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#### **GENERAL PRISONOUS DEPARTMENT OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GENERAL P.G. KURLOV (October 1907 – December 1908)**

The life and work of Pavlo Grigorovich Kurlov (1860–1923) are considered. He was one of the organizers of the political search of the Russian Empire, the staple master of the Imperial Court (1907), Lieutenant General (1910). The main attention in the paper is focused on the coverage of his activities as a head of the Main Prisonous Department of the Ministry of Justice (October 1907 – December 1908)

He was appointed to this post after the murder by the Socialist-Revolutionaries of the head of the State Technical University of the O.M. Maximovsky Prior to this, Kurlov occupy positions of Kyiv Deputy Governor, Minsk Governor, member of the Council of the Interior Minister and acting Deputy Director of the Police Department.

After familiarizing himself with the affairs of the department, Kurlov found out that almost all prisons of the Russian Empire are overcrowded more than twice against the norm. The only way out of this situation he considered an increasement of the agency

budget, but the estimation for the next year has already been drawn up by its predecessor. Therefore, in this situation, the general considered the only way out – “.. possible reduction of unnecessary costs”.

Many forces and energy had be applied by Pavlo Grigorovich for the support of the developed by “GTU” “significantly increased estimates” for fiscal year 1909, which was increased from 16 to 33 million rubles.

To the merits of the Head of the “GTU” should also include a number of legislative acts, which were developed by the main prison authorities during the Kurlov leadership. Among them, the most important were two bills: 1) the replacement of hard labor in Siberia for the persons interned to central prisons of Russia; 2) the abolition of exile to Siberia “for eternal times”, leaving only the reference to the settlement.

The Head also paid attention to the prison discipline, which could be much better at the time. He was especially proud of the organization in his department of arrested activities, which, as he mentioned, were “in a perfect state”. These activities were organized on a large scale, they met numerous needs of the prison authorities themselves, were distinguished as cheap ones, fulfilled the lives of the prisoners productively and provided them for the first time after jail release. And the most important thing is that the knowledge of crafts and practical skills acquired in prison gave the prisoners an opportunity to find work for themselves. General Kurlov took up the post of the Head of the General Staff for a little more than a year (14 months), and on January 1, 1909, he was appointed as a Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs.

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