

## ANALYTICAL STUDY ON THE NATURE OF SOCIETY AND THE LOCAL OIL REFINERY IN YENANCHANG REGION (1948-1962)

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### Abstract

This paper attempts to examine the nature of Society and local Oil Refinery that began after the independence especially in Yenanchang based on the facts collected. The aim of this paper is to know the type of local oil refinery, the conditions of oil wells, oil production and the nature of *Twinyo -Twinza* who's lived in Yenanchang. In order to do this research, an examination is focused on primary sources, secondary evidences, and records and noted on oilfield areas. This research work takes two methods: the method of comparing the data mentioned in the local documents; and the method of exposing the contents of primary sources. This attempt results in the establishment of a clear vision concerned with the prominent of town as well as in oil production and flourishing religion at that time. Based on the information obtained from this paper, I am going to expose the historical document of the town, Yenanchang that has possessed the ample historic images of oil wells and the structure of religious.

**Keywords:** oil refinery, oil wells, *Twinyoe-Twinza*, Yenanchang

### Introduction

Oil or petroleum was one of the important mineral products of Myanmar. It is learnt that the extraction of petroleum in Yenanchang area was begun in the reign of King Tannet (AD.876-904) of Bagan. However, there was a difference of opinion as to why petroleum was found in Yenanchang area.

Yenanchang is situated on the east bank of the Ayeyawady River and a part of central basin of Myanmar. It lies between 20° and 22° North latitude, and 94° 50' and 95° 10' East longitude. Yenanchang Township is bounded on the west by Pwintphyu and Salin Townships, on the south by Magway Township, on the east by Natmauk Township and on the north by Chauk and Kyaukpadaung Townships.

The total area of Yenanchang Township is 388.95 square miles or 248931 acres, which is 2.25% of the total area of Magway Region.

### Material and Methods

The data required for this paper is mainly collected from the families' of *Twinyoe -Twinza*, interviews with local oil refinery owners and workers and copying from National Archive files and records. This paper is essentially based on comparing the data mentioned method and the method of exposing the content of local documents and primary sources are mainly used.

### Findings

The study of this paper shows that the type of oil production especially refining by local people, the conditions of workers and social status and custom of *Twinyoe-Twinza* are distinguished in character. Regarding with the oil refinery, it is also found that the modern technique have not

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been used and number of oil refinery were usually owned by *Twinyoe-Twinza* after independence.

## Discussion

### The Role of Twinyoes -Twinzas

In the reign of King Anawrahta (1044-1077), the King ordered the people living in four divisions of land<sup>1</sup> to submit an official list of their family members. A group of thirty-eight is composed of twenty-four Twinyoes and fourteen Twinzas.

Twinyoe means a person who is recognized by the King for the production of Earth-Oil. Twinyoes have the traditional right of possession of oil-production and they are administrators in this area of oil.

Twinza means a person who is administered by Twinyoe. Twinzas became Twinzayoes (the hereditary owners of the oil wells) when they succeeded the right of possession of oil-production.

Twinthugyi means a Chief who manages the cases happened among the Twinzayoes. He was also known as Twingyi-Min. Twenty-four Twinyoes who compose of Twelve Twinthugyis, seven junior Twinthugyis, and five descendants.<sup>2</sup>

The Office of Myothugyi Min and the Office of Twingyi-Min in Yenantha's town administration; that Twinyoe-Twinza have not been the subjects under Myothugyi-Min and they have been administered and managed by Twinthugyi Nemyothamantaraja; and that Twinyoe-Twinza were the persons enjoying such privileges at those times.

According to a Sittan (Revenue Inquest) made by King Badon (1782-1819), it is found that YenanchaungTwingyi-Min U Kauk Ra with the title of Nemyothamantaraja, son MaungLok, Myothugyi-Min U Phyaw with the title of Ne-myo-min-kyaw-thiri-tha-man-ta-sithu, son Maung Lay, son Maung Ray, and Twinyoe-Twinza families<sup>3</sup> were collected into a list of Thirithinga-Taik of the King. In 1784, Shwe-Taik (Royal Treasury) continued to recognize the same list and if Twinyoe-Twinza faced with the hereditary cases, the King instructed the administrators to execute the cases in accordance with the official list contained in Shwe-Taik.

Society of Twinzayoe is composed of the eighteen man-hereditary families and the six woman-hereditary families, totaling twenty-four hereditary families. As their privileges, they have the rights to produce the earth-oil in the lands of Twingone and Baymae.<sup>4</sup> During the reign of King Mindon (1852-1878) of the Konbaung period, oil production was carried out more systematically. King Mindon married as queen with Hman Nan Apyodaw Daw Khin who was the daughter of Yenangyung Myowun by granting Kyee Myin Taik to her as fief with the title

<sup>1</sup> Yenanchaung has been divided into four divisions: TaungKhamauk in the east; PyargyiTaung in the west; YaukthwarTaung in the south; and Kyaukmasin in the north.

<sup>2</sup> Kyaw Soe, U *Twinyoe-Twinza Thamaing*, (History of Twinyoe-Twinza), M.A. Thesis, Department of History, University of Yangon, 1987.

<sup>3</sup> Sixty-four families of Twinyoe-Twinza (Twinyoe = twenty-four and Twinza = forty)

<sup>4</sup> Yin YinHtun, "Twinyoe "

“Thu Thiri Pava”. 120 Tawdwinn (Royal oil wells) and 44 mortgaged oil wells possessed by grandparents of Kyee Myin Queen were confiscated by King Mindon.<sup>1</sup>

Twinyoe-Twinza community exists till the present day. The tradition of Twinyoe Twinza community had for a long time and maintained the rights and their privileges. This practice finally causes to appear the practice of trading the Twinyoe Twinza right. Nevertheless, even in the trading of Twinyoe Twinza right, it could not be sold the right to a person, outside of Twinyoe Twinza community.

### The List Royal Oil wells

၁၂၄၇ ခု။ နတ်တော်လဆန်း- ၁ ရက်နေ့၊ ရေနံချောင်းမြို့ ရှိတွင်းများကို - မောင်ရှာပုံက - အရေးပိုင်ဝန်ရှင်တော်မင်းကြီး-ကာနယ်စလေးဒင်ထံ တင်ပြသည့် တွင်းတော်စာရင်း

စဉ်	အမည်	ပထမ တွင်းတော်သော တွင်းများ				ဒုတိယတွင်းတော်သော တွင်းများ			
		နေရာ	အရေအတွက်	အတောင်ရေ	စုစုပေါင်း အထွက်	နေရာ	အရေအတွက်	အတောင်ရေ	စုစုပေါင်း အထွက်
၁	ရွှေပြည်ခိုလမ်းကြပ်စု	တွင်းကုန်း	၁၀	၁၃၇၀	၆၁၀	ဘေးမဲ့	၁	၁၁၃	၉၀
၂	မြို့သူကြီးမင်းကြပ်စု	"	၁၀	၁၂၂၂	၆၃၄	"	-		
၃	မအေးသာကြပ်စု	"	၅	၆၆၈	၅၅	"	၁	၁၁၄	၁၃၀
၄	ကိုအိန္ဒာကြပ်စု	"	၁၀	၁၂၀၂	၁၁၆	"	-		
၅	မြို့သူကြီးကလေးကြပ်စု	"	၂	၃၁၀	၂၄	"	၅	၄၀၉	-
၆	ကိုသာကကြပ်စု	"	၂	၃၃၀	၁၃၄	"	၄	၃၉၃	၂၇
၇	အစီရင်-ကိုချစ်ဘိုကြပ်စု	"	၁၃	၁၅၃၂	၃၇၉	"	၄	၃၆၂	၁၅၁
၈	မြို့ဟောင်းကိုမျှင်ကြပ်စု	ဘေးမဲ့	၇	၇၃၃	၂၆၅	"	၁၀	၁၀၀၂	၂၅၅
၉	ယခိုင်ရာလေးသာတွင်း	"	၂	-	-	"	-		
၁၀	ဒိုလ်တေကြပ်စု	-	-			"	၆	၄၂၆	-
၁၁	ကြေးမြင်သူကြီးကြပ်စု	-	-			"	၄	၃၇၅	၆၇
၁၂	ကိုကျော်တင်ကြပ်စု	-	-			"	၅	၄၉၁	၂၇၂
၁၃	ကိုအောင်မင်းကြပ်စု	-	-			"	၅	၄၉၉	၁၂၀
၁၄	ကျောက်ရဲမြို့သူကြီး(ကိုအောင်မင်းယူ၍ကြပ်)	-	-			"	၅	၅၂၅	၆၈
၁၅	ကိုပေါလေးကြပ်စု	-	-			"	၅	၄၆၂	၁၀၂
၁၆	ကိုဆပ်သေဆုံး၍ (ကိုပေါလေးယူ၍ကြပ်)	-	-			"	၄	၃၉၉	၆၃၇
			၆၁	၇၃၆၇	၂၂၂၆		၅၉	၅၅၇၀	၁၉၁၉

“ဒေါ်ကြန့်စာစာရင်း-သမိုင်းသုတေသနဦးစီးဌာန”

<sup>1</sup> Thein Kyaw, *Myay-siShwe-yi*, p. 17

Table-I

“ဦးလှတင် (တွင်းစားရိုး) ၏ မှတ်တမ်း” အရ ဖြတ်သည့်အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးလက်အောက်

စစ်တမ်းစာရင်းတွင် ဖော်ပြသည့်တွင်းစားရိုး (၂၄) ဦး

နံပါတ်စဉ်	အမည်	အဘ အမည်	တွင်းရိုး/တွင်းစားရိုး	ဆက်ခံသူ
၁	ဦးဘ	ဦးရွှေ(ခင်းကြီး)	တွင်းရိုး	ဦးဘခင် ၊ ဦးကိုကိုကြီး
၂	ဦးချမ်းရစ်	ဦးဘိုးတင်	တွင်းရိုး	ဦးသန့်စင် ၊ ဦးဆိုင်
၃	ဦးချစ်ဘို	ဦးဘိုးတင်	တွင်းစားရိုး	ဦးလှတင်
၄	ဦးအောင်မြတ်	ဦးဘို	တွင်းရိုး	ဦးကြွေပေါ် ၊ ဦးတင်ကြီး
၅	ဦးလှကြီးကြီး	ဦးရွှေသီး	တွင်းရိုး	ဦးကျော်ခင် ၊ ဦးဘဦး
၆	ဦးလှကြီးကလေး	ဦးဘွား	တွင်းရိုး	ဆရာအုံး ၊ မောင်မြသန်း
၇	ဦးဘိုးမောင်	ဦးသာခွန်း	တွင်းစားရိုး	ဦးမေသန်း ၊ ကိုတိုင်းလှ
၈	ဦးပုန့်	ဦးကြီးပုံ	တွင်းစားရိုး	ဦးအောင်ကြီး ၊ ဦးမေ ၊ ဦးကျွန်း
၉	ဦးအောင်ကြီး	ဦးဘကြီး	တွင်းစားရိုး	ဦးသန်းတန် ၊ ဦးကဲစ
၁၀	ဦးဘိုနီ	ဦးကျော်ခင်(ကင်)	တွင်းရိုး	ဦးခင်မောင်
၁၁	ဦးရိုးဆက်	ဦးမောင်မောင်ကလေး	တွင်းစားရိုး	ဦးခင်မောင် (အိုဘို)
၁၂	ဦးသာကတိုး	ဦးကဲကြီး	တွင်းရိုး	ဦးကဲသာ (ပခမ်းငယ်)
၁၃	ဦးဘိုးမွေ	ဦးမင်းခင်	တွင်းရိုး	ကိုပု
၁၄	ဦးမောင်မောင်ဘ	လေးမြို့ဝန်	အချင်းဖြစ်ရိုး	ဦးမောင်မောင်ဘ ၊ ခင်ခင်ထား
၁၅	ဦးဌေးစင်	ဦးအောင်မင်း	တွင်းရိုး	
၁၆	ဦးလှပိန့်	ဦးရွှေလှ	တွင်းရိုး	ဦးလွန်းဖြေ ၊ ကိုလှမေ
၁၇	ဦးထွန်းဦး	ဦးကြီးစံ	တွင်းရိုး	ကိုဘတူ
၁၈	ဦးသာစင်	ဦးကျော်စံ	တွင်းရိုး	ဦးရွှေခင် ၊ ဦးမောင်ခ
၁၉	ဒေါ်အင်	ဒေါ်ပုလေး	တွင်းရိုး	ဒေါ်ကျမ်းတော ၊ ဒေါ်မြရင်
၂၀	ဒေါ်ကွန်ချာ	ဒေါ်မြ	တွင်းရိုး	ဒေါ်စောမြင့် ၊ ဒေါ်ဖွားရီ
၂၁	ဒေါ်ရွှေမြ	ဒေါ်မိကြီး	တွင်းရိုး	ဒေါ်ဒေါ်မြ ၊ ဒေါ်သန့်ထူး
၂၂	ဒေါ်လှရာ	ဒေါ်ဦးစံ	တွင်းရိုး	အရာဘီဘီ ၊ ဇာတမာဘီဘီ
၂၃	ဒေါ်ခင်(ကျေးမြင်းမိဖုရား)	ဒေါ်အို(ညီမ)	တွင်းရိုး	ဒေါ်ခင်အိုကြီး ၊ ဒေါ်ခင်မကြီး
၂၄	ဒေါ်အောင်မြ	ဒေါ်ရွှေသီ	တွင်းရိုး	ဒေါ်တို့ ၊ ဒေါ်မိကြီး

Source: U KhinMaung Collection (Twinzayoe)

### The Type of Succession in Twinyoes- Twinzas

By the formal succession of inheritance, in the man-hereditary family, the eldest son has the right to succeed the inheritance, and in the woman-hereditary family, the eldest daughter has the right to succeed the inheritance. Myanmar Kings do not use to interfere in the oil-production of Twinzayoe. Yenanchaung's Twinzayoe became wealthy through the oil-production as their main occupation. They married with each other among the persons who have blood connections (the cousins), with the intention of preventing the mixture with the other people. Thus, Twinzayoe became a prominent society separate from the other societies.<sup>1</sup>

### The Contributions of Twinyoes – Twinzas in Administration

In the reign of King Tharyawady (1837-1846), Yenanchaung Twinzayoe U So served as Clerk of Bye-Taik (Royal Privy Council), Clerk of Hluttaw (Royal Council of Ministers) and Thandawsint (Announcer of Royal Edicts). In the reign of King Bagan (1846-1853), U So continued to serve as Minister of Riverine Regions, Minister for Nine Districts and Yamaethin Commander (Colonel). In the time of King Mindon (1853-1878), U So had been recognized as Minister of Riverine Regions, Minister for Nine Districts and Yamaethin Commander (Colonel), and he was enjoyed the position of Yenanchaung Myoza (Minister) with the title of Thadomingyi Maha Minhlaminkhaungkyaw.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Yin Yin Htun, "Twinyoe"

<sup>2</sup> Maung So was born by Twinzayoe U Inn and Daw Ei (the listed members of Shwe-Taik in the reign of King Badon) in 1803. [Mawpi Hsaya Thein Gyi, *Shei-phyit Sardan; (Paper on Past Events)*, Yangon, Aye Aye Press, 1968, p. 178] (Hereafter cited as Mawpi Hsaya Thein Gyi, *Paper*.)

U So could serve as a dependable and trusted minister for Mindon. Giving the reason of flourishing the oil-works, Mindon took Ma MaKhin (KhinKhin)<sup>1</sup> (Court Maid), daughter of U So and placed her at the position of small queen (Kyeemyin-Taik Princess) with the title of Thuthiripaba. Mindon gave U So the position of Commander-Minister which is the position given to the most dependable and trusted person for the King.<sup>2</sup>Continuously, in the time of King Thibaw (1878-1885), the last Myanmar King, U So was capable of serving as the position of YenanchaungMyoza, Wungyi (Minister).<sup>3</sup>

### The Donations of Oil- wells for Religion

With the expansion of oil production, it is supposed that there emerged many workers and economic conditions also developed. The oil production industry became more thriving due to the introduction of machine drilling wells and more works could be done and it brought about the increase of oil productive rate.

Twinyoe-Twinzar who were mainly concerned with the work of oil production and how they had tried to increase oil production will be described. A donation deed is found which stated the donation of one hand-digging oil well which was still producing oil (Gram no. 1958) by Female donor of pagoda, Twinzar Daw Shin from Yenangyaung, Myoma North Ward to Sasana Hita Satupiccaya Yoma Daily Food Offering Association and Sasana Hita Dhamma Noggaha Recitation Association. The date donated was the 4<sup>th</sup> Waxing day of Tazaungmone, 1289 M.E. (28 October 1927).

The donation was made by signing on the contract deed which was worth of 50 Indian Rupees. The donor made merit in dedication to be free from vicious circle and to attain Nirvana. The oil well was valued at 5000 kyats and donated in dedication to the propagation and prosperity of Buddha Sasana, and for the provision of *Pyit-si-lay-par*<sup>4</sup> (Four things that the Buddha has permitted monks to accept as offerings) to the Sangha. The benefits of the oil well were donated generously to two associations. U YoePe, Chairmen of Sasana Hita Satu Pinccaya Yoema Food Offereing Association and U Lu Gyi who was the chairman of Sasana Hita Dhamma Noggaha Association accepted the donation. By seeing the contract deed, it can be known the generosity of donor, and her attempt for the prosperity and propagation of Buddha Sasana.

<sup>1</sup> U So has two wives: Ma Thila and Ma Cho. KhinKhin is born by Ma Cho.

<sup>2</sup> As a Commander-Minister, U So has to organize the servants of various platoons in the regions of the State including the regions of Shan state.

- Ma Kyan, " Mindon Min eiHmu-gyi Mat-gyiMyar" ("King Mindon's Great Ministers", *Thamaing-shar-bon-dawKhayihnit A-char SardanMyar (In Search of Historical Events and Other Papers)*, Yangon, Nanthazin Press, 2002, p. 54

<sup>3</sup> It is learnt that in the time of King Thibaw, U So was displaced from the position of Minister. When the King reappointed him, he refused to accept the position for his old age.

<sup>4</sup> Monastery, robe, food and medicine

## The Donation Contracts by Twinzayoe



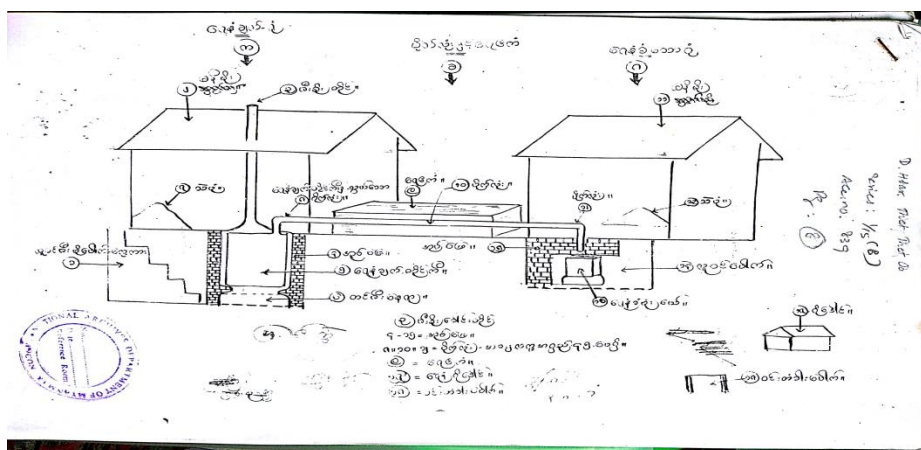
Source: U Khin Maung Collection (Twinzayoe)

## The Plans of Local Oil Refinery

Refining petroleum became an important business after Myanmar regained independence. In 1949, B.O.C relocated to Chauk from Yenanchaung. Therefore, unemployment rate in Yenanchaung rose. Some of those who were unemployed worked in the petroleum refineries to earn their living. There were 142 small petroleum refineries owned by Myanmar in Yenanchaung.

The natives in Yenanchaung who had the know-how repaired the wells which were destroyed when the British retreated from Myanmar and produced petroleum. They refined crude oil to produce petrol and kerosene. They legally engaged in petroleum production individually or by forming companies or cooperatives.

## Type of Local Oil Refinery



Source: National Archive File

To ensure that the refineries would last long, they combined their labor and skill and property and formed the Bamah Petroleum Production and Refining **Asiayone** (BPPRA). Some of the Twinyoes and Twinzas sold the petroleum produced from their wells to the BPPRA, while others established their own small refineries to refine the crude oil they produced.<sup>1</sup>

Under the Petroleum Refinery Law of 1949, small refineries were allowed to refine up to 1,000 gallon per day. The refineries of Myanmar nationals produced petrol, colorless kerosene and yellow kerosene.<sup>2</sup>

The localities in which small refineries owned by Myanmar nationals stood were Hpaungkadaw, Twingone, Bogone, Myenikhin, Yabyin, Zibinkan, Beme and Sadaing.<sup>3</sup>

### **The laws of Oil Refinery**

After the government of Myanmar and the petroleum companies signed agreements to form joint ventures to produce petroleum, another law concerning petroleum refineries was passed. This law was mainly meant for small petroleum refineries owned by Myanmar nationals. The President of Myanmar passed this law pursuant to sections 4 and 5 of the Petroleum Act of 1954.<sup>4</sup> This law runs:(1).These rules are to be called the Petroleum(Small Petroleum Refineries Owned by Nationals) Rules of 1954.(2).These rules must be applicable to the small petroleum refineries owned by Myanmar nationals in the Union of Myanmar.

For the purpose of these rules(a) “Small petroleum refineries owned by nationals” means those which could not refine more than 1,000 gallons of crude oil within 24 hours.(b) “Petrol” means the petrol, the specific gravity of which not exceeding 0.7500 at 60°F and the flashing point of which is under 76°F.(c) “Kerosene” means kerosene, the specific gravity of which is between 0.7500 and 0.8200 at 60°F.

For the license to run a small refinery owned by a national, an application giving the following facts must be submitted to the Director of Petroleum Industry, through the *hka-yaingwun* (deputy commissioner) concerned:(a) A detailed drawings of parts of the refinery and location map of the refinery(b) Names of the applicant and his father and the address of the applicant(c) The number of gallons of crude oil the refinery could refine in 24 hours

The Director of Petroleum Industry or his deputy must check the entries in the form and, with his recommendations, send it to the chief inspecting officer of explosive materials. This officer, after examining the drawing of the refinery which is attached to the form, must give his consent and send the form to the Director of Petroleum Industry for issuing a license.

The Director of Petroleum Industry must issue the license in the following manner. The back of the license must show the rules.

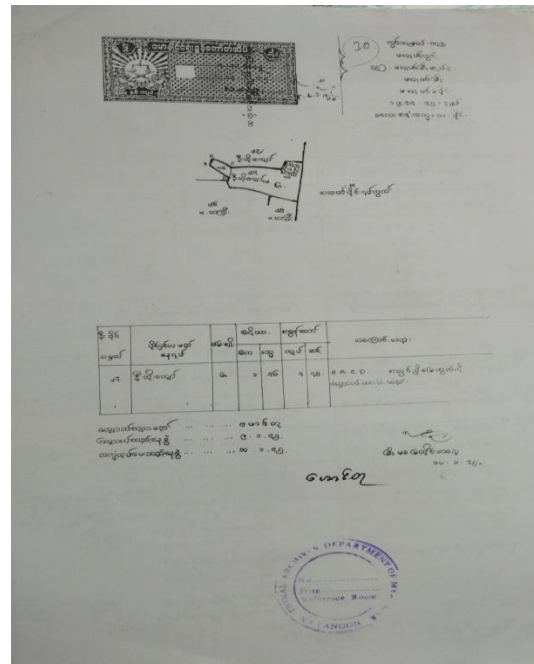
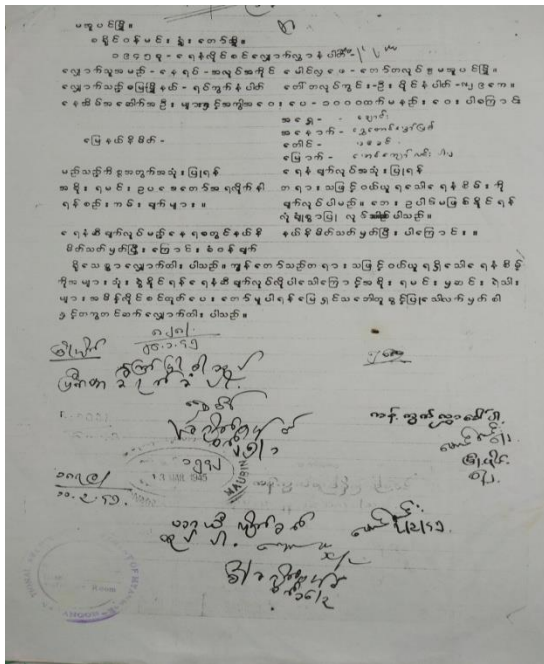
<sup>1</sup> Yenanchaungmyo Taingyin BamaYenangyethpokalemya Ei Ache-aneTinpyagyet Hnint Akyanpegyetmya (Small petroleum refineries owned by Myanmar nationals in Yenanchaung town: report and recommendations), Yenanchaung, 1962, Tms., pp. 1-2

<sup>2</sup> Yenanchaung Yenanmye Thamaing Sadan (A History of Yenanchaung Oilfield), Tms., 1982, p. 21

<sup>3</sup> More information on the small refineries owned by Myanmar Nationals in Yenanchaung Field, Yenanchaung, Tms., 30 June 1962, pp. 1-2

<sup>4</sup> Maung Yenan, 1958, 22-3

## The Laws of Oil Refinery



Source: National Archive Files

## The Works of Oilfield Rehabilitations Boards

To supervise the small refineries owned by Myanmar nationals, the Ministry of Mines formed the Management of Refinery Development Committee (M.R.D.C.) as a branch of the Burma Oil-Fields Rehabilitation Board.

B.O.C's abandonment of Yenanchaung oilfield brought about the emergence of Petroleum Production Cooperative Societies, petroleum refineries and *let-twins* owned by Myanmar nationals. There were benefits and drawbacks of Myanmar national are engagement in petroleum production.

As regards the benefits :(1) Myanmar nationals' petroleum production developed; (2) Myanmar nationals acquired technical know-how concerning petroleum production; (3) petroleum could be bought easily at reasonable prices; and (4) the problems of employment were solved.

The drawbacks were: (1) that petroleum could be extracted only in the *let-twins* and the wells BOC had formerly worked as no new wells could be bored, (2) that most of the wells were shallow wells, and (3) that the quality of petroleum was low.<sup>1</sup>

With regard to the refineries, too, as they did not have all the necessary equipment like the refineries ran by foreign firms and as they could not refine crude oil systematically, the small refineries owned by Myanmar nationals could not produce high-quality petrol, but could only produce kerosene and oil dregs.

The formation of joint ventures led to the replacement small refineries with a large one in Chauk. This refinery was inaugurated on 6 January 1954 by Prime Minister U Nu. This refinery

<sup>1</sup> Thein Kyaw, 1959, 252

could run 125,000 gallons of crude oil per day. A small factory which could manufacture about 800 tons of paraffin wax per month was attached to it.

The target was that the petroleum refinery at Chauk would produce enough petroleum products for Upper Myanmar or 50% of petrol, 90% of kerosene and 50% of other oils needed for the whole country.<sup>1</sup> To implement its plan for setting up a joint venture, the government of Myanmar also constructed a refinery which could refine 15,000 gallons of crude oil per day in Thanlyin.

Although the government of Myanmar increased the production and refining of petroleum, the output of petroleum products was insufficient for domestic consumption.<sup>2</sup>

It is learnt that when the parliament met in 1957, the average daily income of a Myanmar national was only 60 pyas. The population of the country at that time was only about 18 million, and the people had to rely on petrol and kerosene for earning their livelihood and for transportation. Each person seemingly had to spend one-third of his/her income for buying petroleum and petroleum products.<sup>3</sup> This can be regarded as one of the causes of Myanmar's poverty.

### **The Establishments of Petroleum Companies in Yenanchaung**

To solve the problems of poverty and employment in the country, the government formed two petroleum company, named the *United Twinyoe* Petroleum Company Ltd and the *Bamah San-gyein* Petroleum Company Ltd., in Yenanchaung. It was set up under Union of Myanmar Company Act No. 13 of 1958. The head-office of the company when it was registered must be in Yenanchaung. The objectives of establishing this company were: to buy oil wells and equipments used for producing petroleum and to buy petroleum products including kerosene and petrol, and to promote petroleum production by entering into long-term contracts.<sup>4</sup> (See: Appendix-I)

It was also stated that some responsibility would be given to the company's shareholders. The capital for the company was estimated at Ks. 5 million; and there would be five thousand shares, each worth Ks. 1,000. An investor could increase or decrease his investment in the company. The shares which were bought for short-term investments could be split into lower-priced shares. The company first offered 15% (or Ks. 750, 00 worth) of shares for public sale, and began its business activities. The power of the company was as defined by the law passed by the Union of Myanmar.

The rules of the *Bamah San-gyein* Petroleum Company Ltd. included those for (1) share-capital, (2) Lien on shares, (3) forfeiture and surrender of shares (4) transfer & transmission, (5) Alteration of capital, (6) borrowing powers, (7) general meetings, (8) proceeding at general meeting, (9) votes of members, (10) the powers and duties of the directors, (11) proceeding of directors, (12) managing director and secretary, (13) company's seal, (14) dividends and reserve, (15) accounts, (16) auditing, (17) notices, (18) secrecy, (19) winding up, and (20) protection and indemnity.

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<sup>1</sup> Thein Kyaw, 1959, 119

<sup>2</sup> Thein Kyaw, 1959, 244

<sup>3</sup> Maung Yanan, 1958, 16

<sup>4</sup> *BamaSangyeinYenanKonpaniLimitetEiAthinhpweHmattanHnintThinhpweSimyin* (Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association of Burma Standard Oil Company Limited Yenanchaung), Yangon, Aung Meikset Press, 1959, p. 5

There were 41 shareholders in the *Bama San-gyein* Petroleum Company Ltd. They included *twinzas*, refinery owners and merchants. All the shareholders were Myanmar nationals and they lived in the wards (*Twingon, Myenigin, Sontaik, Shwekyangon, IBP, Myoma (North), TwingyiMinzu, etc.*) near the company.

The total number of their shares was 1622 and their value was Ks. 1622000. The company began its operations by using 30% of its stock. The directors of the *Bama San-gyein* Petroleum Company Ltd. were U Ba Saw (*twinsa* and refinery owner), U Tun Kyaing (refinery owner), U Tin (*twinsa*), U Ba Hmi (*twinsa* and refinery owner) and U Ba Kyi (*twinsa*), and the numbers of shares they held varied between 155 and 5. The financial situation of workers employed in petroleum production, the methods of producing petroleum and the laws concerning petroleum production enacted in those days can be studied.

The amount of petroleum produced in Myanmar rose from 11,251,000 gallons in 1948 to 147,552,000 gallons in 1961 (a year before the petroleum industry was nationalized). It can therefore be said that production rate increased.<sup>1</sup> However, petroleum industry did not improve soon after Myanmar regained independence because of insurgencies. When the government of Myanmar and BOC set up a joint venture to produce petroleum, the Myanmar government only got one-third of the profits. Although B.O.C. made a profit of Ks. 44060000 in 1956, the government's share was only Ks. 1468666.67. However, it is learnt that the revenues from petroleum taxation, excise and income taxes added up to more than Ks. 200 lakhs.<sup>2</sup>

### Conclusion

On the brief story of Yenanchaung, it is realized that the Town has existed in Central Myanmar since the Bagan period; the Town has been producing earth-oil essential for creating the fuel.

As the result of examination on the three Sources: U YoeBe's Record; the collection of the families of Twinyoes -Twinzas, Yenanchaung had been a historic Town which had flourished since the Bagan period; and that Twinyoe-Twinza Society took the leading role in establishing the economic and social functions of the Town.

Finding the new information's from this work, it is recognized that the story of a historic town can be traced and studied by taking from the primary sources of local records; personal interviews with refinery owners and workers; that from the National Archive Files and records are capable of contributing to history of the town and the town's dwellers.

It is clearly understood that Yenanchaung's historical events developed with the main actions of Twinyoe-Twinza Society of the Town. In addition, the donation of oil wells for the development of religion existed in the Town were donated by the lineages of Twinyoe-Twinza Society who have been the men of religious inclination and generosity, and have an ardent desire in the work of contributing to the strength of Theravada Buddhism.

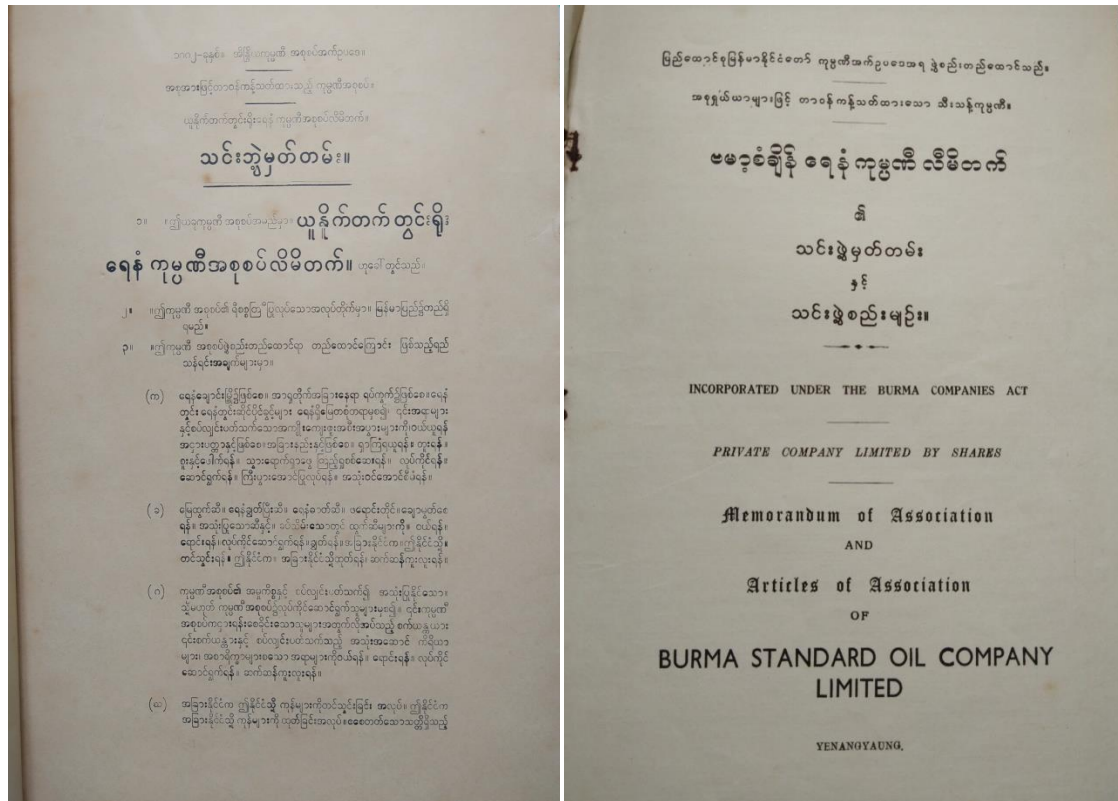
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<sup>1</sup> Myanma Yenan, 1978, 141

<sup>2</sup> Thein Kyaw, 1959, 261

## Appendix-I

### Petroleum Companies in Yenanchaung



Source: HtarTherThet Collection

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