

SOVIET CULTURE REVIEW

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Soviet encyclopedias

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BY THE SOVIET UNION SOCIETY
FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS
WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES
(V O K S)



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SOVIET CULTURE REVIEW

PUBLISHED BY THE SOVIET UNION SOCIETY FOR
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To the Memory of M. Pokrovsky

On April 10th died Michael Pokrovsky, Assistant Commissary for Education of the RSFSR, member of the Soviet Union Academy of Sciences, one of the greatest Soviet scholars with a world reputation.

M. Pokrovsky is the author of a number of important works on Russian and foreign history. The death of the Academician Pokrovsky is a heavy loss to Soviet science and to the entire Soviet Union.

Below we publish a summary of the speech made by the Academician N. BUKHARIN at the commemoration meeting in Moscow.

M. Pokrovsky went through the entire heroic period of the underground revolution of 1905, of the great October revolution, of civil war and of the years of the most energetic heroic building of socialism in our country. He was one of the most striking, most brilliant personalities of the bolshevist movement; he was one of the most tireless workers in the cause of the liberation of the proletariat. He was the live embodiment of unity between revolutionary theory and practice.

He was the greatest theoretician and at the same time he took an immediate part in the routine work of the great socialist construction. In every sphere of his tireless activity he displayed an enormous sweep of action, a remarkable breadth of vision and a great talent. He was the most prominent, first rate historian of Russia. He was one of the greatest organizers of the theoretical front and of class war on that front, which are of special importance at the present time.

As a scholar M. Pokrovsky enjoyed a world reputation. He wrote a series of most original and brilliant works in the field of philosophy of history (the critique of Rickert, Dopsch, etc.). His special field was Russian history, yet he wrote



many original works on West-European history touching most diverse subjects: on mediaeval heresies, on the renaissance of the philosophy of Plato, on crusades, on the fall of Byzantium, etc.

He has brilliantly depicted the economic history of imperialism, as well as its diplomatic and military history. And as regards Russian history it must first of all be stated that the Academician M. Pokrovsky takes the credit of being the first Marxist in our country who gave a consistently Marxian representation of the world historic events. The basic elements being supplied by

V. Lenin, Pokrovsky wrote a fundamental work on the history of Russia. At the same time he wrote an excellent short history of Russia, both brilliant and popular. He belonged to that category of thinkers, historians and fighters, who could not help living and always lived in close contact and harmony with the masses and addressed these masses in a language that was familiar to them.

First of all he was a profound scholar familiar with first hand documents and he knew how to make a most excellent use of this enormous material. He was a brilliant Marxian historian who with exceptional success followed the method of

dialectical materialism in the fields which before him have never been treated from a Marxian standpoint. He did not turn out a mere unwieldy mass of facts, scattered historical "raw material" — he always drew general conclusions which were distinguished by such novelty, boldness and originality of thought that even when it was impossible to agree with them he acted as a factor which highly stimulated the subsequent evolution of historical science.

At the same time he was a master of style and could present any material with exceptional literary mastery.

However, it must be stated that he was by no means an armchair philosopher.

The life of M. Pokrovsky is indissolubly bound up with the revolution. In 1905 this scholar was the chief speaker of the Bolshevik Party in its struggle against the imperialist tendencies of the constitutional-democrats.

In 1917 M. Pokrovsky was the first president of the Moscow Soviet of the workers' and soldiers' deputies. He took part in the October revolution as publicist and propagandist, as a writer and a most active worker, who was always in the thick

of the uprising. In the subsequent years M. Pokrovsky always stood in the front rank of the Party.

M. Pokrovsky was the organizer of the theoretical front and of the educational system of our country. He was the first to expound the basic ideas on the reform of the Soviet school. It was he who introduced the workers' faculties, which in subsequent years trained such an enormous number of young workers and peasants.

M. Pokrovsky was one of the organizers of the Institute of Red Professors, and one of the principal organizers of the Communist Academy. And when now, after many years (many — if we take into account our rapid tempo) we look back on this activity, when we bear in mind what an altogether exceptional part is played by the question of the cadres, we can truthfully say that M. Pokrovsky was one of those who did most in this most important domain of our construction.

M. Pokrovsky combined intellectual gifts with the intuition of an artist and an outstanding intelligence. His was the life of a brilliant scholar of world-wide importance, a tireless class warrior and a steadfast communist.



The funeral of M. Pokrovsky. From the left to the right: V. Kuibyshev, S. Ordjonikidze, A. Mikoyan, M. Saveliev, director of the Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute, Academician N. Bukharin and others, carrying the urn with the ashes of M. Pokrovsky

The Socialist Plan as it Works

PLANNING IN THE USSR

By N. P o p o v

Planning in the USSR demonstrates the advantages of the system of national economy of the Soviet State, in which all power is in the hands of the labouring masses, who own the land, industrial plants, factories and all the means of production and distribution. Production is not for profit, but for the benefit of the labourers themselves — industrial workers, collective-farm workers, all the toilers of the Union.

Distribution of the national income is based on the principle of raising the material and cultural level of the masses, and expansion of socialist construction. The constantly growing demands of the labouring masses insure the USSR against crises. Millions of people are becoming increasingly more active and effective participants in the reconstruction of the country because of their interest in the development of their own plant, their particular industry or agricultural unit. Precisely because it rests on these important factors Soviet economy is and can be planned economy. Without these factors economic planning is impossible.

Planning in the USSR covers the entire national economy and social-cultural construction. By means of a plan the proletariat is enabled to direct consciously and deliberately the development of its economy along the lines of socialist reconstruction. This clearly defined purpose — the building of socialism — is the pivotal point around which all planning revolves. Planning is the most important permanent function of all government and economic institutions of the country. It is carried on by special planning bodies (commissions) which are, in their work, dependent upon the whole apparatus of the Soviet Government, upon all the social organisations of the workers of the country.

The beginnings of organised planned economy date back to the initial period in the existence of the Soviet Government. Lenin, shortly after the October revolution, laid special stress on planning as one of the most important problems. He pointed out that "the organisation of accounting, control of the largest enterprises, the

transformation of the entire governmental economic machinery into one vast mechanism, in the great economic organism, which will direct the activities of hundreds of millions of people under a single plan — that is the gigantic organisational task that rests on our shoulders".

In February 1921 the State Planning Commission (Gosplan) was created by the Council of People's Commissaries. This Commission began to function in April of the same year.

The work of planning grew steadily, following the development of the new economic order and with the growth and strengthening of socialist elements in the country's national economy. At the present time planning is carried on by special planning bodies in all departments of the State and economic apparatus, inter-related and united under one directing methodological leadership into a single system pursuing the same objectives.

The central directing body in all planning work is the State Planning Commission, under the Council of People's Commissaries of the USSR.

The duties of Gosplan are:

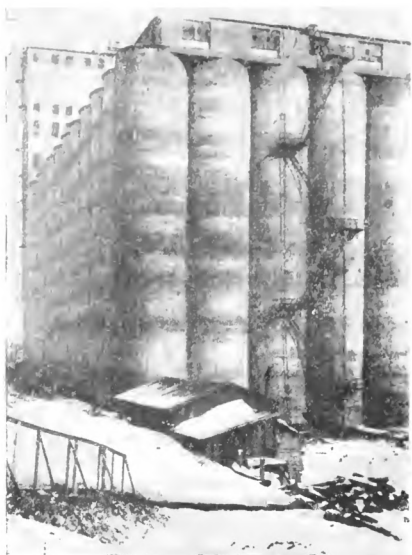
a) To organise and direct the entire planning and accounting of the country.

b) To draw up future, long-range plans of socialist construction, as well as annual plans ("control figures") and quarterly plans, and systematically supervise the carrying out of these plans.

c) To devise ways and means of assuring the fulfilment of the plans.

d) To examine, and co-ordinate with the general plan of the Soviet Union the economic measures submitted to the government by the People's Commissariats and by other institutions of the USSR. To render opinions on proposed important decrees and regulations, and make decisions on questions submitted by such bodies to the USSR government.

Scientific work is also planned, in connection with problems of national economic construction. At the initiative of the State Planning Commission and



A new elevator with a capacity of 50 tons recently built in Kherson

the Supreme Council of National Economy the first All-Union Conference for Planning of Scientific Research was called in 1931. At the Conference it was decided that it was necessary to "organise scientific work on socialist collective principles, to stimulate and accelerate its tempo, apply modern socialist methods to research and effect a thorough reconstruction in the field of scientific research on the basis of dialectic materialism, on the basis of planned scientific work".

Accounting and statistics are included in the general problem of planning in the USSR. There exists at the State Planning Commission a Central Bureau of National Economic Accounting, whose function it is to organise, coordinate and direct all the accounting work of the All-Union and People's Commissariats and central organisations of the USSR, and also to effect all statistical work and other accounting of nation-wide importance.

The State Planning Commission is an important body directly under the Council of People's Commissaries, and the chairman of the Planning Commission is also vice-chairman of the Council of People's Commissaries. It has a presidium consisting of 35 members, appointed by the Council of People's Commissaries, and a plenum, numbering 150 persons, to which are re-

cruited directors of local planning organs, representatives of social organisations, prominent scientists, specialists and workers from various enterprises.

The State Planning Commission is endowed with full power to direct all the planning work of the country. The directives of the State Planning Commission are obligatory on all government departments. In order to keep in touch with local and departmental planning bodies, Gosplan organises periodic congresses and conferences on the more important planning problems. It is guided in its work by general instructions from the USSR government.

The Gosplan apparatus contains specialists in various fields of work: engineers, economists, technicians and others. The whole organisation is divided into sectors, which are responsible for their respective branches of work. There are at present 22 such sectors. These are sub-divided into two groups:

1. Sectors formulating plans for branches of economy such as fuel, electrification, mining and metallurgy, machine building, light industry, food manufacture, agriculture, railway and water transportation and ways of communication, automobilisation and aerofication, city and communal economy, lumber and building material, supplies and trade.

2. The second group of sectors deal with the development of a specific plan in a given industry on a national scale. To this group belong sectors for:

- a) Capital large-scale construction: comprehensive plan for basic work in national economy, as regards various branches of industry and territorial units.

- b) Comparative balance sheets in the control of production and consumption of materials required in industry throughout the country (raw material, building materials, fuel, general equipment).

- c) Labour: consideration and utilisation of labour resources; organisation of labour and improvement of living conditions of the labouring masses.

- d) Health and social welfare: comprehensive plans for raising the general standard of living and the protection of health through prophylactic measures (sanitation, hygiene, travel, workers' recreation, rest, etc.), as well as by means of providing medical care for the population.

- e) National economy personnel: plans for the training of cadres (personnel) of a new industrial-technical intelligentsia from among the working class, and with

regard to the establishment of new special educational institutions.

f) Cultural construction: plans for universal education, for political-educational work among the people — educational institutions, the theatre, cinema, radio, the press, etc.

g) Science: plans for scientific research work and organisation of scientific societies.

h) Finance: drafting of a unified financial plan for the entire national economy of the country.

There are two additional sectors that stand by themselves: a) the Central Planning Bureau, which co-ordinates the work of all the sectors and makes final revisions of plans; b) the Control Department, which supervises the fulfilment of plans and which depends in its work on all the sectors of the State Planning Commission.

The State Planning Commission also has a Personnel Department, which selects and places the staff of planners, supervises their work, and directs the training of new workers in this field in technical schools and secondary educational institutions. There are now 12 institutions under the auspices of the Gosplan, with a student body of 3,500.

The Institute for Economic Research, established in 1929, is likewise connected with the Gosplan. Its function is the working out of questions relating to the theory of economics during the transition period, of methods of planning the national economy, and the solution of problems of a scientific character arising in the work of the Gosplan.

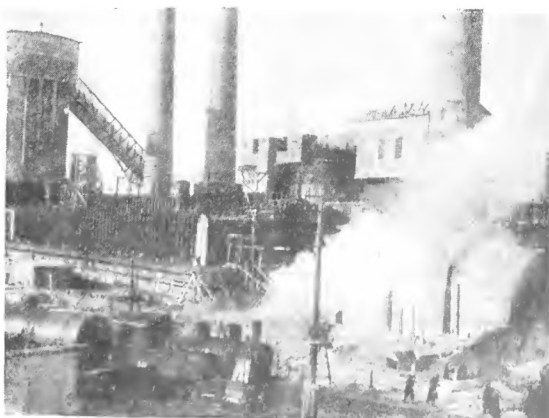
The State Planning Commission draws upon the work of departmental, economic

and regional planning organisations, which operate on the same principle as the central body and which follow the directives of the latter.

Planning in the USSR proceeds in the following manner: the guideposts of long-range future and current planning are the directing decisions of the Communist Party and the government. On the basis of these decisions, the State Planning Commission works out, about the middle of the fiscal year, concrete directives with regard to the economic plan for the following year. The directives sum up the first results of the fulfilment of plans for the current year, and use this data as a basis drawing up plans for the following fiscal year. The Planning Commission further establishes approximate control figures for the most important projects in the national economy plan (capital construction, increased production, improvement of quality, etc.), which form the basis for the drawing up of plans. The directives are ratified by the government and are then sent simultaneously to the departmental and the regional planning organisations.

Thus the initial stage has been reached in drawing up the economic plan. The various departments now pass on the Gosplan directives throughout their periphery, all the way down to the factory. The planning commissions of the separate Republics and the regional commissions work out the details of the Gosplan directives to meet their local needs, and distribute them among all Soviet, economic and cultural organisations within their jurisdiction. The plans, based on the original directives, are brought up for

The coke department of the Kuznetsk metallurgical works





Workers' club at the "Hammer and Sickle" factory in Tula

discussion before the higher planning bodies and are finally turned in to the All-Union State Planning Commission.

In this manner, Gosplan receives, in the fiscal year, planning material for the following year both from the government departments and from the regional planning organisations. After further revision and extension of these plans in the afore mentioned branch sectors, they go to the systematising sectors for general adaptation. Thus a unified economic plan is drawn up for the whole Union, which is submitted for ratification to the Council of People's Commissaries and the Central Executive Committee of the USSR. Upon ratification by the Central Executive Committee, the national economic plan is communicated to and becomes binding on all government departments and Republics. These revise their original plans according to the final national plan, and distribute them throughout their periphery, down to the various trusts, plants, factories, State and collective farms, and each individual worker.

The work of planning is carried on with the active participation of the workers, the collective-farm members and the entire labouring masses of the country.

The entrance of the USSR into the period of socialism was marked by great heroism on the part of the workers and peasants in the struggle for the plan of socialist construction. This enthusiasm found expression in the organisation of socialist competition and shock-brigades — the new and striking forms of socialist attitude towards labour. In its further development, socialist competition and shock-brigade activity took the form of the "counter-plan".

Counter-planning is a voluntary social obligation on the part of the workers of a given plant, collective or State farm to fulfil and exceed the ratified plan using the existing material and financial resources, by means of better organisation of labour and production, economy of raw materials, use of machinery to the best advantage, etc.

Thus, through the initiative of the workers, it is proposed to smelt this year 10 million tons of cast-iron, instead of the 9 million tons planned — by means of better organisation of work in the plants. The workers of the Petrovsky work, one of the largest metallurgical plants in the country, presented a counter-plan to produce 82,000 tons of cast-iron in excess of their set quota; and the workers at the Voykov plant promised 40,000 tons of cast-iron above their quota. The counter-plan is not limited to annual output alone. It is a form of mass participation in economic planning through the daily effort of the workers to fulfil the plan.

Counter-planning is especially prevalent among the different shifts in a factory. Each shift discusses its task before beginning work and proposes a counter-plan for the day. The efficacy of such counter-planning by shifts became apparent immediately on being introduced in various plants. With the introduction of shift counter-plans the brigades began to fulfil their tasks at the rate of 110% and over. This experience enables planning organisations to improve and perfect a plan in the course of its fulfilment.

That is how economic planning proceeds in the USSR — the land of socialist construction — with the assistance and participation of the entire labouring masses.

THREE TRIUMPHS OF WORLD SIGNIFICANCE

The Dnieprostroy Dam and Hydroelectric Station Completed

The work of building a dam and a hydroelectric station on the Dnieper (Soviet Ukraine) was begun in 1927, on the 10th anniversary of the October revolution. This was the first stage in the construction of the Dnieprostroy electricity, aluminium, iron and steel combine, to be the largest in the world. First of all the wild Dnieper rapids which had made the river unnavigable had to be "smoothed out". The great scheme was to convert the energy of the Dnieper into electricity, to harness the elements and make them serve socialist construction. The plan was everywhere ridiculed by the enemies of the Soviet Union, counter-revolutionaries and emigrants. Themselves defeated, they set all their hopes on the invincibility of the Dnieper rapids. Efremov, the leader of counter-revolution in the Ukraine, used to joke about the "fashionable Dnieprostroy" and prophesied that the whole scheme would be a fiasco. However, it was not the Dnieprostroy project that came to nothing, but the prophecies of Efremov and his counter-revolutionary friends.

In March 1932 the spring waters of the Dnieper rushed for the first time over the top of the greatest dam in the world. The Dnieper dam is a gigantic construction, it is 760 metres long and raises the water level of the Dnieper 37 metres. The ledges over which the turbulent Dnieper rapids used to flow have now been left far under the water. 704,000 cubic metres of concrete have been thrown across the great Ukrainian river. On the 28th of March the last cubic metre was poured on the dam and

on the 1st of May the Dnieprostroy electric station gave its first current.

The energy of the Dnieper will feed an industrial combine of unprecedented proportions made up of the Dnieper water way, the power station, a coke and chemical works, a metallurgical works, an aluminium combine, works for the production of ferroalloys, chamotte and cement, and also a repair centre. 800 million rubles will be spent on the Dnieper power station and the other enterprises connected with it — that is to say, a sum equal to what is being spent on Magnitostroy and Kuznetskstroy put together.

The works which are being built to make use of the energy from the Dnieper are already rising up on the banks of the river where there was once nothing but the lonely steppe land of Zaporozhie.

When the work was started, well known foreign engineers refused to believe that the power station could be put into commission before 1934, and a large American journal "Mechanical Engineering" published an article to this effect. But now, as it has turned out, the work is finished not only before 1934 but six months before the time set by the plan. On the 1st of May the first turbines were set going and in the last year of the Five-Year Plan six aggregates of the Dnieprostroy developing a power of 372,000 kw. will be ready to supply socialist industry and agriculture with energy. The power developed by the whole Dnieprostroy electric station will be 810,000 H.P.

From the Volkhovstroy, the "first born" of Soviet electrification — to the Dnieprostroy, whose power will be equal to nine

The construction of the electrical substation of the Dnieprostroy is being rushed to completion



Volkhovstroys; such is the victorious path of Soviet electrification, first planned by Lenin. The next stage will be the construction of new electric stations on the Middle Volga. Altogether three large hydro-electric stations will be equipped there: one in the Ivanovo-Voznesensk district, one in the Nizhny-Novgorod district and the third on the river Kama near Perm. These stations taken together will represent a power of 800 thousand to a million kilowatts. A directing body "Sredvolgostroy" (construction on the Middle Volga) has been specially formed for the work and at its head will be the leader of the Dnieprostroy construction, engineer Winter, recently elected as an associate of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The tried workers and technical staff from the Dnieprostroy will be employed also on these schemes, and will move over as they finish their work on the Dnieper.

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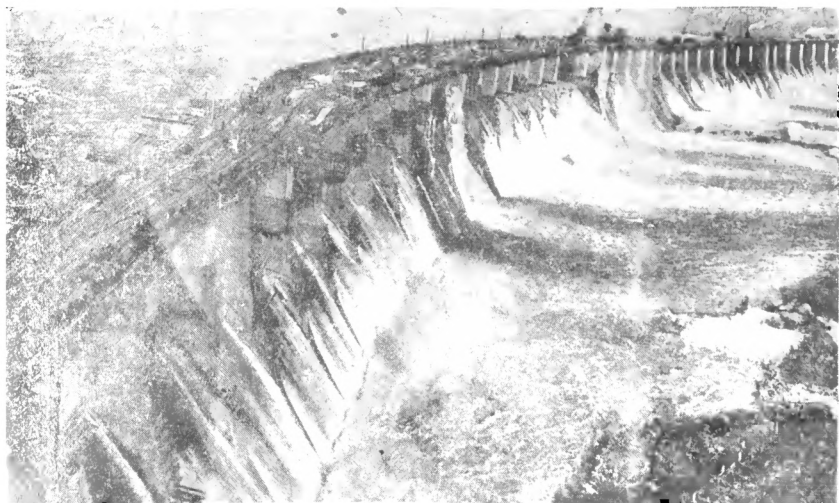
The story of the collective made up of 50,000 builders of Dnieprostroy has already its tales of heroism which once more bear witness to the fact that the Soviet Union is a country of new men and new methods of work.

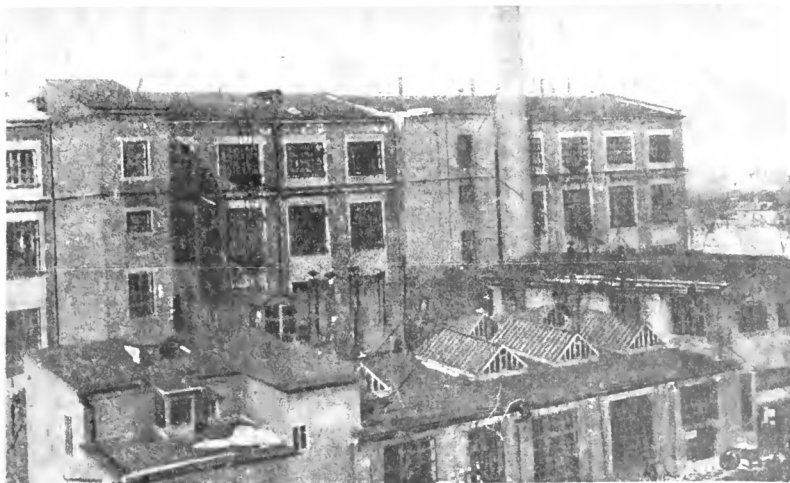
Around the huge concrete structure of the dam, on the building sites of the power stations and the factories, Dnieprostroy is surging with life. Here is a characteristic episode, one of many. In the struggle for "bolshevist tempo" in laying the concrete, the builders of Dnieprostroy brought out

a small news-sheet in Ukrainian called "Proletar Dniprobudu" (The Dnieprostroy Proletarian). The paper set itself the task of systematically reducing the great Dnieprostroy plan to concrete figures which would tell the workers and engineers what had to be done in a given day or given hour in any particular part of the work. The paper looks after the supply of concrete and its allocation and keeps work on the dam up to the mark. All that is written in it is of a militant character. On many occasions, the workers on being given a plan for their work brought forward their own counter-plan which they fulfilled in due course. In the last and most important stages in the laying of the concrete, the paper declared socialist competition between the three best shifts of workers. "The shift showing the best figures", the Dnieper paper wrote, "will be given the honour of laying the last cubic metre of concrete on the top of the dam." Judges were chosen from among the workers, the management and the editorial staff of the paper. Among the best workers who actually won this honour there were several shock-brigades of young communists. On the day when work was finished, the 200th number of the news-sheet "On the Dam" came out.

The directors of Dnieprostroy were perfectly right when they wrote in their report: "The shock workers of Dnieprostroy have given a splendid example of the communist attitude towards work and of speed and efficiency in carrying it out, such as are unknown in the capitalist world."

PANORAMA OF THE DNEIPROSTROY DAM





General view of the ball-bearing factory in Moscow

Factory-town in Moscow

On the waste place which used to be called the Simonova Sloboda (Suburb), after twelve months of work, the buildings of the first ball-bearing factory in the USSR, largest in the world, have now risen up. Six thousand workers were employed to build it. In less than four months more than a thousand complicated machines were set up in position.

Here are some figures giving an idea of the dimensions of this new giant industry. All the factories of Europe do not give more than 120,000 ball-bearings a day. The Moscow factory will give about 100,000 a day, that is 24,000,000 in a year. The value of this production is estimated at 120,000,000 gold rubles. All the processes of production have been mechanised to the maximum extent. The workers for the most part have only to control the work of the machines.

All the departments are gathered together under one roof and form a huge building covering 135,000 square metres. The walls and roofs are of glass so that the whole building is flooded with light. The workers and employees of the factory will live in a socialist town, situated in the midst of gardens and crossed by tramway lines and asphalt roads. A settlement of large five-storey houses has already been built. A group of standard houses are in course of construction. The cultural facilities of the factory will not fall behind its technical equipment. In the factory-town a theater is being built as also a department-store,

a cinema, a club, a school, a crèche, a dispensary and a mechanised kitchen-factory.

It will now no longer be necessary to import ball-bearings. When the third factory has been built in 1934 (the second is already working in Moscow) the production of ball-bearings in the Soviet Union will be sufficient to meet all the needs of Soviet industry.

Here are a few words by A. Bodrov, who directed the work of the building of the ball-bearing factory:

"No country in the world has a ball-bearing factory equal in size or in the perfection of its equipment to our factory. The largest ball-bearing factory in America is only half the size. The Moscow factory is equipped with machines among which there are some which even in the capitalist countries are regarded as very great rarities. Our factory has been built by the whole country. Thanks to the working people of the Soviet Union, these huge bright buildings have been raised up and these superb machinery has been put in place. Only a socialist country, only the working class under the leadership of Lenin's Party could produce such a factory as the "Sharikopodshipnik" giant."

At a huge meeting celebrating the opening of the factory, the workers passed a resolution that the factory should be named after J. Kaganovich, the secretary of the Moscow Region Committee of the Communist Party. Tribute was also paid at the meeting to the Italian engineers for the part they had taken in the work.

Soviet Metallurgy Wins a World Record

In 1930 work was started on a tremendous plan for linking up the mineral wealth of the Urals with the coal deposits in Siberia in order to create a second huge metal supply centre—the Ural-Kuzbass (the first metal supply centre is in the Ukraine, in the Donets basin).

Owing to the tremendous enthusiasm with which work was carried out it was possible in the extraordinarily short period of two years not only to complete the construction but also to begin working it.

On the 1st of February 1932 the first blast-furnace of the Magnitogorsk combine rose up on the borders of Europe and Asia.

57 days after it had started working the furnace gave 1,037.5 tons of highest quality pig-iron.

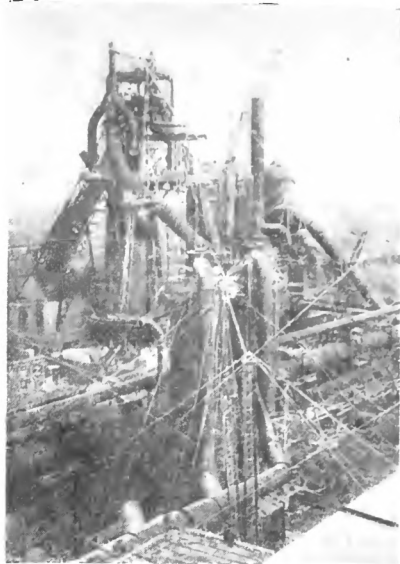
This was a tremendous triumph of Soviet engineering. There had never before been furnaces of such a capacity either in the Soviet Union or in Western Europe. In the United States of America there are only one or two such furnaces. At Magnitogorsk the volume of a furnace is less than a cubic metre per ton of iron. Such a figure

MAGNITOGORSK



Electrical welding of the air-pipe

MAGNITOGORSK



Blast-furnace No. 1

is a world record for furnaces of such a capacity.

The triumph at Magnitogorsk is a joyous event for the vast masses of Soviet workers and they have sent their most hearty congratulations to the Magnitogorsk contingent of fighters for socialism. Once again Soviet engineers and workers have shown that they are joining the front ranks of world technique.

The Magnitogorsk blast-furnace did not remain long alone. In this year another three have been built. On the whole there will be twenty-four large furnaces starting operations in the fourth year of the first Five-Year Plan.

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In all the articles in the Soviet press about the Magnitogorsk record it is shown how the Soviet Union "is achieving one triumph after another while the capitalist world, paralysed by the economic crisis, is extinguishing and destroying one furnace after another".

Stalin in his greeting to the workers of Magnitogorsk has congratulated them on the way that they have mastered the technique of building and operating the greatest blast-furnace in Europe, the "unique blast-furnace" as he has called it.

THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN IN SOVIET MOLDAVIA

By V. Dembo

The population of the Autonomous Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic is 600,000, of which more than 30% are Moldavians. About 48% of the population are Ukrainians. The Poles form about 2% of the total population.

In Moldavia of former days even in towns almost half of the population (44%) were engaged in agriculture, and only 3% of the urban population worked in factories and mills. Only $\frac{1}{2}$ % of the total population was engaged in industrial enterprises.

An overwhelming majority of the population was illiterate and even a few years ago the proportion of illiterates reached 78%.

Prior to the revolution, 40% of the land in the territory of the present Soviet Moldavia belonged to land-owners.

The victory of the Soviets turned over to the local peasantry 300,000 hectares of land, so that 93% of the entire land (780,000 hectares) are now in possession of the peasants. By the spring of 1930 50% of Moldavian farms were collectivised. By the autumn of 1931, the corresponding percentage reached 65. The collective farms own 75% of the total land used by the peasants.

No wonder that this successful collectivisation met with a furious resistance on the part of the kulaks.

The poor and middle peasants of Moldavian and other nationalities are convinced by their own experience that the Leninist national policy secures for the Moldavian Soviet Republic an unprecedented rate of economic and cultural development. A rapid growth of socialist economy in the national republics and regions during the period of the second Five-Year Plan will do away with the cultural and economic backwardness of minor nationalities, which was inherited from the tsarist capitalist-colonial regime.

The collectivised farmer of Soviet Moldavia is able to state that already in 1929 Moldavia possessed 550,000 hectares of sown area, tilled by 370 tractors, and that in 1930 two machine and tractor stations were established with 109 more tractors. By the end of 1931 there were 7 machine and tractor stations, and 5 more will be set up in the near future.

The toiling peasant of Soviet Moldavia knows that formerly the Southern part of the Soviet Moldavian Republic was continuously suffering from droughts and that the Soviet Government instituted an irrigation system which raised enormously the yield of vegetable gardens and of orchards which constitute the principal wealth of this part of Moldavia. Several thousands of hectares are already being irrigated. In 1932 the area of land irrigated by canals, owing to electrification, will reach 15,000 hectares. A further 15,000 hectares will be improved.

Within the next few years, the irrigated area will reach 75,000 hectares. Owing to these measures of the Soviet Government, and on the basis of the collective farm and State farm system, Soviet Moldavia becomes the richest source of fruits and vegetables. The canning industry for both fruits and vegetables is being developed¹.

In Soviet Moldavia in 1931 there were two canneries in Tiraspol, at the end of 1931 a new cannery was put into operation in the village of Glinnoye. The total number of workers employed at these three works exceeds 2,300 and their output in 1931 was about 80 million cans of various fruits and vegetables. This year they will start construction of a fourth cannery with a capacity of 50 million cans. The total annual capacity of the four canneries of Soviet Moldavia will reach 225 million cans by 1933.

By rapid strides Soviet Moldavia in the course of the last few years has transformed itself from a backward agrarian country first into an agrarian-industrial and then into an industrial-agrarian one. In 1929 the agricultural production here amounted to 51 million rubles and the industrial production — to only 37 million rubles, and in 1931 the manufactured products constituted 52% and the agricultural production 48% of the entire economic production of the Republic. The industrialisation of Soviet Moldavia is pro-

¹At the present time there are only 3 small canneries in Bessarabia: one in Kishinev and two in Ackerman — the 3 of them put together at the best of times employed only 60 workers, but now there are fewer.

gressing with seven-league boots. At the session of the Central Executive Committee of the Autonomous Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic, which took place in Tiraspol on March 15—16 of the present year, G. Petrovsky, president of the All-Union and All-Ukrainian Central Executive Committees, made a detailed report, in which he outlined the plan of great works in Moldavia which are to be carried out in the immediate future. He said: "The special tasks of material and cultural development of Soviet Moldavia confronted all the toilers of that Republic with the necessity of a new industrialisation of our country. In view of the general growth of national economy throughout the Union, the increase of production of our industries and the growth of the working class, the Central Committee of the Party and the Government are now working out the problem of an increased tempo of development for Soviet Moldavia."

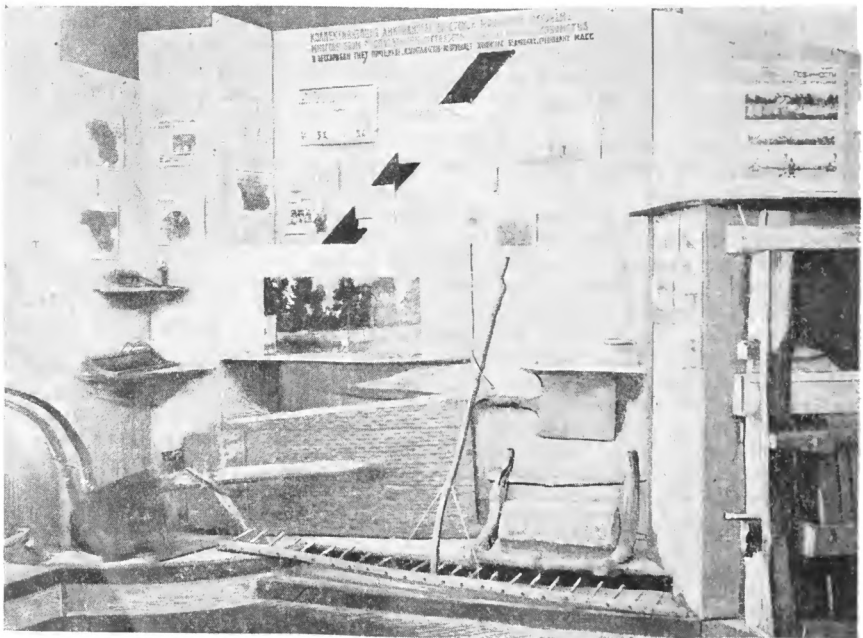
The said plan foresees an investment of more than 50 million rubles in the

industry of Moldavia. It is proposed to build two new local electric-power stations (one in the Southern and the other in the Northern part of the Region), a cement works, an industrial combine for the production of lime in Kodym. The stone quarries of Rybnitsa, the Giderim and Voronkov quarries of building material, all this secures for Soviet Moldavia a prominent place in the supply of building material. New geological surveys for the purpose of discovering lime etc. will be carried out. A wood-working factory for the supply of building material in Bierzula is being extended.

A tobacco factory will be constructed in Dubossary, a dairy for the production of butter in Bierzula, a wine-cellar to hold 500,000 kegs of wine and a mechanical bakery in Tiraspol, and affiliated enterprises for producing tin-cans and barrels.

As regards agriculture, apart from the above mentioned measures of irrigation and improvement, a new Soviet vineyard covering an area of 3,000 hectares will be set up in Butor, the orchards supplying

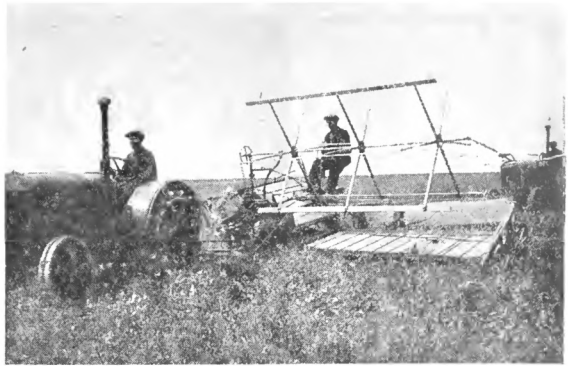
OLD MOLDAVIA



Old-fashioned Moldavian agricultural implements at the Ethnographical Museum in Moscow



Agricultural commune
"Beacon" in Moldavia
A tractor in the field
of the commune



the market will cover an area of 15,000 hectares, as against 11,000 the previous years, and a new giant orchard is being created, which will cover an area of 37,000 hectares.

Great work will be performed in the field of municipal economy (the extension of water supply, housing facilities, the paving of streets etc.) and in the construction of medical centres. There will be considerable extension of telephone service and many highways will be built. In two or three years, in every corner of socialist Moldavia, on the frontier that separates two worlds, there will arise the chimneys of enormous socialist enterprises, orchards and vineyards will flourish on tens of thousands of hectares, well equipped Soviet farms will arise, based on the most up-to-date application of electrical power.

This gigantic growth of socialist construction in industry and agriculture is most closely connected with the enormous cultural growth and rapid uplifting of the cultural level of the local toilers, above all the Moldavians, who at one time were the most backward. Apart from enemies and prejudiced people, who will ever believe the libel on Soviet Moldavia, when it is precisely here that we witness the birth of culture of all nationalities inhabiting Moldavia, above all of the culture of the Moldavian people?

In 1925, when the Moldavian Republic was founded, there existed only 11 Moldavian schools. And now in 1932 we have already 600 schools, where the teaching is in the Moldavian language, and at the same time the teaching in the schools of the other nationalities is in the native tongue of their pupils (the Ukrainian, Russian, Jewish, Bulgarian, Czech and

Polish schools). A compulsory seven-year education for all children of school-age has been introduced and 75,000 children are taught in elementary schools.

The illiteracy of the adults is being very rapidly eliminated. Soviet Moldavia will soon become the republic which is not only 100% collectivised, but also 100% literate.

A number of newspapers and magazines are being published in the Moldavian language. A Moldavian literature has been created and the yearly production of the Moldavian State Publishing House reaches several million copies. According to the 1932 plan, the output of publications will increase $2\frac{1}{2}$ times in comparison with the previous year and will reach 12 million copies.

Last year there were 9 vocational schools in North Moldavia. Now they have been transformed into technical schools with a student body of 3,500.

The Higher Moldavian Institute of People's Education has three faculties and is attended by 300 students. A Moldavian Agricultural Institute will soon be opened. Apart from the schools of factory-apprenticeship, one of the main tasks of which is the training of skilled workers of Moldavian nationality, there exists a network of workers' faculties and collective-farm universities. Instead of 56 schools of seven-year course, which functioned last year, there will be 142 of such schools this year, mainly in the villages.

The number of students in the various higher schools of Moldavia will this year reach 6,500. They are all of them sons and daughters of workers, peasants and, generally speaking, of toilers. 500,000 rubles have been appropriated for the con-

The crèche in the agricultural commune "Beacon" in Moldavia



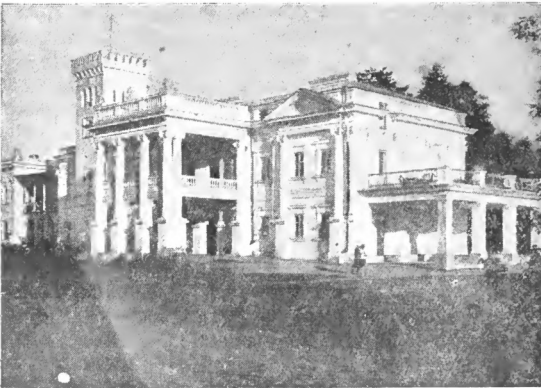
struction of a home for proletarian students in Tiraspol, which will start immediately. Another 500,000 rubles have been assigned to the construction of a new building for the Institute of People's Education which will be completed this year. The Moldavian section of the Kharkov Communist University is being transformed into an independent Moldavian Communist University and will be transferred to the city of Tiraspol.

§ A new State theatre will be constructed in Tiraspol. It will accommodate 1,000 people and 900,000 rubles have been assigned for its construction. At the present time Soviet Moldavia is adopting the Latin alphabet in place of the Russian. In the words of G. Petrovsky, president of the Ukrainian Central Executive Committee:

"The wave of alphabet modernisation by use of Latin script has spread to all the Transcaucasian districts, Central Asia, generally speaking, to all nations, it is a tendency to adopt a universal alphabet, in order to facilitate the process of reading and thereby contribute to the rapprochement of the nations."

Such is the real state of things, such is the enormous work performed by the toilers of Soviet Moldavia, supported in a brotherly way by the toilers of the Ukraine and of the whole Soviet Union.

The working masses of Soviet Moldavia are convinced by obvious facts that the socialist system enables them to raise in their formerly oppressed country the development of the productive forces and their national culture to an unparalleled height.



A former land-owner's house now belonging to the Bessarabian agricultural commune in the name of Kotovsky

Organised Child Centres in the USSR

THE CHILDREN'S HOME AT KARDVINOVO

By A. Deyanova

The above Home was organised in the autumn of 1920, in the summer house of a former landowner at Kardvinovo in the Moscow district. It was opened exclusively for the benefit of orphaned children of railway employees and workers.

The house is situated in the country and this has led to the occupants taking up farming. Thanks to the energy of the workers there, this farm has grown considerably and is now able to purchase out of its own earnings the necessary equipment, and to build barns, a workshop, a laundry etc.

At the present time there are forty-nine orphans in the home. The house itself has been added to and a dining-room built on to it. The grounds have been turned into a model farm. The home now possesses several head of cattle, both large and small, twenty-two beehives, a kitchen-garden and an orchard which contains forty old fruit trees, in addition to the hundred-and-fifty young ones just planted.

The farm is run by the orphans in co-operation with the teachers and staff.

At the end of every "production" year the Home organises an agricultural exhibition in the district. It has twice received a first-class diploma and a money prize for the produce exhibited.

This farm not only provides the Home with the necessary produce, but is also able to help the neighbouring collective farms. The Home supplies them with seed, and also provides food for hot breakfasts for the children in the collective-farm school.

The Home is a cultural centre and it plays a leading part in socialist construction in the surrounding collective farms. It was through the efforts of the Children's Home that the collective farm at Grintsovo was created. Both the staff and the children themselves take an active part in the life of the collective farm, help in drawing up the working plans, in making the accounts and in cultural work of a mass nature.

The orphans work in shock-brigades and among the latter they have organised socialist competition.

When the children leave the Home they do not lose touch with it. It gives them material and moral support during the initial stage of independent life. Many of the children brought up there, who have already become students, teachers, and skilled workers, still remain attached to Kardvinovo and are glad to spend their holidays there.

A. SCHOOL OF YOUNG JOURNALISTS

By N. Sotnikov

At the Leningrad Press House courses are held for the editors of Young Pioneer wall newspapers, and these have now been reorganised into a University of Child Correspondents.

Once every four or five days at six o'clock in the evening the child correspondents of the wall newspapers in schools, the young editors and other helpers gather in the Press House. They are all children whom the schools and pioneer groups have sent to the University on account both of the activity they have shown in their

school newspaper work and of their political consciousness.

About 80 future journalists of twelve to eighteen years of age regularly attend these courses.

At the head of the University is a principal unanimously elected at a general meeting of the young students. His name is Kolya Soloviov and he comes from a factory seven-year school. He has been a "child correspondent" since 1926, is an active contributor to the young pioneer newspaper "Leninskie Iskry" (Sparkles of

Leninism) and now writes even pamphlets for a series published by this paper.

The governing body of the college is made up of Shakhin, the head boy of the first group and editor of the college wall newspaper, Slevich, head of the second group, and Soloviov, the principal. Responsible to the governing body there is a council of brigadiers consisting of nine children. The students are grouped together in brigades of 5 or 6. The brigades work together over the material for study, and give collective reports about this material.

The brigadier keeps account of attendance and makes himself responsible for the work and discipline of the brigade.

Many of these brigades have declared themselves shock brigades and junior and senior groups have taken one another on in socialist competition. The whole University now intends to challenge the Communist Evening Institute of Journalism to compete with them.

*

Study is now in full swing. Here is the room in which the senior group is working. The exercise to be done is to draw up a plan for a special Lenin number of a wall newspaper. The group leader is saying what kind of editorial should be given. When he has finished he asks the students to give their opinions about a plan for the number. The room becomes a hive of industry.

The plan for the number is submitted to the practical criticism of the children. Each one is anxious to have his say, to make his suggestions.

The second group is occupied with the problem "How to write an article for the wall newspaper". After some discussion the teacher suggests that each one write an article of his own.

One of the boys called up to the board writes in his article: "Ivanov's brigade comes last in competition thanks to its members not coming to work in time."

This is greeted with laughter: "Not much to be thankful for!" The children are going to see that there will be no ambiguity of language in their wall newspapers.

*

The children attending lectures at the Child Correspondents' University feel themselves to be on an equal footing with the other members of the Press House. They demand access to the library under the same terms as the grown-ups. They want to attend the same public lectures. They are pleased at the interest shown in the college by the general public.

During the holidays when the students were free in the day-time as well as in the evenings the Press House arranged an excursion to a paper mill.

The college gives a good grounding for real newspaper work and many of the children now studying there will take their place amongst the Soviet journalists of the future.



The editors at work



The crèche in the collective farm "The Red October" in Turkmenistan

THE FACTORY OF NEW PEOPLE

Some years ago, on December 29, 1927, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the All-Union Cheka (later the G.P.U.), the workers of the G.P.U. of the Ukraine, chiefly with their own funds, created a children's labour commune, in the name of Felix Dzerzhinsky¹, for homeless children.

From that day on, "Felix's children" became the object of untiring care. For the workers of the G.P.U. the commune had become their dearest child.

In the commune there are now 212 boys and 84 girls — 61% of them have a "street period" back of them. Years were required for this past to be uprooted, to be dissolved in a current of days of toil. Socially useful labour, study, properly organised work have made this possible. The pupils of the commune go through the complete course of the seven-year school and of the workers' faculty. In the commune there are likewise elementary groups for the illiterate.

In 1931 three workshops were in operation at the commune — fitting, wood-working and clothing. All members of the commune

were divided into 24 brigades, on the principle of production; at the head of each one is an elected commander. The commanders' council is the highest executive organ of the commune. The commune's plans of production are fulfilled splendidly. For the first quarter of 1931 the industrial and financial plan was fulfilled by 103%, for the second by 143%, for the third by 101%. During the first 11 months of last year the commune gave a net profit of 373,694 rubles. This sum is being used to perfect further the equipment and living conditions of the commune.

The members of the commune receive wages. The average wage is now 66 rubles a month. They dispose of their wages as follows: 35 rubles they contribute to the commune for their support, 7 r. 75 k. to the fund of the commanders' council, a half of the remainder — 11 r. 62 k. to the savings-bank on their accounts, and the rest — 11 r. 62 k. — for pocket-money.

What do the members of the commune spend their pocket-money for?

To buy radio-apparatuses, gymnastic articles, to subscribe to newspapers and periodicals. Some of the girls buy pretty scarfs, or other trifles. The young lads spend money on sweets.

¹ The deceased president of the All-Russian Cheka (Extraordinary Commission), later the O.G.P.U. (United State Political Department).

Not long ago the commune celebrated its fourth anniversary. That day a mill for producing electric drills, built with the funds of the commune, was set in operation. The building of the mill, its equipping were carried out with the commune's funds. "Enough of old fashioned artisan

work", say the members of the commune. Electric drills, extra tractor parts, oil-cans — that is what the former waifs will produce now.

This is how that commune educates the child who was not long ago a waif to be a new, socialist man.

LIFE AND SCHOOL IN THE LUMBERING DISTRICTS

The October revolution freed the lumberjacks of the USSR from the yoke of barbarous exploitation. At present the lumberjacks live in large, well-lighted barracks. Despite the remoteness and scattered distribution of the lumbercamps, an extensive network of provision shops and huts, of bakeries and dining-rooms has been organised. In almost all districts there are "Red Corners", where the lumberjacks may listen to radio, get newspapers, periodicals and books. The lumberjacks' organisations issue their own printed and wall newspapers.

The average wage of a permanently working lumberjack has greatly increased.

Their conditions of work are safeguarded by the only socialist labour legislation in the world.

With the growth of the material well-being of the lumberjacks, the living conditions of their children are also being improved. In all the lumbercamps school and pre-school institutions have been organised for education of the lumberers' children. Needy school-children receive free-of-charge shoes, clothes and school-books. In almost all schools the school-children are given hot lunches.

In the Northern district, where the main industry is lumbering, the schools are attended by 266,050 children. In the Western-Siberia district this figure reaches the tremendous amount of 1,024,300 children; in the Eastern-Siberia district — 265,600. In the Nizhny-Novgorod district 681,784 lumbermen's children study in the schools; in the Urals district — 697,023, and so on.

In improving the life and education of the lumbermen's children, the development of the pre-school network in the lumbering regions is of extreme importance. According to the figures of the trade-union of lumbering and wood-working men alone, i. e., according to incomplete information, 220 nurseries and 209 children's homes for the lumbermen's children are functioning.

Besides these trade-union pre-school institutions, there is a great number of governmental ones. Thus, in the Northern district (the greatest lumbering region) there are 540 State kindergartens and 1,200 children's play-grounds. For maintaining these institutions 166,000 rubles are spent annually. In Eastern Siberia 1,100 kindergartens and 40,519 children's play-grounds have been organised for the children of lumberjacks. For the Nizhny-Novgorod district the corresponding figures are 160 and 11,740. At the lumber-exchanges alone 2,250 children are taken care of by pre-school institutions.

What do these few figures mean?

The lumbercamps, from the "land of graves" which they were before the October revolution, are being transformed into very important industrial areas, with organised, free labour.

The fulfilment of the Five-Year Plan in lumbering and of the Five-Year Plan of cultural reconstruction guarantees the further and rapid improvement of the living conditions of the lumberers and, particularly, of the life and education of their children.



Soviet Art

THE TRUE MUSSORGSKY

By G. Polianovsky

For many years it was the commonly accepted opinion that Mussorgsky was a composer with great potentialities but that his talent was hampered by his ignorance of musical theory and his "dislike for study". Much has been said of the part taken by Rimsky-Korsakov in "reviving" Mussorgsky and it has often been contended that without his help Mussorgsky's music would never have been presented in publishable form. Even friends and admirers of the composer have spoken with a touch of bitterness about a certain crudity and outward unattractiveness of much that is profound in his music. Reactionary critics referring to the unusual melody of Mussorgsky's compositions have claimed that he could not think musically.

Even now in many books and articles by bourgeois critics you can feel that tendency to deprecate the artistic and ideological significance of Mussorgsky. P. A. Lamm and other devoted revivers of the musician had to overcome a stubborn opposition in order to give the original "Boris Godunov" and "Khovanshchina" the place that rightly belonged to them, both on the operatic stage and as musical composition.

To the State Music Publishing House belongs a part of the credit for giving us the true Mussorgsky. Very good editions of "Boris Godunov" and "Khovanshchina" have already been published and an edition of his unfinished composition, "Sorochinsky Fair" is now being prepared.

The State Music Publishing House has also published a large number of Mussorgsky's songs after checking them carefully with the original and a number of orchestral fragments both in full score and transposed for the piano. Much time and effort has been devoted by Soviet writers to the study of Mussorgsky's musical works.

"For Proletarian Music" and "The Proletarian Musician", both periodicals of the Association of Proletarian Musicians, have published a number of articles dealing with the creative genius of the composer. Numerous lectures and concerts

connected with the "new Mussorgsky" have been made in special institutions and in workers' clubs. Many workers' musical circles have also been making a careful study of Mussorgsky's best compositions.

Mussorgsky's musical dramas, in parts or as a whole, are being shown in the largest clubs. Thus we see that the revival of the true Mussorgsky is attracting the attention not only of Soviet musicians but also of the many thousands of workers who belong to choral and musical circles.

The first volume of the complete composition of Mussorgsky to be published was "Boris Godunov". In contrast to the incomplete and inaccurate edition of "Boris" made by Rimsky-Korsakov, the present edition fully re-instates the author's conception. P. A. Lamm, the leading authority in the question of Mussorgsky's musical heritage, compiled the present edition from the composer's manuscripts including tableaux, scenes, fragments and variants, hitherto unknown to the public.

For the first time is restored the original variant of the end of the first tableau in the prologue of "Boris", which shows the people as they should be shown, — not as an impersonal mass, but as a many-faceted collective, critically and ironically obeying the commands of the powers above them.

Comparatively small but nevertheless important changes were also made in other tableaux. Substantial work was done in incorporating the scenes in front of the cathedral of Basil the Blessed and the scene near the town Cromy, most striking mass scenes revealing Mussorgsky's genius and characterising him as the mouthpiece of definite social ideas. These scenes portray the critical and rebellious attitude towards the government that was rife in the sixties. They attribute to the common masses elements of purposeful activity and that is why they were banned by the censor.

Another very important piece of work done by P. A. Lamm was the revival of another of Mussorgsky's operas, "Khovanshchina".

The most colourful and vivid public scenes were pushed into the background by Rimsky-

Korsakov, while anything that related to religion or mysticism was emphasised and exaggerated.

A presentation of "Khovanshchina" in its original form shows us Mussorgsky with all his inconsistencies. It shows us how he was striving to understand the fundamental causes of the social conflict between the persons in power with those supporting them and the masses of people, whom Mussorgsky took for an undivided whole.

In the revived opera the elements are very clearly portrayed of the struggle between two principles, the external European introduced by Peter the Great and the feudal principle supported by the hereditary nobility. Mussorgsky's conscientious and persistent efforts to reveal survivals of the past in the present were invariably slurred over by the editors of his "popular musical dramas". Now for the first time the perfect harmony between the composer's innermost thoughts and the peculiar form of his work, that seemed so strange and unfamiliar to his contemporaries, has been given a true sociological interpretation.

The problem of the two unfinished operas "Sorochinsky Fair" and "The Marriage" of which only fragments remain has also been given a new interpretation. The first of these two operas was completed in parts and the score written by the Soviet composer Shebalin under the direction of P. A. Lamm. Shebalin showed great sensitiveness and understanding in accomplishing his responsible task. He took original fragments as the basis, and in working them up made use of orchestral effects characteristic of the composer. In order to do this he made a thorough study of the originals and on the whole he carried out his task with a fair degree of success. The revived "Sorochinsky Fair" is full of sparkling humour and fine descriptive passages, preserving the local colour of Gogol's story. Shebalin tried to keep the freshness of Mussorgsky's melodies and harmonies. This style was the result of Mussorgsky's philosophy which was still in a state of flux under the influence of the great social changes that were taking place during the sixties.

The opera in its new form was produced in the Nemirovich-Danchenko theatre.

"The Marriage" was revived by the People's Artist prof. M. Ippolitov-Ivanov at the suggestion of the operatic radio-theatre. Here the real Mussorgsky comes out only in the first act. The masterly sequence of motifs, the extraordinary way in which each part of the musical theme

stands out in almost sculptural relief, makes it unique amongst operas.

The composer makes malicious fun of the inanity, idleness and sensuality of the official classes and of the well-fed landed gentry, satisfied with their empty, primitive life. All this is brought out with biting sarcasm in the first act.

All Mussorgsky's songs were re-edited and altered to agree with the original. Almost all of them were supplied with historical and explanatory notes. Special mention should be made of the collections under the titles "Youthful Days" and "Jubilee Collection". The first of these contains the immature works of Mussorgsky written during the first period of his creative career; the second — his later songs which are the ones of greatest interest to us.

It was thus that the humorous genre song under the title "Oh, you drunken bird" first came to light. This was never published during Mussorgsky's lifetime, but was preserved in manuscript in a private collection. It was followed by a whole cycle of light songs.

Recently the State Music Publishing House brought out two very interesting volumes which throw light on the life and work of Mussorgsky. Both of these volumes were edited by a young musical student Y. V. Keldysh, the first volume in collaboration with V. V. Yakovlev.

The first volume contains articles by I. Glebov, P. A. Lamm and Y. V. Keldysh, the other a complete correspondence between Mussorgsky and his friends.

Very much more research has been done in connection with Mussorgsky and very many more editions published of his works since the revolution than before it. Now a new and a truer Mussorgsky is shown to the audiences of concert-halls and clubs, whose numbers have vastly increased.

Thus the real Mussorgsky has been rediscovered through the untiring work of Soviet musicians and scholars who have carried out a scientific and revolutionary analysis of his work, his creative method and his place and role in the social life of the contemporary epoch. This work made it possible to determine the true specific weight of Mussorgsky's composition in the vast cultural inheritance of bygone times.

Now the compositions of the genuine Mussorgsky, full of vigour, depth and inspiration, become widely known to the vast masses of workers in the Soviet Union.

SOVIET CINEMA EXHIBITION ON TOUR THROUGH EUROPE

The All-Union, Ukrainian and Transcaucasian Societies for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries have organised in co-operation with the State Cinema Concern (Soyuzkino) a traveling exhibition of the Soviet cinema which will go on tour through Europe visiting Amsterdam, Madrid, Rome, Paris and other capitals. At the exhibition the latest Soviet sound-films, educational films and newsreels will be shown.

The exhibition differs from all other Soviet cinema exhibitions hitherto held abroad in the way the exhibits are arranged. There are a number of sections dealing with different aspects of the Soviet cinema. All these sections taken together will give the European public a good all-round idea of the main characteristics and distinguishing features of the Soviet cinema, its methods of work, its achievements during the last few years and the lines along which it is likely to develop during the period of the second Five-Year Plan.

The first section will show the scheme according to which cinematography is organised in the Soviet Union. There will be a large decorative diagram showing all the ramifications of Soyuzkino, from the head office to the separate production units. All the trusts included in the corporation — there are more than twenty of them — are shown with all the organisations connected with them, and their size and situation are indicated. Side by side is a huge poster illustrating the socialist planning of the cinema. The main figures relating to the work planned for 1932 are given on this poster, together with an outline of the plans for the second Five-Year period. Besides giving figures, the poster will make clear the methods used in planning for the cinema, the way subjects are chosen, scenarios ordered and the films acted. The small space at the disposal of the exhibition made it impossible to do justice to the third most important section of the cinema industry in the Soviet Union, namely the manufacture of film, and apparatus. The manufacture of film, one of the youngest of Soviet industries, is represented by photographs of the interiors of factories, samples of the sensitised ribbon and other exhibits illustrating the way work is done in Soviet film factories. Statistics are also given with regard to

new factories which are to be built during the second Five-Year Plan. There are similar exhibits of cinema apparatus and its manufacture. Exhibits dealing with the actual production of film plays occupy a central position at the exhibition. There are a large number of photographs of scenes from films and of different aspects of their production. These include a general view of the giant Moscow film studio, or rather cinema factory in the Potylikha Suburb, and views of its different departments. To these are added diagrams and schemes giving statistical information about Soviet film production.

Considerable attention is paid to the production of educational and news films. Of especial interest in connection with the establishment of a Soviet news films service are the new methods of work — the touring editorial staffs which go round from one building site to another and the cinema train (the latest achievement in this field) which is a fully equipped "ambulant cinema factory".

In the section devoted to the production of film plays the chief exhibit illustrates the subject "How Soviet moving pictures are made". The material is taken from one of the latest Soviet sound films "Mountains of Gold" by Yutkevich.

The largest section of all is devoted to the national cinemas. Six different cinema trusts serving 100 different nationalities of the Soviet Union are represented at the exhibition. Here we find scenes from national films, sub-titles in different languages of the Soviet Union, portraits of prominent figures in the national cinema world, illustrations of different phases in the actual work of production, figures referring to the building of cinema houses and factories and statistics showing the extraordinarily rapidly growing importance of the cinema in the life of the minor nationalities who were so oppressed and kept in such a state of ignorance under tsardom. These cinema exhibits alone are eloquent enough of the tremendous cultural advance made by different nationalities of the USSR as a result of the October revolution.

A special space is given to the work of enlarging the system of cinema houses and extending it to outlying parts. Attention is paid here also to the re-equipment of cinema houses for sound films, to the

political and cultural work carried on in connection with the performances and to the estimated figures for the growth of the cinema and increase in the number of cinema-goers during the second Five-Year Plan.

The section for cinema education shows the extensive system of schools of cinematography under the auspices of Soyuzkino, which train workers for all branches of film production.

There are three colleges of cinematography in the Soviet Union: one in Moscow, one in Leningrad and the third in Kiev. These include a special technical college for training engineers for sound-film work. Besides these there are 10 cinema technicums and over 100 special courses on cinematography. In 1932 all these organisations together with the schools attached to factories and the system of correspondence courses will turn out 50,800 workers qualified in different branches of the industry. Amongst the students there are a very large number of workers and members of the national minorities.

The last section of the exhibition is devoted to public cinema organisations. The work of the society "For a Proletarian

Cinema" is shown here. The society has over 300,000 members including workers, members of collective farms, Red Army men and office employees. It carries on intensive work among the masses, makes the Soviet public take an active interest in questions of cinema production and does political educational work in this field. The work of the Association of Workers in the Revolutionary Cinema is also shown here. This is an association of cinema producers, members of technical staffs and working people attached to the cinema industry. In the same section there are exhibits showing the methods of work of the cinema press, and the part it plays in the development of the Soviet cinema.

All the sections are arranged with great care and are provided with slogans expressing the principles underlying the work of the Soviet cinema. There are also special stalls and windows displaying literature, text books, catalogs etc.

The exhibits are arranged according to the designs of the artist Semenov who himself superintended the work. The general planning of the different sections is the work of G. Boltvansky, Honorary Artist of the Soviet cinema.

DEATH OF A PROMINENT SOVIET ACTOR

Stephen Kuznetsov, the People's Artist, has recently died in Moscow.

S. Kuznetsov was born in 1879. His father came from a peasant family, his mother was a laundress.

When only 12 years old, Kuznetsov was placed as an apprentice in a book shop and spent several years of his life standing behind the book counter. From his extreme youth Kuznetsov took to theatre and at last decided to leave his job and to go on the stage.

In 1901 he appeared on the stage for the first time as a professional actor in a small provincial theatre.

During the thirty years of his artistic life, S. Kuznetsov has played a tremendous number of roles in an extremely various repertoire, if only to mention: Figaro; Marmeladov, in "Crime and Punishment"; Tsar Feodor Ioannovich; Ras-

pluiev in "The Wedding of Krechinsky"; Arkashka in "The Forest"; Sganarel in "Don Juan"; Khlestakov in "The Inspector-general"; Yusov in "The Paying Job", and after the Revolution—the sailor Shvandia in "Liubov Yarovaya" (by Trenev), "Zholud" in the "Colhoz Yasny Log" (by the same author) and many others.

This excellent artist knew how to fill every role with this theatrical truth which out of any even episodic character creates an unforgettable image, full of life and of deep revolutionary meaning.

S. Kuznetsov has played in almost all big towns and theatres of the Soviet Union. In 1925 he joined the cast of the State Little Theatre in Moscow, where he has continued to play up to the last days of his life. In 1929 Kuznetsov was granted the name of the People's Artist.



Goethe and the Soviet Union



Celebration
of the 100th
anniversary of
Goethe's death
in the Soviet
Union

The Leningrad
State Theatre
of Opera and
Ballet on the
evening of the
anniversary

NEW SOVIET EDITIONS OF GOETHE

Although Goethe is a writer belonging to a pre-proletarian culture he is nevertheless close enough to us for much of his universal work to be a very real part of the cultural wealth of the land that is building socialism. His sparkling optimism, his faith in life, his faith in man and in his eventual victory over slavery, the war he waged against the torpor of the middle ages in the name of a free self-affirming personality, at the same time overcoming individualism in the interests of the whole, and finally and more important than anything else his extraordinarily throughgoing monistic philosophy, which in its realism and dialectical leanings was one of the direct forerunners of dialectical materialism, — all this, quite apart from the official anniversary, makes it imperative for us to make a more thorough study, long overdue, of Goethe's life and

work and to take all that is acceptable in his immense literary heritage.

Up till now the Soviet reader not knowing German had practically no opportunity of getting to know Goethe, because the very few editions of his works published in Russian both before and after the revolution have become almost bibliographical curiosities. Hardly any traces of the influence of Goethe can be found in pre-revolutionary Russian literature. If one leaves out of account the passing interest taken in Goethe in the early nineties and a certain hint of the Goethe philosophy in the theoretical works of the symbolists at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, the interest in Goethe as an artist and thinker has up till now been of a merely dilettante kind. It is true that Zhukovsky, Alexei Tolstoy, Tutchev and Fet have done a

number of very good poetic translations of Goethe, and also that the influence of Goethe's poetic method can be traced to a certain extent in the work of Tutchev and Fet, but it cannot be said that there was any regular development of Russian poetry along Goethean lines. Goethe was never as popular as Schiller or Heine.

A collection of Goethe's works edited by Herbel was published in the seventies but it is now terribly out of date and even in its own time it can hardly have done much towards awaking interest in Goethe. It appeared during the period of reaction when poetry was in a state of stagnation, and apart from the translations mentioned above it is marked by an extreme deadness of language and betrays the inaptness of its translators and their superficial, amateurish understanding, or sometimes even misunderstanding, of the original. Besides it shows a complete absence of system in the choice of the texts especially as regards the lyrical poetry.

The translations which have appeared during Soviet times (the first part of "Faust" by Valery Brussov, the "Sorrows of Werther" by J. Mandelstamm and the scientific extracts in a book of Lichtenstadt's) show a very great command of translation technique, but unfortunately they were very soon sold out and nothing was done to fill the gap until the State Publishing House (whose work in this matter was later taken on by the State Publishing House for Fine Literature) started in 1929 on a thirteen volume Jubilee Edition of Goethe's works in Russian.

This edition is chiefly intended to give the Soviet reader as complete a collection as possible of Goethe's works, i. e. to select from his immense literary heritage such material as would give a true idea of the extraordinary richness, manysidedness and often contradictoriness of that great writer's genius. It is intended to help both the ordinary reader and those who make a special study of literature to see Goethe, poet, natural philosopher and thinker, in a fresh light and to delve more deeply into his work.

The editors have for the most part observed the traditional classification into lyrics, epics, drama, novels, short stories, autobiography, letters, diaries, criticism, and scientific works, and have arranged the works under each of these headings in chronological order. This has been considered the best method as it enables the reader to see the varied aspects of Goethe's

evolution over a large number of years, each time from a different point of view.

The 1st volume is devoted to his lyrical works and contains more than 13,000 verses; about 400 poems have been translated into Russian now for the first time. The 2nd volume contains his epic poems, earlier plays fragments and satires from the pre-Weimar period. The 3rd, 4th and 5th volumes contain his larger poems, and dramatic works including "Faust" (vol. 5) the first part of which is given in a new translation carried out collectively, and the second part in the hitherto unpublished translation by Valery Brussov. The 6th volume contains his novels and short stories and the 7th and 8th are the two parts of "Wilhelm Meister". The 9th and 10th are devoted to "Poetry and Truth", selected essays, and sayings on art and literature, the 11th to "Travels in Italy", the 12th to selected extracts from his diaries and letters, arranged chronologically, and the 13th to his scientific works. The volumes are provided with introductions and notes intended on the one hand to put the reader in touch with the great work that has been done in the study of Goethe in the West and on the other hand to point out the new interpretation of his work and genius along the lines of Marxist-Leninist literary criticism. Very great attention has been paid to the translation. The task that confronted the translators was not only to retell with approximate accuracy the meaning of the original, but to make a strictly accurate and adequate translation based on a scientific understanding of the methods of translation as well as on a scientific interpretation of the original text, preserving its full artistic value, by carrying over into the new language all the different shades of meaning and all the peculiarities of form and style.

However far our translators have succeeded in carrying out the tremendous task undertaken — that of putting into Russian the works of one of the greatest literary geniuses of all time, we may justly claim that the publication of this Soviet Jubilee Edition of Goethe is a very notable achievement, and one that represents the very best that could be done in this line at the present stage of development of translation technique. The fact that the translators include the well-known modern poets M. Kuzmin, V. Rozhdestvensky, P. Antokolsky and the experienced translators both of prose and poetry G. Rachin-

Monographies "on 'Faust'"
on the Goethe exhibition
organised by the Leningrad
State Library



sky, S. Shervinsky, M. Lozinsky, B. Yarkho, N. William-Wilmont, P. Kochetkov, D. Ussov, and S. Zayaitzky and that the editorial board is made up of the best Goethe scholars ensure that the work will be well planned and carried out with thoroughness. The first two volumes have appeared in the Jubilee days; many of the others are now ready for the press. The chief editors are: L. B. Kamenev and Academicians A. V. Lunacharsky and M. N. Rozanov. Some of the single volumes are being edited by Academician V. I. Vernadsky, A. G. Gabrichevsky, V. M. Zhirmunsky, M. Levin, B. C. Pshibyshevsky, M. A. Petrovsky, and S. V. Shervinsky. The chief editors, special editors and translators form a single friendly collective sharing their knowledge and experience.

In outward appearance the work has a purely academic character and illustrations are confined to portraits and drawings of the author and autographs. Amongst the manuscripts reproduced will be a number which have not yet been published and which are preserved in Soviet museums and libraries. Not only do a considerable proportion of the works included in the edition appear in Russian translation for the first time (this applies especially to lyrics, letters, diaries, literary criticism and scientific works), but also of most of those which have already been published new translations are given. In the first volume there is a long introduction to the whole edition by A. V. Lunacharsky, and this will also be published separately.

On the day of the anniversary the State Publishing House for Fiction brought out the first two volumes of the Complete

Works, and with them are appearing in the Cheap Classics series the first part of "Faust" translated by Valery Brussov with introductions by P. S. Kogan and A. G. Gabrichevsky. This translation of "Faust" which is certainly the best yet available is particularly welcome as the first edition which came out in 1928 in the Russian and World Classics series issued by the State Publishing House is now a bibliographical curiosity.

Brussov's complete translation of "Faust" which was found amongst his papers after his death, and the second part of which had never been published, will soon appear in full in an edition of the Academia Publishing House edited and commented by B. I. Purishev. The same house is also publishing "Selected Lyrical Poems" with A. G. Gabrichevsky and S. V. Shervinsky as editors and introduction and notes by the former. This book will be a little smaller than the first volume of the Jubilee Edition and will contain Goethe's lyrical masterpieces. The poems will be arranged chronologically in order to enable the reader to follow the evolution of the poet. This volume will contain certain poems not included in the Jubilee Edition. The illustrations and arrangement of the text will be of great interest, as the decorative designs and the portrait of Goethe are to be carried out by no less an artist than V. A. Favorsky. Finally the same Academia Publishing House is bringing out a limited *édition de luxe* (1,000 copies) of the "Roman Elegies" translated by S. V. Shervinsky with parallel Russian and German text. This will include four posthumous elegies which have been exclud-

ed from most of the German editions on "moral grounds" and now are translated into Russian for the first time. The outward appearance of the book down to the smallest detail is to be in the hands of the artist I. I. Nivinsky. There will be an illuminated fly-leaf, an engraved title page and numerous drawings.

Finally in a cheap "Ogonyok" series there will be a small collection of Goethe's

poems translated by S. V. Shervinsky. This little book is intended to give the general reader the clearest and most accessible examples of the lyrical works of the poet.

"Krasnaya Nov", "Novy Mir", "Projector", "Ogonyok" and other periodicals are publishing articles on the life and work of Goethe and a number of translations, chiefly of his poetry.

SOVIET WRITERS AND SCHOLARS ON GOETHE

On the occasion of the recent Goethe centenary the most prominent Soviet public men, writers and students of Goethe wrote articles for the newspapers and periodicals in which they gave their views on the great poet, his place in world history and culture and the importance of his work for our own time.

"The world pays tribute to Goethe's genius", writes Academician A. Lunacharsky in "Izvestia", "but what is the world? Is the world one? Certainly it is not. The old world and the new world, that is to say the bourgeoisie of all nations and the international proletariat are divided by a great gulf with regard to their views on Goethe."

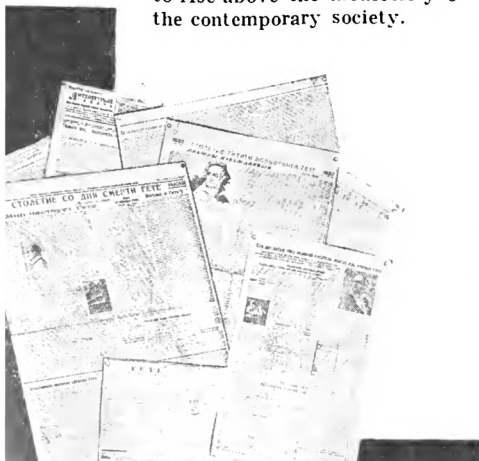
The attention of Soviet scholars has been directed chiefly to those contradictions in Goethe's character which made Marx and Engels refer to him as "that genius, the greatest of all Germans", at the same time emphasising that element of narrow-mindedness in his character which was the result of the fact that he was unable to rise above the mediocrity of the contemporary society.

Engels wrote of Goethe that in his work he "had a dual attitude to the German social order of his time. He was hostile to it, it seemed unacceptable to him, and he sought to run away from it on the one hand, and on the other hand he tried to make friends with it. Thus we find Goethe one minute very great and the next minute very petty, one minute a rebellious genius with a contempt for the world and the next minute a narrow and cautious philistine satisfied with everything. He found himself continually faced with the same dilemma resulting from the fact that although he could not but hold in contempt the environment in which he lived yet he was nevertheless bound to this environment since outside of it he could have no scope for his activity..."

Reactionaries are very fond of contending that Goethe only "saved himself" by making a compromise with the ruling classes. In opposition to this view Soviet science asserts that Goethe's greatness is permanent because "his poetry was the incarnation of the eager youthfulness of his class.. the joy of men putting body and soul into the fight against the idols and temples created by the thousand year rule of political, economical and philosophical mediaevalism".

Goethe was before his time in his rejection of everything superhuman and his ridicule of the idols and traditions of the middle ages. His life-affirming philosophy and his brilliant thought of the new world and of transformed humanity were prophetic of the future.

"After considering and rejecting every possible answer to the problem of the meaning of life, Faust-Goethe eventually solves the riddle on the edge of the grave. His answer is — the victorious struggle



of a labour collective. Thus the great master of words lived to proclaim the deed, the great individualist to proclaim the human labour collective" (L. Kamenov).

There is a dialectical tendency in Goethe's philosophy which caused him to look upon the world as "one single whole, moved by antagonisms and requiring for its explanation no kind of supernatural or superhuman forces".

The dialectical element in Goethe's philosophy is a result of his having been so closely in touch with nature. The Soviet writer Marietta Shaghinian has dealt with this point in her article on Goethe. In so far as Goethe represented a class which was then in its youth, as a practical philosopher he showed signs of striving for a real broad constructiveness, a planned control of natural forces. "Goethe", says Shaghinian, "had a peculiar feeling for nature, a feeling that I can only describe approximately as a 'feeling of cultivation of nature', a feeling of the close bounds existing between man and nature. This feeling is an essential part of the history of civilisation and is expressed in the very system of nature. For Goethe nature is not something isolated and arbitrary but part and parcel of the social complex."

We see in Goethe's Faust, acclaiming the struggle for freedom, thirsting to see his land and his people emancipated, a confirmation of the words of Marx and Engels, that it is the proletariat and the proletariat alone that are the inheritors of the great thinkers and poets including amongst them Wolfgang Goethe. This idea is emphasised by A. Lunacharsky in the final words of his article on Goethe.

S. Dinamov in his well annotated article shows that the forces of reaction in the West in reality reject the great heritage of Goethe and try to use his great name for the purpose of preaching counter-revolution and war. In the West we find a desperate and cynical attempt to prevent Goethe's centenary being celebrated or else an interpretation of him such as is intended to use the harmony and equilibrium which are ascribed to him to cover up the terrible contradictions of our age.

"The reactionaries of the West", writes the literary critic Averbach, "honour Goethe not because they want to reveal his historical mission—the struggle for a free German nation—but in order to hide their own weaknesses, and their real aim which is to break the struggle

for national emancipation, as national emancipation can only be the result of social emancipation."

In place of such a distortion of Goethe the Soviet public and Soviet science give an objective analysis of his life and work which infallibly shows the great revolutionising significance of all that is permanent in him.

What Averbach has to say about Goethe and about the old art, as well as about the new art that is being built up in the Soviet Union, is very interesting. When he says that Goethe "began to be pessimistic about the future of art" he traces out the connection between this attitude and the victory of the bourgeoisie in life and the bourgeois cultural hegemony.

Only the literature of a new class building a new society is capable of resolving the contradictions many of which Goethe vaguely understood.

Proletarian literature is the literature of a class which is able to know reality as it really is, it is the literature of the only class "whose theory and practice lead to the acquisition of objective truth".

The views which Goethe held on natural philosophy are considered in the article by I. Luppel.

M. Rozanov writing in the "Literary Gazette" deals with Goethe's literary fate in pre-revolutionary Russia. He has also written a long article on the same subject for the "Moskauer Rundschau", a German newspaper published in Moscow.

Besides Karamzin, the well known Russian historian and writer who thought very highly of "Werther" and who in his turn attracted the attention of Goethe, a number of other Russian writers including Zhukovsky had both literary and personal connections with Goethe. Zhukovsky himself said that "Goethe and Schiller had made him". Pushkin wrote of Goethe as of "our German patriarch" thus expressing his personal opinion and that of a group of poets which surrounded him. Amongst these should be mentioned Baratynsky, the author of the beautiful poem "On the Death of Goethe", and also Pushkin's school friend, the Decembrist Küchelbecker.

Then there come Tutechev whose lyrics show some similarity to Goethe, A. K. Tolstoy who as a boy visited Goethe in his home, and finally the Russian symbolist poets, Viacheslav Ivanov and Valery Brussov, the latter of whom have enriched us with admirable translations of his works,—

all these men served as links between pre-revolutionary Russian literature and the poet of Weimar.

We must not omit to mention the article published in the "Literary Gazette" by our friend Romain Rolland.

"The truth", he writes, "is always in what will be and never in what has been left behind. That is why somehow or other Goethe's will was always directed towards the rising sun. The Weimar Goethe can

wait for it where its approach has been heralded, but the Goethe of Faust goes to meet it, to wrest it from the night. Are not the immortal words of the dying Faust Goethe's own words:

That man alone his life deserves and
freedom
Who daily strives to win them new.

"And these words are our banner" Romain Rolland concludes.

THE CELEBRATION OF GOETHE ANNIVERSARY IN THE USSR

The Soviet social, literary and scientific organisations responded to the hundredth anniversary of the death of the great German poet and thinker by arranging a series of evenings, impressive meetings, exhibitions etc. We shall give here a brief review of the most important social functions devoted to the memory of Goethe which took place in the Soviet Union.

Evenings, concerts, reports

The Academy of Sciences of the USSR, jointly with the Leningrad Regional Council of Trade Unions and the local scientific and literary organisations, held a meeting in Leningrad. The meeting was opened by the Academician Karpinsky, president of the Academy of Sciences. The Academician Komarov, vice-president, in his report on "The metamorphosis of plants in the works of Goethe", described Goethe as a learned naturalist. The Academician Lunacharsky read a paper on Goethe and his epoch. The Academician Bukharin analysed profoundly the social and philosophic ideas of Goethe. After the meeting a concert took place, consisting of musical compositions which have a bearing on Goethe's works.

Academician Bukharin's paper was published by the State Publishing House as a separate pamphlet.

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A great and impressive evening devoted to the memory of Goethe was organised by the People's Commissariat for Education of the RSFSR, the Communist Academy and the State Publishing House.

In his introductory speech, A. Bubnov, the People's Commissary for Education of the RSFSR, dwelt on the tasks of the revolutionary Marxian theory in regard to the cultural heritage of Goethe.

He said: "We cannot forget that both in the sphere of art and in the sphere of philosophy, Goethe bequeathed to the world ideas which are linked up with the great ideas now being carried into effect by the revolutionary proletariat."

A. Lunacharsky delivered a long report on "Goethe, his epoch and society". Professors P. Kogan and I. Luppol have also read papers dealing with the various aspects of Goethe's work. The literary critic L. Avrëbach spoke on the attitude of the bourgeoisie towards Goethe.

The evening was concluded with a grand concert.

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The All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries also marked the 100th anniversary of Goethe's death by organising a great evening-concert in the great hall of the House of Unions in Moscow. In his opening speech Professor F. Petrov, president of the All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, laid stress on the fact that evenings like this one not only expressed the feelings of the Soviet public in regard to the great artist and scholar but also served the cause of cultural rapprochement between the USSR and other countries. The nations of the Soviet Union which are building up their own culture cannot dispense with the study and assimilation of the best specimens of the gre

cultural heritage of world literature in which Goethe's work holds a place of honour.

Academician M. Rozanov delivered a lecture on "Goethe and world literature". Professor E. Braudo made a speech in German on Goethe as reflected in musical art. The speeches were followed by a grand concert in which the best artists of Moscow took part. V. Kachalov, the People's Artist of the Republic, read with great vigour Egmont's monologue. At this evening there were present the representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, foreign correspondents, as well as representatives of Soviet social, literary and scientific organisations.

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A peculiar interest is attached to the evening organised by the Section of Translators at the Federation of Associations of Soviet Authors. At this evening after a report of professor F. Schiller, on Goethe's work, new Russian versions of Goethe's poems were read by the authors themselves — the best of the Soviet translators.

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The Leningrad Section of the Federation of Associations of Soviet Authors, and the Leningrad Press House also marked the anniversary by a large meeting. The well-known Soviet authoress, Marietta Shaghinian, read an interesting paper on Goethe's work.

The latter half of the evening was devoted to new translations of Goethe's poems read by translators and artists of the Leningrad theatres.

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In the Ukraine, the hundredth anniversary of Goethe's death was marked by a solemn meeting of the All-Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, jointly with representatives of various organisations. Moreover in Kharkov and Kiev special evenings-concerts were organised for Consulates and foreign colonies.

In the Kharkov House of scientists an evening was organised specially for scholars.

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The wealth and variety of musical works connected with Goethe's work made it possible to draw up programmes of jubilee

concerts, consisting entirely of works whose text or ideas were taken from Goethe. Of the many concerts organised in this manner, we must note the symphonic concerts organised by the Moscow Philharmonic orchestra under the direction of the German conductor, Hans Wilhelm Steinberg. The most important musical items in these concerts were Wagner's overture "Faust" and Beethoven's music for the tragedy "Egmont".

In Leningrad a grand concert was arranged in the State Theatre of Opera and Ballet. Considerable vocal talent possessed by the singers of that theatre enabled it to give a full and creditable exposition of the best specimens of Goethe's works as reflected in music. Apart from the symphonic works quoted above, the programme of the concert included a number of arias from various operas written on the subjects of Goethe's works ("Werther", "Mignon" and "The Death of Faust" by Berlioz).

The Society of Chamber Music in Leningrad devoted to the memory of Goethe a special meeting and a concert which mainly consisted of songs. In selecting the material for the programme, it was intended not only to shed light on the various periods and stages of Goethe's creative work, but also on the various forms in which this work was reflected by various composers in various epochs. A valuable contribution made by the Society of Chamber Music on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the death of the poet was the special adaptation for a string quartet of Beethoven's music for the tragedy "Egmont".

Exhibitions

The State Public Library in Leningrad organised a great exhibition devoted to Goethe's work. The exhibition contained a large number of Russian and foreign monographs on Goethe, in particular on "Faust".

As regards the Russian material special interest was attached to the various translations of "Faust", of which there were more than thirty including the translations of the greatest poets such as Fet and Brussov, and also those that long since have been forgotten and are hardly known even to specialists. On a special stand under the general title "Goethe in the USSR" there was a collection

of the numerous translations of Goethe and books and articles about him, which appeared after the October Revolution. A special stand contained several valuable autographs of Goethe. Among them an inscription of the poet on the book presented by him to the Decembrist Küchelbecker.

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In the Book Museum at the Lenin Public Library in Moscow there was opened an exhibition of numerous editions of Goethe's works in all the languages of the world. The exhibition occupied a long enfilade of rooms and the walls were hung with portraits of the Russian translators of the German poet. The portraits of Derzhavin, Griboyedov, Lermontov, Fet, Tutchev, Maykov, Alexey Tolstoy, A. Grigoryev and of the representatives of new poetry V. Brussov, Pasternak and many others served to illustrate the influence which "the greatest of Germans" has exercised on Russian literature. The attention which is paid to Goethe in the land of socialist construction is exemplified by the collection of Goethe's work in thirteen volumes which are now being published here and of which two volumes already appeared by the date of the anniversary.

The exhibition was opened by V. N. Nevsky, director of the Library, in the presence of the German Ambassador to the USSR, Mr. von Dirksen, and the president of VOKS, Prof. F. Petrov.

The State Theatrical Library under the auspices of the Little Theatre organised an exhibition dealing with "Goethe and the Theatre". The exhibits illustrated Goethe's activity in the theatrical field. Apart from literary material on that question, the exhibition contained a large number of photographs and reviews referring to the staging of Goethe's works in opera and dramatic theatres, in Germany, France and Russia, from 1892 to 1928. This exhibition also contained a series of illustrations by the artist Wilhelm Kaulbach on "The Heroines of Goethe".

New Editions

In commemoration of the hundredth anniversary, the State Publishing House is publishing a Jubilee Edition of a complete collection of the works of Goethe in thirteen volumes¹.

This new Soviet edition in point of completeness is far ahead of all the former editions of Goethe in the Russian language. Most of the works it contains are given in new translations; many are translated into Russian for the first time. Twenty-seven translators are working on this edition. It will contain over fifty portraits, drawings and fac-simile, of which latter many re-

¹ See article "New Soviet Editions of Goethe" contained in present issue.



Goethe evening organised by VOKS

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In the centre: Mr. v. Dirksen, the German ambassador to the USSR, Mrs. v. Dirksen, Prof. F. Petrov, president of the USSR Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Florinsky, Chef du Protocole of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs



The Honorary Artist of the Republic N. Obukhova sing; the song of Mignon

produce Goethe's autographs heretofore unpublished. The State Publishing House for Literature has published for the jubilee days a special edition, the first part of "Faust" translated by Valery Brussov.

The publishing house "Academia" published a volume of lyric poems of Goethe and an *édition de luxe* of the "Roman Elegies", translated by S. J. Shervinsky.

Press Notices

During the jubilee days all the central Soviet newspapers devoted considerable space to material referring to the anniversary of Goethe's death. Moreover, a number of big periodicals are preparing special numbers devoted to Goethe. Particular interest is to be attached to the special issue of the journal "Literary Heritage", the organ of the Institute of Literature and Language of the Communist Academy, which issue is now being prepared for the press. It will contain a number of articles of prominent scholars and critics — M. Rozanov, A. Lunacharsky, L. Averbach, F. Schiller and others.

A special review in this issue deals with "Russian critique about Goethe". This review will examine all ideas expounded by Russian critics about Goethe from the end of the XVIIIth century down to the present day.

The great work "Goethe and the Russians" has mainly been based on material that has never been published and has almost entirely been forgotten. This work deals with interviews which Goethe had with contemporary Russian authors, scholars, artists, and their correspondence.

Most interesting research work has been embodied in the article "Goethe as reflected in the art inherited by the USSR"; it publishes the original portraits of Goethe which are to be found in the USSR — portraits made by Yagemann, Kiprensky, Maltsev and others.

The issue will contain over a hundred illustrations, among which the most important, along with the genuine Goethe iconography situated in the USSR, are the reproductions of all the autographs we possess in this country. The total number of these autographs is over thirty, of which ten were heretofore unknown.

The hitherto unknown material on Goethe is being published by the almanac "Links" issued by the "Academia".

A special number of this edition devoted to Goethe contains, among other material, an unpublished manuscript of the great Russian revolutionary and critic Chernyshevsky dealing with Goethe.

The "Literary Gazette" has also devoted a special issue to the jubilee. This issue contains a number of long critical articles on the literary heritage of Goethe.



Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries

‘SEE MOSCOW AND LIVE’

Colonel Mansell Moullin, former senior surgeon of the London Hospital, has visited the USSR together with his wife, Mrs. Mansell Moullin, who is the Chairman of the London Society for Cultural Relations with the USSR. Colonel Mansell Moullin and his wife visited a number of Soviet cultural and educational institutions; and below we publish their letters addressed to the president of VOKS.

Before leaving this wonderful city I want to place on record the deep gratitude that Colonel Mansell-Moullin and I feel to all comrades who have made our visit so delightful.

I can only exclaim with the historic queen of Sheba: “the half was not told me”, for it is indeed a city of miracles.

We extended our visit here to twelve days as we felt nine far too short, but each day we feel less able to express our admiration of the great work that is being accomplished for socialist construction.

We see on all sides that the splendid ideal of the elimination of ignorance, of disease, of selfishness and all crime, is actually coming to pass, and the hideous psychology of capitalist countries, of everyone for himself and the devil take the hindmost, has in deed and truth been swept away.

This country has always been renowned for art, culture, literature, music and dancing — now in addition to the economic industrialism which is going on with such feverish haste, all these things are developing in a fuller degree in the new Russia, for they are open to all, and encouraged where any talent is shown — even prisons having studios.

We spent two hours in a prison mixing freely with the criminals, in the only country in the world where they are being treated as human beings, and where crime is looked upon as a disease of the body politic that can be cured.

We were told that for the past five years not one had ever been re-arrested, but all had become good citizens.

The freedom they are allowed and the trust in their word of honour works the miracle with murderers and burglars.

To me it is a fairy tale come true that capital punishment, solitary confinement and flogging have been abolished and that a criminal on his or her release is found a home and work, for which they have been trained, and that their comrades accept them on a status of equality.

The story I treasure most to take home is that on April 30th we wished to visit a prison and phoned to know if it would be convenient — the reply came: “the men are so busy decorating their club for May Day that they have no time to receive visitors”.

As one who was a keen suffragette and founder of the only Welsh suffrage society (as Wales is the land of my fathers) it is a real joy to be in a country where women are on an absolute equality in everything with men. I shall return home far better equipped for the work I have tried to do for so many years in the course of socialism, internationalism and peace, as I have seen a vision of the new world and feel certain that what is fast coming into being here must affect humanity as a whole.

Let those who wish to remain in the past continue to quote the old slogan: “See Naples and die”. I shall always say and feel: “See Moscow and live”.

Edith Ruth Mansell-Moullin.

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Now that our delightful visit is coming to an end, I feel that I must write and thank you for all that you have done to make it such a success and for the immense amount of trouble you have taken. I only wish that I could do so adequately.

I have been answered frankly and openly by everyone whom I have questioned, and I have seen, at my leisure, everything I wished to see, thereby belying the statement unfortunately current at home, that “you will only see what is convenient to show you”. Everywhere we have received the greatest courtesy and kindness and nothing has been concealed from us. I only wish that the editors of those newspapers that spread abroad those lying reports (and opinion in England is guided entirely by its newspapers) could be induced to come over here and see for themselves what is being done.

The things that have struck me most are the absence of unemployment, the well-fed condition of the people, and the determination (not merely the willingness, but the determination) of everyone to work, and to do the work as well as it can be done. Of course there is an enormous amount to be done still. Rome was not built in a day. But the foundations have been laid. The superstructure is advancing by leaps and bounds; and with the deter-

mination to work and the extraordinary directive power behind it, there can be no doubt as to the result.

But what I am chiefly writing for is to thank VOKS on behalf of Mrs. Mansell-Moullin and myself for the way in which it has planned and carried out our tour with such success. We shall always look back upon our visit here with feelings of the deepest gratitude.

C. Mansell-Moullin.

BRITISH EDUCATIONALISTS IN THE USSR

A group of English educationalists recently visited the Soviet Union. It consisted of 22 university lecturers and secondary school teachers.

The trip was organised by the London Society for Cultural Relations with the USSR and was the first of its kind.

An evening was arranged in the VOKS headquarters to introduce the English educationalists to the Soviet educationalists.

The speech of welcome was delivered by Professor F. Petrov, president of the VOKS, who laid special stress on the importance of that trip since it is calculated to strengthen the cultural relations between the USSR and England.

A well known Soviet educationalist Professor A. Pinkevich made a speech in which he described his impressions of his latest trip abroad, and the enormous interest which is shown by the public abroad in the achievements of the USSR in the domain of cultural construction.

In her reply speech the president of the group Miss Wooton frankly related of the preconceived notions of the English educationalists before they came to the USSR. That which they observed in the Union forced them to change their views altogether. She said: "We have got rid of our ignorance in regard to Soviet culture owing to the enormous achievements which we have witnessed in the USSR." The visitors said that they were particularly struck by the enthusiasm of the builders of new culture in the Soviet Union and by the courtesy with which all their questions were answered, although some of these questions, they admitted, appeared rather naive to Soviet citizens.

Miss Wooton wound up her speech by an assurance that on their return to England the members of the group will give truthful and exhaustive information on the actual state of things in the Soviet Union.

A LETTER OF VICTOR MARGUERITTE TO VOKS

Wishing to be kept regularly informed of the scope of the cultural and industrial movement in the USSR we have sent you — my wife and myself — a sum to cover our subscription for the "Soviet Culture Review" and for the "VOKS".

Like all those who are eager for progress and who are stifled by the decomposition of the old world, it is with a feeling of growing affection that we turn towards the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

We are wholeheartedly in sympathy with the robust youth of the Soviets. We are watching it fight its heroic battle for the collective emancipation, which is indis-

solubly bound up with individual emancipation.

This irresistible enthusiasm, which carries it towards the grandest future, this immense hope of a people where all, men and women, are absolutely equal, this light that emanates from the zeal displayed in their work and the selflessness of their sacrifices, how could we fail to see along with the birth of a new world, the upsurge, the urge of humanity towards its emancipation.

I welcome the first rays of the sun of future, the new order of justice and solidarity which has already taken shape.

Victor Margueritte.

Soviet Encyclopedias

THE BIG SOVIET ENCYCLOPEDIA

By Prof. O. Schmidt
Editor-in-chief of the Big Soviet Encyclopedia

The publication of encyclopedias has repeatedly marked the most important turning points in the history of mankind. The French bourgeoisie, which in the XVIIIth century was preparing itself for an uprising and a struggle for power,



issued its most complete manifesto in the form of the famous "Encyclopedia" of Diderot, d'Alembert and others. Diderot's "Encyclopedia" not only covered the science and arts of his period. It was to a far greater extent a militant organ proclaiming and substantiating a new world conception.

The enormous cultural rise unparalleled in history which came as a consequence of the socialist revolution in Russia, produced a passionate thirst for knowledge on the part of millions of people, who have

risen from slavery and who are now building up their own, new system of State. It is common knowledge that the cultural progress of the USSR has assumed unheard-of proportions. From a complete elimination of illiteracy — the fetters that remained on the feet of a free people as a heritage of tsarism — to a tenfold increase in the number of university students.

The victorious proletariat, the toilers in towns and villages claimed knowledge. The mastering of science and technique became one of the most essential conditions for the success of socialist construction.

However, this knowledge cannot be simply and without any criticism borrowed from the sources connected with the old culture.

This is combined in the USSR with the grasping of the Marxian-Leninist theory, the highest scientific theory, embracing all the laws of nature and of human society.

One of the many features of the cultural revolution in the USSR has been the stormy growth of numerous encyclopedias. Foreigners justly regard this feature as one of the most characteristic phenomena in the cultural life of the USSR. The encyclopedias proved to be the most convenient form of solving the task set to us: to master the experience of Europe and of America and to refashion it so as to give it a uniform direction of a scientific synthesis.

The preparation of the Big Soviet Encyclopedia began in 1924 and its publication — in 1926. The success attending this publication and the manifold interests of the readers led soon afterwards to a differentiation of publications: at the present time there are already appearing several encyclopedias, both of a general and special character. In order to give an idea of their importance it is sufficient to quote a few figures: in what country would it be possible to publish a serious Technical Encyclopedia consisting of 30 volumes with a circulation of 30—40 thousand copies? The Small Soviet Encyclopedia

consisting of ten volumes was published in 120,000 copies which are all sold out. A second edition is now being prepared consisting of several hundred thousand copies.

The Big Soviet Encyclopedia was the parent of all the other encyclopedias (apart from those mentioned above, there are appearing a Medical Encyclopedia in 25 volumes, a Literary Encyclopedia and an Agricultural one). It embraces all sciences and tries not only to give a reference, but also an authoritative article, combining theoretical conclusions with the methodology of their application.

When the publication was first started there were not a few sceptics, who prophesied failure. Indeed, the tsarist period left us few scientists and scholars, and in 1924 the economics of the country were as yet going through a period of restoration.

However, the results justified the optimists. An editorial staff was set up, which comprised several scholars of high standing, such as the historian M. N. Pokrovsky, the physicist A. F. Yoffe and many others. One of the initiators of the Encyclopedia, professor O. Schmidt, was appointed Editor-in-chief. His substitute is professor F. N. Petrov, president of the All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

The editors invited over 1,000 authors to participate in the work. Moreover there appeared also articles by foreign authors. Careful editing and the outward appearance of the publication were unanimously praised by numerous foreign reviewers. Foreigners value the Big Soviet Encyclopedia especially for its detailed and re-

liable information about the USSR, its economics, politics, culture.

The Encyclopedia must supply a solid information thoroughly based on theory. This causes its rather considerable dimensions, although minor, obsolete details have been carefully banned. Without binding itself at the outset to any definite number of volumes, the editors determined the required dimensions by practical experience. It turned out to be 65 volumes. This figure was clinched by the publication of the last 65th volume, which was issued before the time appointed for it.

For purposes of speeding up, the Encyclopedia will be published "from both ends" simultaneously. It is proposed to publish the whole of it by 1937, by the end of the second Five-Year Plan.

The 23 volumes which have already been published (1—21, 23, 65) have already become a most important factor in the culture of the USSR. They have been issued in 60,000 copies and over 120,000 subscribers have been enlisted including those abroad.

The second edition of the first volumes has already become necessary. This we are now starting. Thousands of letters from our subscribers approve of the Encyclopedia and offer suggestions for its further improvement. Every new volume shows signs of such improvement. The number of new young authors taking part in this venture is ever on the increase, the theories are being worked out ever more thoroughly and consistently. The features of the first Soviet Encyclopedia that has ever been published in the world are coming out with ever greater clearness and definitiveness.

THE SMALL SOVIET ENCYCLOPEDIA

By N. Meshcheryakov,
Editor-in-chief of the Small Soviet Encyclopedia

The demand in the USSR for special encyclopedias is a remarkable phenomenon, even if we take into consideration the conditions in the Soviet Union, where an enormous interest is taken in books in general — thus, publications with a circulation of 10,000 copies are being completely sold out in the course of 2 or 3 weeks.

Suffice it to mention that even before the first volume of an encyclopedia is

published, the number of subscribers reaches some scores of thousands. And this in spite of there being no advertising campaign.

In particular, the number of subscribers to the Small Soviet Encyclopedia during the two and a half years of its publication reached 201,200.

What is the cause of this exceptional success?

The toilers of the USSR, the active builders of new life, are in need of knowledge in all its branches. It is with great eagerness they read the various encyclopedias.

The editors of the Small Soviet Encyclopedia have received some 5,000 letters from subscribers. Very many of them, almost the majority, are writing that they read absolutely everything contained in the Encyclopedia.



The Small Soviet Encyclopedia represents an altogether new type of encyclopedia, unlike the former ones. Our Encyclopedia is adapted to the requirements and the intelligence of workers and those toilers who are proletarians or peasants by descent (a great number of office employees, proletarian students, etc.), whereas the subscribers to the old encyclopedias were either the bourgeois or the highly paid strata of the intelligentsia.

Here are the main features which distinguish the Small Soviet Encyclopedia from the old encyclopedias.

1. In the first place it is an encyclopedia which tries to shed light on all subjects, which are dealt with, from the point of view of Marxism-Leninism, from the point of view of the revolutionary proletariat. It declares a ruthless war on the old ideology.

2. The Encyclopedia turns its principal attention to contemporary questions. It strives to dwell mainly on those events which have a bearing on the current life of the Soviet Union and of the entire

world. A great deal of the material which filled the old encyclopedias and had no bearing on contemporary life is being eliminated. Thus, f. i., the Encyclopedia does not contain articles on the old kings, generals, aristocratic families, on old authors and artists of little importance, etc. Instead of this, articles are inserted on the most prominent public men of the past, on great scholars, revolutionaries, present-day politicians, present-day institutions and organisations, etc. The Small Soviet Encyclopedia strives to become a weapon of socialist construction in general, and of the realisation of the Five-Year Plan in particular. Such are the principal aims of the editors of the Small Soviet Encyclopedia. It is impossible to create an encyclopedia which would be serviceable for all times. Therefore our editors wish to make it an encyclopedia which in the most appropriate manner would help to understand the problems of contemporary life.

3. The articles cleverly combine the elements of a reference book with descriptions of various subjects from the angle of Marxism-Leninism.

4. Popular exposition, but not at the expense of scientific accuracy. This is by no means an easy task, but if we are to judge by the opinions of the readers, it has fully been achieved. Now in the USSR the Small Soviet Encyclopedia is used both by highly trained workers, such as professors, writers etc., and also by mass readers, the latter forming about half of the total number of subscribers.

5. The enlisting of new contributors. The Small Soviet Encyclopedia tries to enlist young authors; the editorial staff is also mainly drawn from among the youth.

6. A close connection between the work of the Small Soviet Encyclopedia and the work of various scientific research institutes. Questions which are of special importance in point of principles are previously worked out by the collectives of scientific workers of the corresponding institutes.

7. A close contact with the worker readers. The editors of the Small Soviet Encyclopedia tried to establish this connection from the very beginning of this publication. When about two hundred specimen articles were written on most diverse subjects (natural science, politics, technics, law, literature, medicine, etc.), the editors printed these articles in the form of a special pamphlet. Thereupon with the assistance of the trade-union organisation

of Moscow 300 workers of all kinds of trades were brought together. There were men and women, young and old, communists and non-party members. A short report on the Encyclopedia was delivered to them and then this pamphlet was distributed to all of them with the request to read it through carefully and let us know their opinion about it. The workers treated this task with all seriousness, and in a fortnight's time brought to a new meeting whole copy-books filled with reviews. Some of them after having read through the pamphlet gave it to their wives and children and put down their opinions as well. Some of them made speeches at the meeting expressing their views on the pamphlet, and these speeches were recorded by stenographers. The editorial staff was present at the meeting and listened attentively to this critique. The material thus obtained proved to be exceedingly valuable. It was carefully studied by the editorial staff.

Moreover, the editors of the Small Soviet Encyclopedia, after the first few volumes were published, organised meetings of subscribers. These were attended by workers, teachers, librarians, students, Red Army men; occasionally also by professors and writers. At these meetings were discussed the latest volumes of the Small Soviet Encyclopedia. The debates were also stenographed and then carefully considered by the editors in their current work.

Finally, the editors sent out a questionnaire to all the subscribers and some 5,000 persons filled it.

At the present time the first edition of the Small Soviet Encyclopedia has been completed. It contains ten volumes totalling 4,976 pages. These ten books contain 29,332 articles, totalling 24,144,800 letters. Thus the average size of an article is 823 letters.

The principal sections of the Encyclopedia are: 1) Natural and exact sciences, 2) Economics, 3) Geography, 4) Literature

and art of the nations of the USSR, 5) Literature and art of Western and Eastern countries, 6) General history (previous to the founding of the First International), 7) The history of the nations of the USSR during the same period, 8) Modern history and present-day politics of the USSR, 9) Modern history and the present-day politics in the West and East, 10) Law, 11) Education, 12) Ethnography, 13) Military art, 14) Medicine, 15) Technics, etc.

In each section there are one or two learned collaborators who do the entire work under the guidance of a well known specialist. After terminating their work and having obtained the approval of the editor of their respective section, they turn it over to a special department, which collects all the articles (3,000—4,000 in a volume); hence the article proceeds to the "Control Department", which checks figures and facts. The article thus amended goes then up to the Editor-in-chief, who introduces in it necessary amendments and gives his sanction to its publication. Everyone who worked on the article puts his signature to it and is responsible for his part of the work.

The first volume of the Small Soviet Encyclopedia appeared in the autumn of 1928. At the present time it has been decided to start a second edition. The size of the publication will be increased approximately by 25%. The editors are particularly anxious to strengthen their permanent contact with the readers by setting up at the editorial offices a special organ, charged with this task. It is proposed periodically to send the contributors of the Encyclopedia all over the country in order to organise meetings of subscribers so as to find out the opinion entertained by the readers about the Encyclopedia, and subsequently to take into account their advice and wishes.

The editors hope that the second edition will have 400—500 thousand subscribers.



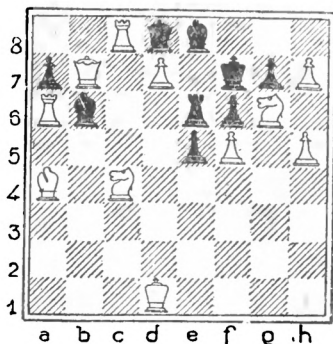
Chess

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

PROBLEM No. 5

Bogoslowsky

(First prize at the competition of problemists, of the Central Black-Earth Region)



Mat in two moves.

White: Kd1; Qb7; Rab, c8; Ba4; Sc4, g6; p. d7, f5, h5, h7 (11).

Black: Kf7; Qd8; Re6; Bb6, e8; p. a7, e5, f6, g7 (9).

NEW BOOKS ON CHESS COMPOSITION

Recently two new books on chess have been published in the Soviet Union, one "How to Make up Chess Problems" by L. Issaev and the other by A. Gulayev "How to Solve Chess Problems". Both writers are well known problem-makers and so their work has attracted great interest among chess players.

The complete absence of any literature on the subject greatly added to the difficulty of the task. Nevertheless the authors tackled this problem quite satisfactorily. L. Issaev's book while being popularly written is nevertheless free from over simplification. Both his terminology and his formulations are very clear. The author not only acquaints the reader with the methods and technique of chess composition, but also gives the most varied practical directions for making up new problems. He raises a number of questions of principle, chiefly concerning the relation between chess problems and actual games.

Gulayev's book "How to Solve Chess Problems" is no less interesting. As has been said, this subject presented very great difficulties and it has not hitherto been satisfactorily treated in books. There is, of course, no universal method of quickly solving any problem, nor can there be any such method. However, in every problem one can show what are the most promising points of attack. The book is chiefly concerned with a classification and description of such points of attack and the different procedures to be followed in working out the problem. The author in estimating the value of the problem which has been solved first considers its artistic and intellectual merits. Gulayev, like the above-mentioned author, makes a number of contentions very characteristic of Soviet problemists. "For a long time the idea was current", he writes, "that the purpose of chess problems was to give you something to rack your brains over, so that they were generally more like a rebus or puzzle than anything else. However, now the first requisite of a chess problem is not that it should be difficult." The author tries rather to include in his problem any combinations and ideas which occur to him as interesting.

Difficulty in a problem is not made an end in itself but is regarded merely as the outward form or elaboration of the scheme of combinations. If the combinations are not in themselves interesting and out of the ordinary they cannot be said to make up a problem. They are then nothing more than a possible situation in an actual game.

The book tries to help the chess player to take as little time as possible in solving the problems and at the same time to understand its combinations, and the idea underlying them, as this is more important than the actual solution. A problem without any idea is not a problem, and a person who has found the answer to a problem without understanding the idea has not really solved it.

Gulayev tries throughout his book to train the chess player in the most interesting manner to study the problem and not merely to solve it.

Both books are undoubtedly valuable additions to the literature on chess not only in the Soviet Union but also abroad.