

PROLETARIAN NEWS



WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT
YOUR CHAINS! YOU HAVE A WORLD
TO GAIN! — Karl Marx

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SOVIET SCIENCE

By Christ Jelset

For twenty-five years, from its inception in 1917 to its invasion in 1941, the whole Soviet system was ridiculed and belittled by the moulders of public opinion in all capitalist countries. Its form of government was bureaucratic; its economic development was stifled; its cultural and moral concepts were perverted; its science was harnessed to the dictates of one man; it was one colossal failure. The Nazi invasion and the subsequent Soviet successes on the fields of battle has changed the methods of dealing with Soviet affairs. On the military field the Soviet Union has become England's and America's most powerful ally in their struggle against Nazi Germany. A nation that can muster the power to defeat, in battle after battle, the most powerful armies yet known cannot easily be belittled. Its striking power becomes known to the whole world. Naturally, interest is aroused as to the nature of that power and the methods of its building. Consequently, information is gathered and distributed. Books appear on many phases of Soviet life. Newspapers and magazines devote space to news and comment on Russian methods and activities. The more conservative type strive to find shortcomings by comparison with the "best ever," the American or British ways of life. The liberal section goes further in praising Soviet achievements. Some will go to great length eulogizing the more outstanding feats in production, in education, in health protection, and other cooperative undertakings. Some of the latter will even go as far as to advocate adoption of Soviet methods.

This "new" information cannot help but serve to break down formerly built up prejudices toward the Soviet Union. It is nevertheless falling far short of giving a real description of the subject. It is also, at least in one respect, exceedingly misleading. All Soviet achievements have their very foundation in the proletarian revolution. They cannot be adopted or applied in capitalist nations except where the workers rid themselves of capitalism and exploitation and thus

lay the foundation for their own achievements like the workers and peasants of Russia did in 1917. This, of course, is left out of all news from Russia.

One example of how Soviet achievements are eulogized and at the same time perverted and minimized will make this point clear. We shall pick one of the best. An article in the December 1944 issue of "Free World," on the subject of "Soviet Science and Humanism," by a Russian scholar, Boris Alexandrovich Keller, gives a fine description of the development of science in the Soviet Union and points out that "Soviet science serves people not as a result of external pressure but voluntarily." He says: "It

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Big Business and the State Department

On December 19 the "liberal" daily, PM, of New York City, headlined the contest being waged by "progressives" on the Senate floor as a "fight to save F. D. R. from State Department blunder." In fact, ever since the appointment of the "millionaires team" to the U. S. Department of State the columns of the PM have been full of smearing criticism. It began with the appointment of assistants to Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., Secretary of State, who himself had chosen the men to serve under him with the approval of President Roosevelt. As a matter of fact, Stettinius has quite a millionaire's background himself. Before he took up "statesmanship" he served as

chairman of the executive board of the U. S. Steel Corp. He picked for his undersecretaries the former ambassador to Japan, Joseph C. Grew, Nelson Rockefeller, Will Clayton, James C. Dunn, Brig. General Holmes and Archibald MacLeish. With the exception of MacLeish, who is considered a "liberal," all the rest of them have been bitterly opposed by those who term themselves progressive. Stettinius himself was subjected to a scathing criticism on December 1 when he took office. Senator Langer in a long speech charged that Wall Street influence would enter the State Department with Stettinius, and accused him of having delayed the national defense program in 1940 in the interest of steel and aluminum monopolies.

The "progressives and liberals" are furious that Roosevelt has given them such a big let-down by appointing such reactionaries to cabinet positions. They are angry not on the score that the President had gone in for appeasing big business for the sake of "unity," but that he had gone too far in that respect. The Liberal Party which polled 320,000 votes in supporting F. D. R. for President is now demanding that he withdraw these six appointees to chief positions in the State Department.

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International Notes

Civil War in Greece

On Sunday, December 3, a forbidden demonstration, called by the EAM (National Liberation Front) got under way in Athens. The demonstration was in protest against the order to the Greek partisans to disarm and disband. When the demonstrators, composed of men, women and children, refused to disperse, Premier Papandreou's police opened fire, killing some 15 and wounding 150 more. This cold-blooded killing was the spark which fanned the smouldering civil war into open flame and drew the attention of the entire world.

Back of Premier Papandreou were the British under General Scobie. Papandreou also had the support of the fascist elements in Greece. Richard Mowrer, after spending a week in Athens, reported from Rome that, "Fascists, known to have fought alongside the Germans against Greek resistance groups, today are fighting against their old enemies of German-occupation days. The only difference is that Fascists, pro-Nazi when the Germans were in Athens, today carry the banner of the monarchy." (Chicago Daily News, December 21.) However, were it not for British

troops, Premier Papandreou's tenure of office (and perhaps his tenure of life) would have been short. The British had tanks, artillery and planes, which they proceeded to use. The EAM charged the British with the killing of women, children and the aged and of being more ruthless than the "German barbarian conquerors."

The British actions in Greece brought international repercussions. British labor protested against the role being played by British troops. Churchill was forced to defend himself and his cabinet in the House of Commons. He referred to the Greek partisans as "bands of gangsters armed with deadly weapons." He made the issue a test case for his continued tenure in office. Although in the voting he won by a considerable majority this did not indicate the feeling on the Greek question. Rather, it expressed a desire that he should remain in office till Germany was defeated. Some, however, felt that Churchill should go now. H. G. Wells, the historian, referred to Churchill as the "would-be British Fuehrer" and warned that, "If we do not end Winston, Winston

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