promotion in class ranks.

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