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**ENGINEERING ACTIVITIES OF S. YU. WITTE:
UNKNOWN PAGES OF THE RAILWAY CAREER OF THE END OF THE
19TH – BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY**

Summary

The article is devoted to the study of the contribution of S. Yu. Vitte (1848–1915) in the development of railway transport. The life path of the outstanding personality S. Yu. Vitte, his development as a scientist and engineer, characterized engineering activity, principles of railway transportation. All this corresponded to the urgent needs of the society of that time, the restructuring of railway transport in tsarist Russia and Ukraine under Moscow.

S. Yu. Vitte was Minister of Communications, Minister of Finance, Chairman of the Committee and Council of Ministers of the Russian Empire. He was the inspirer of railway construction and a transformer of the economy of railways in the state of that time. However, its activities in the context of the development of railway transport still require detailed consideration. The author focused his attention on the activities of S. Yu. Vitte as a railway worker. After all, S. Yu. Vitte is the author of the first Statute of domestic railways, the author of the theory of railway transportation tariffs, the initiator of the reform of railway construction and operation, a member of Commission of Count E. T. Baranov (it did a lot of useful things in the development of the railway business in tsarist Russia), he was the initiator and actual leader of the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway, the China-Eastern Railway, the Central Asian and Northern Railways, the construction of which was determined by the desire to penetrate Asian markets. His great contribution to the development of railways in the territory of Ukraine under Moscow was the construction of the South-Western Railways. This famous dignitary had a noticeable and decisive influence on various directions of foreign and, especially, domestic policy of the Russian Empire, and

became a kind of symbol of the possibilities and at the same time helplessness of the Russian state system. In the light of his original convictions, he analyzed previously accumulated scientific material and showed it in a new and correct light. His works, his ideas, theories and views opened up unprecedented opportunities for railroad workers. His connections with Ukraine are known. Here he became a railway worker, managed the South-Western Railways, the Odesa Railway, participated in the formation of the railway network in Ukraine.

There is still no special comprehensive generalization of S. Yu. Vitte's scientific work in the history of science and technology in the context of the development of railway transport, there is no proper description of his engineering activities. All this led to this historical-scientific study of the multifaceted activities of the engineer S. Yu. Vitte with extensive use of little-known archival and printed sources, carrying out a detailed analysis of his most important scientific works, which still have not lost their relevance.

Keywords: *S. Yu. Vitte, railway transport, railway transportation, railway tariffs, construction of South-Western railways.*