Zionism among Jewish petroleum workers as result of dynamic changes in Jewish identity (abstract)

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At the end of the XIXth century Galician oil region became famous not only because it's rapid industrial development but also because of unusual active position of Jewish workers. In 1898 5 000 petroleum workers from Boryslaw, who lost their jobs because of new legislation wrote a letter to Second Zionist Congress in Basel, asking for help. President of the Congress Theodor Herzl was especially interested in their question and has inspired a campaign aimed to help in emigration of workers to Palestine. Analysis of Viennese Zionist newspaper "Die Welt" and materials of Second Zionist Congress helps to reconstruct the campaign and better understand complicated social-economic processes in Jewish movements in Eastern Europe that made that situation possible. In my presentation I will analyze reasons of popularity of Zionism among Boryslaw and Drohobych industrial workers. Petroleum workers of Boryslaw became an example of transformation of Jewish identity during the second half of the XIXth century. Industrialization brought change not only to economic situation in region but also became a catalyst for modernization changes in Jewish communities.