

ABSTRACT

Social Policy improve in Spain with the Social Reforms Commission (1883) and mainly with Social Reforms Institute (1903-1904), just a century ago. Albacete keep an agrarian character, with an obsolete labour relations system where social disputes hardly make public. So the answer to the Commission questionnaire in 1884 point out at agrarian questions and at the preoccupation about trade unions and strikes, trying to avoid his enlarge to Albacete as it was happens in other Spain sites. At the first third of Twentieth Century new social issues appears beside those other problems as Sunday rest, saving and social insurance institutions, eight hours daily work and corporative system based on Parity Committees. Chamber of Commerce in Albacete plays a decisive role in that sense substituting the absence of a proper entrepreneurs association. Their promoters and advisers are Levantines and Catalonians tradesmen, immigrants to Albacete after the lost of Spanish colonies. They are assisted by a selected group of jurist linked to Territorial Audience and prominent personalities of some local illustrates land-owners and tradesmen. They conform the public opinion of the Albacete patrons and acts as the main interlocutors at Social Reforms Institute.

Key words: Social Reforms Institute, Chamber of Commerce, Employers organization, Social policy, Partnership, Tradesmen.