

# On the Implementation of Local Revitalization on the Revival of Abandoned Cooking Stoves by Zhang Jian and the Archives of Dashan Enterprises

Zhuxi Liu and Xiangwei Sun\*

College of humanities, Sichuan University of Science & Engineering, Sichuan, 643000, China.

\* Corresponding Author

## Abstract

In order to change the local single salt industry structure and solve the livelihood of the stove people, Zhang Jian took the lead in establishing Tonghai Animal Husbandry and Animal Husbandry Company in the early 20th century. This kicked off the prelude to the salt reclamation industry in Huainan, and since then remarkable progress has been made in water conservancy construction, salt production, social undertakings and social autonomy.

## Keywords

Reclamation of abandoned stoves, Local revitalization, Zhang Jian, Dasheng enterprise archives.

## 1. Introduction

Zhang Jian (1853-1926), character Jizhi, late name Si'an, won the imperial examination in 1894, was awarded the Hanlin Academy to cultivate, returned to his hometown after the Sino-Japanese War to organize the Dasheng Yarn Factory, established the Tonghai Reclamation and Animal Husbandry Company, advocated the construction of Tonghai Five Public Middle Schools (now Nantong Middle School), successfully transformed into a famous industrialist and educator in modern China, and Nantong has also become one of the more developed areas of modern China's national capitalist industry. In recent years, there have been dozens of manuscripts on the two Huai Salt Courses in the "Zhang Jian and Dasheng Enterprise Archives", which provides us with a new perspective for studying Zhang Jian's "reclamation of waste stoves" and the implementation of local revitalization in northern Jiangsu.

## 2. The use of waste stoves to revive the land, to suppress the resistance of the people

The Lianghuai salt area has long been a traditional salt-making area in China. In particular, the salt area of Huainan in northern Jiangsu, where Yancheng is located, had "the Rao of Sea Salt" as early as the Han Dynasty, and during the reign of Emperor Wudi of Han, the imperial court set up the Yandu (Jin changed to Yancheng County) salt and iron official office. In the first year of Tang Baoying, Huainan set up Hailing and Yancheng supervisors, specializing in the production and purchase of salt. During the reign of Emperor Zhenzong of Song, the Huainan salt plant belonged to the Lifeng supervisor of Tongzhou, the supervision of Hailing in Taizhou, and the supervision of Yancheng in Chuzhou, with an annual salt output of 78.1 million jin. After the Southern Song Dynasty, the Yellow River seized Huai and entered the sea through the territory of northern Jiangsu, causing a large amount of siltation, the sea was expanding day by day, the tide did not cause the sea to move east, the brine gradually faded, and the salt production pavilion in the west of the Fan Gong Dike was abandoned or moved east, and the

output of the field stove was greatly reduced. Especially since the Qing Dynasty, with the continuous expansion of beaches, it is gradually difficult to irrigate seawater, and the salt production has been seriously affected by the salt production in the past.

With the rapid decline of the salt industry in Huainan in modern times, the chain reaction is the rapid loss and flight of the people. In order to make a living, coastal stove people have privately "reclaimed the stove". Zhang Jian's establishment of the Dasheng Mill also required extensive cotton planting to replenish the raw materials needed by the mill, so he founded the Tonghai Reclamation Company and began the experiment of "reclamation from waste stoves".

The Nantong City Archives now holds Guangxu 26 (1900) to read the "Cabinet Zhongshu Tang Shouqian, Hanlin Yuan Xiu Zhang Jian, Head of the Sealing Department Li Xianzhi, Alternate Prefect He Sikun, Alternate Dao Zheng Xiaoxu, Supervisor Luo Zhenyu, and Survivor Kong Tai on the Petition for Approval of the Trial Reclamation of the Beach by the Cabinet Zhongshu Tang Shouqian, the Hanlin Yuan Cultivator, Li Xianzhi, the head of the Sealing Department, He Sikun, the alternate prefect, Zheng Xiaoxu, the supervisor Luo Zhenyu, and the widow Kong Tao on the application for approval of the trial reclamation of the beach by the Shuji Company,..... The two battalions prepared a case of shareholding according to the number of land acquisitions" (1), which is a new attempt to mutualize state-owned capital. Attached to the back of the submission is Liu Kunyi's reply: "Before examining this case, the "Proposal", "Chapter", and "Illustration" were sent by letter, when the establishment of a company to organize reclamation and animal husbandry to increase the course of the people, Tianli Gongpu, at this time the hardship and lack of wealth, with this natural benefit, how can we let it be wasted!" "

The "Discussion" mentioned in the proposed article refers to the "Preliminary Proposal" in which Zhang Jian and others conspired to establish a company; The Chapter is a draft of the Articles of Association; The Illustrated Narrative is a map and description of the places that were attached to the first two. Since then, national capitalists, bureaucrats, landlords and businessmen have taken over pavilions and grass here, and implemented "reclamation of abandoned stoves", and in the coastal belt of more than 700 huali and a total area of 36,700 square kilometers between Lusi Chang at the mouth of the Yangtze River in the south and Chenjiagang in Guanhe in the north, a climax of attracting funds and setting up salt reclamation companies has been set off, which has become a major historical change in the history of the economic rise and fall of salt reclamation in Yancheng's Huainan salt area.

Zhang Jian also encountered layers of resistance in the process of reclamation of abandoned stoves in northern Jiangsu, including how to deal with the resistance and destruction of the residents of the enclosure. Zhang Jian and others took advantage of the Qing court's implementation of the "New Policies" to acquire large-scale salt pans, which were mostly tenant farmers, homesteaders, and small landowners. Conflicts between enclosures and enclosures are inevitable. In the "Letter to the State Council", it was mentioned: "Another case of gathering people to burn houses and loot wealth occurred in the Daguang Company of Lijiaochang Company. The Huafeng Company of the Feng Digging Field was formed by the organization of the four general officials of the field to the Ministry of Finance, and at the same time discovered the case of burning and looting by the people; The head of the stove, surnamed as a bandit, was killed. It gathered dozens of people, dared to set fire to kill, and had to be called bandits. He had to ask the commander of the provincial defense army Zhang of Sun Chuanfang's department stationed in Yangzhou to send troops to eliminate it. Due to the constant resistance, Zhang Jian said that the Dasheng Yarn Mill and the Tonghai Reclamation and Animal Husbandry Company "both took advantage of the riverside and the sea, and bandits were often infested, and they formed industrial and commercial training groups to defend themselves." After organizing the establishment of the vigilante group, with the approval of the Minister of Nanyang, he purchased 200 Mauser guns and 200,000 rounds of ammunition from Germany through Dias Foreign Company.

In the enclosure represented by the Zhang Jian brothers, effective measures have also been taken to solve the livelihood of the local people. First, after forcibly buying the surrounding salt pans at a low price, unemployed salt farmers were allowed to rent some of the farmland of the reclamation company to grow cotton or sublease it themselves, and rely on their own labor or collect rent to make a living. Zhang Jian said: "For the poor, replace salt with reclamation to finance their livelihood." The brothers presupposed, and Fang Mo gave each household twenty-five acres of orders to those who got rid of the salt. [(6) Zhang Jian: "The Tomb of Lijun in Linchuan," The Complete Works of Zhang Jian, vol. 5, p. 406. Dafeng Company leased 50 mu of initial land to each stove to plant cotton, and invested three years to exempt it from renting cotton. Second, for those who do not want to farm, each household will be given 200 yuan and let it go. "Whoever does not desire land and he wants to do so, give two hundred silver coins, and send his capital to move." Either way, a small number of people fail to camp their fields or run out of money and become beggars or bandits. Zhang Jian preferred to give up the land acquisition to avoid a large-scale confrontation with the locals, and distributed two-thirds of the land he bought to the people themselves. In short, the compensation of Narita or silver coins has become an opportunity for more people to improve their lives. Mr. Zhang Zhaoyan said: "Under the influence of Zhang Jian and others' "reclamation of abandoned stoves", the people of the four stoves in the north gradually abandoned the stoves to become farmers, and their lives were slightly better than money. "

### **3. Implement local autonomy and promote economic revitalization in northern Jiangsu**

The national capitalists represented by Zhang Jian not only provided sufficient raw materials for the Dasheng yarn mill, but also promoted the integration of local industry, education and autonomy. The "Circular of Zhang Jian to the Salt Reclamation Companies" clearly stated this policy: "As far as our Nantong theory is concerned, the foundation of autonomy lies in industry, and the scope of industry is immersed in Huainan. The foolishness of the brothers has always been educated by industry, and the need for autonomy is not more than industrial education. Since industry is all over Huainan, the counties of Huainan are no different from Nantong. For this reason, the autonomizer prefers to be different. "

The circular issued by the Zhang Jian brothers expressed the idea of developing and building Huainan and Nantong together, and also put forward a work roadmap: jointly and uniformly build water conservancy, open ports, build gates and build embankments; Each company is requested to consult with the county education council to select five or six graduates of higher primary schools, send them to the teacher training school, and work one extra class a year, and the tuition fee will be assisted by each company, and after graduation, they will become the teachers of the company's national primary school. It is also said that the period of industrial education is complementary, education must be popularized, popularization must set up more primary schools, primary school teachers must reserve talents on the spot, first seek the combination of dialects and sounds, in addition to first actively carrying out according to the method of selecting teachers set above, it is also planned to set up a normal school in Dongtai and Yancheng within two or three years, in order to reserve teachers.

While setting up industry, Zhang Jian also paid attention to social civilization and benefiting people's livelihood, and successively opened roads, river transportation, education, public welfare, water conservancy, and welfare. Essentially, Zhang Jian's ideal is to establish a constitutional form of government and an economic development model in China that is consistent with the world's mainstream culture, and it insists that industry is the basis of local autonomy, and local autonomy is obviously the ultimate destination of prosperity and people's livelihood. Strictly speaking, "local autonomy" in the modern sense, like a constitutional

republic, is a product of Western civilization. It emphasizes the prevention of high concentration of power and the autonomous participation of the population. It is not difficult to see that local autonomy is actually the product of the upsurge and maturity of bourgeois democratic consciousness. China has existed since ancient times, which is embodied in educating the people, educating the people, transforming the people, benefiting the people, etc., and more importantly, realizing the comprehensive control of rural society to ensure the stability of tax collection and society as a whole, so the township system is actually a derivative of patriarchal autocracy. During the Ming and Qing dynasties, the gentry played a leading role in township organizations, and before and after the New Deal at the end of the Qing Dynasty, Zhang Jian further extended the three-in-one autonomy idea of industry, education, charity and public welfare in Nantong to many aspects of municipal construction, reflecting the integration of traditional spirit and modern civilization, and successfully opened the pace of Nantong towards modernization. According to Hu Huanyong and Li Xudan's "Record of Two Huai Water Conservancy and Salt Reclamation", citing data from the China Cotton Industry Statistics Association, from 1930 to 1934, the cotton fields in the old and new reclamation areas north of the Yangtze River in Jiangsu accounted for one-half of the cotton field area of Jiangsu Province and one-eighth of the national cotton field area; "The proportion of cotton produced is roughly the same." In modern times, Nantong and Suken pastoral areas have formed an economic community, and the reclamation and pastoral areas have delivered a large number of industrial raw materials to the Dasheng textile enterprises in Nantong and the textile industry in Shanghai, Wuxi and other places.

#### 4. Cotton Ironism: Zhang Jian's Industrial Salvation Thought

At the beginning of the 20th century, the starting point of the "reclamation of waste stoves" movement initiated by Zhang Jian was to nourish people's livelihood through industry and ultimately realize the ideal of "saving the country through industry". The "cotton iron doctrine" is a concrete measure of Zhang Jian's industrial idea of saving the country, and this view first originated from his speech at the Nanyang Industry Conference in 1910: "Then take China's industry, when the two substances from the softest to the rigid are the things that are paid common attention to, and sue the gentlemen of the meeting." In 1913, Zhang Jian made a speech when he was the chief of agricultural commerce, further elaborating this proposition, "Jian holds a doctrine for industry, which is called cotton and ironism. For today's international trade, cotton is the most important import. .... Investigate the number of cotton mills in various countries, and the needs of the world's ironworkers, and the pity of our country's hidden land, thrilling, cannot but give birth to endless hope. Therefore, it is appropriate to dare to be confident." Faced with the two largest national industries of cotton and iron in China, Zhang Jian proposed the "cotton iron doctrine" in order to establish an independent and competitive national industrial system.

According to statistics, from 1867 to 1894, the import value of cotton yarn and cotton cloth rose all the way, increasing by 13 times and 2 times respectively. After the Sino-Japanese War, although cotton fabrics were still the most important imported commodities, especially cotton yarn imports remained more than 2 million before the Republic of China. In the early 20th century, although China's cotton spinning industry grew significantly, it was still unsatisfactory. He believes that the development of modern cotton spinning industry has driven and promoted the development of cotton planting industry, and the cotton planting industry affects and restricts the development of cotton spinning industry to a certain extent.

To this end, the national capitalists represented by Zhang Jian successively established 77 salt reclamation (reclamation) companies in the coastal area of present-day northern Jiangsu, with a total investment of 7.32 million yuan and covering an area of 432 mu. Among them, in 1918,

the Caoyan Field Dafeng Salt Reclamation Company established by brothers Zhang Jian and Zhang Xiao was the largest salt reclamation company in Yancheng, with a total fund raising of 4 million taels of silver yuan, or 3.2 million taels of silver. In the process of reclamation, through large-scale construction of water conservancy, a large number of abandoned mudflats were turned into cotton fields, and cotton in the reclamation area began to be exported continuously, which promoted the development of the national textile industry.

Another "cotton iron doctrine" - iron industry includes iron ore mining, iron and steel smelting, machinery manufacturing and other heavy industries, China is a country rich in iron ore resources, but China imports a large amount of steel every year. Zhang Jian believes that the iron industry is a strong country and plays an extremely important role in improving the country's comprehensive national strength, "and I am rich in coal and iron in five continents, and I despise people to say that the day when China's iron industry is developed, that is, the day when the Japanese surrender under the flag of our country, it is indeed not an exaggeration", so the iron industry "is a lifeline for our country." "It should be said that Zhang Jian is keenly aware that the steel industry is the economic foundation of China's power. Due to the huge investment in the iron and steel industry, the long recovery period of capital, and the higher technical difficulty, Zhang Jian suggested the introduction of foreign capital to solve the shortage of funds, the state to preside over the establishment of key mining areas and iron ore mines, the government should also organize personnel to investigate the iron ore reserves in several provinces, and formulate a detailed mining and metallurgical construction plan, with a strategic plan to resist foreign economic aggression and implement commercial wars. From 1895 to 1913, China's yarn growth rate was 6.3% per year, the cloth machine was 1.2%, and the investment was as high as 166%, which shows that Zhang Jian's strategy of "cotton should be prioritized" is particularly historically reasonable, as for the progress to the steel industry, limited to the historical conditions at that time, especially due to the limitations of investment, equipment, technology and other aspects, the development of heavy industry represented by steel in China is difficult.

In short, the large-scale "waste stove reclamation" in the Huainan salt area was led by Zhang Jiantong Haiken Animal Husbandry Company, which was the heyday of its salt reclamation industry from 1914 to 1922, and then gradually declined due to international and domestic influences, until the end of the 40s of the 20th century, various salt reclamation companies were in high debt and went out of business. However, the salt reclamation companies in Huainan promoted the coordinated development of local economic and social undertakings to the greatest extent at that time, and achieved obvious results in education, charity, transportation, welfare and municipal construction, laying a good foundation for the harmony, stability and development of coastal rural areas in northern Jiangsu, and also providing valuable experience and lessons for our current rural revitalization.

Throughout Zhang Jian's life, he founded an investment industry as a champion, successively established Dasheng Enterprise Group, "reclaimed the stove from waste" in northern Jiangsu, implemented salt policy reform, founded Tongren Tai Salt Industry Company, and published the "National Salt Policy Reform Plan"; He was the first in the country to experiment with the industrialization of salt production, bringing capitalist factors into the salt production organization. He was the first to try out fine salt, and the refined salt produced was shipped to the Italian Universal Exhibition and won the best medal. He was the first to practice the introduction of foreign advanced technology to develop the salt industry, and personally went to Japan to investigate the salt production method and the tools of Japanese brine and boiling salt. He took the lead in introducing the Songjiang plate drying salt production method, which injected vitality into the declining salt industry in Huainan. Faced with the two largest national industries of cotton and iron in China, Zhang Jian proposed the "cotton iron doctrine" in order to establish an independent and competitive national industrial system.

## Acknowledgements

This work was financially supported by Sichuan University of Science & Engineering Talent Introduction Project: Zigong Salt Industry Literature Compilation and Research (No. E11301285).

## References

- [1] WEI Chunhui. Zhang Jian commented on [M]. Nanjing:Nanjing University Press,2001.
- [2] National Qing History Compilation Committee. The Complete Works of Zhang Jian[C].Nanjing:Jiangsu Ancient Books Publishing House,1994.
- [3] Yancheng CPPCC Study Culture and History Committee. Zhang Jian advocated the search for salt reclamation in Yancheng[C]. Nanjing:Jiangsu People's Publishing House,2015.
- [4] Zhang Rongsheng. Zhang Jian—a salt reformer in the late Qing Dynasty and early People's Dynasty[J]. Research on the History of Salt Industry,1994,1:5-7.
- [5] Yin Dingquan. On the development of economic and social undertakings in Huainan salt area[J]. Journal of Yangzhou University,2007,6:124-125.