

SOVIET CULTURE REVIEW

In this issue:

The USSR fights for peace

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The second Five-Year Plan

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The Red Book of Soviet lumbermen

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How they work at Magnitostroy

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Lenin on the emancipation of working women

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Red Army life

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Assistance to scientific workers in the USSR

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Soviet life in questions and answers

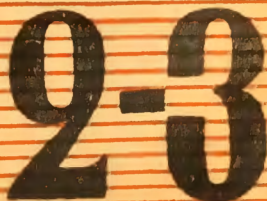
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CONTENTS

The Mayday of 1932 in the USSR

I. THE SOVIET UNION FIGHTS FOR PEACE

1. The USSR demands complete disarmament as guarantee against war. From the speech of M. Litvinov. — 2. The Soviet Union and Japan.

II. THE SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN

1. The principal tasks. — 2. The Soviet Union in 1933—1937. From the speech of V. Molotov. — 3. Life and culture in the second Five-Year Plan. From the speech of V. Kuibyshev. — 4. The development of regions in the USSR

III. SOVIET SCIENCE ON THE EVE OF THE SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN

1. N. Bukharin. More intelligentsia! More science! More inventions! — 2. V. Volgin. The Academy of Sciences in the service of the second Five-Year Plan. — 3. I. Gubkin. The USSR will be the richest country in the world.

IV. TEN YEARS OF THE TRANSCAUCASIAN FEDERATION

Past and present of Soviet Transcaucasus.

V. LABOUR AND INDUSTRY IN THE USSR

1. Full speed ahead. — 2. The Nizhny-Novgorod Auto-Plant. — 3. How they work at Magnitostroy. — 4. The first Soviet factory of mass-production of combines. — 5. The "Red Book" of the Soviet lumbermen.

VI. WOMAN IN THE SOVIET UNION

1. Lenin on the emancipation of working women. — 2. E. Denisova. Woman in industry. — 3. N. Labkovskiy. The story of a heroine of labour.

VII. RED ARMY LIFE

1. E. Maximov. The Red Army — a hearth of culture. — 2. A. Shleming. The Central House of the Red Army in Moscow. — 3. A. Fevral'skiy. The Theatre of the Red Army.

VIII. SCIENCE AND LIFE

1. Romain Rolland elected honorary member of the USSR Academy of Sciences. — 2. R. Voronov. — Assistance to scientific workers in the USSR. — 3. The first congress of Soviet inventors. — 4. A scientific research station helped by a local newspaper. — 5. The House of Railway Technique in Leningrad.

IX. SOVIET ART

1. S. Bogomazov. Soviet art moves ahead. — 2. The slogan of the Soviet theatres is: "For a Magnitostroy of Art". — 3. New Soviet play: "Fear". — 4. Soviet exhibitions.

X. SOVIET LIFE IN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What is "business method" in Soviet economy? — 2. How is the labour of women regulated in the USSR?

XI. SOVIET PERIODICALS

1. "Soviet Asia". — 2. "The October".

XII. CHESS



J. STALIN

The Mayday of 1932 in the USSR

On May 1st the nations of the Soviet Union celebrate the Spring day of the solidarity of all workers.

Originally the Maydays were celebrated secretly and the tsarist regime retaliated by cossack whips and fusillades. A long way has been traversed since, a way of struggle and victories, and now we are celebrating the First of May of the last year of the Five-Year Plan, in the fifteenth year of the new social regime which prevails over a sixth part of the world.

3 years ago for the first time the banners of the May demonstrations, in Moscow, Kharkov, Tiflis, Vladivostock, bore the slogans of the Five-Year Plan. The sceptics of both hemispheres and downright enemies of the Soviet Union treated these slogans as some "spring fantasy". They refused to believe and to grasp that for the first time in the history of mankind a social regime could gain a victory on the basis of a plan created by means of scientific calculation and the enthusiasm of the masses.

It took three years, three Maydays to persuade not only the friends of the Soviet Union, but even its enemies that the Five-Year Plan is by no means a "romance of engineering" as it was called at one time, but a genuine, real heroic epopee of labour and revolutionary will.

The Mayday of the present year, the last of the first Five-Year Plan, is marked in the USSR by new victories of world importance.

An enormous dam has been erected in the Soviet Ukraine — 704 thousand cubic metres of concrete, by means of which the power of Dnieper will feed the gigantic combine of electrical power, aluminium, steel and cast iron.

On the 1st of May the Dnieper power stations will be set into operation, — half a year ahead of the scheduled time.

The construction of three big power stations on the middle Volga will follow Dnieprostroy and will be completed in 1935.

Far away from the Dnieper steppes, on the boundary of Europe and Asia the Soviet metallurgical industry has broken the world record.

The daily output of the Magnitogorsk "Unique Blast-furnace", as Stalin called it, reached 1,037 tons of pig-iron on the 58th day after starting operations. This is one of the greatest victories of labour,

which bears witness to the fact that the USSR is mastering the heights of world technique.

And, finally, in Moscow, in the very heart of the Soviet Union, an enormous mass of glass and concrete, a vast building occupying an area of 135,000 square metres, has been erected on a vacant site in the Simonovo Suburb.

This new plant of Soviet ball-bearings will give 100,000 bearings per day (24 millions annually), while all the European plants put together produce about 120,000 bearings daily.

Such are the first victories of the final year of the Five-Year Plan. The foundations, on which the edifice of socialism in the USSR will be completed during the second Five-Year period, have thus been enormously widened and consolidated.

Wherein lies the "secret" of these successes?

In that the toilers of the Soviet Union are building up their own economy and fighting their own battle. The material and cultural values could only be created on such scale and at such rapid rate by class-conscious and free labour, able to overcome all the obstacles.

The enthusiasm of the builders of socialism found its expression in the new methods of labour, which evolved in the USSR, namely — socialist competition and shock work.

Lenin in 1920 wrote, that labour leads "from the destruction of an age-long order to the creation of a new one. To create a new discipline of labour, to build up new forms of social ties between men... is a thankful and noble work".

The Five-Year Plan is precisely the embodiment of this thankful and noble work. This plan trains the heroes of labour, the shock brigaders, the prototype of new men. Our famous friend, Romain Rolland, has excellently expressed this feature of socialist construction, when he wrote, that in the USSR "not only gigantic factories and powerful machines are being created but also millions of new people, a whole generation of fearless, strong, healthy, disinterested people, inspired by a burning faith in the new world".

The second Five-Year Plan which proposes the abolition of classes in the USSR will be a period of radical reconstruction

in the consciousness of men, their consistent emancipation from the remains and prejudices of the old regime.

The calculations of the second Five-Year Plan allow us to gain a glimpse of what the life of the toilers will be like in the USSR already within the next few years.

Magnitogorsk and Angara are new centres of industrial life, which quite recently presented nothing but wild steppes and deserts.

The number of Soviet farms and collective farms is ever on the increase. The boundaries which marked the barbarian individual system of farming have been finally swept away. Endless fields, with the aid of machine and tractor stations, are cultivated with the latest tools and machines produced at the Soviet works of agricultural machinery.

The cultural aspect of the country is altering as radically as its economic structure.

Labour palaces, factory-kitchens, stadiums, rest homes, communes. Such are the distinguishing traits of the picture which will be presented by the country in the nearest future.

During the second Five-Year Plan the Soviet country is bound to witness the Art Magnitostroy—works of art worthy of the epoch of great socialism.

The construction on such a big scale, full of striking ideas, can naturally only be realised in an irreconcilable struggle against all the remains of capitalist elements in the country, in the domains of economics, ideas and the living conditions. The toilers of the USSR are conducting this struggle and will continue it, basing themselves on the fact that the victory of socialism in the USSR is already guaranteed, that the question put by Lenin: "who will beat whom"—has already been settled in favour of socialism.

Does it mean that the masses of the Soviet Union need now feel no anxiety about the fate of the Soviet State? Can the workers, the collective farmers, the toiling intelligentsia say that the country of peaceful labour lives now in an environment which is similarly peaceful?

No, they cannot.

On the contrary, everything goes to prove that the threat to the Soviet Union from without, a threat which was ever present throughout the whole period the Soviet government has been in existence, is becoming more and more real and perceptible as time goes on.

The Soviet Union, a State which did away with unemployment, which is undeviatingly progressing in all spheres of cultural and economic life, has to live in the environment of a world in chaos, of an unprecedented crisis, of cultural reaction and of the pauperisation of masses. It is this world, shaken by sharpest antagonisms, which is an ever present storm centre of war. War danger is constantly coming up and is accentuated owing to the capitalist system itself.

For many years a dispute has been going on with the Soviet Union about its assertion that war is inevitable under the present conditions. Our opponents by way of refutation referred to such factors as the League of Nations, etc. Now even those must regard this dispute as settled who hitherto failed to grasp that war in effect has not ceased for a minute in one form or another, in one part of the globe or another. The formula put forward by Litvinov: "The possibility of war is proved by the fact that this war is already taking place"—is irrefutable.

War has not been declared but it is already in progress, it is raging over a huge territory of the Far East.

Yet at the Geneva Conference the USSR proved to be the only country which declared of its willingness fully to disarm, which called all the other States to do so. This appeal fell on deaf ears.

Stubbornly and persistently fighting for peace, giving proof of its will to maintain peace in spite of all the most unfavourable circumstances (e. g. at the Geneva Conference) the USSR is equally stubborn and persistent in its decision to uphold by armed force the conquests of peaceful labour.

One of the proofs of that determination is that enormous love and care bestowed in the USSR on the Red Army—the armed vanguard of the toilers.

The toilers of the USSR, represented by the Red Army, are fighting in defence of their own interests, just as they work for their own benefit.

The moral strength of the Red Army is rooted in this organic connection between the Red Army and the entire mass of the toilers. This moral strength is undoubtedly the most important military and political factor.

As regards the technical equipment of the Red Army it is being perfected along with the economic development of the USSR and along with the transformation

of the Soviet Union into "a country of metal, a country of motors and tractors".

When referring to the moral strength of the Soviet Union it is necessary to point out to the sympathies it draws to itself from the broad masses of the toilers in every part of the world, a sympathy which was strikingly manifested already at the time of the civil war and the imperialist intervention in the young Soviet Republic.

There is no doubt that the greater is the danger of new attacks on the Soviet Union, the greater will be the wave of these sympathies.

This largely applies to the broad circles of foreign scientists, technicians and artists.

V. Molotov in a speech, which we partly reproduce in the present issue, was able to refer to most important foreign authors and scholars, who are openly expressing their sympathy for the Soviet Union.

At the present time, when the USSR and the whole world are under an immediate threat of war, the role played by the friends of the Soviet Union is becoming far more important.

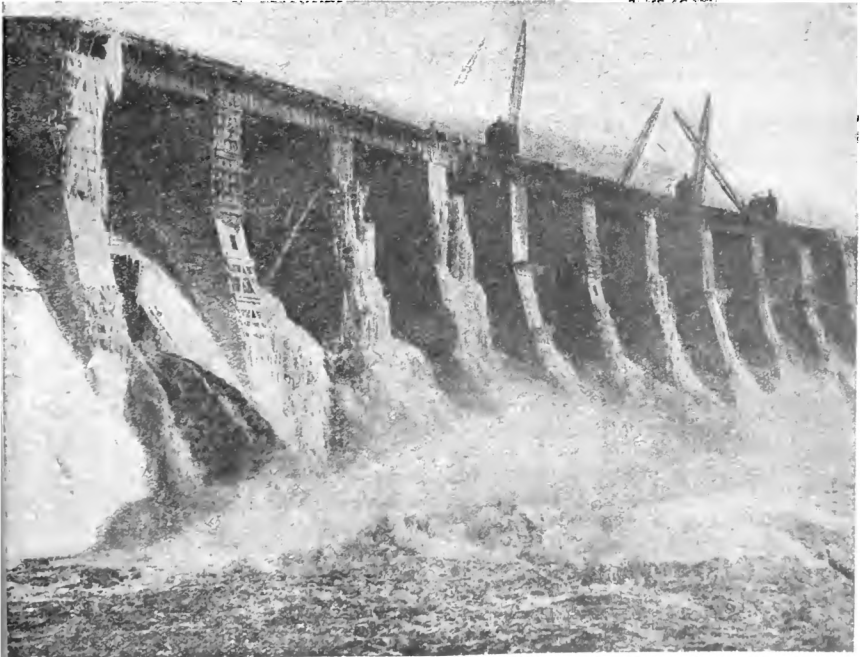
Their task will be to make public concrete facts proving the preparation of war and to destroy illusions to the effect that

„all is right with the world" and that there is no need to talk of any immediate danger. Such illusions are spread precisely by those who are preparing war.

War in the East is of international importance. The events which are taking place out there are with thousands of threads connected with the various interests of the big powers of the West and of the East, and especially with the preparation of war against the USSR.

It is in times of danger that friendship is tested. Now, when the war danger is so acute, every manifestation of friendship for the Soviet Union is of special value.

It is now a question of a friendly attitude towards a country, which is establishing new social forms of life, which is opening a new chapter in the history of civilisation, which is fighting for the realisation of ideas, such as have agitated the best minds of mankind. The well known Soviet writer, Leonid Leonov, declared recently the following in his appeal to foreign friends of the USSR in view of the preparation of an anti-Soviet war: "The USSR is not only the first proletarian State. The USSR is the real symbol of that true humanity, for which each of you has been striving."



The last cubic metre of concrete has been poured on the dam of Dnieprostroy

The Soviet Union Fights for Peace

THE USSR DEMANDS COMPLETE DISARMAMENT AS GUARANTEE AGAINST WAR

(From M. Litvinov's speech at the Disarmament Conference)

THE POLICY OF THE USSR IS A POLICY OF PEACE

The Soviet Government is not taking part in this conference on account of formal obligations, and not under any stimulus from outside. From the very first days of its existence it condemned war as an instrument of national policy, by deeds as well as by words, declared against all contributions and territorial annexations, and the oppression of any nation by any other, and proclaimed the principle of national self-determination. Ever since it has in its own policy pursued with strict consistency the line of peaceful and loyal co-operation with other States. Once war is excluded as an instrument of national policy, the Soviet Government sees no need for maintaining armies and other armed forces and, on its first appearance at an international conference — at Genoa ten years ago — it proposed total general disarmament as the only way of putting an end to war. It renewed this proposal as soon as it was invited to take part in the work of the Preparatory Commission for Disarmament. In making this proposal my government took into consideration the demands and claims of the peoples throughout the world as well as the spirit of its own people.

The Soviet Delegation urged at the Preparatory Commission the speediest possible realisation of its proposal. At the same time we pointed out the imminent danger of new wars and that the only means of averting this danger, under the economic system existing in most countries, would be total disarmament, and that no treaties, pacts, protocols or international organisations could create real security for all countries. Our point of view was disputed in the Commission. Our warnings as to the imminent possibility of new wars were ridiculed. We were accused of pessimism and of exaggerating the danger. We were told that it was «security» that was required and that this security could be achieved by a system of treaties, protocols and other international

undertakings, suggested by the League of Nations, and that there was no hurry about disarmament.

WHO STANDS FOR PEACE AND WHO IS AGAINST IT

It would, however, be wrong to infer from what I have said that the Soviet Delegation denies the importance and efficacy of all other ways of consolidating peace short of total disarmament. The Soviet Government has shown its readiness for international co-operation by taking part in a series of international congresses and organisations and by the proposals which it brought before them.

Nor do we underrate the importance of international treaties and undertakings for peace. My government adhered to the 1928 Paris Treaty at the time and even put it into force with neighbouring States earlier than it was done by the Treaty's own initiators. My government itself makes a practice of concluding mutual non-aggression pacts which it considers infinitely more significant than multi-lateral or general treaties. It has always proposed non-aggression pacts to all States. These pacts are a kind of acid test for making other States display their spirit, whether peaceful or the reverse. When a pact proposed by us to a State is immediately accepted and put into force, a certain stability in the relations between the two States may be affirmed. When such a proposal is not immediately accepted but considered for years, and even after the first letter of the signature has been appended to it, a period of meditation ensues, and the completion of the signature is postponed, there is naturally less feeling of confidence. But still more serious doubts of a peaceful spirit arise with regard to States which categorically reject proposals for the conclusion of a pact of non-aggression, either on some excuse or other, or without giving any excuse. It is then obviously impossible to deny the importance of international pacts as a means of discovering the peaceful or hostile attitude of

another State. In addition it must be admitted that the conclusion of a non-aggression pact increases the guilt of the aggressor in cases of disturbance of the peace. Such pacts cannot, however, be considered an actual guarantee against war. Total and general disarmament is the only effective guarantee against war and its devastating effects.

The Soviet Delegation submitted to the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference a draft convention for total disarmament, to be realised in the course of four years. This was four years ago, and it will hardly be denied that if our proposal had been accepted at the time, the events in the Far East would not have occurred, there would have been no threats of a new world war, and the economic crisis, now being almost universally experienced, would undoubtedly have been less acute.

SECURITY OF THE SOVIET UNION MENACED

The country I represent is in a less favourable position as regards security than other countries. Only 14 years ago, it was the object of armed attack on all its frontiers, of blockade and of political and economic boycott. For 14 years it has been the object of indescribable slander and hostile campaigns. Even now many States, including one of the strongest naval powers, do not conceal their hostility to it, even to the extent of refusing to establish normal peaceful relations, and many States maintaining normal relations with it have refused to conclude or confirm pacts of non-aggression. The present events in the Far East, which have evoked universal alarm, cannot but cause special anxiety in the Soviet Union, owing to its geographical nearness to the theatre of these events, where huge armies are operating, and where anti-Soviet Russian émigrés are mobilising their forces. Despite all this I am empowered to declare here the readiness of the Soviet Union to disarm to the same extent and at the same rate to which the other powers, first and foremost those actually at its borders, may agree.

TO ORGANISE PEACE BY CREATING SECURITY AGAINST WAR

But before taking up the question of partial disarmament, the Soviet Delegation wishes to appeal to the conference as follows.

The political and economic differences existing between various States have become considerably intensified since the Great War and, owing to the crisis, are inevitably and rapidly leading to a new armed conflict between nations. This conflict, owing to modern improvements in the weapons of destruction, threatens humanity with incredible disasters, unprecedented devastation. The impending menace of war is causing universal alarm and arousing universal suspicion. This alarm and suspicion, together with the burden of taxation imposed upon the people for the maintenance by States of huge armed forces are nourishing and intensifying the present economic crisis, which is felt in all its weight first and foremost by the working classes. In these circumstances the task of the hour is not the repetition of any attempt to achieve the reduction of armaments or war budgets, the realisation of which is bound to come up against tremendous obstacles, but the actual prevention of war, through the creation of effective security against war. This task can only be carried out by means of total and general disarmament.

The Soviet Delegation will move a resolution to this effect, convinced as it is that there would be no external obstacle to the carrying out of general disarmament if the governments here represented show their readiness for it.

THE TASKS OF THE USSR ARE PEACEFUL TASKS

The sole aim of the Soviet Government is the building up of socialism on the territory of the Soviet Union, and in the face of the successful accomplishment of the first Five-Year Plan, of colossal achievements in every sphere of economic life, it seems to the Soviet Delegation that what has been obvious from the beginning must by now be as clear as daylight to all and sundry—namely that the Soviet Union requires, neither the increase of territory, nor interference in the affairs of other nations, to achieve its aim, and could therefore do without army, navy, military aviation and all other forms of armed forces. It does, however, require the assurance that there will be no attempts against Soviet territory either and that other States will not interfere in its internal affairs and that its peaceful economic construction will not be tampered with from without. It will only feel this assur-

ance if other States also agree to give up their armed forces.

Now, when the whole world is going through an unprecedented economic crisis, which is shaking the edifice of the capitalist system to its foundations, the masses of the people suffering from unemployment to an extent hitherto unknown, from universal wage reductions, threatened by still further economic upheavals, the full burden of which the ruling classes readily shift on to their shoulders, must be relieved as far as possible from the threat of the catastrophe of war, which the course of the economic crisis is making more and more imminent. Security against war must be created. This security can never be achieved by roundabout ways, but only by the direct way of total general disarmament. This is no communist slogan.

THE TRIUMPH OF SOCIALISM IS THE SUPREME GUARANTEE OF PEACE

The Soviet Delegation knows that the triumph of socialist principles, removing the causes giving rise to armed conflicts, is the only absolute guarantee of peace. So long, however, as these principles prevail only in one sixth of the world, there is only one means of organising security against war, and that is total and general disarmament. One proof of its practicability is the fact that it is proposed by a State with a population of over 160 million.

We hope that the responsible representatives of States here present will treat the idea expressed by the Soviet Delegation with the seriousness which the problem of assuring to all nations real security against war, real peace, deserves.

THE SOVIET UNION AND JAPAN¹

It is now over five months since the Japanese troops have occupied Mukden, the capital of Manchuria, and that an armed conflict began in the Far East, which is now assuming ever wider proportions. Since that period, not a day passed which did not bring with it a new intensification of the situation in the Far East, not a single wire was sent from that quarter which did not bear out the extraordinarily great importance of the events that are taking place. It is quite natural that the public opinion of the Soviet Union watches with particular attention the events, some of which are developing close to the very frontiers of the USSR.

The USSR, since the very first days of the Far-Eastern conflict, took up the position of strict neutrality. The sympathies of the toilers of the Soviet Union for the Chinese people, suffering from the oppression of imperialist exploiters, are, of course, an undisputed fact. But this sympathy for the struggle of liberation on the part of Chinese workers and peasants in no way infringes that undeviating line of strict non-interference, which naturally flows from the general policy of peace pursued by the Soviet Union. Owing to this consistent attitude of the Soviet

Government towards the events in Manchuria, the provocative slanderous anti-Soviet attacks crumbled down one after another. Suffice it to recall the fate of the extensive campaign of slander about the alleged assistance lent by the Soviet Union to General Ma, a campaign now completely exposed before the entire world. The Soviet policy of non-interference and of preserving peace has obtained a universal recognition even on the part of the enemies of the Soviet country. This policy followed by the USSR was at last recognised by the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Iosizava, who confirmed in the Japanese Parliament that the Japanese government recognises the fact of absolute neutrality and non-interference being observed on the part of the Soviet Union.

None the less, we are now witnessing a further revival of anti-Soviet intrigues in Manchuria. We are witnessing a whole system of provocative measures, whose significance may in no wise be underestimated. An abnormal situation is being created on our Far-Eastern frontiers, one that demands serious attention on our part. This unwholesome atmosphere may be illustrated by the information concerning a statement made by a representative of the Japanese Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The latter based his statement on the information supplied by the Japanese

¹ Translated from «Izvestia» of March 4th, 1932.

Consul General in Vladivostok, who in his turn being apparently unable to find other sources of information, referred to a "trust-worthy foreigner". The nature of this information based on unscrupulous inventions and combining obvious falsehoods, is flagrantly proclaiming its specific purpose. For this reason alone there would be no necessity of refuting the provocative inventions about a Japanese-Soviet clash, which was alleged to be imminent for in the opinion of this "foreigner", the "Bolsheviks hate the Japanese", nor is there any necessity of refuting the falseness of the information concerning the concentration of a Soviet army of one hundred thousand men in the vicinity of Vladivostok.

However, at this moment it is not only in this circumstance that we are interested. What interests us most is the fact that Japanese politicians, in order to appraise the present situation in the Far East, are drawing their material from poisoned wells, instead of treating facts with due attention. These facts go to prove on the one hand the consistent peaceful position of the Soviet Union, and on the other hand, such development of events, which makes ponder every genuine supporter of peace. And this appraisal, a conscientious analysis of the environment show that the least the Soviet Union must do at this moment, is to take all the necessary and possible measures for the protection of the inviolability of its frontiers from attacks from without.

And, indeed, do not the facts bear this out? Did we not observe during the last months, weeks and even days a most serious increase in anti-Soviet provocative plots, which are constantly arising? It is impossible to ignore the fact that very responsible representatives of the Japanese military circles, and not only military circles, are openly raising the question of an attack on the USSR and of wresting from it the Maritime (Primorye) and the Trans-Baikal regions. We are in possession of documents emanating from the representatives of the highest military circles of Japan, which contain plans of an attack on the USSR and plans of capturing its territory.

One of these documents contains the following passage: "As regards the question, whether Japan should start war against the Soviet Union, my opinion is that it is necessary for Japan to strike the path of a firm policy in regard to the Soviet Union, and to be ready for war at any moment. The cardinal aim of this war consists

not so much in safeguarding Japan from communism, as in obtaining possession of the Soviet Far East and Eastern Siberia."

Another document states as follows: "A Japan-Soviet war, taking into account the state of the armed forces of the USSR and the conditions in foreign States, must be waged as soon as possible. We must realise that as time goes on the situation grows more and more favourable for them. I regard it as necessary that the Imperial government should follow a policy calculated to bring about war with the USSR within the shortest possible period."

The same document states: "It is quite possible, in spite of our strategy of crushing and the tendency to bring matters speedily to a head, that owing to various conditions we shall be unable to carry on the war in strict accordance with the proposed plan of action. There arises an extremely important question of the final moment in our military operations. Naturally, we shall have to effect an advance up to the Lake Baikal. As regards the further advance to the West, this must be decided upon in accordance with the general situation, which will arise by that time, and this will depend especially on the conditions of those States, which will advance from the West. In case we stop on the Trans-Baikal railway line, Japan will have to incorporate fully the occupied Far-Eastern Region into the possessions of the Empire. On this territory our troops must be stationed as military settlements, i. e. for a long time to come. We must be prepared, after we have effected that occupation, to bide our time awaiting the subsequent course of events. Since it will be difficult for Japan to deal a mortal blow at the Soviet Union by means of war in the Soviet Far East, one of the most important aspects of our war must be strategic propaganda, by means of which we shall have to involve the Western neighbours and other States into war with the USSR and to cause a disintegration within the USSR by making use of the white groups within and outside the Union, of other nationalities within the USSR, and of all anti-Soviet elements. The present position of the USSR is very favourable for carrying out these combinations."

Finally, one more extract of a similar kind: "Considering the general condition of the country, it is possible to arrive at the conclusion that at the present time the USSR is unable to wage war. The present moment is exceptionally favourable

for our Empire to embark on the solution of the Far-Eastern problem. The Western States bordering on the USSR (Poland, Rumania) are able now to act in concert with us, but this possibility will gradually decrease with every year."

May be, the contents of these documents could be regarded as the exposition of the personal opinion of their authors. But these authors of aggressive plans are men holding such responsible positions that even their personal opinions could not fail to have a serious political weight and forces us to treat with necessary vigilance and attention everything that is taking place at our Far-Eastern borders.

No impartial politician can ignore the symptomatic significance of the fact that for two months the Japanese government did not deem it necessary to return an answer to the Soviet proposal concerning the conclusion of a non-aggression pact.

An extremely characteristic trait is also the anti-Soviet intrigues in Japan in connection with questions bound up with the fisheries. A campaign conducted by very influential Japanese circles is in reality connected with the convention on fisheries only in so far as it obviously has for its purpose to break up that convention, the strict observance of which the Soviet Government has always regarded and continues to regard as absolutely necessary. This campaign has nothing to do with the question of fisheries and is the expression of the aggressive plans of those Japanese circles, who would like to have an absolutely free hand in the Far-Eastern waters and to realise still "wider plans of conquest".

It is equally clear that the inspirers of the Japanese policy in Manchuria cannot divest themselves of the responsibility for the anti-Soviet work of the White Guardists, who are now in high spirits. The Japanese governing circles in spite of the fact that they always emphasise their "ignorance" of the work of the White émigrés in Manchuria, will not be able, we believe, to deny the fact that the activity of the White Guardists has revived precisely after the occupation of Manchuria by the Japanese troops and is increasing in proportion to the strengthening of the Japanese influence in Manchuria. We could quote endless indications bearing out the fact that the aggressive activity of the White Guardists in Manchuria is immediately connected with the Japanese occupation. We need hardly mention that the White

émigrés themselves write about this activity with absolute frankness. In absolutely all the organisations of émigrés in Paris reports are read on the role of Japan as the protectress of the anti-Soviet work of the White Guardists. As early as January last, "Vozrozhdenie" wrote: "Japanese public men have repeatedly emphasised that they place exceptional hopes in Russians, who are hostile to the USSR." "Foreign observers also repeatedly emphasised the connection between the Japanese plans and the anti-Soviet plots of the White Guardists. Thus, e. g. the "New York Herald Tribune" wrote at the end of January as follows: "The fact that the White Guardists welcomed enthusiastically the arrival of the Japanese in Kharbin suggests that Japan gave secret promises to these ever hopeful people." The Paris correspondent of the German newspaper "Berliner Börsenzeitung" informed on February 28th; "The White Guardists have achieved a great deal; a new dangerous storm centre has been created on the Soviet frontier." We can also quote the report of the officially inspired Dairen Japanese newspaper "Mansyu-Nippo", which stressed the circumstance that "since the formation of the new government in Manchuria the White-Guardist movement has revived to an extraordinary extent."

Such are the facts, a sober estimation of which shows a strengthening of aggressive tendencies, directed against the USSR, in Manchuria, occupied by Japan. Such are the facts, which require vigilance and necessary measures for the protection of the territory of the USSR against attempts to invade it from without.

The peaceful policy of the USSR is not a policy of ignoring facts. We have repeatedly shown that the Soviet Union will not be ensnared by provocative plots and that at the same time the USSR knows how to expose and smash provocative plots, engineered against the USSR. The Soviet Government followed, follows and will follow a firm policy of peace and a policy of non-interference in the events which are now taking place in China. However, this by no means signifies that the Soviet Union will allow to anyone to infringe on the inviolability of Soviet frontiers, to invade its territory and to seize even the smallest part of Soviet land.

"We do not want a single foot of foreign land, but we shall not yield to anyone a single inch of our own."

The Second Five-Year Plan

THE PRINCIPAL TASKS

Resolution carried by the XVIIIth Conference of the Communist Party of the USSR in connection with the reports of V. Molotov and V. Kuibyshev

The successes of the first Five-Year Plan have prepared the ground for the continued and even more powerful growth of socialism in the USSR.

The XVIIIth Conference of the Party holds that the vast natural wealth of the country, the bolshevist rate of socialist construction, the growing activity of the masses of workers and collective farmers, and the correct line of the Party fully guarantee such development of the productive forces of socialist economy in the second Five-Year Plan, on the basis of which the capitalist elements in the USSR will be completely wiped out.

The conference holds that the chief political task of the second Five-Year Plan is completely to do away with the capitalist elements and with classes in general; fully to destroy the causes giving rise to class distinction and exploitation; to abolish the survivals of capitalism in economy and in the consciousness of people; to transform the whole working population of the country into conscious and active builders of a classless socialist society.

The welfare of the masses of workers and peasants must improve at a much greater rate than hitherto as a result of the elimination of parasitic class elements and the general growth of national income which is all for the benefit of the workers. A decided improvement must take place in house-building and municipal construction. The conference holds that by the end of the period of the second Five-Year Plan the population must be provided with the main articles of consumption, including food products, at least to the extent of two to three times as much as at the end of the period of the first Five-Year Plan.

1. These tasks can be achieved only on the basis of a thorough technical reconstruction of the whole national economy—industry, transport and agriculture.

The USSR, when entering the period of the first Five-Year Plan, emerged from the period of restoration. In the concluding years of that period, it entered on the path of reconstruction of several basic branches of national economy, particularly the metal industry, machine building, coal mining, not to mention the reconstruction of the oil industry which had been accomplished even prior to that.

Particularly outstanding is the extensive reconstruction of agriculture which is being rapidly readjusted on a new technical base.

The successes achieved in this sphere during the period of the first Five-Year Plan mark, however, only the beginning of the technical reconstruction of national economy. Yet the bolshevist rate of socialist construction essential to the accomplishment of the main tasks of the second Five-Year Plan cannot be assured by the existing equipment of industry and transport, let alone agriculture, which is inadequate, antiquated and worn out, unless a technical reconstruction is effected in all branches of national economy, unless these branches are provided with modern machinery.

The XVIIIth Conference of the Party holds, therefore, that the chief and decisive economic task of the second Five-Year Plan is to complete the reconstruction of the whole of national economy, to provide a new technical base for all its branches.

Of leading importance in the technical reconstruction of national economy will be the part to be played by the Soviet machine-building. The conference deems it necessary to enlarge the production by the end of the second Five-Year Plan at least three to three and a half times as compared with 1932, so that all the requirements of reconstruction in industry, transport, communication, agriculture, trade,

etc., would be met by the production of most modern machinery at home.

A most important item in the technical reconstruction of national economy is the creation of a new energetic base, founded on extensive electrification of industry and transport, and the gradual application of electricity in agriculture, using for this purpose the vast resources of water power, the anthracite deposits of the national and local coal-fields, the local types of fuel (peat and slate). The conference deems it absolutely necessary to generate in 1937 at least 100 milliard kilowatt-hours of electricity as compared with 17 milliard in 1932, to mine at least 250 million tons of coal, as compared with 90 million in 1932, and to increase the output of oil from two and a half to three times.

The XVIII Conference of the Party holds that the following tasks must be put before the most important branches of national economy in the second Five-Year Plan:

A. The objective of the iron and steel industry is to be at least 22 million tons of pig-iron in 1937 and to provide the necessary grades of steel for the machine-building. To accomplish this, the metal industry must be completely reconstructed, new plants must be built and equipped with modern powerful machinery and provided with thoroughly prepared raw material, employing electricity in production and utilising all by-products.

B. The objective of non-ferrous metallurgy is to be the production of copper, lead, zinc, aluminum, and precious metals sufficient to meet the needs of the country in the second Five-Year Plan period. For this purpose, the method of selective flotation, of smelting pulverised ore, new types of raw material, etc., must be used.

C. The slow rate of development of the chemical industry, as compared with the rate in the whole of national economy, must be fully liquidated. Special attention is to be paid to the development of the basic chemical industry and particularly to the production of fertilisers, for which purpose the re-equipment of plants and extensive new construction is to be assured.

D. On the railways, a complete reconstruction is to be effected accompanied by the building of about 25,000 to 30,000 kilometres of new lines; the construction of many new bridges across the main rivers, the introduction of powerful engines and big freight cars, electrification

of several railways, extensive application of automatic couplers and thermic engines. The railways must be so developed as to assure the hasty economic development of districts and national republics, the requirements of which in the past have been far from met.

As to navigation, there must be a reconstruction of the river and sea fleet; the existing water routes must be improved and new ones acquired, accompanied by the building of equipped river and sea ports.

In regard to the building of roads and highways and the production of automobiles, development must proceed at a faster rate than in the other types of transportation.

Communication by air is to be developed along all main lines, as one of the most important means of communication with distant areas and important industrial centres.

There must be extensive development of all forms of communication, especially radio.

E. As to the light and food industries, production in the most important branches must greatly develop on the basis of large-scale machinery and considerable extension of the agricultural supply of raw material, guaranteeing a trebled per capita consumption, having also in view the need of intensive augmentation of the light and food industries in new areas, namely in the districts where the raw material is produced.

The lumber industry which is of extraordinary importance in construction in general should be assured a deserving rate of development and mechanisation.

F. As to the small trades industry, co-operation should enlarge the output of goods of wide consumption and to promote such manufactures and trades, which supply the socialised industry and agriculture, on the basis of complete inclusion of small trades into the co-operation.

G. In agriculture, socialist construction must be completed so that all collective farms will be cultivated by machine and tractor stations and farming in the main mechanised. The task of organisational and economic consolidation of the collective farms and socialist training of the masses of collective farmers will still be the centre of attention in the second Five-Year Plan.

The State farms must extend production all along the line, including the cultivation of commercial crops and live stock.

They must play a greater part as models of socialist organisation of farming, application of modern machinery and all achievements of contemporary agronomy and zootechnics.

The development of live stock and its products in the second Five-Year Plan must in the main solve the live stock problem of the USSR just as the grain problem has been solved by the Party in the first Five-Year Plan.

The cultivation of cotton and flax must at least double and that of sugar beets treble.

All these measures in agriculture necessitate a still further and more rapid development of grain cultivation so that by the end of the period of the second Five-Year Plan at least 1,300,000,000 hundred-weights of grain will be produced. The main task of the second Five-Year Plan therefore is greatly to increase the yield of collective and State fields and to cope with drought in a bolshevist fashion.

2. The complete technical reconstruction of national economy is inseparably linked up with the task of mastering technics by the industrial cadres, the development of large numbers of new technicians coming from the workers and peasants, and the raising of the cultural level of the entire mass of workers. The fact that the technical forces in the Soviet Union will numerically increase should by no means obscure the importance of their education, the importance of their knowledge of all the achievements of world science and technics. The solution of the problem of technical forces is a most essential element of bolshevist realisation of the tasks of the cultural revolution in this country and the successful building of socialism.

The most speedy introduction of general literacy in the masses; immediate raising of the whole work of technical education and increased material support from the Government in developing science in USSR — these are the immediate tasks, representing a fraction of the general programme in building socialism in our country.

3. In order to assure a bolshevist tempo of development of the whole of national economy and better catering to the needs of the broad masses of town and country in the matter of articles of mass consumption, the development of commodity circulation is of prime importance. The development of the circulation of commodities, particularly in retail, and the

use of business methods in all economic activity will best stimulate the mobilisation of the vast internal resources available in Soviet economy which are yet far from being exhausted. This will accelerate socialist accumulation and thereby strengthen the material basis of socialist construction. At the same time, the supply of manufactured goods and food products for the workers and rural toilers can rapidly improve only on the basis of extensive development of the circulation of commodities. For this purpose, the number of stores and stands as well as other forms of trade must increase to the utmost and be provided with the necessary technical equipment. Only by so doing, will the ground be prepared for abolishing the rationing system and for doing away with centralised distribution, which is to be replaced by extensive Soviet trade.

The conference also stresses the anti-bolshevist character of the "left" phrases about introducing direct "exchange of products" and about the "withering away of money" in the present stage of socialist construction. The conference emphasises, on the other hand, that the bourgeois distortion of the principle of business methods expressed in the squandering away of State resources, resulting in the disruption of economic plans, is absolutely incompatible with the policy of the Party and the interests of the working class.

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The new successes of socialism will be secured by the working class only in a struggle against the relics of capitalism by pitilessly crushing the resistance of the doomed capitalist elements, by overcoming the bourgeois and petty bourgeois prejudices to be found among the toilers, and by persistent work in the field of socialist education.

This means that even in the future we shall not be able to avoid intensified class struggle at certain moments, and particularly in certain isolate districts and separate parts of socialist construction which at the same time underlines the inevitability of preservation, and in some cases of increasing of bourgeois influences in separate strata and groups of working masses; the inevitability for a considerable period of class influences, hostile to the proletariat, penetrating into the midst of workers and even into the

Party. Considering which the Party is bound to face the problem of fortifying the dictatorship of the proletariat and further struggle with opportunism, particularly with the right wing deviation — the chief danger at the present stage.

The full collectivisation of agriculture, the growing number of large State farms and the equipment of the collective and State farms with modern machinery which transforms farm labour into a type of industrial labour, and the considerable improvement of the transport system and circulation of commodities between industry and agriculture, create conditions for the complete obliteration of the difference between town and country.

The rapid growth of socialist economy during the period of the second Five-Year Plan in the national republics and regions will provide a basis for the elimination of economic and cultural backwardness of the various nationalities inherited from the tsarist capitalist-colonial regime.

In the period of the second Five-Year Plan, the Soviet Union will occupy the second place in Europe in its technical development. The work done in the first Five-Year Plan towards the transformation of the USSR from a country which imports machines and equipment into a country independently producing machines and equipment, will be completed, and "the economic independence of the USSR, protecting the latter against its conversion into an appendage of capitalist world economy, will be secured" (XIVth Congress of the CPSU).

All this creates the possibility for the USSR to catch up the level of technical and economic development of the advanced capitalist countries in several branches of economy.

The acute crisis in the capitalist countries is the best evidence of the coming downfall of the capitalist world. The successes of socialism in the USSR are the best evidence that the socialist system has advantages over the capitalist system.

In the capitalist countries we witness a catastrophic fall in production, the wholesale closing down of mills and factories, an unprecedented destruction of forces of

production. In the USSR we witness a tremendous and steady growth of production, ever increasing construction of factories, giant plants, mines and power stations, a rate of development of productive forces inconceivable under capitalism.

In the capitalist countries we witness frightful unemployment of millions of workers and extreme impoverishment of millions of farmers. In the Soviet Union unemployment has been done away with completely and poverty has been wiped out. In this country, the seven-hour day has been introduced in the factories and mills and the welfare of the masses of town and country is constantly rising.

All of this makes the USSR a centre of attraction for the workers of all countries and the oppressed of the world. The significance of the Soviet Union as a revolutionary factor is growing. The USSR is being strengthened as a base of international socialism.

The XVIIth Conference of the Party expresses the firm conviction that the main tasks of the second Five-Year Plan will be not only accomplished but exceeded; that an actual and concrete economic guidance and energetic struggle with bureaucracy will be guaranteed by all the organisations of the working class; that the raising of the productivity of labour necessary for the realisation of the second Five-Year Plan will be guaranteed by the workers of the USSR; and that the number of engaged in socialist competition and organised in shock brigades will swell from day to day.

The conference has the unshaken conviction that the working class and the mass of collective farmers will find in the organisations of the Communist Party, the Young Communist League, the Trade Unions, and the Soviet Government, bolshevist organisers and leaders in the victorious struggle for the carrying out of the second Five-Year Plan.

The conference considers it necessary to intensify the work of Party, Soviet, economic, co-operative, professional and Young Communist League organisations for the speediest elaboration of the second Five-Year Plan and to present it for approval to the next Party Conference.

From the report of V. Molotov at the XVIIth Party Conference

ABOLITION OF CLASSES

The fundamental political task of the second Five-Year Plan is the "final liquidation of the capitalist elements and of classes generally" and the "transformation of the whole of the toiling population of the country into conscious and active builders of classless socialist society"¹.

The 1932 plan of national economy adopted by the Party presupposes that already by the end of the first Five-Year Plan private enterprises will produce less than 10% of the national income of the Soviet Union. Another fact: already over 60% of the peasant farms in this country are collectivised, and there can be no doubt whatever that in 1932/33 the task set by the Party of completing the collectivisation of agriculture will be carried out in the main. This means that already during the next two years the basic section of the capitalist elements in the village will be wiped out on the basis of complete collectivisation. Last but not least, in big industry the capitalist elements have long since gone down, while in petty industry and in trade their role is rapidly dwindling. Consequently, there can be no doubt whatever that in the second Five-Year Plan the Party can and should set before itself the task of the final liquidation of the capitalist elements.

But we are told: granted that you will effect the final liquidation of the capitalist elements, but what about liquidating classes generally? Such a statement of the question contains a crude contradiction which leads to great confusion.¹

As is known, the fundamental task of socialism is the abolition of capitalism, in other words, the abolition of classes, i. e., of the exploitation of man by man. Hence, it follows that the total liquidation of the capitalist elements implies the liquidation of the class of exploiters, and without exploiters there are no exploited.

In the theses the necessity is urged of the "full elimination of the causes which beget class differences and exploitation". What form is this to take? We bolsheviks know quite well what form it should take,

¹ Here and on the following pages the theses on the directives on the 2nd Five-Year Plan are referred to.

for the bolsheviks have effected a socialist revolution which begins by turning over to public ownership, to the State, the means of production, i. e., the land, the factories, workshops, etc. The basis of human exploitation is the ownership of these means of production by some people and the lack of it by others. This divides people into classes and begets exploitation. We know that in regard to big industry of the land, the process of nationalisation of the means of production has long since been completed. This is still going on and with the final liquidation of the capitalist elements it will be fully accomplished in all other branches of national economy. Thus will we eliminate the causes which beget class differences and exploitation.

After all has been said it is clear that the full liquidation of capitalist elements and the total abolition of the causes of class differences imply also the liquidation of classes generally. If there are no capitalist elements, i. e., no exploiters, and if the sources of class differences have been eliminated, what talk can there be about the existence of classes? Consequently, once the second Five-Year Plan takes up the task of the full liquidation of capitalist elements, it inevitably takes up the task of liquidating classes generally.

Of course, the liquidation of capitalist elements involves tremendous difficulties to overcome the desperate attempts of resistance put up by the kulaks and bourgeois elements in general. Not only does not the class struggle end, but in some sections and at some periods it may and will become considerably sharpened. The full liquidation of capitalist elements is only possible by a thorough carrying out of the bolshevik policy of a general offensive which surmounts all difficulties, which rallies to the working class the broad masses of the village in the struggle against the kulak, against all bourgeois-capitalist elements.

THE PROLETARIAT

Since the working class has taken power into its hands and gained control of all the means of production, i. e. big industry, the land, transport, etc., it has ceased to be the proletariat in the sense in which

this term is used under a capitalist society. The proletariat in capitalist society is deprived of the means of production and is therefore bound by the chains of bourgeois exploitation. The condition of the proletariat under capitalism is that of an oppressed and exploited class of society. Having overthrown the power of the bourgeoisie and taken away from it the means of production, the working class has become the dominant power in the State. From that very moment begins the liquidation of the capitalist elements and the paving of the way for the liquidation of classes in general.

In October 1917, the working class of our country scored the greatest historic victory over the bourgeoisie that is known in world history. Since that time the working class of the USSR is not only free from the slavery of capitalism, but has also become the dominant class that is building the new socialist society. The historic role of the proletariat consists not only in being the grave digger of bourgeois society, but also in being the builder of the new socialist society. Hence, the state that is created by the working class after its victory, is used by the proletariat to liquidate the capitalist elements, and at the same time to do away with classes generally. When capitalist elements are eliminated, the roots of class divisions in society are torn out, and consequently, the way is paved for the liquidation of all classes, and so of the working class itself. The working class of our country has already traversed much of the road towards the liquidation of capitalist elements. The next Five-Year Plan will be the period when the question of the liquidation of capitalist elements and of classes generally will be at the forefront.

In carrying out the task of the liquidation of classes, the working class of our country is fulfilling a special role. As the dominant class, the working class of this country is leading the whole of socialist construction including the liquidation of capitalist elements and the remodelling of the petty peasant economy upon the basis of socialism.

THE TOILING MASS OF PEASANTRY

Since the October Revolution profound changes have taken place in the condition of the peasantry that cannot be overlooked. This relates especially and above all to the masses of collective farmers.

Although it is only about two and a half years since the toiling peasants have taken to the road of complete collectivisation, we can clearly see that they have definitely taken up the course of socialism. In the struggle against the kulaks, under the guidance of the working class, the overwhelming mass of the collective farmers — and there are already millions of them — have firmly joined the ranks of the builders of socialism.

Of course, they remember quite well what they were before the October Revolution. They cannot forget how under the rule of the bourgeoisie and the landlords they were mercilessly exploited and oppressed, how they were beaten and flogged by tsarist officials, how they were steeped in ignorance and subjected to the ministrations of the "spiritual fathers," the priests of the orthodox church, etc. Comparing their own condition with the starvation of the workers and the misery of the unemployed under capitalist rule and knowing no way for a better life, the peasants were clinging to their small holdings, and in this manner they developed the mental habits of petty proprietors.

During the period of the second Five-Year Plan the whole mass of the toilers in the village will be drawn into socialist construction, by the reconstruction of economy upon the basis of collectivisation and high machine technique. This cannot proceed smoothly and of its own accord. It can come only through a bitter struggle against the remnants of capitalism in the village, through a struggle for the organisational and economic strengthening of the colхозes. This means the struggle for the reformation of the petty proprietors of yesterday into collective farmers, into the conscious and active builders of socialism of today and tomorrow.

It needs no demonstrating that the present colhoz peasantry, and in the next couple of years the bulk of the peasantry, are no longer the individual farmers of the pre-revolutionary days. During the years of revolution, especially the years of the rapid growth of complete collectivisation in the village, there have occurred profound changes in the peasantry, and the peasant today has quite a different appearance. From an ignorant, backward and helpless creature, the rural toiler has been transformed into an active builder, a collective farmer. On these grounds the ranks of active and conscious builders of socialism in the village are growing so rapidly

that in the second Five-Year Plan — this may be confidently anticipated — the whole bulk of the toiling peasantry will be organised in the colхозs. This will mean the end to the petty ownership which has prevailed in the village for many centuries.

MUTUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN TOWN AND COUNTRY

The outline of the second Five-Year Plan contemplates also the question of mutual relations between town and village.

In "The Housing Question" Engels wrote: "Purest utopia is the desire to reform existing bourgeois society while wishing to retain the peasantry as such. Only the most even possible distribution of the population all over the country, only the close connection of industry with agricultural work, along with the necessary extension of the means of communication — while abolishing the capitalist mode of production, which is the premise — can get the rural population out of the state of isolation and stupidity in which it has almost invariably stagnated in the course of millenniums."

A deduction in this sense is drawn in our theses. In the theses it is pointed out that the fulfilment of the tasks of the second Five-Year Plan means the creation of conditions "for the full elimination of the contrast between town and village."

It is important, however, to deal here with the question of the ways to eliminate this contrast. On the one hand this depends on the village, which is being rebuilt upon the new colhoz basis (at the present stage, in the form of artels).

It is well known, that the socialist reconstruction of our agriculture is taking place on the basis of collectivisation. The colхозs are one of the varieties of co-operative organisations, the highest form of co-operation, a type of socialist production.

The distinction between the colhoz and the socialist State enterprise is of tremendous political and practical importance. The co-operative basis of the colhoz in the form of an artel, the principle of voluntary membership, the creation of the new, higher technical base of collective farming with the assistance of the State and under its guidance — all this facilitates in the highest degree the transition of the masses of the peasants towards socialism (through the various degrees in the development of the collective farms themselves).

This arises from the famous co-operative plan worked out by Lenin.

The Vith Congress of Soviets in 1931 emphasised the difference between colхозs and sovхозs. It was especially noted that "the sovхозs are State enterprises in which the State is the full owner". At the same time it was stated that "the owners of the colхозs are the colhoz members." The difference is obvious. This difference is emphasised by the Party in order to allow no incorrect identification of the sovхозs with the colхозs and vice versa, which, as you know, has taken place in practice in a number of cases. In that decision the co-operative character of the colхозs, and the peculiar ways of the peasantry towards socialism were emphasised to a sufficient degree.

The distinctive difference of the road to socialism for the working class and the peasantry is obvious. Owing to the peculiar conditions of its position as a class, the working class goes in advance of the peasantry, through the highest forms of socialist economy of the present stage. The toiling masses of the peasantry, owing to their conditions in the past, are following the course towards the classless socialist society through a number of additional transition stages, through longer periods, etc. Both the industrial workers and the peasants, in their masses, will become transformed during the next Five-Year Plan into more and more active and conscious builders of a classless socialist society. The varying ways of their socialist evolution do not hinder, but rather assure the ultimate victory of socialism, when at last all the differences between workers and peasants will have completely disappeared.

CHANGES IN THE MENTALITY OF THE PEOPLE

A big start was already made by the October Revolution towards the obliteration of the contrast between mental and physical work. Universal literacy is one of the basic measures in this direction. The facilities of not only elementary but also of advocated education extended to every worker in town or village, and the exceptionally rapid growth of the technical and scientific forces in our country, indicate that we are creating the material and cultural premises of the struggle for wiping out the contrasts between mental and physical work. Nevertheless we believe it premature, and not in accord with the objec-

ive conditions, to undertake in the second Five-Year Plan the task of wiping out the contrasts between mental and physical work.

On the other hand, the realisation of such tasks as the full liquidation of the capitalist elements and of classes generally, and also of a continued and more rapid rise in the welfare of the workers is necessarily connected with the task of overcoming the survivals of capitalism not only in economics but also in the mentality of the people. Of course, these survivals will be far from liquidation in the course of the second Five-Year Plan. In the second Five-Year Plan, however, the struggle for overcoming the survivals of capitalism not only in economics but also in the mentality of the people should be unfolded along the entire front, in conformity with the fundamental political problems of the Party.

OLD AND NEW SPECIALISTS

When the technical reconstruction of all branches of national economy has to be completed, the mastering of technique means that thousands of skilled workers must be trained at an accelerated rate, that new and ever new organisers of socialist economy must be trained among the progressive workers and the toiling peasants who are devoted to the cause of socialism, that scientific institutions must be extensively developed for the purpose of developing science and technique in the country, and that at the same time a bolshevist sweep must be undertaken in educating the population in general and developing extensive technical education.

The technical reconstruction of national economy necessitates the corresponding utilisation of specialists of a bourgeois type in our economic and scientific labour. This question is of vast importance even now.

Emphasising the importance of composing the first plan of electrification of this country, Lenin in his days said:

"To us it is an achievement that we have attracted hundreds of engineers and scientists permeated with bourgeois views and given them the task of reorganising the whole of our economy, industry, and agriculture, roused their interest and secured much material from them."

The situation today differs much from what it was when the Goelro plan was being drawn up. Nevertheless the question of attracting specialists of a bourgeois type, the specialists of the old school, is very important even now.

WORK OF FOREIGN SPECIALISTS

At the present time, in many instances the work of foreign specialists is of great importance. In order to master foreign technique — to which we still resort in considerable measure — we are frequently compelled to engage foreign engineers. We can only be grateful to those of them who are conscientiously fulfilling their obligations and are actively working to organise our new enterprises. The duty of a communist consists in the skillful utilisation of the specialists, the establishment of proper control, at the same time striving to master the essence of the work. These duties of a communist were definitely outlined by Lenin.

THE CAPITALIST WORLD AND THE SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The USSR is still surrounded by a capitalist world. This means that a fierce struggle and competition is going on between two worlds opposed to each other by their class differences, between two social systems irreconcilable in principle — the capitalist and the socialist. This is particularly manifest at the present time, in the period of the deep world economic crisis.

In this connection it is impossible not to note the changes which are taking place in the attitude of the capitalist countries towards the USSR.

Even the first Five-Year Plan was accomplished while continually under the menace of an imperialist attack. However, this Five-Year Plan is already three-quarters realised; and was realised because we had a peaceful spell to devote to socialist construction. Despite all the interior difficulties, despite the sharpening of the class struggle within the country, we have victoriously advanced and are continually advancing and strengthening our positions.

At the present time the menace from our exterior foes, from the imperialist forces antagonistic to the USSR, is becoming more pronounced. The danger of an imperialist attack has greatly increased. We must take this into consideration in the course of all our work.

The situation in the capitalist countries today can be characterised first of all by the most acute crisis and the sharpening of all capitalistic contradictions. At the same time the capitalist countries are

more actively seeking an external solution of the existing situation in an attack on other countries, in the organisation of intervention against the USSR. The foreign policy of the imperialist countries is becoming more openly aggressive. In all countries, the war industries are loaded with orders, armaments are increasing with unusual rapidity; preparations for new wars proceed at a feverish pace.

At the same time it is important to note what is taking place in the camp of the bourgeoisie.

The bewilderment of the politicians and economists, the hopeless economic plight of many capitalist concerns, are causing a growing panic among the bourgeoisie. Those who only yesterday were sure of their power, now feel the ground cracking under their feet. The bourgeois press more and more advocates openly reactionary solutions for all fundamental problems, even in relation to machinery and technique. The master class in the bourgeois countries is showing increasing manifestations of spiritual and moral decay.

Condemnation of modern technique in the press and over the radio is becoming frequent in the capitalist countries. An English bishop has even gone to the extent of publicly declaring that it is necessary to withhold all new inventions and to retard the development of the natural sciences for the next decades.

Only yesterday the politicians and economists of the bourgeoisie prophesied that the end of the crisis was in sight, and that a new economic prosperity was approaching.

Of late the bourgeois press has been filled with predictions regarding the crisis. Predictions of various charlatans and fortune-tellers. This is most characteristic of the morals of the master class in the capitalist countries.

Here are some of the "prophesies" which have appeared in the foreign press. One Parisian newspaper reports that the famous French fortune-teller, Freya, has given an interview to the bourgeois press on the prospects for 1932. According to her, the crisis will decrease in the spring; because, at that time, the influence of Mercury will be replaced by Saturn—the fiercest foe of the crisis!

The fortune-teller further goes on to express her conclusions on Poland, the USSR, Britain etc., prophesying the following:

"Several revolutions will take place in Central Europe."

And further:

"Several floods will take place."

Besides astrologists, predictions for the current year are made also by "numerologists" in some London Sunday papers. The "numerologist" Quinton Siegfried, for instance, predicts the following:

"Soviet Russia, this year, is destined to destruction. She will be compelled to recognise her defeat and acknowledge the failure of her existing regime."

As you see, even the numerologists prophecy for the USSR a sort of "Thermidor."

And further:

"The luckiest months will be April and August; the luckiest colour will be blue; and the luckiest day, Friday."

I cannot refrain from quoting one other "prophecy" taken from a Parisian newspaper:

"Of particular interest is the horoscope of the famous Irish astrologist McCuckish whose predictions for the year 1931 have been completely realised."

For instance, referring to the world crisis, McCuckish asserts that it will end on the night of February 26, "at a doctors' ball in the Victor Hugo hall." This is the kind of stuff the bourgeois and Russian White Guard newspapers abroad are printing.

In order to get a more complete picture it will be necessary to say a few words about a certain celebrity of contemporary America — and perhaps of the whole capitalist world.

It appears that recently several American journals added up the number of newspaper columns and photographs devoted to different bourgeois "heroes" during 1931. The result of these statistics showed that the most outstanding "hero" was none other than Al Capone, the chief of the Chicago gangsters.

Descriptions of his ventures, biographical data, interviews with him, etc., in the world press, were found to have filled no less than 1,587,422 newspaper columns. To this must be added the 5,050 photographs that were published in the different journals. Only second place in this world publicity is occupied by President Hoover.

Nothing but the decadence, the complete moral and spiritual decomposition of the ruling classes in contemporary capitalist countries can explain the existence of these facts.

On the other hand we find the best elements leaving the bourgeoisie.

For a long time Romain Rolland, a leading writer of France, has been severely

criticising bourgeois society; and at the same time he has proved himself to be a friend of the USSR. It is also known that one of the leading American writers, Upton Sinclair, has openly opposed Kautsky in the defence of the USSR. The British bourgeois writer, Bernard Shaw, has written many scathing articles on the bourgeoisie, contrasting its decadence with the development and achievements of the USSR.

The desertion of the bourgeoisie will evidently continue among men of science and of letters, with the increasing decadence of capitalist society and the simultaneous development of socialist construction in the USSR.

This is one of the indications of the victorious growth of socialism in the USSR. However, it is not the principal one.

Beyond the boundaries of our country the USSR has a real base: the masses of the toilers.

It is not necessary to prove that the prestige of the USSR is growing among the workers in the capitalist countries and in the colonies, thus strengthening our international position. It is impossible not to see that the active sympathy of the workers in capitalist countries is a most important condition for the building of socialism in the Soviet Union and the guarantee of the final victory of communism.

With each stride in the socialist construction of our country, not only our internal situation, but also our international position is strengthening. Despite all difficulties in our struggle with the capitalist elements within our country — as well

as externally in defending the proletarian republic from each and every attempt of political pressure and economic blockade on the part of the capitalist powers — the Soviet Union is growing stronger from day to day.

What is the basis of this growth?

It is sufficient to visit our factories, plants and colхозes, in order to see that the growth of the power of the USSR is based upon the activity of the masses, upon the participation of the workers and peasants in socialist construction. Our Party, the trade unions, the Young Communist League, and the Soviets are doing all in their power to stimulate greater activity on the part of the workers, in order to overcome whatever vacillation, backwardness or influence of bourgeois elements may exist among them, and further, in order to organise these masses and mobilise them for the decisive tasks of building socialism. This work, in mobilising the masses under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party, is the key to it all.

The development of our national economy proceeds on the basis of our industrialisation policy. On this basis, our economic and cultural construction is growing in all regions, in all national republics. Nationalities which only 15 years ago were colonies or semi-colonies of tsarist Russia are gaining new vitality; are developing their national culture: are training their national cadres of bolsheviks. The USSR is becoming stronger as the union of peoples, building socialism under the leadership of the working class.

LIFE AND CULTURE IN THE SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN

From the report of V. K u i b y s h e v at the XVIIIth Party Conference

The new Five-Year Plan must provide for an improvement of the general welfare of the toiling masses in respect of food and manufactured goods supply, housing and living conditions etc.*

One of the central problems of the 2nd Five-Year Plan is to develop production of the light industry and agriculture so as to treble individual consumption.

Approximate calculations of norms of consumption of the most important products in 1937 enabled us to say that, as far food supply both in town and country

is concerned, the Soviet Union will be the foremost country in the world.

With a general growth of food consumption it is especially important to effect radical changes in the system of manufacture and distribution of food and to increase the amount of products easily digested by man. Consumption of such products as meat, milk, fruit, eggs, etc. must increase enormously.

Consumption of manufactured goods — cotton and wool textiles, boots, etc. — will also grow considerably. At the same time

should quickly grow "cultural" branches of industry such as paper, printing, photographic and cinema appliances, electrical mechanisms, medical instruments etc.

The 2nd Five-Year Plan makes it possible to satisfy the needs of the toiling population of important centres with regard to dwellings and to create a system of institutions contributing to collectivisation of living conditions (dining-halls, children's homes and creches, clubs, laundries, etc.) and corresponding industries.

Growth of such institutions as creches, consultations, spreading elementary knowledge of sanitation and improvement in quality of food, will lead to a great decline of sickness and further decrease of mortality, especially amongst children.

Development of social life, education, physical culture, popularising of art among

the masses will go hand in hand with construction of clubs, labour palaces, halls for pageants and meetings, stadiums and sporting recreation grounds.

In this way the USSR will turn into a country with a highly cultured population. Universal literacy obtained already in the 1st Five-Year Plan will be insufficient for the 2nd Five-Year Plan. Then it would be necessary to have universal polytechnical knowledge, elementary information in physics, chemistry, biology, technology, together with political education.

Polytechnisation of schools must become the main method for overcoming the contrast between mental and physical work.

The 2nd Five-Year Plan opens up before us exceptionally favourable perspectives for the development of industrial forces on the basis of improvement of toilers' welfare.

THE DEVELOPMENT IN REGIONS OF THE USSR

THE FAR-EASTERN REGION

The Far-Eastern Region will be opened up at a much greater rate during the period of the second Five-Year Plan. It will have to create an industrial basis of its own. This will enable it to free itself from dependence on the Urals for its supply of metals, a task which is of very great importance from the point of view of national economy. Nowhere else are air routes being developed to the same extent as in the Soviet East. Amongst the heavy industries, the winning of gold and of both the ferrous and non-ferrous metals will be considerably developed. The output of coal will reach 10 to 12 million tons. The output of petroleum on Sakhalin and of coal in Kamchatka will be very much increased. Forestry and the timber industry as a whole, including the working up of timber, will also be extended, as well as the manufacture of paper. A great deal of attention will be paid to the fur industry.

The realisation of all the tasks mentioned will fully transform this region economically, and create a firm base for the development of its own industry.

The exploitation of the natural riches of the region will be linked up with the colonisation schemes which will be carried out on a large scale during the second Five-Year Plan.

THE EAST-SIBERIAN REGION

While remaining one of the largest cattle rearing and agricultural regions the East-Siberian Region will be developed also industrially during the second Five-Year Plan. After it has become one of the chief centres for supplying the Soviet Union with gold and other non-ferrous and rare metals it will be necessary very greatly to improve all the means of transport in order to link up the new industrial areas with the old ones.

In working out the second Five-Year Plan schemes will be exhaustively considered for building a power station on the river Angara and setting up various industries connected with it.

THE URAL-KUZNETSK COMBINE

The Ural-Kuznetsk Combine will not be finished by the end of the first Five-Year Plan. A number of enterprises comprising sections of the Combine will be still under construction, as well as the works and factories, which will supply the population of the new cities and industrial centres of the region.

All the districts of the U.K.C. will of course have a great deal of capital invested in them.

THE URALS

The Urals will continue to be developed as one of the most important industrial centres of the Union. Coal output will be increased to 25 million tons. That is of course a tremendous growth. The new foundries to be built will represent an output of 6 million tons of pig-iron. So as to provide a machine building centre to serve the needs of transport the Tagil rolling-stock works will be opened. At the same time farming will be developed both with regard to corn and industrial crops and the rearing of live-stock.

WESTERN SIBERIA

During the second Five-Year Plan the industry of Western Siberia will be expanded at a tremendous rate.

As regards agriculture this part of Siberia will still be a grain supply centre. It will also produce live-stock and industrial crops. Here also a large plant will be built for converting cotton which will then be transported by the Turksib Railway.

KAZAKSTAN

This region will continue to develop from a backward region into a large industrial and farming centre. Making use of the fuel resources of the Karaganda district where the output of coal has been raised to 15 million tons and of the great electric power available, the non-ferrous metal industry will grow considerably.

A large number of railways are to be built in Kazakstan. Schemes are being drawn up for lines from Karaganda to Balkhash, Karaganda to Semipalatinsk and several others.

MIDDLE ASIA

☞ Middle Asia (under which heading, besides Turkmenia, Tadjikistan and Uzbekistan, Kirgizia and Kara-Kalpakia are here included) will finally lose all traces of its former backwardness as a colony of the tsarist empire and will become the main source for supplying the USSR with cotton. At the same time it will be an industrial centre supplying the population of Middle Asia with manufactured goods and also important goods for factory use for distribution throughout the country.

Wool and cotton mills are being built to make use of the raw materials grown

in the neighbourhood as also a silk-winding factory, sugar and canning factories. There are also plans for new railway main lines.

BASHKIRIA

Another of the Ural republics having close connections with the Ural-Kuznetsk Combine. A heavy industry is being built up. In all probability an electric car works will be set up here.

TRANSCAUCASUS

Transcaucasus will be opened up along the same lines as have been followed during the first Five-Year Plan. The chief feature will be the cultivation of those industrial crops which are most suited to the climate, e. g. cotton and other sub-tropical plants.

The cultivation of grapes, oranges, mandarines and lemons will also be given prominence. Before the end of the second Five-Year Plan these fruits will have ceased to be a luxury and will be available as articles of mass consumption.

Heavy industry will also be developed. The output of hard coal in Transcaucasus will reach 3 million tons (Tkvarchely and Tkvibuli). The mining of non-ferrous metals will be increased, copper in Zangezur and aluminium in Azerbaidjan. Light industry will also develop.

Another important event will be the opening of a Dashkesan metallurgical works, which will supply the Baku and other Transcaucasian oil-fields, and also the machine building industry which reached considerable dimensions during the first Five-Year Plan.

Transcaucasus will be provided with a permanent source of energy in the form of a number of hydro-electric stations. Terter, Mingechaur, Khram and Kakhysy-Gumush have been suggested as possible sites.

THE VOLGA REGION

The whole face of the Volga districts will be entirely altered as a result of the reconstruction of the Volga basin. This work includes the building of a dam and a hydro-electric station. The second Five-Year Plan includes a scheme for building a number of dams on the tributaries of the Volga (Kama and Oka) and for making the whole Volga river and canal system thoroughly navigable. During the second Five-

THE NORTH CAUCASUS

Year Plan all the preliminary work in connection with the dams to be built in the upper and lower reaches of the Volga should be completed, and it is possible that work on one of these dams may actually be started. Dams will also be built near Nizhny-Novgorod and Yaroslavl.

THE TARTAR REPUBLIC

In this republic a synthetic rubber factory is planned, and an aeromotor works is contemplated as also a chemical-manure combine. These enterprises will be supplied with energy by the Volga-Kama hydro-station.

UKRAINE

The Ukraine will continue to be one of the leading industrial and agricultural regions of the Union and will continue to develop along the same lines as were followed during the first Five-Year Plan. The output of coal in the Donbass will reach 110—120 million tons, and a number of new electric power stations will be opened. The output of pig-iron will reach 11 million tons.

The Ukraine will produce more metal than the whole of the Union does in 1932.

The chemical industry will grow considerably. It is also important to note that a very much larger quantity of high grade steel for machine building will be produced. Machine building will be greatly developed, as also the construction of mining equipment (at the old and new Kramatorsky works), railway engines (at the Lugansk works and the Kharkov tractor works) and rolling stock (at the "Pravda" works). Ships will be built at the Nikolaev, Odessa and Sevastopol ship-yards and tractors and electric machinery at the Mariupol works.

As regards light industry, sugar, meat, hemp and cotton industries will be developed.

Dnieprostroi will be working at full power as also the Dnieprovsky combine. This will make a large contribution to the wealth of the Soviet Union and will radically alter the face of the land in the Ukraine.

Much work will be done in electrifying the railways and in laying new lines. As regards agriculture, the area sown both to corn and to industrial crops (such as hemp, cotton and sugar beet) will be increased.

The North Caucasus will still retain its character of a region combining agriculture with a developed industry. The chief industries featuring in the plan are coal and oil.

This region is becoming one of the chief centres for the production of industrial crops. It will practically monopolise the production of Italian hemp and kenaf. The North Caucasus will draw its energy from two large power stations, the Sulak hydro-electric station, and the Belaya Kalitva station.

Railway and river transport will be greatly developed. The construction of a port in Rostov is being completed and the navigability of the Don is being improved.

CENTRAL BLACK-EARTH REGION

The total capacity of the electric power stations of this region is estimated at 350,000 kilowatts. During the second Five-Year Plan the preliminary work will be done in connection with the scheme for the large-scale exploitation of the rich magnetic-iron ore deposits in the Kursk district.

MOSCOW REGION

During the first Five-Year Plan the Moscow region has been changing from a typical textile district into a district of machine building, electrical engineering, and chemical manufacture. This tendency will be still more marked during the second Five-Year Plan.

The coal output of the Moscow Basin will reach 25 million tons.

New electric power stations will be built and old ones re-equipped and enlarged.

The important part Moscow plays as a distributing and transit centre makes it necessary to establish an extensive railway service on the power basis provided by the electro-stations.

As a result of the huge communal and building schemes, Moscow will become one of the largest and best laid out towns in the Soviet Union.

LENINGRAD REGION

During the second Five-Year Plan the Leningrad Region will continue to be one of the largest machine building centres. It is especially important to emphasise the pioneer work done by Leningrad in

applying the latest findings of science and in making use of hitherto unexploited natural resources.

The Leningrad region railway system will be enlarged and a number of branch lines of the Murman railway will be built to connect it with the coast.

With the expansion of the fish industry new fisheries and new canning factories will be opened.

Leningrad itself will be converted into a thoroughly up-to-date and well-appointed town.

MURMAN REGION

Iron ore has now been found here. During the second Five-Year Plan it is possible that a metallurgical works will be built to supply Leningrad with metal.

It is not difficult to realise the very great importance of this fact both to Leningrad itself and to the whole Soviet Union.

The Murman region whose only wealth was at one time its fish, but which later rose to importance in connection with its chemical industry based on its apatite deposits and its non-ferrous metals (aluminium), now promises to become a large metallurgical centre.

In order to meet the demand of industry for building materials, the plan must allow for the full exploitation of the timber resources of the European division of the Northern regions and in particular for the construction of a paper and pulp mill. At the same time full advantage must be taken of the large quantities of fish (by building canning factories) and of the mineral wealth. So also the Asiatic division of the Northern regions must be opened up. At the same time the question of developing the industries of the North by making use of local natural resources must be thoroughly explored (reindeer breeding, hunting, the fur industry).

Before the North can be opened up a sound transport basis must be established. During the second Five-Year Plan

much attention will be paid to improving the lines of communication to the North.

WESTERN REGION

This region has a very valuable source of energy in its large supplies of turf. The well developed railway system also facilitates the development of all branches of industry and agriculture. For this reason the region will make a tremendous step forward during the second Five-Year Plan. The reconstruction of the industry and agriculture here brings around the opening of new power stations. This part of the country is already one of the chief flax and hemp growing districts. During the second Five-Year Plan, the scheme brought forward by the Council of People's Commissars in 1929 for turning the Western Region into one of the leading flax growing countries will be realised. Cattle breeding and especially pig breeding will be developed.

The occurrence of minerals containing phosphorus makes it possible to build up a superphosphate industry. Building materials will also be produced here.

WHITE RUSSIA

The development of White Russia is based on the exploitation of its turf and timber resources and the expansion of intensive farming. The chief branches of farming in White Russia are cattle breeding, poultry farming, and the cultivation of industrial crops (in particular flax and potatoes). There will also be developments in the working up of flax both for food and other purposes.

What has been said as regards the economic prospects of the above regions, gives an idea of the tremendous work which is contemplated in the second Five Year Plan. We are going to make a tremendous step forward in the matter of exploiting the natural riches of the Soviet Union, and setting free constructive forces in every corner of the land.



Soviet Science on the Eve of the Second Five-Year Plan

MORE INTELLIGENTSIA! MORE SCIENCE! MORE INVENTIONS!

By N. B u k h a r i n, Member of the Academy of Sciences.

The part played by science in the whole system of our industry, including its lowest link, the shops, is rapidly increasing.

We have now at our disposal a network of enormous and powerful scientific research institutes. Amongst them are several first-rate institutes with world-wide reputation. In the course of a single year the number of these institutions has almost doubled. And if we mention just briefly their accomplishments for the past year we can enumerate several discoveries of the research workers which have been already applied in industry.

Thus we have a series of ferro-alloys which can be directly used for construction of airplanes, motor transport, tractors, metallic constructions, chemical devices, which will now be produced in our country in ever increasing proportions. There are also several scientific researches on metals which were fully completed and submitted to our industrial enterprises for practical application.

Several of our biggest industrial plants under construction are erected on a scientific basis. Such are Hibiny plant, Magnitostroy, Krivoy-Rog, Donbass, non-ferrous metallurgy works etc. These plants are constructed in closest co-operation with great concentrating plants and stations whose work and methods are regulated and established by our scientific research institutes.

In research work we are supporting our outlying provinces where at present new important industrial centres are being created.

The Physical-Technical Institute newly organised in the Ukraine (Kharkov) has already won world-wide reputation. In Dniepropetrovsk our scientific research institutions are working entirely in factories themselves.

There is a new combination of industrial scientific research institutions and plants in Siberia. The number of such institutions in the Ural region is rapidly growing and

steps have been taken to organise them in Central Asia.

The whole network of scientific research institutions should be geographically connected as far as possible with new industrial centres. Our scientific research institutes — not only industrial, but also others — are now serving the technical and economic plans and interests of our industry.

The Soviet industry is embracing an enormous number of new workers coming from villages, from collective farms and also from the individual sector (which is now quickly loosing ground) of our peasant economic system.

Propaganda of technical science should give to the masses the necessary minimum of knowledge and meet the demand for technical culture.

When large masses of people come for the first time into contact with industrial processes the extent of their technical knowledge becomes one of the main factors in the reconstruction and development of socialism in the country.

Steps have already been taken in this respect: propaganda of technical knowledge has been started in our plants, works and factories, also in the high technical schools and research institutes, several technical periodicals have been published, such as "Socialist Reconstruction and Science", and the popular newspaper "Technique"; a great system of technical information has been organised and a special information bulletin has been published and finally there have been organised technical conferences which are especially important. All our young men who are interested in technical matters attend these conferences, — they are the best representatives of the working class in our country, true builders of socialism who are sincerely devoted to the cause and who are mastering the technique not in words but in deeds. Such conferences prove to be the most important medium for actually

turning the masses of people into a cultured people with technical knowledge. This also stimulates the growth of the number of worker inventors, greatly increasing their activity and drawing their interest towards technical questions.

Our successes in the domain of socialist construction prove quite clearly the advantages of our planning system. Owing to the world economic crisis in the capitalist countries several blast furnaces have been stopped, the biggest plants and factories closed, and millions and millions of workers thrown out of work.

The capitalist world has entered a stage of technical regress. Its prophets are talking about the necessity to return to home production. Statistical figures of capitalist countries show the decline of inventions which are slowed down by capitalists even in the most important and developed industries. We see that technical and scientific personnel is thrown out from industrial process. For instance, such a big and authoritative organisation as "D. I. V." (Union of German Engineers) is now concerned about the task how to hinder access into higher technical schools in view of overproduction of technical intelligentsia.

If you add to this the undermined faith in the power of capitalism, as evidenced by the publication of such books as the "End of Capitalism" by Fried (pen-name of Borsig's son), then you have a complete picture of the present decay of the capitalist world.

Of course, one should not draw the conclusion that capitalism will not fight and that it will quietly die off and yield to us the world. No, it will fire at us with all its guns, but still even its adherents and chiefs have lost their faith in its future.

And what are the conditions in the USSR? There is a problem before us of a different kind.

More workers. More youth. More intelligentsia. More inventions. More technical progress.

Our attitude is diametrically opposite. When several of us went to London to attend one of the scientific congresses we saw how rapidly this demoralisation of scientific capitalist upper circles and their masters was progressing. This is one of the symptoms of victory which is predestined for us in history. We can now unify all the forces of science with the whole creative energy of the large masses of the people.

THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IN THE SERVICE OF THE SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN

By Prof. V. V o l g h i n, Permanent Secretary of the Academy of Sciences

The Academy of Sciences has resolutely turned to serving the needs of socialist construction. Having been formerly absolutely alien to the methodology of the proletariat and its Great Party the Academy of Sciences takes now all steps necessary for adopting in its work the methods of dialectic materialism.

What is the significance of such change of front on the part of the Academy of Sciences? If we look into its activity during the last two years, our attention will first be drawn to a great number of agreements and contracts existing between the Academy of Sciences as a whole or its various institutions, on the one hand, and our economic organisations on the other. Such are the contracts with the Supreme Council of National Economy existing from 1931, the general agreement with the People's Commissariat of the Heavy Industry, which is being prepared now. Such are

also contracts between different Institutes and economic organisations. The Academy of Sciences tries also to satisfy the requirements of all the Republics of the Union as well as of different provinces and regions and takes them into account while making its own plans of work. One can say now with certainty that the major part of the present work fulfilled by the Academy of Sciences is connected with the needs and requirements of the various social and economic organisations.

This does not mean, of course, that the Academy of Sciences forgets the leading role of science because it endeavours to solve current practical problems. Simultaneously with directing the practical application the Academy is conducting theoretical work on which socialist construction is based.

In the course of 1931 there were organised two extraordinary sessions of the Academy. The first one took place in Moscow in June

and was devoted to a general theme: "What can science do in order to realise the slogan: to overtake and outstrip the capitalist countries?"

The very fact of organising such a session of the Academy of Sciences in a large auditorium to consider reports on questions of socialist construction, as well as the fact that the Academy has sent several brigades of its members to various plants in the city and province of Moscow, have designated the great change in the attitude of members of the Academy and stimulated a further rapprochement with the toiling masses.

The second session took place in November in Leningrad and was devoted to a special theme: "Industrial resources and perspectives of development of the Leningrad Region".

During this session 35 brigades of academicians have visited different plants and regional centres of Leningrad.

The creation of new economic centres greatly contributes to the strengthening of ties between the Academy of Sciences and the socialist construction. These centres are in need of scientific institutions directly connected with industry and capable of giving theoretical treatment to concrete problems of construction.

Thus a movement was started for organising local branches of the Academy. Accordingly the Academy has decided to organise in 1932 its branches in the Ural Region, Western Siberia, Far East, Transcaucasus, Middle Asia and Eastern Siberia.

At the same time the drive would be carried on for training new workers for these branches.

THE USSR WILL BE THE RICHEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

By Prof. I. Gubkin,
Member of the Academy of Sciences, Geologist

If we try to compare the state of geological explorations in the Soviet Union with that of pre-revolutionary Russia we shall see that there is no comparison between the two. The old Geological Committee was a miserable institution. Its personnel when I joined it in 1910 was about 12—15 geologists. After reform in 1912 it was increased to 50 members. The budget of the old Geological Committee amounted to a miserable sum of 250,000 rubles for special exploration work on coal and oil.

At present geological work is carried on all over the country. The Soviet geological organisation has at present 18 geological trusts for carrying on explorations. There are 82 geological bases and 17 new bases will be soon opened, each base being equal in size to the old Geological Committee. Last year the geological institutions of our country have sent 2,028 expeditions including 1,878 season expeditions and 150 stationary ones.

At present about 70,000 workers are engaged in the exploring works of the All-Union Geological Trust. Instead of 500,000 rubles assigned in the old tsarist Russia the budget of the geological explorations amounts to about 200 million rubles.

General geological deposits of coal amount to 653 milliard tons. Deposits in the Kursk region amount to 200 milliard tons of

iron (which is about double the present world output).

The work resumed again under the initiative of J. Stalin in the Kursk magnetic deposits will allow us very likely to raise the question of organising new powerful metallurgical base in the centre of our country not far from its Red capital.

We have a series of great achievements in the exploration of deposits in Tula, Lipetsk, Kholov, Khapilovo, Ural, Western Siberia, and others.

It is enough to say that Siberia until recently was considered as a region not having iron and now we are informed that near Shori and Abkhants there were discovered iron ore deposits having approximately about 200 million tons of iron.

We also have great achievements in coal and non-ferrous metals. During the last years there were discovered deposits of such tremendous importance as Kounrad, Bashi-Kul, Alma-Lyck and numberless deposits of pyrometallurgical ores in the region Kara-Mazar.

The last expeditions to Pamirs had brought us information of gold scattered over a distance of 100 kilometres.

All this clearly shows how our Union is getting richer and richer owing to such energetic pushing on of geological explorations.

10 Years of the Transcaucasian Federation¹

PAST AND PRESENT OF SOVIET TRANSCAUCASUS

On March 12th, 1932, the Soviet Union celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Transcaucasian Federation. Ten years ago the toilers of Azerbaidjan, Armenia and Georgia formed the federation, as a fraternal union of the Socialist Soviet Republics of Transcaucasus. The Transcaucasian Federation was formed as a result of the necessity for co-ordinating the constructive forces at work in these republics and making full use of all opportunities to carry out successfully the tremendous tasks of economic and cultural construction. The formation of the Transcaucasian Federation of Soviet Republics was greeted with great enthusiasm. At that time V. I. Lenin wrote that the idea of a Federation of Transcaucasian Republics was absolutely right in principle and one that it was imperative to put into practice.

What has the last decade to show?

During this period Soviet Transcaucasus made a gigantic stride forward in all branches of its construction, without exception.

It is particularly interesting to make a comparison with the years immediately preceding the revolution. It is well known under what difficult conditions the multi-lingual peoples of Transcaucasus lived under the "sovereign hand" of the Russian Empire. Russian tsarism pursuing with ruthless cynicism its famous policy of "divide and rule" was doing its utmost to set one nationality against another. Mutual destruction of different toiling nationalities was to the advantage of the colonisers whose aim was to impose the Russian civilisation. It goes without saying, that there could be no question of any normal economic and cultural development under such oppression.

Neither did the revolution of 1917 bring emancipation at once. It was only 3 years later that the ideas of October triumphed.

At first, Russian imperialism was replaced by the rule of a nationalist bourgeoisie —

the Azerbaidjan mussavatists, the Armenian dashnaks, and the Georgian mensheviks. All these leading parties, imbued with a fierce hatred of the proletarian revolution, followed a ruinous, adventuresome policy, combining irreconcilable chauvinism with the basest cringing before the foreign interventionists (first the German, and later the English). Fighting against each other, conducting ruinous, fratricide wars, oppressing national minorities, these representatives of "democracy" talked loudly about the "Great Armenia" and "Independent Georgia". At the same time they were selling their country, almost openly, wholesale and retail, to the foreign usurpers. One of the members of the dashnak government declared quite unambiguously: "It is clear that England should be the leader in all questions connected with the East. Questions concerning Transcaucasus in particular must inevitably be dictated by the English."

This cynical policy which drained the country's life-blood excited the indignation of the toiling masses, and in 1920 and at the beginning of 1921 they overthrew the bourgeois nationalist governments in Azerbaidjan, in Armenia and Georgia, and established the Soviet government.

Since then Transcaucasus has passed through a stormy and difficult period. Not only had wounds to be healed and ruins built up again, but a rapid and vigorous move forward had to be made in the direction of socialist and cultural construction. The proletariat and the masses of poor and middle peasants of Transcaucasus are successfully fulfilling (and in part have already fulfilled) the tasks before them, under the leadership of the Communist Party. As a matter of fact, tremendous results have been achieved in all branches of construction during the last ten years. Creative purpose, system and principles have borne fruit everywhere.

Tremendous upheavals are taking place in the economic life of Transcaucasus. A backward agrarian country is being transformed into a powerful industrial-agrarian country.

¹ See also the article: "The Development of Regions in the USSR".

The industry of Transcaucasus, which was of a negligible importance under tsardom, is now rapidly developing. Statistics are sufficiently eloquent: in 1913, the gross production amounted to 319.8 million rubles, in 1930, to 912.5 million rubles, in 1931 to 1,270.4 million rubles. Nearly every day a new factory opens; prospecting is carried out on a large scale, new mines are being worked and the possibilities of exploiting all the other natural resources are being thoroughly explored. Particularly significant are the achievements of the last few years. Azerbaidjan oil deserves the first place. As a result of the heroism of the Baku proletariat, the Five-Year Plan of the oil industry has already been fulfilled by the end of last year (i. e. in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years), thus giving the USSR second place in the world's production of oil. There is a project at present on foot to organise metallurgical works, to utilise the high-grade iron ore of Transcaucasus, the famous Tkvarchely coal, and the manganese of Chiatury. There are also great prospects for the development of the copper, aluminium, zinc, and building industries.

The industrial proletariat is growing at a tremendous rate. Thus in 1931 there were 347,000 workers, as compared with 281,000 in 1930.

Considerable progress has been made in the electrification of Transcaucasus. Suffice it to mention the names of some of the newly built powerful electric plants and of those now under construction: the Zemo-Avchaly (Zages), the Abash, the Rion, Dzorages, Kanakir. Here again comparison with the past is instructive. The total capacity of all pre-war electric plants in Transcaucasus amounted to about 75,000 kw., whereas during the Soviet period the capacity of electric plants nearly trebled, having reached 216,000 kw. in 1931. Further construction of hydro-electric central plants will still more increase this power basis for the reconstruction of Transcaucasian economy.

The progress in agriculture is not less important. A great deal has been accomplished during the Soviet period as regards the extension of the sown area, the development of industrial crops, the intensification of farming and the introduction of improved methods of land cultivation. The area under cultivation is growing steadily and rapidly. Thus, for instance, the total area sown in 1931 amounted to 2,359 thousand hectares as against 1,990 thousand hectares in 1927. At the same time the progress of

technical and sub-tropical crops is very much in evidence. Their total area of 154,000 hect. in 1927 increased to 356 thousand hect. in 1931.

It should be noted, that the area sown to cotton (to which particular attention is being paid) increased from 117 thousand hectares in 1927 to 240 thousand hectares in 1931, whereas the area under tea (only several hundreds of hectares before the war) increased in one year from 14,500 hectares in 1930 to 17,700 hectares in 1931.

As regards collectivisation of farming there have been tremendous changes. 40% of all the farms belonging to the poor and middle peasants are embraced by collectives, this percentage being even as much as 55% in cotton-growing districts. As regards the Soviet farms, their total sown area increased from 29,000 hect. in 1927 to 69,400 hect. in 1931.

The primitive methods of land cultivation used so long in Transcaucasus are becoming things of the past. The number of tractors in 1931 reached the imposing figure of 1,600. There were 30 machine and tractor stations in 1930, and their number will increase to 49 in 1932.

A great deal was accomplished during the past period in the matter of irrigation, reclaiming of land, transport, road construction etc.

The Soviet government came in for a sorry legacy in the culture of these parts. The tsarist government did not trouble itself at all with the education of its subject peoples and russifying tendencies handicapped all cultural undertakings. The cultural and educational activity of the mussavatists, dashnaks, and mensheviks was a minus quantity.

A great and difficult work has been carried on during the last ten years, with good results. Much has been done to abolish illiteracy and semi-education, general education has been made compulsory, the school system has been extended as also kindergartens and evening classes. All this speaks of the intensive cultural life of the country. Here again statistics are more convincing than anything else. Suffice it to mention, that during the 7-year period (1924—1932) 1,325,990 toilers graduated from anti-illiteracy schools. In 1931 there were 1,388 reading-huts, 353 clubs and 1,246 red corners. Universal education will be introduced in Georgia and Armenia in 1932, and in Azerbaidjan — in 1933. The quota of students is rapidly growing: thus, the number of pupils in the 7-year schools increased from

90,500 in 1929/30 to 115,699 in 1930/31. Whereas in 1928/29 there were 11 universities and 9 workers' faculties in Transcaucasus, in 1930 there were already 22 universities and 21 workers' faculties. At the same time it should be remembered, that there was not a single university throughout Transcaucasus in Tsarist times.

A number of scientific and research institutes, scientific organisations and societies are engaged in studying the productive forces of the country, its natural resources, and the economic condition of the peoples inhabiting Transcaucasus.

The revolutionary epoch brought about a tremendous efflorescence of the arts, especially in the field of literature. Proletarian writers are coming more and more to the forefront in Azerbaidjan, Armenia and Georgia. Differentiation is taking place among the old writers and their followers, the best writers devoting their talent to the problems of socialist construction. The romance, the fantasy and tinsel exotics of the old days which formerly served to veil chauvinistic aspirations have given place to the sense of the epic grandeur of the enthusiasm for the great new work of socialist construction. The Transcaucasian theatres, which at the All-Union Theatrical Olympiad showed a high standard of acting and stage technique, enjoy a well deserved popularity. The Transcaucasian cinema showed also a number of interesting productions.

In painting and sculpture old and young artists are competing with one another

in their efforts to produce works worthy of the great epoch.

Such are briefly the successes and achievements which must be mentioned on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Transcaucasian Federation. Considerations of space prevent us from mentioning any but the principal items.

"The Transcaucasian Federation", - writes G. Mussabekov, the President of the Transcaucasian Council of People's Commissariats, in his article published in "Socialist Construction in the USSR" (vol. 1, VOKS, Moscow, 1932), - "is a model of national peace and one of the adamantine socialist citadels of the great Soviet Union. At the present moment it is facing new colossal tasks; it must complete its Five-Year Plan in four years and prepare itself for the execution of the second Five-Year Plan of still greater scope, than the first. The working class and the toiling masses of the TSFSR, inspired by the brilliant successes achieved in every field of socialist construction, will proceed with still greater enthusiasm and assurance towards fresh victories and achievements, strengthening and developing the new socialist forms of labour, mastering the techniques of production and management.

On the base of the achievements of its first decade the Transcaucasian Federation will proceed in the second decade under the well-tryed leadership of the Communist Party and of the leader of the world proletariat, J. Stalin, forward to fresh unheard-of victories".



Labour and Industry in the USSR

FULL SPEED AHEAD

"We are going ahead at accelerated speed, overtaking the progressive capitalist countries in a technical and economic sense." Stalin.

We are building...

In the third, decisive year of the Five-Year Plan in the USSR the foundation has been laid for a series of absolutely new and extremely complicated branches of industry, of unparalleled importance for our national economy. Our industry has set going the production of 75 new types of textile machines, 20 types of shoe-making machines, 79 new brands of farm machinery, various types of factory equipment, powerful transformers, etc.

... new...

The concluding year of the Five-Year Plan will be a year of further forced development of heavy industry, a year of shock-work construction of new factories and of reconstruction of older machines and tool factories.

... machines...

This will be a year of intense struggle to create a powerful machine-making and tool-making foundation for our industry.

... Soviet...

According to the Five-Year Plan the machine-making industry of the Union in 1932 was supposed to put out production worth 2,058 million rubles. But even in 1931 the machine-producing plants of Soviet industry had already fulfilled their Five-Year Plan with an excess.

... bloomings...

The first Soviet blooming, the thirteenth in the world, was put out by the Izhora Factory in 9 months. The equipment of the second blooming was completed in even better record time — in 5 months, whereas up till now the period for building a blooming was regarded as not less than 12 months. Next year there will be 8 bloomings in our country.

... cracking-plants...

The Podolsk Cracking Factory made the beginning of Soviet construction of cracking-

plants. The factory has already furnished the oil-industry with two cracking-plants. The cracking-process doubles the effectiveness of the production of kerosene and gasoline from oil.

... powerful turbines...

A powerful steam-turbine of 50,000 kwt. has been built by the Leningrad Factory in the name of Stalin. The production of so complicated a turbine has put the Stalin factory on a level with the very old and famous English firm of Metropolitan-Wickers.

... excavators...

In the small factory "The Red Metal-Worker" in Moscow the production of Soviet excavators has been set going. The first two excavators put out by the factory represent only a beginning of the mighty development of this branch of industry in our Union. In 1932 the factory has already promised to put out 100 excavators. The giant new factory now under construction near Sverdlovsk will give the country 3,000 excavators yearly.

... locomotives...

At the fourteenth anniversary of the October Revolution the Lugansk Locomotive Factory finished the production of an extremely powerful locomotive. The Lugansk workers set a world's record by producing this engine in 70 days.

... aeroplanes...

This young branch of our industry — aeroplane-building — recently added to our civilian fleet a first-class plane — ANT 14.

... ships...

Four years ago the first Soviet ship, "Stalin", built completely of Soviet materials, slipped down the ways of the Leningrad ship-building factories. And this year 62 Soviet ships and the first 5 Soviet fishing-trawlers under red pennants are plowing the seas and oceans of the world.

THE NIZHNY-NOVGOROD AUTO-PLANT

One of the foremost victories gained recently by the Soviet industry is the construction of the gigantic auto-plant in Nizhny-Novgorod, completed on the eve of the fourth and final year of the Five-Year Plan. The starting of operations in this plant marks the beginning of a new period in the development of the Soviet automobile industry.

The Soviet Union inherited not a single automobile producing plant from tsarism. The few unfinished, badly equipped enterprises that did exist were being used only as repair shops. In tsarist Russia the total number of automobiles manufactured during the eight years from 1908 to 1916 was 450. The extent of the industrial backwardness of pre-revolutionary Russia can be judged by a comparison with the 1904 automobile output in America (22,830); England (12,600), France (17,000) and Germany (4,000). Moreover all kind of details and appliances were imported from abroad.

During the first years after the revolution the automobile industry of the Soviet Union developed at a rather low rate, but the first motor trucks were produced at the „AMO” plant in Moscow as far back as 1924. With the beginning of the reconstruction period of national economy in the USSR the question of establishing a powerful Soviet automobile industry was seriously considered. This question occupied no small place in the Five-Year Plan, the fulfilment of which is now approaching its suc-

cessful end. The year 1929 witnessed the initial work on the reconstruction of „AMO” and on the projection of a new great automobile plant to be constructed in Nizhny-Novgorod.

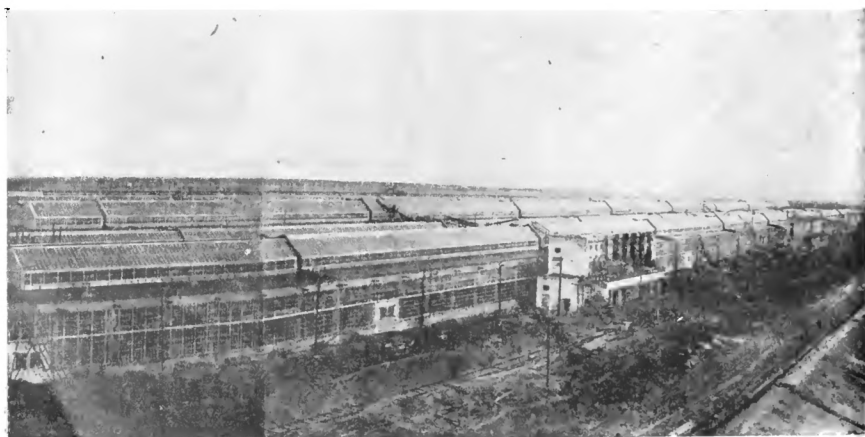
At present the reconstructed „AMO” plant turns out 25 two-and-a-half ton trucks and buses a day. The Nizhny-Novgorod auto-plant, which recently has been put into commission, plans to produce, at full load, 140,000 cars and trucks a year.

17 months elapsed since the work of construction began at Nizhny-Novgorod. Within this period a gigantic plant, built and equipped in accordance with the latest scientific and technical achievements, was erected, assembled and put into operation. Here is a new proof of the wonderful energy and enthusiasm inspiring the toilers of the Soviet Union in their fight for the industrialisation of their country, for the creation of a new socialist society.

At the official opening of the auto giant, the decision was carried to give to the new plant the name of the leader of the Soviet Government — V. Molotov. In their report to the Government the builders of the plant wrote:

“Our plant is joining the front line of those who fight for the realisation of the slogan: to overtake and outstrip both technically and economically the more advanced capitalist countries. It will become the base of Soviet automobile industry.

We will bear with honour the glorious name of comrade Molotov.”



General view of the Nizhny-Novgorod auto-plant

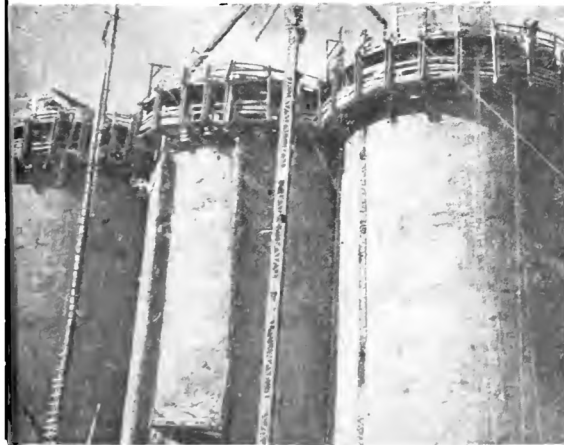
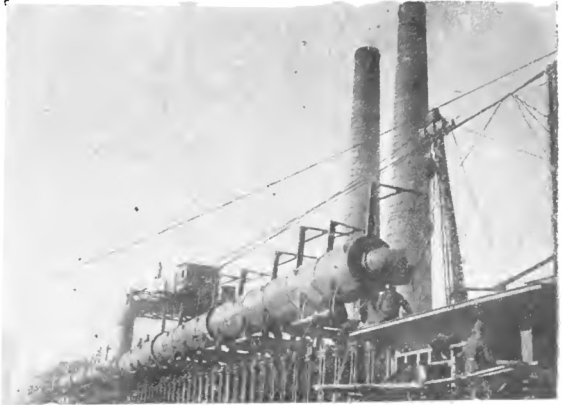
HOW THEY WORK AT MAGNITOSTROY

The first of the Ural-Kuznetsk industrial giants has been put into operation: the construction of the first unit of the Magnitogorsk Coke-Chemical Plant is now completed. This plant will play a very important role in the development of Soviet chemical industry.

The Coke-Chemical Combine is one of the largest of this sort, not only in the Soviet Union, but also in Europe. It was built at true "shock-work" speed: 69 ovens completed in 67 days. The Magnitogorsk builders have broken all world records.

In those days, the workers of Magnitogorsk were fighting on the barricades of the Five-Year Plan. There were no cowards nor deserters. 30 nationalities were building the coke battery No. 8; in size, the second battery in the world. Former Kirghiz nomads, collective farmers from the Urals and the Volga, shock-brigade workers from the fire-proof works in Kerch and Dnepropetrovsk, were watching the construction with interest and respect. However, there was not much time for watching. It was necessary to fight and conquer. The battery with its 69 coke-ovens was a reality, one of the units of the greatest and most important metallurgical process — a component part of the future chemical combine. The stormy days, the sleepless nights, the

Proletarians of 30 nationalities were fighting on the barricades of the third



decisive year of the Five-Year Plan, under the glorious banner of socialist reconstruction, for the first pig-iron of the Ural-Kuznetsk Basin. This basin has recently assumed international importance: it has been spoken of in Madrid, London, New York...

It was during the days of confusion, when the first Magnitogorsk coke battery gave birth to the first coke. The chaos on the construction area was like that of an operating room where the fate of a woman in difficult labour is being decided. Specialists came and went; consultations were held. The director of the East Coke Trusts, tired with anxiety, slept in his clothes for the third night on a cot at headquarters — the office

of the coke-ovens. A snowy whirlwind rose from behind Atach mountain and headed straight for

of the coke-ovens. A snowy whirlwind rose from behind Atach mountain and headed straight for

the construction, its iridescent top reaching to the zenith. The wind raged through the chimneys with wild fury, swished through the labyrinth of gas pipes, hissed through the cranes. The icy wind burned past blast furnaces and cowpers and attacked the coke battery.

The workers spread a huge canvas to maintain the temperature in the coke-ovens despite the fury of the wind. It almost

blew them, bodily, from the cornice. The wind battered them in the face — it was a snowstorm such as one reads of in fairy-tales.

But the striking invention of modern technique, the 69 ovens of the coke-battery, were nevertheless a reality.

Thus did the legendary struggle, the legendary heroism, create coke, ore, pig-iron, steel, — the Five-Year Plan.

THE FIRST SOVIET FACTORY FOR MASS-PRODUCTION OF COMBINES

On June 25, 1930, the first two shops of the Saratov Combine Factory have begun to work. On January 1, 1932, on the first day of the last year of the Five-Year Plan the factory was ready to begin operations.

In a suburb of Saratov, on the right bank of the Volga, on the waste land the mighty buildings of the combine factory and of the big wood-working mill connected with it have grown up. The building for the central heat and power station is in the way of construction — it will serve all the adjacent plants. Nearer to the Volga a factory for tractor-parts is beginning to be built.

In the centre of this industrial combination city has been built a workers' town, inhabited chiefly by workers of the combine factory. To the ten four-story stone houses already completed, new ones will soon be added; in two to three years a town will have grown up here with as many as 30,000 inhabitants.

The collective body of the workers of the combine-construction job is proud of its suburbs. The builders of the factory are concerned with the means of satisfying the workers' cultural and living requirements. Eight months before the factory was set going, a factory-kitchen had begun to work, providing 20,000 dinners per day. The best sound-picture house in the district has been built at the factory, the club is beginning to function, day-nurseries have been set up, a dispensary and a department store.

The training of new staffs is taken special care of, for the rapidly developing construction requires more and more new skilled forces.

As early as June 1930 contracts were passed with related factories engaged in producing agricultural machinery, for training master-workmen and highly skilled workers for the Saratov factory.

The factory's programme for 1932 is fully guaranteed with highly skilled labour. At the same time a factory school is in operation, training 1,600 children of workers.

The school is located in a tremendous newly erected building with special work shops. In addition, a "combine for workers education"¹ has been organised and is developing its work.

The tremendous significance of the Saratov factory is determined by the fact that it is the first one to begin the mass production of Soviet combines. In 1932 the Lowe and Middle Volga districts, i. e. a sowing area of more than 15 million hectares, will be supplied with technically perfect harvesting-machines.

The factory is equipped according to the last word of modern technics and already has a considerable number (about 100) of imported machines, most of them put out in 1931.

In 18 months this giant has been built it will put out 15 to 20 thousand combine annually, destined to guarantee the expansion of the basis of Soviet agriculture.

Socialist labour, which is the cause of honour, of valour and heroism in the USSR has given the construction of the factory tempo which may rightly be called bolshevist.

¹ The "combine for workers' education" is a system of education directly connected with production.

THE "RED BOOK" OF THE SOVIET LUMBERMEN

At the initiative of the best workers, organised in shock brigades, the lumbermen of the Northern region of the Soviet Union made out a report recording the achievements of Soviet lumbermen, the improvement in their living conditions, and the development of cultural activity among the mass of lumbermen.

This report was discussed at numerous meetings of the lumbermen of the Northern region. It was called the "Red Book" of Soviet lumbermen.

Already by the end of January, 27,126 signatures endorsed the "Red Book", and their number is growing daily. It is an achievement of tremendous importance as, according to the resolution of the lumbermen, only such worker is entitled to sign the report, who fulfilled and exceeded the programme of his work.

We quote below extracts from the "Red Book" of the Soviet lumbermen:

"From the forest front of the Soviet land, from the woods of the Northern region, we, the Soviet lumbermen, hereby proclaim our allegiance to socialist construction, and our full trust in Lenin's Party, whose correct and firm policy secured the successful completion of the foundation for the socialist economics of our country.

The Northern region increased its rates of lumber provisions during the third year of the Five-Year Plan by 359% as compared with the first year.

The lumbermen of the North transplant socialist forms of labour from the advanced enterprises to the work in the lumber woods. Even now, the majority of lumbermen are organised in brigades. The brigade method and socialist competition has doubled the productivity of labour as compared with the year 1928.

At the present time brigades producing 10 cubic metres do not form an exception, there are even brigades, which produce as much as 15 cubic metres.

Development of engineering gave us an opportunity even now to proceed with the construction in the Northern region, in the vicinity of the Northern Experimental Station, of an electrified lumber combine with an annual capacity of 300 thousand cubic metres. Electrification in this district will reduce to one third the amount of labour power now engaged in the work, and will thus reduce the cost of lumber provisions by 25—35%.

The growth of socialist construction, and of industry in particular, brought a great change in our living conditions, our culture and our political development. We have now a club, and a red corner in every lumber-provision point and frequently even in every plot. Thousands of lumbermen attend courses and schools, hundreds of workers are promoted to the staff of lumbering organisations.

And what was the position of a lumberman in the days, when foreign concessionaires and our native capitalists ruled autocratically the northern forests of semi-savage Russia? An overwhelming majority of men were illiterate, always cheated by the bosses, ruthlessly exploited, living in smoky barracks or filthy mud-huts, feeding only on black bread,—they lived like beasts, "vodka" being their only consolation.

And when the free lumbermen, to whom labour had actually become a matter of honour and glory, had raised by their creative enthusiasm the tempos of lumber exports, the campaign about "forced labour" and the famous "dumping" was started in foreign countries.

Increase of output, socialist competition and shock work, full trust in the Party—such is our reply to the slander about "forced labour".

The lumbermen will never be slaves. Never, while we are alive, will the dark times of cruel exploitation and oppression return."



Woman in the Soviet Union

LENIN ON THE EMANCIPATION OF WORKING WOMEN

(Extract from a speech by V. Lenin at the 1st All-Russian Congress of Working Women, 1918)

The Soviet Government, as a government of toilers, brought about, during the first few months of its existence, a revolution in the laws concerning women. Not a trace remains in the Soviet Republic



now of the laws that placed women in a subordinate position. I am speaking now of those laws that took particular advantage of the weaker position of women, that deprived her of equal rights with men, and that were often degrading, as for instance, the divorce laws, those relating to children born out of wedlock and to the right of a woman to sue the father of her child for the child's support.

It was just in this sphere that the bourgeois laws even in the most advanced countries took advantage of woman's weaker position to deny her equal rights and degrade her. It was just in this sphere that the Soviet Government did away with the old, unjust laws that were unbearable for the toiling masses. And we can now

say with just pride and without the slightest exaggeration that there is no country in the world except the Soviet Union, where women enjoy full and equal rights and are not placed in a subordinate or degrading position, which is particularly sharply felt in everyday family life.

This was one of our first and most important tasks.

In all the democratic republics equality is loudly advertised, while in their civil laws and those concerning the position of woman in the family, and with regard to divorce, we see her inequality and degradation. And we say that this is a violation of democracy, particularly in regard to the oppressed. The Soviet Government has, more than all the other countries, even the most advanced, put the ideas of democracy into practice by allowing not the slightest hint of the inequality of women to creep into its laws. I repeat, that not one State and not one democratic system of legislation has done for women even half of what the Soviet Government accomplished during the first few months of its existence. Legislation, of course, is not sufficient, and we should never permit ourselves to be satisfied by decrees alone. But in the field of legislation we have done all expected of us to make the position of women equal with that of men, and this we have a right to be proud of. The position of women in the Soviet Union today is ideal from the point of view of the most advanced countries. But we say that this, of course, is only the beginning.



In a speech made in 1920 Lenin said: "The Soviet Government strives to have all toilers, not only party-members, but also non-party persons, not only men, but women, take part in this economic reconstruction. This cause, begun by the Soviet power, may be moved forward only when not hundreds, but millions and millions of women in Russia take part in it".

Since then eleven years have passed. Lenin's words are being transferred into reality. The tumultuous growth of our socialist construction during the past few years, the development of new, great

centres of industry are accompanied by the mass-wide attraction of women into industry. According to the plan of 1931 1,600,000 women were to be drawn into all branches of national economy, including 800,000 for industry and construction.

This task is especially burning in the national districts; there it is much more difficult to solve it, because of the conditions of life.

The brief table presented below clearly shows the increase of the share of women's labour in production in 1931 as against 1930, and its particular increase in the national districts.

	1930		1931	
	All workers	Women	All workers	Women
Moscow district	556,649	238,029	600,796	291,156
Leningrad ,,	334,627	131,044	394,981	148,181
North Caucasus	110,209	23,002	133,739	39,123
Kazakstan	7,918	1,266	9,654	3,754
Kirghizia	1,209	196	1,421	355

The position of women in Soviet industry is characterised not only by their growth in numbers, but incomparably better by their qualitative development. The attracting of women into socialist production is the attracting of women to the creative activity of socialism.

In the factories and mills of pre-revolutionary Russia hundreds and thousands of women used to work, but they were looked on simply as cheap labour. Keep the women at the hardest, least skilled work, pay her a miserable wage — such was the attitude of the old regime to the woman toiler. Woman was regarded as a lower sort of being, not capable of any responsible, creative work whatever.

Long years of oppression led women to become accustomed to regard themselves as suitable only for household work and hard labour. Bourgeois society, sternly observing the inequality of woman arising from her social position, absolutely refused to take into account the physical and physiological peculiarities of the female organism. There were cases when women gave birth to children right at the machines; although physically weaker than man, woman constantly had to bear the harder work.

The attitude of the Soviet Government to this question is absolutely different. While breaking for ever with the idea of woman's

intellectual inequality, it takes strict account of her physical peculiarities. Women in industry are given four months' vacation during childbirth, two months before and two months after the birth; up till nine months they are given time for nursing the child; women are not burdened with physical labour beyond their strength.

We shall not enumerate everything that has been done by the Soviet power for the intellectual development of women. Let us pause over one question only, the question of women's skill in production. This problem was set on the boards in 1931 with especial acuteness, in connection with the mass attraction of women into industry. The People's Commissariat of Labour was directed to determine in what branches of industry female skilled labour could be utilised. And in this horizons for woman were opened, of which she would not even have dared to dream in pre-revolutionary Russia. Woman has secured access to the crafts of electric repairman, electrician, engineer in mining, engraver, turner and a number of other specialities in the metal industry, highly skilled crafts in the chemical, textile and food industries. From skilled working woman to engineer and factory-director is woman's path in socialist industry.

In this connection there has been a big increase in the percentage of women among

the students admitted to the higher technical institutions and to the factory-schools. In the factory-schools there were 28.8 % girls in 1927/28; on January 1, 1930, there were 30.25 %, and in 1931, in connection with the mass attraction of women into industry, the percentage increased to 50 %. We see the same picture in the workers' faculties, and in the higher educational institutions.

The advancement of women to responsible work in industry is extremely important. The working woman, from the machine, receives the job of master-workman, of assistant-director, of director. The working woman has fully justified the hopes set on her by the Soviet Government. She is not only becoming a skilled worker in industry, but is beginning to play a leading part in our socialist construction.

From the decree of the All-Union Conference of Trade-Unions, devoted to questions connected with the penetration of industry by female labour, we can see what unexampled activity and creative initiative is displayed in industry by women.

44 % of the women metal-workers, 51 % of the women in the chemical industry, 57 % of the women textile-workers, 59 % of the women in the paper industry, etc., have been drawn into socialist competition. By now that percentage has increased considerably. Women's shock-brigades are formed, many women shock-brigade workers have been rewarded with the Order of the Red Banner.

The attraction of women into active, creative work has radically changed their psychology. While in tsarist Russia the woman-worker regarded it as her great good fortune to do house-work and not to go to work in the awful factory, which ruined her life, now she sees the fundamental meaning of life in productive, socially useful work. She is struggling determinedly for community-housing, nurseries, kindergartens, public dining-rooms, public laundries, for new conditions of life, which set woman free from household, unproductive labour.

In developing the new, socialist forms of life woman is playing a most important part.



A shock-brigade of women-builders

THE STORY OF A HEROINE OF LABOUR

By N. Labkovsky

The Svetlana works in Leningrad, where electric lamps and radio valves are made, was the first to fulfil the Five-Year Plan in two and a half years, and the Soviet Government has awarded the best workers with the supreme labour prize: the Order of Lenin.

The following sketch tells in short outline the life story of one of these workers, Evdokia Semenovna Alexeeva.

From 1889 to the present day — 42 years of hard work. And the greater part of this life was spent during an epoch when work was far from being considered a matter of honour and glory.

One winter day in 1889 a little girl of twelve trudged wearily through the streets of St. Petersburg. She had come from the province of Kaluga, from the little village Uteshevo and had been brought to St. Petersburg to go into service. Several days later she had found work as a house drudge, and was looking after the children, doing the scullery work and the washing and everything else in the house that was monotonous and soul destroying. There was barely time to do everything that had to be done and in return for her services she had to be content with the leavings from her masters' table, four rubles a month and plenty of kicks.

If occasionally she was lucky enough to snatch a free moment, Doonia would run over to do some washing or window scrubbing at the neighbours' in order to earn an extra ruble here and there and so make her life just a little more endurable.

Doonia spent the seven best years of her life in the fly-blown kitchen of a prosperous middle-class home. She had no future to look forward to. Her life began and was to be ended in the kitchen.

At 19 Doonia married Alexeev, a carriage upholsterer, and was now called Evdokia Semenovna Alexeeva. Her husband worked little, drank a great deal and considered it his duty to beat his wife. Evdokia Semenovna was still almost a child. Permanent overwork soon left its mark on her and premature wrinkles began to appear around her deep-set intelligent eyes.

Soon children began to arrive. She had three altogether and from early morning their hungry wailing filled the room until in the evening it was put to silence by the raucous yells of her drunkard husband and her own helpless moaning as he struck her with his fists.

At last Evdokia Semenovna could stand it no longer and divorced her carriage-upholsterer. Of her three children only one son lived, and she decided to bring him up and educate him as well as her poor resources would allow. For that she would have to live and work and earn her bread.

*

At the sound of the first whistle the massive gates of the Stiglitz factory opened wide. Crowds of women burst into the yard and dispersed all over the buildings. Hunger brought Evdokia Semenovna Alexeeva to these gates. As a great favour she was put to work at the bench and given forty copecks a day.

On the wall there was a formidable list of all the things you were fined for doing. There were so many of them, that you felt you could hardly lift your finger without having to pay. If you left your machine for a second there was a fine to be paid. If you exchanged a few words with your neighbour — another fine. A rude reply to the foreman — again you must pay up.

Wherever they turned the women seemed to be faced with a fine, 50 copecks here, 25 copecks there, making a big gap in their miserable 15 rubles pittance.

Evdokia Semenovna spent many years at the same bench in the Stiglitz factory. Then came 1905. One day the news spread round the factory:

“We're going to strike.”

There was great excitement. The women waited impatiently for the strike to begin, when they would leave their machines and stop working.

Evdokia Semenovna's bench was the first in the row near the entrance. Shriill whistles were heard resounding through the factory. There were shouts outside and a murmur rose up from the workshops. Some of the younger workers burst in and shouted authoritatively:

“Stop work!”

The sudden excitement was too much for the women. They lost their nerve. Evdokia Semenovna was the only one to keep her presence of mind. With a deft blow she knocked the belt off her machine and then did the same to her neighbour's.

The other women took courage from her and followed her example, and one after another the machines came to rest.

The factory gates opened and disgorged a crowd, nine thousand strong. The women went out onto the street and bravely facing the whips and bayonets of the police, they went to seek justice and protection from the tsar. Machine guns spat lead onto the square which was soon bathed in blood.

*

October 1917 found Evdokia Alexeeva at the works now called the "Svetlana". The revolution seemed to have made a new woman of her. She began to find a new interest in life. At the age of forty she studied with more enthusiasm than any school girl. In 1919 at the age of 42 Evdokia Semenovna became a member of the Party.

"I would have become a member much earlier", she would say as if in excuse, "as far back as 1917 even, only I was ashamed when I couldn't read or write. Now that I've educated myself a little I'm not afraid of joining."

Evdokia Semenovna spent three more years studying at the school attached to the works. She worked hard, both at her studies and in the factory, and soon became one of the best workers. She began to be given responsible work, for whatever she did, she did well.

"We're not working for the boss now", she would say, "but for ourselves, comrades, so look after your tools and do your work carefully."

Evdokia Semenovna was promoted to the post of assistant to the chief inspector of the factory. This responsible work, however, did not take her away from her bench. It enabled her to take an active part in improving production and she soon introduced her first suggestion for rationalisation. It was found effective and immediately applied. The result was a 56% improvement in quality. Then she had another idea for improvement which was

also applied and after that another and yet another.

When her admiring companions used to ask her how she did it she would always say:

"It's quite simple, if you want to do a thing you just do it."

And true enough, if you look at Evdokia Semenovna, at her high, wrinkled forehead, her smooth drawn hair flecked with gray, her intelligent, kind, deep-set eyes, you understand that what she does comes natural to her because she has set her mind on it.

Evdokia Semenovna's son, brought up during the hard times, followed his mother's example and with her joined the Party in 1919. He often says to his mother:

"You are now 54 years old. You have worked in the factory 35 years. You have never known rest all your life, don't you think it's time to take it easy now? Surely you've done your share."

But Evdokia Semenovna takes no notice of him. She would not dream of leaving the factory now. She is too much attached to it.

"Just think for a moment", she argues with her son, "how can I leave? The factory can't get along without me. I am on the local tribunal, am a member of the Party cell bureau and of the Party membership committee. How can I possibly leave? And especially now when every worker is wanted. I should never be happy if I was out of it all."

*

It was April. The broken ice was being borne along on the swollen waters of the Neva. Leningrad was celebrating the triumph of the Soviet factory.

"Svetlana" reported: "We have finished the first Five-Year Plan in two and a half years. We are triumphantly beginning the second Five-Year Plan."

Several days later all the papers of the Union published the following news:

"The Central Executive Committee of the USSR has decided to award the Order of Lenin to Alexeeva, Evdokia Semenovna, worker of the "Svetlana" Electric Lamp Factory, for distinguished service in industry."

That is the story of Evdokia Semenovna, the story of a career full of heroism, such as many others may follow.

Red Army Life

THE RED ARMY — A HEARTH OF CULTURE

By E. Maximov

Anyone who has happened to observe the daily life and ways of the Red Army in the USSR knows that it is an army which educates not only defenders of the peaceful construction of the Soviet Union, but also active participants in the entire economic and cultural life of the country.

The worker, the collectivised peasant, the young employée come to the Red Army from the Moscow District, the Ukraine, Transcaucasus, Bashkiria, Tartary, from all ends of the Soviet Union.

After the army the young toiler returns to his factory, his collective farm, having greatly raised his cultural level, his knowledge, his political consciousness. Young village lads, after passing through the school of the Red Army, on coming home, become organisers of collective farms, leaders of reading-huts, become cultural workers in the socialist village. After the army the young toiler goes to the technical high school, to the higher educational institutions, to technical institutes or to special military institutes, if he has decided to devote himself to military work.

This result is attained by the tremendous cultural and educational work which fills the life of the Red Army.

What is this work, concretely speaking?

Along with their political education the Red Army men study reading and writing, get a whole series of information about mathematics, history and geography. The Red Army men study in evening-schools for general education, at courses, in all sorts of circles, planned for the most varied degrees of preparation — from circles for eliminating illiteracy to circles for studying higher mathematics. There are several thousands of such schools and circles in the Red Army.

The time which he has free from study the Red Army man spends in the club or in the Lenin corner. The clubs are specially adopted for rest; libraries, expositions, radio-sets are usually arranged in them.

Here evenings are organised for "Questions and Answers", for contact with the "patrons", i. e., with the workers of factories and mills who take this or that Red

Army section under their wing. At literary evenings the works of Soviet literature are



K. Voroshilov, People's Commissary for Military Affairs

discussed, proletarian writers and poets speak. The programme for club-evenings likewise includes conversations on military, political and scientific subjects. The Red Army men pay collective visits to museums, exhibits, scientific and technical institutes.

The total number of cultural and educational circles of the Red Army (circles of military science, sport, political, anti-religious, artistic circles, etc.) amounts to several thousands. The entire mass of Red Army men is embraced by these cultural organisations. The Red Army men study with great interest in technical circles and at various courses, and acquire a definite specialty. Chauffeurs, tractor-drivers, inventors, rationalisers of production pass out of the Red Army.

The Red Army man is fond of books. There are millions of books in the libraries of the Red Army. There is constant demand for them from the part of the Red Army men, commanders, and other workers of the Red Army.

The Red Army men in the USSR are the equals and comrades of their commanders. Relations between them when at work or at study are determined by comradely discipline, based on social conscious-

ness, on an understanding of the tasks of the Red Army and of the duty of each single one of its workers. During their leisure-time in the club, or in the Lenin corner, the Red Army men and their commanders rest and amuse themselves together. Here we see the Red Army actor, the Red Army poet delivering his stories, reading his poems, participating in club-plays.

Proletarian art has great affection among the Red Army. In almost all bodies of the Red Army dramatic circles, theatres, string orchestras, ensembles of army songs are at work, frequently professional and semi-professional organisations are formed there. One of the most important artistic organisations is the "Central Theatre of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army" in Moscow and similar ones in a number of

other cities¹. The Red Army has also good reason to be proud of its symphony orchestras, composed exclusively of the Red Army men.

The Houses of the Red Army and Fleet represent clubs of a superior type for workers of the Red Army, for their families, for everyone, interested in the life of the Red Army. The People's Commissary for Military Affairs, K. Voroshilov, has called the Central House of the Red Army in



Leisure-time in camp

Moscow "the Voluntary Academy". These words correctly characterise the tremendous sweep and variety of the work carried on in the Moscow House of the Red Army².

The press occupies a very important place in the cultural life of the Red Army. In the republics of the Soviet Union a series of newspapers is published illustrating the life of the Red Army and military problems. Many military and Red Army periodicals are published. In addition, in the different bodies of the Red Army their own printed and wall newspapers are issued. An article entitled "The Soviet Press" in No. 7—9 of the magazine "V.O.K.S.", 1931, has already made our readers acquainted with the press in the Red Army.

¹ See the article on the theatre in this number.

² See the article in this number.

Army correspondents, i. e. Red Army soldiers and commanders, constantly working in our newspapers and periodicals, form a link between all this press and the daily life of the mass of the Red Army.



Visiting her son

While serving in the Red Army, the young toiler does not lose contact with the life and constructive work of the Soviet city and village. The Red Army men coming into the fields to help the collective farmers are a usual phenomenon, — just as usual and important one as the workers' collective of one factory or another acting as patron to some Red Army group. The workers look after the daily life of the Red Army, the fitting out of red corn-

ers, supplying them with books and other things.

The Red Army is equally well connected with the scientific and artistic forces of the country. The trade-unions of educational workers and of art workers are "patrons" of the Red Army and render it great assistance in its cultural work.

In the preceding issue of our periodical we wrote of the joint work of Red Army men and film-artists, producing films on the life of the Red Army.

The Red Army is connected with the writers by LOKAF (Russian initials for "Literary Federation of the Red Army and Fleet"), which includes prominent proletarian writers, "allies" and "fellow-travelers" (petty bourgeois writers sympathetic to our revolution and socialist reconstruction), and also the new generation of writers. In the periodicals issued by LOKAF ("LOKAF", "Salvo") there are published literary works representing the life of the Red Army, its heroic history, its participation in the building of socialism and in the defence of the peaceful work of the Soviet Union.

In 1932 the Red Army celebrates its 14th anniversary as the first army in the world to be a nursery of culture, as the army in which new people are being educated, builders of socialism, and in which fresh cultural values are being created.

Writers who are members of the Literary Federation of the Red Army and Fleet (LOKAF): the novelist Novikov-Priboy, the poet V. Lugovskoy and others



THE CENTRAL HOUSE OF THE RED ARMY IN MOSCOW

By A. Schleming

The Red Army is not only the defender of the Soviet boundaries. Together with the entire country it is studying, growing, perfecting itself, taking part in all the artistic and cultural life of the Soviet Union.

In the system of the cultural work of the Red Army a great role is played by the Houses of the Red Army, among which a place apart belongs to the Central House of the Red Army in Moscow (C.H.R.A.).

Let us walk through its huge halls, numerous rooms and corridors and see what changes have taken place there during the past year, the third year of the Five-Year Plan.

But first of all let us cast a glance over the exterior of the house. The hundred-year old work of the Italian architect Gildardi has been somewhat changed.

At its right wing a severe, cement building of seven stories has risen up.

That is a new hotel, with 300 rooms, for workers of the Red Army who come to Moscow.

In the heart of the park we see other, unfinished buildings. Those are future workshops for school appliances, and a model garage of 50 automobiles.

Farther along in the park work has been begun for clearing the ground and marking off lots.

Here a gigantic stadium for all types of sport will be built by the fifteenth anniversary of the Red Army; it will include a swimming-pool, a motor-cycle and auto track, a hippodrome.

Within the house two auditoriums, each holding 300 persons, have been built during the past year.

The military department, the sectors of mass work and sport, the Museum of the Red Army, the university, the theatre are all operating strictly according to plan. Just as before the permanent exhibition arranged by the Central House of the Red Army is always attended by a great number of excursions, groups, individual visitors.

In addition to the courses and schools lectures are arranged almost every evening in the auditorium of the C.H.R.A.

In one of the auditoriums we may hear a lecture on Marx's and Lenin's theory of war or on the results of the third, decisive year of the Five-Year Plan. In another hall the subject of the evening is electricity. A demonstration of equipment, experiments, moving-pictures.

Here come commanders and their families, Red Army men and students.

The library of the Central House of the Red Army is open to everyone.

That means that each visitor is admitted directly to the bookshelves. There is no one between him and the book.

The reader gets acquainted with the book before taking it to work at or to read. In this open library there are no librarians. There are only advisers.

In each copy of a book there is a review of it or quotations from appropriate critical articles. The book speaks about itself to the reader.



In the reading-hall

In the regimental clubs the sport evenings of the House of the Red Army are arranged periodically. Lectures are held there on the functions of one or another type of sport, followed by performances of model teams of men and women from the Central House of the Red Army; such evenings usually close with mass sport play to music, in which the entire public takes part.

Soviet Union, formed a Red Army collective farm.

The radio-station of the House talks to the entire Soviet Union, to all the Houses of the Red Army scattered over the great expanse of the USSR.

In the morning, if you pass through a row of class-rooms of the House, you will find groups of women studying.

In the chess-room



At the sport-bases of the suburbs, in the open air, the sport section of the C.H.R.A. organises races of skiers, drawn by horses, hockey-games, skiing estafettes.

Tens of thousands of workers passed through the halls of the museum of the C.H.R.A. last year.

They studied the history of the armed struggle for the dictatorship of the proletariat, for our peaceful socialist construction.

The museum has organised staffs of the participants in this struggle. They gather the recollections of living witnesses of its glorious battles, study documents and facts and write the real history of the Civil War.

Last year the Theatre of the Red Army offered a number of new plays. One of the plays (about a Red commander) was shown by the theatre 200 times during the past year, and the play invariably stirred the spectators.

Great success was also enjoyed by a play representing demobilised Red Army soldiers who, in a distant region of the

These are the wives of Red Army soldiers preparing themselves to be radio-operators, librarians and nurses.

Here writers are at work studying the military art in order to understand more deeply the work of the Red Army and to reflect it more vividly in their works.

The beginning authors of military books and of text-books work here — they are commanders with experience and knowledge, but who have not done any literary work before. Tomorrow they will become the authors of their first books. They are learning to share their knowledge and experience.

Here you may meet scenario-writers and Red Army soldiers getting ready to enter the university after their military service is over.

The House is working, seething with work. The entire country is seething with its gigantic work of construction.

In 1932 the Central House, together with the entire country celebrates the fourteenth anniversary of the existence of the Red Army.

In most corps of the Red Army, in most crews of the fleet, in military schools and institutions of the military department there are theatrical and other artistic circles made up of the military servicemen themselves.

The Theatre of the Red Army, which was organised at the end of 1929, was destined to become the centre of theatrical work in the Red Army.

The problems of building up the Red Army and of its daily life, of the strengthening the defence of the Soviet land, international and historical themes—such is the wide sphere of this theatre's activity. The Theatre of the Red Army is composed of four "shops": the dramatic groups, "the shop of small forms" (shows for small stages), the ensemble of Red Army singing and the doll-theatre—"the Red Army Petrushka". These shops correspond to the forms of theatrical work in the Red Army itself. The main difficulty—one natural in such a new enterprise—was the lack of a repertory. This explains why, at the beginning, the theatre had to make use of the plays which cannot be considered typical for the Red Army Theatre today (one instance is the play of an older dramatist, Wolkenstein, called "Makhno's Men"). From the first days of its existence the theatre set about educating a staff of authors and has a number of achievements to its credit in the formation of a repertory.

For its first play it took the review "The Chinese-Eastern Railway", dealing with the events of 1929. The play was offered immediately after the close of the conflict over the Chinese-Eastern Railway.

The next play was "The First Cavalry Army", written by a commander of the Red Fleet and a fighter in the First Cavalry Army, Vs. Vishnevsky—it was acknowledged to be a tremendous achievement of the Red Army Theatre. Its author at once advanced to the front rank of Soviet playwrights. The play was shown with great success throughout the Soviet Union. Vishnevsky succeeded in showing from various sides the tsarist army, various features of the 1914—1917 war, then of the revolution of 1917, in unfolding a picture of the civil war of 1917—1921, and in closing with a suggestive sketching of the class warfare which accompanies the socialist offensive in the days of the Five-

Year Plan. The play shows the development of the First Cavalry Army with S. Budionny and K. Voroshilov at its head. By the example of the First Cavalry Army, Vishnevsky to a great degree discloses the path taken by the Red Army as a whole. The playwright makes use of various means for securing the dramatic effect; the play includes stories, moving-picture subtitles, music, singing. A sort of conférencier or "reader" acts in the play; in his speeches he illuminates the separate episodes and offers conclusions, deductions. This structure of the play enabled the author to embrace a long series of events and render them with remarkable force and precision. The language of the play is splendid.

The third play was "Makhno's Men", by Vl. Wolkenstein, which we have already mentioned.

Its second season the Theatre of the Red Army opened with a play by D. Kudrin, "The Lull". This was the first big play about the life of the Red Army under the conditions of peace-time construction. Its action is unfolded in the milieu of commanders, political workers of the Red Army, Red Army soldiers and the families of commanders in 1924, i. e., in the period of the reform of the Red Army, carried out under the leadership of M. Frunze. Nevertheless, a number of features in the play are up-to-date even at present time.

Gl. Alekseev's play, "A Blow at the Steppe", tells of the building up of a Red Army agricultural commune. The Red Army men are building a new, collectivised village, drawing after them the masses of middle and poor peasants. That is the main line of the play.

For the first play of the present season (the third one for the Theatre of the Red Army) Vs. Ivanov's play "Naib-Khan's Compromise" was chosen. It relates the attack of the band of the former "ruler of Khiva and Turkmenia", Naib-Khan, against a State farm in Turkmenistan, situated near the Afghan frontier.

Like the dramatic group of which we have been speaking, the "shop of smaller forms" has also been busy creating its own repertory. Its first works were an anti-religious review, a cycle of acted soldiers' songs, a number of estrade numbers, a review entitled "Steel-clad Enthusiasm" (on a theme of military technique). Then a review

was performed, dealing with themes of international politics. This review, called "They are setting ready", tells of the preparation of international imperialism for a war against the Soviet Union. A Russian White-Guard general — the chief figure — visits a series of countries; this dramatic approach enables the authors to show the activity of the various imperialist elements in Western Europe. In satirical intermezzos, a Red Army man and two actresses comment on the action, while constructing from the parts of an object-form an automobile, aeroplane, etc., on which they are supposed to be travelling after the general.

For the latest spectacle of the shop of smaller forms, V. Kvasnitsky's play, "Misprint", was taken. Its content is as follows: in the Red Army newspaper one squad was entitled a "shock-brigade" which, under conditions of the Red Army, means a squad advanced in the work of military training. As a matter of fact, this squad was not a shock-brigade. In order to correct the misprint, the Red Army men set enthusiastically about their studies and in fact the squad came to justify the title it had been given by mistake in the newspaper. This episode was shown by the author in the form of a theatrical sketch. The staging of both these things is distinguished by the sensitive and intelligent work of the director and designer. In this respect, the shop of smaller forms has achieved considerable successes.

The ensemble of Red Army singing is an original sort of artistic organisation. The form of its presentation is a peculiar placing of the chorus and of artistic reading. The theme of the ensemble's performance is usually the fighting history of one or another military body. Thus, various programmes of the ensemble have been devoted to the First Cavalry Army, to the Red Fleet, to the special Red-Banner

Far-Eastern Army. In addition, the ensemble deals also with questions of socialist construction in the USSR (programmes called "Magnet-Mountain", "Defence of Socialism"). The ensemble is invariably received with acclaim.

The dolls' theatre, "The Red Army Petrushka", has done a number of merry, witty shows, chiefly from Red Army life.

Trips to Red Army units enter into the system of the theatre's work. During the summer all its shops visit the Red Army camps. Here the theatre is not confined to its usual performances, but carries on a great deal of pedagogical work, instructing and helping the Red Army artistic circles.

The programme of this instruction includes general methods of work in the sphere of the "smaller forms", questions of staging, literary consultation, extension of mass singing, the doll-theatre, anti-religious work in artistic form, etc. The theatre's instructors showed specimen of small plays drawn from the life of the given camp, by working at their staging together with the members of the circles, their leaders, etc.

At present, in addition to the local organisations of the Red Army Theatre, there are series of theatres of the Red Army in which, as in the Moscow Theatre, professional artists are at work. A part of the duty of the Moscow Theatre of the Red Army, which has now become the central one, is to help these theatres.

The Theatre of the Red Army has already won sympathy and applause among the extensive circle of its public — Red Army men, commanders, workers and collectivised peasants. This success the Theatre of the Red Army owes first of all to the fact that it is the child of the first army of workers and peasants in the world, of the first army the aim of which is not the enslavement of the popular masses, but, on the contrary, the defence of the socialist State created by them.

The Moscow Theatre
of the Red Army



A scene from a
dramatised poem
by Vi. Lugovskoy

Science and Life

ROMAIN ROLLAND ELECTED HONORARY MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE USSR

The Academy of Sciences of the USSR has elected the French writer Romain Rolland as an honorary member.

The international fame and the sincere sympathies of millions of advanced men which Romain Rolland enjoys are due to the fact that he is a great man of letters and a great citizen rather than to his work in the field of science.

His election as an honorary member of the USSR Academy of Sciences was of course in recognition of his scientific achievements, but nevertheless what he has done in the literary field and in public life cannot be overlooked. Not only do his novels (and especially "Jean Christophe") show the greatest literary gifts but they also provide a singular epic inspiration for the best elements amongst the intellectuals of Europe and America.

His fierce protest against war and his faith in humanity all through the last great capitalist slaughter have shown him

to be one of the foremost leaders of humanism and internationalism.

Not long ago Romain Rolland boldly declared that he is in definite agreement with Lenin's ideas and is ready to approve of violence when it is directed against the harmful power of capitalists.

But apart from all this Romain Rolland remains a scientist of no low order. His scientific works are written with such care and discrimination that from the literary point of view they do not fall short of his best novels.

All that being so, there can be no doubt that the election of Romain Rolland to the USSR Academy of Sciences will do honour to this high institution.

The USSR Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries welcomes Romain Rolland, that great and true friend of the vanguard of humanity which is boldly building up a new life in our country.

ASSISTANCE TO SCIENTIFIC WORKERS IN THE USSR

By R. V o r o n o v,
Responsible Secretary of the Commission of Assistance to Scientists

The favourable position in which the scientific workers of the USSR are placed naturally stimulates the powerful development of scientific investigation in the Soviet Union. This is due to the special care which the Soviet Government takes of its scientific workers, and of the conditions in which they are working.

It was as early as in 1921, that the Government organised a special body "CE-KUBU" (The Central Commission for the Improvement of Living Conditions of Scientists), which in May 1931 was reorganised into a Commission of Assistance to Scientists, attached to the Council of People's Commissaries of the USSR — an organ of all-Union importance, vested with considerably greater functions and rights.

This Commission consists of a number of members of the Government and prominent scientists.

The activity of the Commission extends to the scientific and engineering workers, conducting independent scientific and research work, and in the first place to those among them, who are already known for their scientific works and practical achievements contributing to the socialist construction of the country.

The Commission consists of a number of sub-commissions, each being in charge of separate matters.

The sub-commission concerned with the material and living conditions is in charge of the sanitary and medical institutions of the Commission, of the payment of

pensions and lump sums granted to scientific workers. It also controls the hostels for scientists and generally assists scientists in their everyday life.

The sub-commission for the assistance in scientific research work organises the importation of foreign literature, apparatus and chemicals, renders assistance, when required, in the publication of scientific works, finances particularly urgent and important scientific trips and expeditions both inside the country, and abroad, awards prizes for important scientific works, etc.

The sub-commission for administration and organisation controls the management, the finances and the apparatus of the Commission.

Recently a sub-commission began to function, which is to draw the scientists into the working out of separate problems of socialist construction.

For the few months of its activity, the Commission succeeded in realising a number of practical measures, and in getting ready for the development of its activity in 1932.

Over 4,000 scientific workers passed through the sanatoria and other medical institutions of the Commission; the capacity of these institutions will be increased to 10,000 persons in 1932. The Commission controls several excellently equipped houses of rest and sanatoria near Moscow — "Uzkoe" and "Sosnovy Bor" (Pine Forest), near Leningrad — in Peterhof, in Crimea — "Gaspra", and many others in the Caucasus — in Kislovodsk, Teberda, etc. The existing houses of rest and sanatoria will be considerably enlarged this year: in addition to the above, new sanatoria are being constructed in the health-resorts of the Caucasian Spas, and in the North Caucasus — in Essentuki, Kislovodsk, and Teberda; on the Caucasian shore of the Black Sea — in Sochi; new houses of rest are being organised in the Zhigouli mountains on the Volga; in the district of Luga, near Leningrad, in Porechie, located in the Zvenigorod district of the Moscow region, and in Novgorod; there is a project to organise a special sanatorium for the children of scientific workers, a floating house of rest on the Volga, and several new sanatoria and houses of rest in the Urals, in Siberia, and in Central Asia.

For the convenience of scientific workers, arriving to Moscow and Leningrad for a short stay, special hostels have been organised in these cities. The Commission is at

present organising similar hostels in other large centres of the Soviet Union.

The scientific workers enjoy a number of housing privileges. The Soviet legislation provides for the scientific workers a right to supplementary dwelling space in addition to the general rates.

The Commission is also in charge of the so-called House for the Veterans of Science in Moscow, where aged scientists reside, whose age or health do not allow them to conduct any active work in scientific research institutions. In this house they are surrounded with every comfort enabling them to continue their scientific work in accordance with their desire, or their state of health. The house is maintained entirely at the expense of the State. A recent government decree turned over to the Commission one of the buildings of the Peterhof palace (near Leningrad), the former summer residence of the tsars, together with all the furniture (hitherto it was a museum, illustrating the family life of the Russian tsars). A second House for the Veterans of Science, similar to the Moscow House, will be organised in this palace.

The Commission is also rendering direct financial and material assistance to the scientists in the form of long term loans and grants. Over thirty thousand rubles were expended in these loans during the period of existence of the Commission.

The sub-commission for the assistance in scientific research work during the period of its existence has satisfied about 15,000 applications of about 4,000 scientific workers concerning orders and subscriptions for foreign books, journals, and other scientific publications; transferred the membership fees of 300 Soviet scientists to foreign scientific associations; assisted in different way over 100 Soviet scientists in their personal research work; spent about 20,000 rubles on expenses of scientific commissions, prizes awarded for scientific work etc.

The Houses of Scientists serve as clubs for scientific workers, and are the centres for organising the work of the Soviet scientists around the basic problems of socialist construction. At the same time these houses contribute to the improvement of their qualification, helping in the exchange of scientific experience; they popularise the scientific knowledge, and conduct technical propaganda. The Houses of Scientists have at their disposal well equipped libraries and reading-rooms, dining-rooms, rooms for rest, special studies for scientific

work, etc. In the Houses of Scientists evenings of artistic reading, concerts, lectures and reports on miscellaneous scientific, social and political subjects, public demonstration of moving picture films, etc., are organised. The following circles are actively working at the Houses of Scientists: tourism, chess, billiards, physical culture and sports, hygiene of mental work, regime of rest of intellectual workers, as-

sistance to the commission charged with the construction of sanatoria and of medical institutions.

Two Houses of Scientists are now functioning in Moscow and in Leningrad; a number of new houses will be organised within the next few years: in Kharkov and Kiev (Ukraine), in Minsk (White Russia), in Tiflis (Transcaucasus), Tashkent (Central Asia), Vladivostok (Far East), etc.

THE FIRST CONGRESS OF SOVIET INVENTORS

The Soviet Union is the only country in which invention — for the first time in the history of the world — is exercised by the masses, and aims at solving the most urgent economic problems. The invention movement in the USSR, the true school for the technical activity of the masses, has not sprung into being by chance. Socialised industry places before the inventors concrete demands. It is no mere hazard that, at the All-Union Congress of Inventors, which recently took place in Moscow, a special section elaborated plans for inventors' work. The object of this planning was to bring the inventor to concentrate all his power and attention on the most fundamental problems of technics. Such planning raises the technical standard of the inventor and gives the right direction to his creative thought.

The Soviet plan for rationalisation and invention is based on tens and hundreds of thousands of orders, arising from the needs of socialist construction, in scientific institutions, factories etc.

At the outset, inventions should deal with everything that promotes the fulfilment of the Five-Year Plan before its specified term and the earliest realisation of the slogan: "overtake and outstrip".

Inventive thought began to take shape with the first smoke of the factory chimneys at the close of the civil war. In the struggle to rebuild and develop Soviet industry, thousands of specialists and worker inventors made valuable contributions to invention. At first there was no organisation to assemble the isolated inventors and unite them into a powerful whole. But following the decree passed by the All-Union Council of Trade Unions, the All-Union Society of Inventors was organised in 1930. From

that moment, invention in the masses took definite shape and developed tremendously. At present, the Society has over 400,000 members, including workers and specialists in all branches of industry.

At its first Congress, the Society made public remarkable display of achievements. The influx of workers' proposals and inventions during 1931 was two or three times as great as that of 1930. In the Supreme Council of National Economy alone, inventors deposited 194,799 rationalisation proposals. Their realisation would save hundreds of millions of rubles. Complicated machinery such as auto-coupling, motorless combines etc. were included among these inventions.

The enormous impetus given to the technical creative power of the masses originated in the vast development of socialist competition and shock-brigades which has brought out and developed the manifold talents hidden in the working masses. Together with the increase in the number of inventions, the quality and value of the offered rationalisation proposals has also shown marked improvement.

In order to experiment and test the value of their inventions, inventors are sent to scientific research institutes and laboratories for a trial period. Thus, in Leningrad, the academician A. Yoffe carries on systematic work in his institute with 25 inventors.

The Congress particularly emphasised the importance of a close relationship between inventors and the scientific research organisations and technical schools.

In his speech of greeting to the Congress the Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR M. I. Kalinin pointed out that the increase in the effi-

ciency of labour represents the basis for building socialism, and that invention is the most important factor in increasing the productivity of labour.

The Congress pledged itself to effect in 1932, with the aid of invention and rationalisation, one milliard rubles' saving for the national economy of the Soviet Union.

A SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH STATION HELPED BY A NEWSPAPER

In one of the districts of the Central Black-Earth Region of the USSR, in a small sovhoz "Arzhenka" a Soviet scientist, Prof. Chizhevsky, is carrying out a series of experiments, destined to open a new era in stock breeding and raising.

The discovery made by Prof. Chizhevsky is based on the fact that air, ionised by a high pressure electric current, has an immense influence on the nature of various animals. Poultry, bees, rats, guinea-pigs etc., subjected to ionised air, show greater activity, increased weight, and thicker fur or feathers. The immunity of animals against epidemics increases, maturity comes earlier, and the offspring possesses exceptional vitality.

Experiments with poultry were tried last year at "Arzhenka" sovhoz. At the end of these experiments, all fowl subjected to ionisation weighed 130% of the normal weight. Prof. Chizhevsky's work is of great importance to Soviet stock-breeding, since the application of his methods disposes of many difficulties peculiar to this branch of production. However, the sphere of Prof. Chizhevsky's activities is by no means limited to stock only. The application of ionisation opens new horizons in the field of medicine. The tests conducted by Prof. Chizhevsky in Moscow, on apes and human beings, proved that such diseases as rheumatism, gout, disorders in the functioning of endocrine glands; diseases of the heart vessels system; high blood pressure; bronchial asthma, and even tuberculosis — yield completely to the treatment by ionisation.

While commenting on Prof. Chizhevsky's discovery, it is only just to mention the support and aid given the scientist by the local community during the first stages of his work.

The sovhoz "Arzhenka" is situated in the Rasskazovsky district. A local newspaper "Vperiod" (Onward), published in the town of Rasskazovo, proved a real friend to Prof. Chizhevsky. On more than one occasion it came to his aid in moments of difficulty.

At the very beginning of the experiments with poultry the paper took the research

station at "Arzhenka" under its patronage. In an open letter to Prof. Chizhevsky, the editors wrote: "In view of the great significance of the scientific experiments carried on at the station, the editors of "Vperiod" will undertake to see that the work of the station is given proper care and attention by the local community." This promise was faithfully carried out by the paper, which not only popularised the work of the station, explaining the tremendous importance of Prof. Chizhevsky's discovery and giving information on each new result obtained, but also gave concrete help to the station in its everyday work. The electro-station of the sovhoz was unable to supply Prof. Chizhevsky with sufficient amount of naphtha to carry on his work. The paper drew the attention of its readers to this subject and obtained the necessary deliveries of naphtha from a factory, situated in the same district. In another instance, there was a shortage of helpers to execute work at the station; the paper took up the matter and, within a day or two, recruited the necessary workers.

Closest relations came to exist between the experimental station and the editors of the local newspaper. In all the difficulties, the station applied for aid to its "patrons"; and the paper forwarded the demands to the proper organisations, obtaining in each case complete satisfaction.

Experiments carried out at "Arzhenka" have proved the immense scientific and economic value of Prof. Chizhevsky's work; and today "Arzhenka" is destined to possess the first institute — the only one in the world — for studying ionisation and educating staffs of qualified workers in this branch.

Thus a local Soviet newspaper gave precious assistance to work which opens new vistas in the development of science. We see in this co-operation of the newspaper and the scientific research station at "Arzhenka" a vivid example of Soviet science, closely linked with the masses, ever conquering new positions on the route to socialism.

THE HOUSE OF RAILWAY TECHNIQUE IN LENINGRAD

The Leningrad House of Technique in the name of Stalin, belonging to the October and Murmansk railways, is, in the USSR, the first base of mass technical propaganda in the field of transportation. In the former home of the tsarist minister Pobedonostsev are now arranged cabinets for scientific research, exhibitions, laboratories, rooms for study, a technical library, a lecture-hall for the railwaymen of Leningrad. The House of Technique arranges popular reports on scientific subjects, discussions and lectures on questions related to the technique of railway transportation; it organises circles of technical study; even in this short time 31,000 railwaymen have been brought into this cultural work.

The library of 12,000 volumes transferred by the October railway to the House of Technique has already grown to 17,000 volumes of technical literature. 120 transportable libraries take care of the needs of the October and Murman railways. The best professors of the Scientific Research Institute of Railway Management, of the Moscow Institute for the Reconstruction of Traction and the Leningrad Institute of Transportation give lectures and reports every day to their worker audience.

In the House of Technique there have been organised eight laboratory-cabinets in accordance with the fundamental divisions of railway economy: traction, management, roadbed, communication, transportation, reconstruction etc.

In the traction cabinet the engineer, fireman or workman of any factory executing orders for transportation find brake-models, draughts etc.

In the roadbed cabinet one's attention is drawn to the model of the new railway roadbed, used by the super-power American and Soviet locomotives. The map of the electrification of the October railway, which occupies the centre of the exhib-

ition-hall, shows the great work of reconstructing transportation which has already been begun and which will be completed during the second Five-Year Plan.

A special room has been set aside for inventors. Daily consultation by engineers has been organised and a special library set apart for them.

The House of Technique in the name of Stalin has set as its fundamental purpose to be the organising centre for the movement of the masses to master the technique of railway construction.

The House of Technique also organises branches in the stations. In three places such branches have already been opened and are operating; in 1932 sixteen more will be organised.

Another form of mass-work away from the centre is the moving branch, the so-called "House of Technique on wheels". Two such branches are already operating regularly on the lines of the October and Murman railways.

The methods bureau of the House of Technique elaborates study plans and programmes for technical circles. With the participation of the active body of workers two scientific and technical films on transportation have been made.

The arrival of American super-power locomotives was utilised to acquaint the Leningrad railwaymen with foreign technique. Seven and a half thousand workers took part in excursions to the Proletarian Factory while the locomotives were being assembled.

In 1932 the work of the House of Technique is being considerably enlarged. A series of technical conferences and special reports will be organised away from the centre. Mass technical propaganda will reach 150,000 men.

The example given by the Leningrad railwaymen has already been caught up by the railwaymen of other lines.



Soviet Art

SOVIET ART MOVES AHEAD

The Congress of workers in art of the USSR

By S. Bogomazov

Not so long ago Moscow saw the opening of the Eighth Congress of the trade-union of workers in art—actors, moving-picture actors and workers, musicians, painters. More than 300 delegates were present at the congress, from the various republics and districts; among them some very prominent leaders in art: O. Knipper-Chekhova, I. Moskvina, M. Mikhoels, the Ukrainian cinema director A. Dovzhenko, etc.

The preceding congress (1930) had already confronted the numerous army of workers in art with a responsible task—the active participation of art in the work of the cultural revolution, in our socialist construction.

The Eighth Congress, this year, set about checking up the fulfilment of this task. Reports were delivered on the work of the trade-union of workers in art and on the state of the different branches of art in the USSR by the president of the central committee of the trade-union of workers in art, Y. Boyarsky, the acting commissary for Education, M. Epstein, the vice-president of the Union Cinema Trust, V. Pletnev, the vice-director of art for the Ukraine, Benkovich.

The reports gave a picture of the great achievements made by Soviet art during this latest period.

In accordance with the development of popular education in the USSR, the work of satisfying the artistic needs of the masses also develops and grows stronger.

In 1930/31 about 900 million people were reached by all forms of professional art, instead of 500 million in 1929/30. There was a remarkable increase in attendance at theatres, concerts, moving-pictures, art exhibitions.

The artistic creation of the nationalities of the Soviet Union unfolded further. Following the All-Union Olympiad of Art (see No. 12 of the periodical "V.O.K.S.", 1930), four olympiads of national art were carried through—in the Urals, in the Re-

public of the Germans of the Volga, in Karelia, in the North Caucasus—during the last year.

In the RSFSR there are at work 45 theatres of various nationalities, performing plays in 33 languages.

A splendid illustration of the development of national art in the USSR was given by the report of the representative of the Ukraine, Benkovich, who spoke on the state of artistic education, in the broadest sense, in the Ukrainian Soviet Republic. Before the revolution Ukraine had only 30% literates; now it has been turned practically into a country of hundred-percent literacy. In the Ukraine there are now more than 100 dramatic theatres, operas and others. The network of moving-picture theatres is growing at a colossal speed. The mass artistic movement embraces hundreds of thousands of participants and draws millions of spectators.

The principle of spontaneous activity is now being carried out in all branches of Soviet art. The entire USSR is covered with a network of spontaneously organised workers' circles for theatricals, chorus groups or collectives, circles of the representative arts. The TRAM movement is a pioneer and leading link in spontaneous art. The theatres of the young workers (TRAM) unite 85–90% of the young workers, Young Communists, Party members.

The growth of culture requires the creation of new artistic forces. There is no such thing as unemployment among the actors, musicians and painters of the Soviet Union. All the 114,900 members of the trade-union of workers in art are at work (34% of them are women). In the trade-union there is a lack of workers to meet the needs of the new industrial centres, now being created on the territory of the USSR, of the new construction works, of big lumber camps.

The problem of new forces is therefore acquiring especial importance. The working

class is now creating its own artistic intelligentsia equipped with the skill of the craft and knowledge.

What are the achievements of the various branches of art during the past few years?

As far as the cinema is concerned we note a great increase in the network of moving-picture theatres, the appearance and development in the USSR of the sound-film, the creation of a number of valuable new films ("A Pass to Life", directed by N. Eek, "Mountains of Gold", directed by Yudkevich, "Alone" directed by Trauberg and Kosintsev, "Next to Us", directed by N. Bravko).

The theatre has given the Soviet playgoer a number of plays with themes of the day. It is especially important to note that in the repertoires of the best theatres of the capitals more and more place is being taken by the works of proletarian writers ("Grain" by V. Kirshon, "Fear" by A. Afinogenov, "Tempo" by N. Pogodin, "Matter of Honour" by Mikitenko). In many cities new theatre buildings are being constructed, planned for a large audience and equipped with up-to-the-minute technical apparatus.

The interest of the masses in music grows with every year, and its growth is reflected in the development of mass concert and pedagogical work. The creative activity

of our young proletarian composers is developing (M. Koval, V. Bely, A. Davidenko), while many of the older masters have not ceased active work (R. Glier, A. Krein, S. Vasilenko, N. Myaskovsky).

Much has been done in the sphere of the plastic arts. A Federation of Painters and a Russian Association of Proletarian Painters have been formed. A special State publishing house for art ("Izogiz") has been organised; a co-operative, "Painter" ("Khudozhnik"), has been formed, which to a great extent guarantee to the artist a firm material basis and normal conditions of life. The artists travel to the State farms, collective farms and take an active part in the artistic organisation of political anniversaries.

In the reports and speeches at the congress a large place was given to a healthy self-criticism. It was remarked that some varieties of concert work are lagging behind, do not respond to the growing cultural demands of the masses; the development of the network of children's theatres does not keep up with the demand; the problem of the new musical theatre has not been solved.

In this frank self-criticism one could feel plainly the growth of the political and social activeness of the mass of actors. The Soviet actor does not shut himself up



The Congress of the trade union of workers in art. Y. Boyarsky, the president of the central committee, is delivering his report

in the narrow circle of purely professional interests. He wants to take a full and active part in the general development of the construction work directed by the proletarian government. This urgent wish found its expression in the appeal to the Eighth Congress of workers in art, made by a group of prominent Soviet actors and actresses, who, together with the shock-brigade workers of the biggest Moscow factories, proposed beginning concrete preparations for carrying out the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the October Revolution. The appeal has a figurative title: "For a Magnitostroy in Art" ¹

and is signed by E. Geltzer, M. Blumental-Tamarina, V. Kachalov, L. Leonidov, N. Radin, A. Tairov and others.

The closing lines of this appeal characterise the contemporary ideas of the Soviet artists:

"The tremendous labour enthusiasm of the working class and the collectivised peasantry, with the constant improvement of the material well-being and cultural service of the proletariat, creates exceptionally favourable conditions for the development of Soviet art, which is destined to be the battle-trumpet of the idea of communism."

THE SLOGAN OF SOVIET THEATRES IS: "FOR A MAGNITOSTROY OF ART"

THE MOSCOW GRAND OPERA

The Grand Opera is the centre of musical and choreographical culture of the USSR, and the seat of this culture.

Making all possible use of, and popularising widely the rich musical and theatrical legacy left by the pre-revolutionary period, the Grand Opera is at the same time carrying out an important and serious work in connection with the creation of a new repertory. The Theatre is carefully and minutely analysing all its methods and in this way is able to produce new forms and new methods appropriate to the new artistic repertory.

Of greatest importance for the creation of the new repertory is the contest-competition announced by the Theatre jointly with the Editorial Office of the newspaper of the Young Communist League, the "Komsomolskaya Pravda", for the creation of a symphony, opera, and ballet for the XVth anniversary of the October Revolution.

The present repertory of the Grand Theatre consists of 35 operas and 15 ballets. The Theatre staged for the last two years a number of new performances, and revived 10 operas and 7 ballets, of which 8 are the work of Soviet composers. Further-

¹ By the slogan "For a Magnitostroy in Art" is understood the summons to create works of art corresponding in profundity and significance to such gigantic achievements of our socialist construction, as the Magnitostroy.

more, a cycle of symphonic concerts consisting of the works of classic and modern authors is being performed. Special programmes for the reviews of creations of modern composers have been drafted.

The Theatre disposes of the following resources to fulfil its tasks.

The total number of workers in the Theatre amounts to 2,100 persons, of whom 1,190 are shock-workers, and 100% of them are taking part in socialist competition. In the opera and ballet collectives brigades are organised who are engaged in the production of artistic works of minor forms, imbued with the modern spirit.

The best artists of the Union are centred in the Grand Opera.

The training of the new ballet cadres, and the retraining of the existing ones are accomplished by the Choreographical School attached to the Grand Opera. This school produces not only highly qualified performers, but also stage-managers, ballet-masters, instructors, etc.

The Theatre has organised cultural patronage over six factories and social organisations. The district and workers' theatres and clubs had 250 concerts in addition to 12 performances by the Grand Opera.

"Corners of the working class audience", where lectures, talks, and exhibitions are organised, were opened in the Museum of the Grand Opera during the current season.

The Grand Opera meets the fourth completing year of the first Five-Year Plan with the slogan: "New, great art — for the heroic builders of socialism".

THE DRAMATIC THEATRE OF THE MOSCOW REGION COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS

The activity of the Dramatic Theatre of the Moscow Region Council of Trade Unions ("MOSPS") is guided by two principles: the struggle for Soviet plays dealing with Soviet topics, and the catering to the organised toiling audience.

The Theatre is striving to create a show, quickly reacting on all the problems of contemporary life.

The 25th anniversary of the revolution of 1905 was marked by the Theatre by staging the play "The Year 1905", by K. Gandurin, devoted to the "dress rehearsal" of the great October Revolution.

The Theatre produced in 1931 the following plays: "The West is Nervous", by V. Bill-Belotserkovsky, dealing with Western Europe of today, "The Sunny Side", by K. Davidovsky, on the subject of national policy of the Party in the Soviet East, and "Darkness" by L. Prozorovsky, on the subject of struggle against anti-semitism. In addition to these, the "Storm", by Bill-Belotserkovsky, was revived.

In a number of indexes, the programme of the activity of the Theatre for 1931 has been exceeded.

476 shows were given during the year.

95% of the seats were sold on the average throughout the year, 99% of the audience were organised workers.

It was in 1930 that the Theatre organised a theatrical-industrial studio, something in the style of a factory school. The students of the studio are drawn from young working men and women. Thus, with the assistance of the educational-industrial method, the formation of the cadres of artists, required by the Theatre, is realised.

The new methods of work (socialist competition and the shock brigade movement) were taken as a basis of the artistic and social life of the Theatre.

At present there are 12 shock brigades in the Theatre.

The Theatre assumed patronage over the Voroshilov collective farm, located in the Moscow region. With the assistance of the Theatre the collective farm organised a crèche and a red corner, and by the 8th anniversary of Lenin's death the collective farm was fully electrified. In addition to the collective farm, the MOSPS Theatre is the cultural patron of military detach-

ments, and of one factory school in the October district.

At the time of the spring and autumn sowing campaigns, the Theatre brigades visited the Tartar Republic, and some of the districts of the Moscow region. They organised reading-rooms and red corners in 16 localities.

During the intervals in the play exhibitions, lectures with short films, mass games, evenings of questions and answers, political „Victorinas", etc. are organised. The Theatre presents special shows for all political campaigns, sending its brigades to factories and works for this purpose.

The Theatre gave 163 shows in the Moscow districts, and in the workers' centres around Moscow: Orekhovo-Zuevo, Mytishchy, Podolsk, Shcholkovo, in the Moscow coal basin, as well as in the Leningrad Houses of Culture.

The main task of the Theatre at the present moment is the construction of a new building.

Five projects and models of the new building have already been submitted (architects Bruno Taut, Ladonsky, Nikolsky, Melnikov, Shchuko). The new theatre will accommodate 3,000 persons.

THE GREAT DRAMATIC THEATRE IN LENINGRAD

The Great Dramatic Theatre in Leningrad was organised in 1919.

Its main creative work is closely connected with the proletarian drama. In this respect was important the staging of "Grain" by Kirshon in 1930/31. There were one hundred performances of that play. The play of Mikitenko "Matter of Honour" also was a considerable success.

The Dramatic Theatre is also producing its old plays of classical repertory, like Shakespeare, Molière, Goldoni, Schiller, plays which were staged here from the very beginning. Thus "Servant of Two Masters" by Goldoni was performed 300 times.

The Great Dramatic Theatre is recruiting its artistic personnel from amongst the proletarian youth. For this purpose there have been organised theatrical-polytechnical courses and the students are taken from among the boys and girls of the Leningrad factories and plants.

While carrying on a great educational work among new artists (Art University, attached to the theatre, correspondence

courses, etc.), the Dramatic Theatre at the same time pays much attention to the retraining of old artistic personnel so that they too should master the creative methods of proletarian art and dialectical materialism.

The success of the work of the Great Dramatic Theatre can be seen from the fact that its plan for 1931 as regards the number of performances was carried out 104% and as regards money collected 112.5%. Greater attention is paid to the

workers. In 1931 the audience of the Theatre consisted principally of organised workers, especially metallists, textile workers and railwaymen. The Theatre was particularly popular among students.

All work is carried on strictly according to plan; the Five-Year Plan of the Theatre was prepared as far back as 1929. The financial position of the Theatre is so sound that during the last few years it functioned without any subsidies from the State.

NEW SOVIET PLAY: "FEAR"

"Fear" is the last production of the Moscow Art Theatre, which has attracted a great deal of attention on the part of the Soviet public. The author of the play is A. Afinogenov, a very prominent proletarian playwright, whose other plays (as for instance the "Crank-Enthusiast") have been performed with great success in many theatres of the USSR. At the end of the last theatrical season "Fear" was produced at the Leningrad Academical Dramatic Theatre (formerly the Alexandrinsky) and it was then already that the play aroused a vivid interest.

Afinogenov's play deals with an extremely important and stirring topic of the present day — that of class-struggle in ideology. The process of readjustment that is now going on in the intelligentsia of the USSR has been made the subject of many writings of Soviet authors — among them no small number of dramatists. Thus we may mention "The Fire-line" by Nikitin, "Sonata Pathétique" by Koolish, "The List of Benefactions" by Yuri Olesha etc. The heroine of Olesha's play is an actress.

Afinogenov in "Fear" portrays the circles of Soviet scientific intelligentsia. The play shows us how a scholar firmly believing that science is "neutral" and in no way connected with politics, inevitably ends by becoming the weapon of reaction.

The leading character of the play, the famous scientist, professor Borodin does not take reality into account, thinking himself "above" it; he knows only his scientific theories and deliberately ignores class-struggle. Borodin asserts that social life is controlled by physiological stimulus. To support his idealistic and reactionary theory he undertakes a series of experiments in the research Institute of which

he is the scientific leader. The Institute becomes the field of an intense struggle between reactionary scientists and young communist scientific workers. The old professor, firmly convinced that he and his work have "nothing to do with politics", does not and will not understand what is going on under his very eyes. "What's the matter with the people?", he keeps repeating with a perplexed air. Meanwhile a group of persons hostile to the Revolution are acting behind his back, making full use of his name and position. Among these are: the professor's favourite pupil, Kastalsky, a selfish time-server thinking only of his personal scientific career; the librarian of the Institute, formerly a lecturer on Eastern religions, who had been expelled from the University, and the scientific secretary of the Institute — an active counter-revolutionary, sticking to the scientific institution. And when Borodin comes to understand the fallibility and the reactionary character of his theory, when he finally realises all the meanness and villainy of his surroundings, he returns to work on new lines, hand in hand with the young Soviet scientists. "Professor Borodin, — says the critic in "Soviet Art", — sees the crash of his conception of science "above parties and classes", witnesses the miserable perfidy of his intimate friends and realises the victory of bolshevist theory; all this makes him surrender."

As a contrast to Borodin, Afinogenov introduces the old party-woman Clara Spasova, a representative of the elder generation of bolsheviks. Clara is a convinced revolutionist, not capable of any compromise. But she is portrayed by the author without any schematism or stiltedness. She is very vivid, full of class watchfulness

and deeply human at the same time. In the extremely interesting scene of the dispute, Clara appears on the tribune to disprove Borodin's theory of fear. She makes a passionate reply unmasking the reactionary essence of his theory. Her speech about revolutionary fearlessness is full of an unshaken faith in the final victory of the proletariat.

The drawing of other characters of the play is done in a lively and impressive manner.

The different types of counter-revolutionaries are very vividly portrayed. The figure of the professor's daughter, full of romantic illusions so characteristic of the intelligentsia, is also well worth mentioning. Among the communists appearing in the play the most expressive are the straight forward revolutionist Makarova and the aspirant Kimbaev. The last character is especially interesting; in his person the author tries to give an image of the young Kazakstan, a backward colony under the tsarist regime, a vigorously developing autonomous republic in our days. Kimbaev is seething with energy, enthusiasm and a tremendous craving for knowledge; a stranger to any tricks or compromises, he is a bright representative of our revolutionary youth.

A prominent part in the play is reserved to a ten years old schoolgirl, the daughter of one of the heroes. The image of this child, according to the neat remark of a Soviet critic, seems to be the "lyrical accent of the play". The author succeeded in avoiding both the "sugariness" and the pseudo-childish babble peculiar to the usual stage representation of children. In Natasha we see a plucky young pioneer, a clever So-

viet schoolgirl, a representative of the youngest generation of those building up socialism. But at the same time she is full of natural childish charm.

The Art Theatre succeeded in making a most interesting performance of Afinogenov's promising play. All the leading as well as the episodic roles found perfect interpreters in the cast of the theatre. Leonidov, who has been playing the difficult and very responsible part of professor Borodin, has created a strong and expressive image.

Both the play and its performance called forth a lively discussion in the Soviet press and platform. On the whole the appreciation was definitely positive. Afinogenov himself, speaking at one of the numerous disputes, organised with the purpose, said: "It is a precious and rare feeling for a playwright to see all his ideas truly expressed on the stage. I had this feeling when I first saw my play in the Moscow Art Theatre."

For the theatre itself the production of "Fear" preceded by that of "Grain" by Kirshon represents a new success in the field of an active interpretation of subjects reflecting the building up of socialism in this country. It is not in vain that one of the emigrants papers abroad responded to the new production by a plaintive lament: "The last hearth of Russian culture — the Moscow Art Theatre is lost". It is true that the Moscow Art Theatre, now a State Theatre of the USSR will be neither a smoky "hearth" nor a museum of archaeological antiquities. Its sublime art serves the tremendous construction now going on in the Soviet Union.

The "Fear" is included into the repertory of many Soviet theatres beside the Moscow Art Theatre.

SOVIET EXHIBITIONS

FINE ARTS IN THE SERVICE OF SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION

Many of the Soviet artists have formed brigades each of which takes upon itself to portray on canvas or paper some new project which has just been fulfilled or some further achievement made by the USSR in the realm of culture.

Many of the exhibitions that recently took place in Moscow have shown convincingly how fruitful is this method of creative work. Take for example the exhibition at the Tretyakov Gallery, called "The Third

Decisive Year of the Five-Year Plan". The themes of the artists, whose works are included in this exhibition, range from the achievements made by the USSR along the line of industrialisation and collective farming to the new life and the new types of men to be met here. A number of the paintings treat the theme of the Five-Year Plan in the most convincing manner.

Another exhibition called "The Giant of the Urals", given at the "Khudozhnik" Gallery under the auspices of the "Artists Co-operative Association", is devoted entirely to the work of Soviet construction in

the Urals, namely at Magnitostroy. The paintings of factory landscapes, the portraits of shock-brigaders and the sketches of shock-brigades at work, all show the tremendous work going on on mount "Magnitnaia".

The last exhibition "At the Kolomna Works" was similar in character.

Of special interest is the exhibition of Ukrainian, Azerbaidjan and Armenian arts, also organised by the Artists' Co-operative Association. From the exhibition we can gather how tremendous the cultural growth of the different nationalities composing the Soviet Union has been. It shows also the successes attained in the handicrafts and their new, revolutionary thematics. In the most colourful manner the artists of the Soviet East reproduce on canvas the new life and the new forms of labour which are making their appearance in the Soviet East.

EXHIBITIONS OF WESTERN ART IN THE USSR

During the last months of the past year, the Soviet public became acquainted with the work of two representatives of modern western art. The Moscow exhibition of the works of the German "photo-montage" artist, John Hartfield, aroused great interest. Posters, book covers and other "montages" all of which revealed Hartfield's unusual keenness of imagination and clarity of expression drew the attention not only of Soviet art circles, but also of the broad masses of the public. The Soviet press commented extensively on the exhibition, as well as on Hartfield's methods of work. The exhibition closed with a discussion which emphasised the creative element in the work of Hartfield: one of the first to utilise "photo-montage" in printing.

The All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, together with the Moscow Museum of New Western Art, organised recently an exhibition of the works of the American sculptor, Minna Harkavy. M. Harkavy is one of the founders and an active member of the John Reed Club in New York. Her sculpture, distinctly modern in treatment, reflects at the same time a search for new subjects and for new content in art. The Moscow Museum of New Western Art acquired two works of the sculptor: the head of a worker and the portrait of a negro singer, Hall Johnson.

THE PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBITION IN IVANOVO-VOZNESENSK

An interesting experiment in organising the first open-air photograph exhibition in the USSR has been made in Ivanovo-Voznesensk, the big centre of the Soviet textile industry.

The exhibition which was devoted to "The Five-Year Plan of the Ivanovo district", showed in the most direct way the achievements of the Five-Year Plan.

Along the principal streets and squares, at a short distance one from another, constructive show-cases with photographs were set up. Each case contained photographs on one definite theme (electric power, industry, agriculture, transportation, etc.) and was set up in accordance with this theme. In all there were displayed 650 big photographs, 100 diagrammes and more than 100 slides, out of which four films were made up and shown in the evenings on the streets and squares.

During a brief period the exhibition was seen by almost the entire population of this big industrial centre. A similar result could not have been obtained even in the largest indoor auditorium.



Soviet Life in Questions and Answers

Question: What is "business method" in Soviet economy?

Answer: "Business-accounting" is the chief method of conducting socialist enterprises at the present stage of economic development in the USSR. Business-accounting means that each State or co-operative enterprise in the USSR works according to an industrial and financial plan, the plan of each enterprise being a component part of a unified plan of national economy.

Within the limits of the ratified plan and for the purposes of its successful fulfilment, an enterprise working according to business-accounting methods is self-governing with reference to its property and the conduct of its business. The manager of the enterprise personally directs the technical end; handles the buying of materials and the selling of products; introduces rationalisation methods etc. The independence of the enterprise is assured by providing it with principal and circulating capital and materials. An enterprise working according to business-accounting methods, deals with other enterprises by means of agreements and bears personal responsibility for its obligations.

To stimulate the work of the enterprise, a part of its profits is reserved for its own use. This profit is used partly for improving the living quarters and social conditions of the workers and for various rewards.

All shops and departments of a given enterprise which have adopted business-accounting methods, work on a similar basis.

Numerous shock-brigades, created by socialist competition in enterprises working according to business-accounting methods, are organised as "business-accounting brigades". A brigade accepting business-accounting as its method of work, pledges itself to follow a definite industrial and financial plan, to fulfil and exceed this plan in quantity as well as in quality. The administration, on the other hand, pledges itself to supply the brigade promptly with materials of good quality. Awards are paid for the successful fulfilment of the plan and for the saving of labour power and materials.

The leader of the brigade is a worker appointed by the brigade and approved by

the shop administration. The brigade makes a business-accounting agreement with the shop.

Question: How is the labour of women regulated in the USSR?

Answer: In the Soviet Union women participate in all the fields of socialist construction on equal basis with men. Women are prohibited from engaging in those industries only where the work is especially hard and dangerous. On the other hand, there are many branches of industry where women form the majority of the workers (the textile industry, the needle trades, etc.). The fact that women have been admitted to many branches of industry where their labour was never used before (the building trade, for instance) must be considered a great achievement in socialist construction. In the industrial Higher Technical Institutes, in technicums, in special courses, not only in large industrial centres, but in the backward districts of national minorities women form a considerable percentage of students. A woman tractor operator, a woman combine operator is a usual sight on all collective-farm fields.

The Soviet labour laws do not show any discrimination between men and women of the same qualifications in the matter of wages. The wages of women are depended wholly on the knowledge and the experience they have and whether they are suitable to the work they are doing.

Every woman is allowed a leave of absence with full pay during the last period of pregnancy and the first period of nursing. The length of this leave of absence is from three to four months, depending on the type of work (woman workers in industry, in agricultural enterprises etc. get two months before and two months after the birth of the child; woman workers doing mental work get six weeks before and six weeks after the birth of the child). Women entering the sixth month of pregnancy and nursing women during the first six months of nursing are not permitted to do night work.

Nursing mothers are allowed nursing periods during the working day of not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, not less than once every $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours. No deductions are made from their wages for this time.

Soviet Periodicals

"Soviet Asia" — a journal of social sciences, devoted to the study of the Urals, Siberia, Far East, of the Turkoman, Uzbek and Tadjik Soviet Socialist Republics, of the Kazak, Kirghiz, Yakut, Buryat-Mongol and Bashkir Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics. 1931, volume 1—2, pp. 328; volume 3—4, pp. 286; volume 5—6, pp. 298. Moscow.



The periodical "Soviet Asia" is published by the Society for the Study of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East, with the participation of the presidents of the Uzbek, Turkoman and Tadjik Soviet Socialist Republics, of the Buryat-Mongol, Yakut, Kirghiz and Kazak Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics, of the Urals District Executive Committee, of the Western-Siberia District Executive Committee, of the Eastern-Siberia District Executive Committee and the Far-Eastern District Executive Committee, with Professor F. Petrov as editor-in-chief. This periodical offers great interest both because it raises the problems of the day concerning our socialist construction in the Soviet East and because it offers a wealth of concrete

material from practical life. The periodical which originally concentrated its attention on the problems of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East (during the first years the periodical appeared under the title of "Northern Asia"), later expanded the circle of its activity to include the Central Asiatic republics, which, under our very eyes, are giving a powerful development to their economic and cultural construction.

This periodical gives the chief place to questions connected with the realization of the Five-Year Plan of reconstruction of Soviet Asia.

The first section of the periodical usually publishes cycles of articles dealing with some capital problem. Thus, in Nos. 1—2 a whole series of articles was published dealing with the fur-industry in the East of the USSR. Everyone knows what a prominent role belongs to the Soviet Union among world exporters of fur, since it is a country remarkable for the unusual wealth and variety of its fur resources. It is no accident that the share of the USSR in the turnover of the world's fur-trade amounts to 25%. In the articles published by the periodical, a detailed account is given of the different measures adopted for improving our fur-husbandry, for organizing hunting, fur and breeding State farms, etc. An important place is assigned to reindeer-breeding. Of these articles we note: I. Schein, "Fur Industry on the Path of Reconstruction", B. Zhitkov, "Fur-Bearing Animals of Soviet Asia", S. Kertselli, "Reindeer-Breeding in the USSR and its Prospects", I. Sobelman, "Tasks and Prospects of the Export of Fur Products from the Districts of Soviet Asia", and others.

In Nos. 3—4 the first cycle of articles deals with the fundamental questions of the economic and cultural reconstruction of the Western-Siberia District (18 articles). R. Eiche's introduction, "Tasks of the Socialist Reconstruction of Western Siberia", is followed by detailed articles dealing with the future of Western Siberia in the sphere of metals, with its electrification, the development of its transportation, its agriculture, present and future, etc. (articles of N. Briantsev, G. Dobrovolsky, M. Gorlov, M. Mineev, etc.).

Finally, in Nos. 5—6 we find in the first section an all-round investigation of the important problem of water transportation. Fifteen articles are grouped around this subject. Besides the introductory note by N. Yanson, "Give Water Transportation Bolshevik Tempoes", we must note especially the article by S. Patonek, "The Five-Year Plan for River Transport in Northern Asia", that by K. Lepin, "River Transportation on the Path of Socialist Reconstruction", "Development of Port Economy of our Asiatic Coasts" by V. Soloviov, "Ocean Transportation of the Pacific Ocean Basin" by A. Chupin, "Results of 1930 in the Siberian North" by V. Lavrov, "Water-Transportation of Yakutia and its Tasks" by V. Berezin, and others.

In addition to articles on problem-cycles, printed in the chief position, each number of the periodical contains a series of sections, which vary somewhat in the numbers already published.

In all the numbers there is a special section, entitled "The Ural-Kuznetsk Combine". The articles published in it examine the problem of Ural-Kuznetsk from various points of view. The decision of the Sixteenth Party Congress for creating in the East "a second coal and metallurgical base in the form of the Ural-Kuznetsk Combine" is being carried out energetically. And "Soviet Asia" is quite right in devoting a special place to the questions connected with this work. Among the articles of this section we may note: "The Plan of Work for the Combined Enterprises of the Ural-Kuznetsk Basin" by N. Kolossovsky (the stating of the problem and programme of work for different sections), "The Transportation Problem of the Ural-Kuznetsk Combine" by G. Tretiakov (Nos. 1—2), "The Natural Electrical Resources of the Ural-Kuznetsk Combine" by Y. Zenkis, "The Problem of the Ural-Kuznetsk Combine and Phenomena of Freezing" by S. Parkhomenko, "The Prospects of Water Economy in the Urals" by I. Urban and N. Nikiforov (Nos. 3—4), "The Development of the Ural-Kuznetsk Socialist Combine" by V. Vassutin and S. Sarkissov, and "The Coal Resources of the Kuznetsk Basin" by N. Sazonov (Nos. 5—6).

An interesting article by Professor Alexandrov, "The Angar Problem" (Nos. 3—4) is devoted to another question of colossal importance — the Angar Combine. By way of a working hypothesis, Professor Alexandrov speaks eloquently of the ways of execution of this new big undertaking,

which opens grandiose prospects for the development of the industry of Eastern Siberia.

The concluding words of the article ring out courageously: "In a wilderness, owing to its natural resources, a rich industrial country may grow up rapidly, its power considerably exceeding the usual dimensions. Our socialist construction will be expressed here in the creation of a tremendous power-combine, which can be built up according to a strictly elaborated plan."

Among other articles devoted to questions of economy, we may refer to an article on transportation by an engineer, P. Vorobiov, "Air-Communications in the USSR" in Nos. 1—2, "Transportation Problems" of the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of Kazakstan and of the Republics of Soviet Central Asia" by P. Zakharov and "The Upper Yenisei as a Trade-Route to Mongolia and Tanna-Tuva" by A. Smirnov in Nos. 3—4, the section on "Bowels of the Earth" (two articles by B. Krugliakov, on investigating the deposits of Soviet Asia and the Urals, an interesting article by M. Charygin and V. Krestianikov, "Oil in Soviet Asia"), on agriculture (an article by S. Verzhbolovsky on Siberian wheat and by S. Japumian on Turkmenistan's irrigation prospects, in Nos. 1—2, "On the Question of Rice-Sowing in the Maritime Province" by S. Beliukhinov in Nos. 3—4, "The Problem of Distributing Rice-Growing" by R. Abolin and "The Reconstruction of Economy and the Problem of Mountains in Central Asia" by L. Kuznetsov-Uginsky in Nos. 4—5).

The article by A. Arbarchuk on the population of Soviet Sakhalin is very interesting because of the data it presents; it contains rich material concerning the land-supply in Sakhalin and the possibility for developing agriculture, etc. (Nos. 1—2).

Under the section entitled "Socialist Construction" especial attention is due to the article by L. Edokov on Autonomous Oyratia, summing up a book by the same author on the same theme (Nos. 3—4), an article by Y. Barkash, "Two Years of Socialist Construction of Uzbekistan", and an article by Y. Abdrakhmaneev, "An Unforgettable Anniversary", very appropriate recollections of the Kirghizes revolt in 1916 (Nos. 5—6).

Two very interesting articles appeared in Nos. 3—4: "Tasks of Soviet Ethnography in Soviet Asia" by Professor E. Kagarov, and "Current Tasks of Ethnography in the North" by N. Karger. Both articles

ave a programme character, plainly showing what great advances are being made in the handling of ethnographical problems. Both authors advanced to the foreground the study of forms of economy, relations of production, class differentiation, anti-religious work, etc.

Another article belonging to questions of a cultural character is written by the recently deceased, noted Siberian scientist, I. Auerbach — "On Planning Scientific Research". Taking as his point of departure the general principles of the Bureau of Congresses of the State Planning Commission of the USSR, he examines concretely the planning of scientific research work in Siberia in closest connection with our economic reconstruction.

We must note the appearance in Nos. —6 of a special department, called "Abroad". It published a very timely article, entitled and eloquently documented, by I. Terentiev, entitled "Railway Construction in Manchuria and the Chinese-Eastern Railway". N. Terentiev pauses over the characterisation of the Japanese railway system concentrated around the South-Manchurian Railway, and of the Chinese railway system, going on then to a detailed discussion of the relations of both of these systems to the Chinese-Eastern Railway. In this article, full of factual material, the line of conduct of the interested imperialist powers is sketched with definite appearance of Japanese aggression (the article is written before the beginning of the Manchurian epopee). It stands to reason that this department, "Abroad", must be developed and enlarged.

In conclusion we may note the well composed reviews of the activities of scientific societies, the chronicle and bibliography. In each number appears the survey by P. Konogorov, "New Literature on Soviet Asia", which mentions and appraises the new publications on Soviet Asia.

In this brief bibliographical note we are, of course, unable to exhaust the whole rich contents of the periodical. We had to confine ourselves to the main points. "Soviet Asia" concentrates its attention to a great extent on "northern" questions. But of course, questions relating to our Central-Asiatic republics will also find reflection on the pages of this periodical.

"Soviet Asia" is a necessary and useful organ, splendidly illustrating the sweep of the tremendous socialist reconstruction now being unfolded in the Soviet East.

"October". A literary and political periodical. Nos. 1—12, 1931. Moscow, State Publishing House for Literature.



"October", the journal of the All-Russian and Moscow Associations of Proletarian Writers, has now become one of the best Soviet monthly periodicals.

The first issues of "October" of last year printed works which have become very widely known. Among them is Kirshon's play, "Grain", played with great success at the Moscow Art Theatre. It represents a great achievement of proletarian literature. It mirrors the process of reconstructing social relationships in the village, shows with maximum expressiveness the striving of the mass of the toiling peasantry towards new forms of life. The representation of the chief personages of the play, both communists and kulaks, is very life-like and convincing.

Among other significant works published in "October" in 1931, attention is drawn to the novels: Iv. Shukhov's "Hate" and V. Ilyenkov's "Chief Axle".

Shukhov, like Kirshon, chose as the theme for his work socialist reconstruction in the village. But while Kirshon concentrates on the problem of political leadership in the village by sketching communists, Shukhov devotes much more attention to the conduct and psychology of the kulak substratum, which resists with all its

might the movement of the peasantry and the socialist reconstruction of agriculture. The author shows the full force of the kulaks' hate for the new forms of life, and on the other hand, the peasants, entering the collective farms with full political consciousness, and the workers who come to help them fight firmly and resolutely against the people who, like weights on their feet, draw them back to the old, slavish life. Shukhov shows the clash of these class interests and the failure of all attempts to restore the capitalist regime in the village.

"Chief Axle" is a novel about a factory. Its chief theme is the counter-revolutionary sabotage carried on by the old specialists, who organised the production of intentionally useless axles for locomotives and coaches. Because of this, frequent accidents took place, causing tremendous damage. Side by side with the saboteurs Ilyenkov shows honest old engineers, sincerely devoted to the cause of the proletariat. In addition, he has sketched with clear lines the convincing portrait of one of those engineers, advanced from among the workers, of which there are now thousands in the USSR.

The story of the Rumanian proletarian writer, Kahana, "Winter in Toratskoshi", is interesting. The journal has printed chapters of the recollections of the older proletarian writer, A. Svirsky, who became well-known even before the revolution. These recollections, written in the form of a long story, are entitled "The Story of my Life".

We must note especially the fact that last year "October" was the first to begin printing the works of the shock-brigade workers, who were summoned into literature by the initiative of RAPP (Russian Association of Proletarian Writers).

"October" published "Notes of a Shock-Brigade Worker", by P. Orlovetsky—a worker of the railway car repair shop. With simplicity and winning warmth the author describes the victories of his factory, gives a whole series of artistic characterisations of his comrades in the shop.

In addition to its literary section "October" contains material on political themes and a number of sections such as criticism,

bibliography, "life on the move" (sketches from the life of the big plants and construction jobs), art, memoirs.

Among the latter we must note the extensive recollections of the well-known Japanese communist, Sen Katoyan.

In the section devoted to journal appeared an interesting article by G. Vasilkovsky, called "Oswald Spengler's Philosophy of Life". The author examines in it Spengler's book, "Man and Technique", in which the author of "Decline of the West" develops his gloomy philosophy of the approaching doom of civilisation, of the destructive influence of modern technique on civilisation.

To Spengler's hopeless pessimism Vasilkovsky opposes the rousing optimism which penetrates through and through creative life in the USSR. "We love machines", ends Vasilkovsky. "Every fresh machine fills us with courage and strength. The noise of our machines is the struggle for the good life for all the toilers of our country, for the high cultural and material level of this life."

The poetry department in "October" is represented by a whole series of poems, among which especial attention is drawn to the works of Lugovskoi, Anatol Hidas and Surkov.

E. Polonsky's novel, "Baku", shows the struggle of the oil-workers to fulfil their Five-Year Plan in two and a half years and their new attitude towards labour.

Anna Karavaeva, author of "Timbermill", published in "October" "Steep Step", a novel from the life of a textile factory.

The series of works on industrial themes is further represented by the "Story of the Wolves' Fraternity" by a young writer, Shvedov; it pictures the work and life of the metal workers.

In his novel, "The End of Samodurovka", V. Dubrovin shows in broad strokes the life of the village before the revolution and under Soviet rule (to the latest time). Samodurovka, from a "lost", backward village, becomes, in the process of the socialist reconstruction of agriculture, a Soviet village, in which the new life is being built energetically and on collectivist principles.

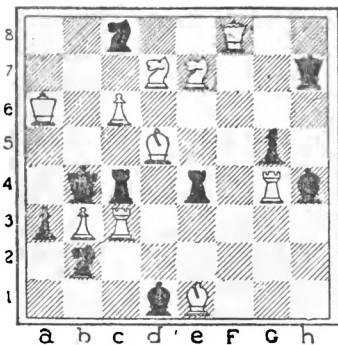


Chess

Published by the Chess Section of VOKS (editor—M. Barulin)

PROBLEM No. 4

G. Cristoffanini (Genoa)
(First publication)



Mate in two moves

White: Ka6; Qf8; Rc3, g4; Bd5, e1; Sd7, 7; p. b3, c6 (10).

Black: Kb4; Qh7; Rc4, e4; Bd1, h4; Sb2, 8; p. a3, g5 (10).

THE DEATH OF H. G. M. WIENINK

On December 2nd, 1931, died the outstanding Dutch chess player H. G. M. Wienink. His work was always distinguished or original ideas, rich strategic contents, and irrefragable technical finish. He manifested great interest in theory: in this field, he undoubtedly possessed great knowledge. The chess world lost a great figure in the person of H. G. M. Wienink.

For the last few years, Wienink was editor of the Problem Department in the Magazine "Tijdschrift v. d. Nederl. Sc."

Soviet chess players participated actively in this department and were given much encouragement by Wienink. It is interesting to mention that some of the young Soviet chess players published their first articles in Wienink's magazine (Birnov, for instance). Soviet chess players often received valuable instructions from Wienink.

The players of the USSR regret the loss offered by the chess world.

AFTER THE SEVENTH ALL-UNION CHESS CONGRESS

The recently completed chess congress aroused the interest of the entire chess playing public of the Union. At present we note particular animation in the world of chess, now busy discussing questions raised by the congress: questions of organization and, particularly, questions of method.

Attention is centred on teaching methods, since chess instruction has been introduced into all physical culture schools of the Union, as an obligatory subject. The best chess elements of the Soviet Union were recruited to work out a study course in chess. This preliminary work is now completed. The study course takes 180 study hours, of which 120 hours are spent in theoretic training and 60 hours in practical work. The following studies make up the chess course: chess literature, modern theory of chess, the working out of a course of lectures for mass-organizations, fundamentals of pedagogy, the history of the development of chess, questions of psychotechnics, an introductory course of chess composition.

Besides these, several subjects deal with questions of organization.

The commission on chess composition is now working on the following problems:

1. Terminology (terminology is at present accidental and lacks a scientific base).
2. The working out of correspondence courses in chess composition.
3. The first issue of a series of symposiums which will be the continuation of the published series: "Problems and Studies".
4. The subdivision of chess players of the USSR into categories according to their qualifications, etc.

In the field of theoretic novelties, the report of L. Issayev, given at one of the Moscow meetings of chess players on possibility of expressing problematic combinations by mathematical formulas, is of great interest.

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The "Soviet Culture Bulletin" is being reorganised in 1932 into a monthly "Soviet Culture Review", published in three languages, **English, French and German.**

The "Soviet Culture Review" contains articles, notes, essays, reports and chronicle covering the whole field of socialist construction in the USSR as well as facts, figures and documents characterising the economic and cultural development of the Soviet Union on the base of the realisation of the first and the drawing up of the second Five-Year Plan.

The "Soviet Culture Review" provides its readers with full information of the activities carried on by the social, scientific, and artistic institutions in the USSR, publishes theatre and cinema notes, book reviews, and miscellaneous items. A prominent place is reserved to the problems of Soviet culture and to the cultural relations with foreign countries.

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