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Exploring of East European Plain by Academician Dmitry Anuchin

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The scientific expeditions' explorations of the late 19th century have been epoch-making for geographical science. The investigation of river sources of European part of Russia was a whole era in the Russian geography, when researchers explored the main watershed of Baltic, Black and Caspian seas. In 1894 - 1902 the expedition organized by General Alexei Tillo performed detailed investigation of the sources of Great Rivers in the European part of Russia. Professor Dmitry Anuchin was responsible for exploring the river sources of the Volga, Dnieper and Western Dvina. The expedition of General Tillo carried out a detailed physical-geographical description of the basin of Volga, Dnieper and Western Dvina and determined the precise geographical coordinates of that rivers' sources. The large-scale maps showing the area of the watershed between the sources of these rivers were compiled for the first time. The expedition exploration of Dmitry Anuchin preceded his visit in 1890 to the area of the Valdai Hills. This trip has been described in the detailed essay "From a trip to the origins of the Dnieper, Western Dvina and the Volga". In that essay Academician Anuchin justified the term "Central Russian Upland" and gave a clear picture of the orography of the European part of Russia. That work also discussed some historical aspects of understanding the role of the watershed in Central Russia. Dmitry Anuchin summarized the results of that research in his work, which incorporated all knowledge about the lakes near upper reaches of Volga and Western Dvina. The great importance of that work is proved by the facts that the results of the expedition and some stationary studies were published and the particular attention was paid to the methods, which had been used in the lakes study. The aim of that study was collecting new factual material. Dmitry Anuchin put an enormous efforts and spent a lot of time to collect the huge number of observations. He and his assistants performed about 20,000 depth measurements of the lakes. All collected data were accompanied by text, photos, maps and tables of depth and temperature. That material became the basis for creation limnology as a branch of science.

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