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On the Borderline of the Two Five-Year Plans

1932-1933. The completion of the first and the beginning of the second Five-Year Plan.

The idea of the Five-Year Plan - i. e. the socialist development of the USSR planned according to five-year periods -- has now become a solid fact. The numerous theories, from the most "learned" to the most vulgar, which attempted to represent the plan as some fantastic invention, in their turn become utopian and visionary. The "engineering romance" turned out in fact to be a grandiose epos of the birth of a new humanity on one sixth of the globe.

The first landmark in planned socialist construction, a landmark of historic significance, was Lenin's plan of electrification, the so-called "GOELRO" (the State electrification of Russia) plan. Lenin advanced this plan as one which would definitely transform backward tsarist Russia into a country of big socialist industry and mechanised agriculture. In a prophetic manner he determined the subsequent industrial development of Soviet Republics. The following is the draft of Lenin's plan which he outlined in his letter to G. Krzhizhanovsky: "Approximately: in 10 (5) years we shall build 20 to 30 (30 to 50) stations, so as to stud the whole country with power stations each with a power radius of 400 versts; they will be run on peat, water, slate, coal, oil. Let us immediately start purchasing the necessary machines and models. In 10 (20) years we shall make Russia an 'electrical' country."

At the present time the Soviet Union, the country of Dnieproges, Volkhov, Shterovka and other hydroelectric stations can put a new meaning into Lenin's words, said in 1921 in reply to those who were scoffing at the 12,000 odd kilowatts of the Soviet electric stations of those days: "He laughs best who laughs last."

From the GOELRO plan, through the first "control figures" of construction, through the first Five-Year Plan the USSR has arrived at the second Five-Year period, the period of building-up a classless society in the USSR.

Even the first year of the Five-Year Plan was described by J. Stalin as "a year of great changes". This was a year when the basic problems of building socialism in the USSR were solved. There took place "a resolute change as regards the productivity of labour", "the development of the creative initiative and powerful labour revival on the part of millions of workers". In the villages "we were successful in diverting the bulk of the peasants from the old capitalist path of development to a new socialist one" (J. Stalin, "The Year of Great Changes").

In the subsequent years (1930-1931) the problem "who will defeat whom" ¹ was finally settled in favour of socialism.

In this sense 1931 was the decisive year of the first Five-Year period just as 1932 marks the completion of the Five-Year Plan, when as a result of the industrialisation and the socialist reconstruction of agriculture "the industries were firmly established and thereby our own base for completing the reconstruction of the whole national economy has been created, a base of big socialist mechanised industry" (from the resolution of the XVIIth Conference of the All-Union Communist Party).

The fundamental aim of the first Five-Year Plan, its most important task has been realised. The agrarian country is being transformed into an industrial-agrarian one, and is developing the most important branches of heavy industry -- electricity, metallurgy, machine building.

The Five-Year Plan of machine building provided for 1932/33 an output of production estimated at 4,351,000,000 rubles. Already in 1931 this plan was exceeded and the output of the machine building industries amounted to 4,700,000,000 rubles as against 350,000,000 rubles in 1912.

¹ V. Lenin in his speech at the second Congress of the political-education committees definitely set the question "who will 'e eat whom'" in the struggle between socialist principles and the old capitalist order in the Soviet Republic.

The oil industry fulfilled its Five-Year Plan in two and a half years. Its output at the present time reaches 26.5 million tons, making the USSR the second largest producer of oil in the world.

The GOELRO plan estimated the building of power stations with a general capacity of 1,755,000 kilowatts within 10 years. Yet in 1932 alone we are setting into operation new stations having a total capacity almost equal to the entire GOELRO plan.

Some branches of industry have exceeded the figures laid down by the Five-Year Plan, as for instance coal, peat, chemical products, etc.

The following table shows how far the USSR is ahead in comparison with the industries of Tsarist Russia:

| | 1931 in % of 1913 | 1932 in % of 1913 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Power stations | 590.6 | 777.1 |
| Coal industry | 196.7 | 296.7 |
| Oil industry | 298.4 | 375.9 |
| Machine building | 679.7 | 1,141.2 |
| Electrical engineering | 870.9 | 1,903.6 |
| Textile industry | 146.8 | 176.1 |
| Food industry | 205.9 | 282.2 |

During the period of the first Five-Year Plan the USSR was constantly enriched by new material values, by new branches of industry, by new production. The following branches were developed in the course of the first Five-Year Plan on the basis of the reorganisation of the old factories and the construction of new ones: the production of mining and metallurgical equip-

ment, manufacture of lathes, automobile and tractor production, small tool production, electrical engineering industry, chemical machine building, textile machine building, production of equipment for the oil industry, etc.

As regards the construction of lathes, there were no factories exclusively engaged in producing lathes both in the pre-revolutionary period and during the period of reconstruction. At the beginning of the first Five-Year Plan there were only three plants engaged in this work. In 1932 the output of lathes in those factories which form part of the "Stankoobiedinenie" (Lathes Association) exceeds the output of 1927-28 by almost 10 times.

The produce of the electrical engineering industry in 1932 exceeds by more than 5 times that of 1927-28.

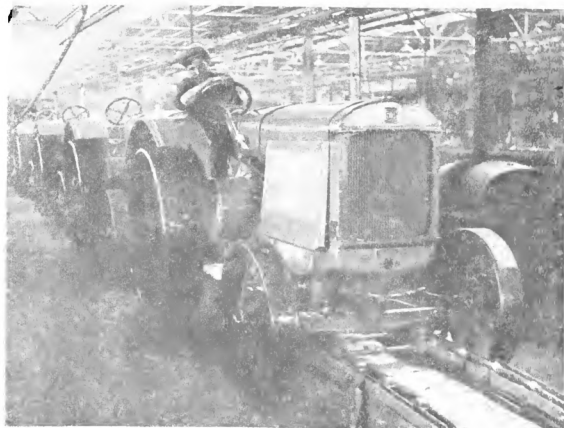
The automobile and tractor industry was practically non-existent prior to the first Five-Year Plan. The entire automobile industry consisted of the «AMO» Works in Moscow and the automobile repair workshops in Yaroslavl. In the first Five-Year Plan the «AMO» works was entirely reconstructed and is now capable of turning out 70,000 machines annually. A new automobile works was built in Gorky (Nizhny-Novgorod) which turns out 110,000 automobiles a year.

Tractor works, which formerly did not exist here at all, produced in 1927-28 1,332 tractors (the Putilov and the Kharkov locomotive plants). In the first Five-Year Plan an enormous tractor department at the Putilov works and two giant tractor

works in Stalingrad and Kharkov were constructed. These last named have an annual production capacity of 50,000 tractors each.

The giant works in Soviet industries have become world famous. However, people do not always clearly realise what amount of material values, what store of human and technical energy, what immense changes in economies and in the consciousness of the workers as well as in their everyday life are implied in the words: Magnitostroy, Kuznetskstroy, Dnieproges, Karaganda.

Each of these industrial giants possesses its heroic biography, the main stages of



At the Stalingrad Tractor Plant. New tractors on the conveyor of the assembling department



Magnitostroy. The construction of the open-hearth furnaces

which are: the appearance in distant steppes and deserts of tens, hundreds and thousands of men who only yesterday were colonial slaves of labourers - Kazaks, Tatars, Ukrainians, Russians.

In the course of this great reconstruction process shepherds, labourers, earth-diggers are transformed into skilled workers, technicians, engineers. Their work in conditions of collective labour refashions their ideology, and enables them to study and to raise their cultural level. Instead of a slaughter between various nations, which typified the former contact between them in the days of tsarist Russia, fraternal relations are now established at the socialist construction, which unite all the nations of the Soviet Union.

It is only if we grasp the meaning of these day-to-day events that we will understand Stalin's words about labour, which in the USSR has become "a matter of honour, of glory, of valour and of heroism".

The most difficult task of the first Five-Year Plan, which however is successfully carried out, is that of the socialist reconstruction of agriculture in a backward agrarian country, in a country where the landlords exploited the peasants to the utmost and where the peasant masses were down-trodden and culturally backward. The relations between the big socialist industry and agriculture, between town

and country, between the working class and the working peasants, such are the problems which the Five-Year Plan has solved in the course of collectivisation and liquidation of the capitalist elements during the period of transition from a small peasant economy to big mechanised socialist agriculture.

All-round collectivisation has changed not only the social form of agricultural production in the USSR but also its technical basis. In 1928 only 45,600 homesteads, or .18% of their total number, used mechanically-propelled machines. In 1932 over 6 million collectivised farmers, or about 25% of the total peasant population, have adopted large-scale agricultural production through the medium of machine and tractor stations.

The number of tractors used in agriculture increased during the Five-Year Plan from 24,000 to 167,000 and today has an energy of 2 million H.P. Of great significance is the fact that during the present year all the tractors used in agriculture as well as the new agricultural machines are made in the USSR.

The socialist reform of agriculture created a new type of industrial worker in agriculture. In place of the 1,675,000 agricultural workers and employees in 1928, there were 2,060,000 in 1931.

The Five-Year Plan has very rapidly increased the sown area in the Soviet



Ismail Khadmirzayev, a shock-worker of the Stalin machine and tractor station in the Uzbekistan

Union — from 1928 to 1932 it increased by 23.5 million hectares.

The mastering of technique means such tempo in agriculture which, together with economic changes, must decide the most important social task of the Revolution, — the task of abolishing the disparity between town and country.

The socialist system, which is being developed in the USSR, is characterised by the fact that every economic and technical improvement leads in the final analysis to the improvement in the conditions of the workers. It could not be otherwise in a country where power is wielded by the workers themselves.

The conditions of work have greatly improved during the first Five-Year Plan. Unemployment had been completely stamped out as early as 1930, during the second year of the Plan. Real wages are now 86% above that of pre-war time. However this in itself does not describe sufficiently the conditions of the working class in the Soviet Union. The elimination of unemployment implies the absorption in industry of not only one or two but of all the working members of the family. This leads to a considerable increase in the total earnings of a working class family. Moreover, in

evaluating the conditions of the Soviet worker it is also necessary to take into consideration the fact that by January 1, 1932, 83% of the workers in Soviet industry enjoyed a seven-hour working day. Their cultural needs are catered for and they receive various benefits from the "funds for the improvement of the conditions of the workers", especially assigned for this purpose by each enterprise (not to mention social insurance). At the beginning of the Five-Year Plan it was estimated that the social insurance fund should reach 1,950,000,000 rubles by 1933. Yet it had already reached 2.5 milliard rubles by 1931.

We shall not dwell here on questions of cultural development during the first Five-Year Plan¹. We shall only mention the following facts. 1931 was a decisive year for the realisation of the Five-Year Plan in industry and agriculture. In that year was likewise effected a decisive change in the attitude of the majority of our scientists and of the whole network of scientific research institutions toward the needs of socialist construction. During the whole period of the Five-Year Plan the number of scientists increased from 20,000 to 47,000, the number of aspirants from 7,000 to 24,000.

These figures show the enormous work done in moulding the new socialist worker. We must lay special stress on the raising of the cultural level in the national republics and regions.

The successes in carrying through the first Five-Year Plan created the possibility of a further considerable growth of socialism in the USSR.

Without going into the details of the second Five-Year Plan, which will be examined in special articles, we may indicate here only the main historical tasks of this Plan.

"The main political task of the second Five-Year Plan is the final liquidation of capitalist elements and classes in general, the final elimination of the causes giving rise to class differences and exploitation, and the overcoming of the survivals of capitalism in the economic sphere and in the consciousness of the people, the transformation of the whole working population of the country into active and conscious of their tasks builders of a classless social-

¹ They are dealt with in a series of articles published in the preceding issue of our review.

ist society" (theses for the drafting of the second Five-Year Plan).

This fully defines the content not only of the economic development but also of the great cultural transformation during the second Five-Year Plan.

*

The period of the first Five-Year Plan, accompanied as it was by far-reaching social changes, could not but be a period of acute class struggle, — a struggle with the remnants of capitalism in town and country. Sabotage in industry, kulak plots against collective farms, the attempts of the doomed classes to preserve and revive the old social relations in economics, in everyday life and in ideology, demanded firmness and consistency in the fight for a new society. In this struggle during the period of the Five-Year Plan the workers improved immensely organisationally, rallying round the Communist Party, the vanguard of the revolutionary working class.

The achievements of the Five-Year Plan, attained thanks the enormous enthusiasm of all the toilers of the USSR, from the workers and collective farmers to the scientists and technicians, and, on the other hand, the rout of the capitalist forces and their allies within the Soviet Union played

a decisive part in the passing over of the bulk of the intellectuals to the side of the revolutionary proletariat.

The active participation of the most prominent scholars, scientists and of the majority of the engineers, technicians, teachers, etc. in the construction of economics and culture, the reform of the All-Union Academy of Sciences, which has closely bound up its work with the plan of socialist construction, the creation of a mass organisation of Soviet intellectuals ("VARNITSO"), headed by the most prominent representatives of science and technique, the reconstruction of literary and art organisations which brought about the creation of a united Union of Soviet Authors, a single front of art embracing old and young proletarian artists, born of the Revolution — all these events are the result of the passing over of the best forces of the intelligentsia into the camp of the socialist Revolution.

The development of these events beyond the boundaries of the Soviet Union are likewise of the greatest importance. Suffice it to mention the Amsterdam Anti-War Congress, which has rallied the best section of the intelligentsia and of the working class of the West to the cause of the defence of the Soviet Union against the menace of war.



Stalingrad Tractor Plant. Workers' club

It is obvious that all this does not yet remove the danger of war, which is being planned against the land of the Soviets. "The first home of socialism" is surrounded by "an ocean of imperialist countries" (J. Stalin). The USSR is a country which is "hampering the organisation of a new war" (J. Stalin), i. e. a country preventing the capitalists from finding a way out of the crisis, such as in their opinion is most advantageous for them.

Lenin used to write about "the great mystery" which surrounds the birth of imperialist war. He demanded that this mysterious mechanism of war be ruthlessly exposed before the masses of the people. At the present time the exposure of the preparations for war, the welding of all forces for the struggle against the war menace, is the first duty of all the friends of the Soviet Union.

Henri Barbusse wrote recently: "When I arrived in the USSR I felt that it was worth living and that there is something worth fighting for."

Yes, there is something worth fighting for on the part of 160 million people, who at the price of great sacrifices and by means of great heroism have come to the threshold of a classless socialist society, to the realisation of the second Five-Year Plan. There is something worth fighting for as regards all the workers of the world, all the representatives of the intelligentsia, who become more and more convinced that capitalism, which is undergoing a crisis and suffering failures in every walk of life, is unable to find a way out of the impasse, for history has laid down that this new path can only be the one elected by the USSR, the first proletarian State in the world.

DEATH OF D. I. KURSKY

Dmitri Ivanovich Kursky, former People's Commissary of Justice of the RSFSR and Soviet Ambassador to Italy, died in the Kremlin hospital of Moscow of blood poisoning at 9 p. m. December 20, 1932.

D. Kursky was one of the oldest revolutionists of Russia. Already in the nineties, as a student of the Law school of the Moscow University, he joined the labour movement. He took part in the armed uprising in Moscow in 1905, and was chairman of the Soviet of Soldiers' Deputies in February 1917 and member of the Odessa Revolutionary Committee during the October days.

After the Revolution D. Kursky devoted himself to the field of Soviet jurisprudence. He was the one to organise the first People's Courts in Moscow. While directing the practical work of the organs of Justice, he devoted much attention to the theoretical problems of law and of the State. He was the director of the Institute of Soviet Law, editor of a number of journals and periodicals, and author of important scientific works. From 1918 to 1928 he held the post of People's Commissary of Justice of the RSFSR. In the latter year he was appointed Ambassador of the USSR to Italy, on which post he remained until October 1932.

"A Marxian education and devotion to the cause of labour enabled D. I. Kursky to carry out with honour the duties of organising the organs of Justice and develop the Soviet legislation where his role in socialist construction was especially significant and where he was the closest and truest assistant of Lenin. The memory of D. Kursky will live for many years among the working class and the great toiling masses" — so ends the letter signed by Stalin, Molotov, Kalinin, Kuibyshev, Voroshilov, Kaganovich, Ordjonikidze, Rudzutak, Andreev and Mikoyan, and published in the Moscow "Izvestia".

The 15th Anniversary of the October Revolution

NOVEMBER 7, 1932, IN THE USSR

MOSCOW

The Red Square, the heart of the old capital, was for ten hours the central point of the festival. Here the troops paraded in fine order, here from all parts of the city the columns of demonstrators were converging — an endless procession studded with red posters and flags. One and a half million this day marched the streets of the capital, one and a half million past through the flag decorated square, past the building of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR, on the wall of which hung gigantic portraits of Lenin and Stalin. The central streets, through which the procession passed, were transformed into colourful exhibitions. Photographs, diagrams, posters in the shop windows, tableaux and entire constructions on squares, street crossings, boulevards. In the windows of the shops in Gorky Street works of Soviet painters were exhibited. A huge steamer built so as to cover the whole length of the former Hunters' Row symbolises the construction of the Volga—Moscow River Canal.

The procession was headed by the heroes of socialist construction, the best mills: "Electric Plant", "Three Mountains Factory", "Dynamo". On the left wing of the Mausoleum, there appeared Stalin, Kalinin, Molotov, Yenukidze, Ordjonikidze, Postyshev, Andreyev.

A voice from the tribune rings out: "Greetings to the fighters for the Five-Year Plan!" A great "hurrah" is the reply. Over a sea of human heads there are clouds of flags, posters, red streamers bearing revolutionary slogans, portraits of the best shock brigaders, caricatures, carnival masks, trophies of industrial victories: models and diagrams. 15 big rubber balloons held by strings soar over the column of the "Kauchuk" (Rubber) works. The first one, bearing the inscription "1917", approaches the Mausoleum. There it is released and rises high up in the air. It is followed by a second, marked "1918", and so on, until the last one with the inscription 1932 is released.

In the evening the city was flooded with electric light. Gigantic electric slogans and silhouettes of revolutionary leaders glittered high in the air. Blue rays of search lights glided through the sky. Rockets, shot from aeroplanes, flew high into the heavens.

A fleet of boats spread fountains of fireworks on the Moscow River. The streets and squares were crowded. Until the morning hours the capital was full of life.

LENINGRAD

Exactly at 10 a. m. a fifteen-volley salute announcing the beginning of the military parade was fired from the towers of the Peter-and-Paul fortress. An orderly line of troops stretched over the Uritsky square. At 1 p. m. the troops were replaced by columns of civilian demonstrators. The huge square was swamped under the endless flow of people. All eight districts of the city of Lenin pass simultaneously past the tribune, where greeting them are members of the government, delegates from all corners of the Union and from abroad.

At the head of the column from the Vyborg district the figure of Lenin towers on an armoured car, — a counterpart of the monument erected at the Finland Station. Factories and works report on their achievements by means of figures, diagrams, models.

The festive columns do not contain a single enterprise which by the XVth anniversary of the October Revolution did not enrich the country by new achievements, by new machines. The workers of the "Electric" plant carry a model of the first Soviet electric smelting blooming which they have just manufactured. A blast engine, the first to be manufactured in the USSR, has been produced at the Lenin Works. The Leningrad wharves have completed by the XVth anniversary new ocean liners. The endless lines of the October procession relate of all these achievements.



November 7, 1932, in Moscow. On the Red Square

The straight avenues and wide squares of Leningrad were decorated by thousands of flags, posters, portraits of leaders and heroes of the Revolution. Streets which 15 years ago witnessed the march of the first shock detachments of the October uprising are now the scene of a picturesque and victorious march of the Revolution from the storming of the Winter Palace to the setting into operation of the Dnieper power station.

KHARKOV

November 7th was a sunny day in the Ukrainian capital. There is an abundance of slogans, flags and posters. Demonstrations are moving along the Dzerzhinsky Square, which was built this year. The detachments of the Red Army are followed by tens of thousands of working men and women, students, scholars, professors, engineers. From the tribune of the government, Petrovsky, President of the Central Executive Committee of Ukraine, Kossior, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine, and others greet the workers and collective farmers of Soviet Ukraine -- the bulwark of creative socialist labour.

MAGNITOGORSK

The XVth anniversary of the October Revolution is only the third anniversary which has been celebrated at the Red Square of Magnitogorsk. By the XVth anniversary of the October Revolution two coking furnaces were set into operation at the three years old Magni-

tostroy and have already exceeded their estimated capacity. Rolling mills and blast furnaces are in construction. The chemical works has been completed. The workers of Magnitostroy reported these victories to J. Stalin, the leader of the proletariat of the Soviet Union.

The procession was headed by the workers of the blast furnaces, who, during the days preceding the celebration, attained a record figure in the smelting of cast iron, and by the workers of the coking ovens, who also reached record figures in their production.

KICHUKAS

Over 1,000 of the best shock brigades from the biggest industrial centres of the USSR as well as numerous delegations of foreign workers came here to celebrate the XVth anniversary, together with Dnieprostroy workers. A festive plenum of the town Soviet was held, attended by Party, trade union and social organisations, and by shock workers. The plenum pledged itself to carry out the directives of the government and of the Party and to set into operation one after the other all the sections of the Dnieper Combinat within the shortest possible period.

500 delegates of the Mendeleyev Congress, who visited the Dnieper power station, sent a letter to the builders of the Combinat, in which they promised to apply all their efforts for the successful completion of the construction of socialism.

TASHKENT

Here, after a military parade, there took place a demonstration of the Tashkent proletariat in which 200,000 workers took part.

A contingent representing the Selماش plant carried an agricultural machine whose work was demonstrated on the spot. The demonstration was attended by an enormous number of native collective farmers. They marched under the music of their national Uzbek instruments.

The demonstration was attended by the Kirghizes, Turkomen, Afghans, Persians and by guests -- the representatives of the West-European proletariat.

ONWARD TO NEW VICTORIES!

(From the speech delivered by M. Kalinin, President of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR, at a solemn sitting of the Moscow Soviet in honour of the October anniversary)

Fifteen years ago Lenin stated in the Petrograd Soviet: "Henceforward a new period begins in the history of Russia, the third Revolution in the final analysis is bound to lead to the victory of socialism."

The enormous majority of people all over the world regarded this idea at the time as a phantasy, as a groundless prophecy. Only the revolutionary Marxists could discern in it a profound analysis of the relations of class forces. They understood the historic duty of the revolutionary party before the world proletariat to fulfil its task. And the party led by Lenin began its war with the old world for socialism.

On the fourth anniversary, Lenin wrote as follows: "We are about to graduate from the kindergarten as regards the new science. Well and consistently learning, checking by practical experience everyone of our steps, without being afraid to refashion that which was started, repeatedly correcting our mistakes, carefully examining their significance, we shall pass on to higher forms."

Since these words were uttered we have been studying for eleven years. This path of self-education has not been strewn with roses. Every victory demanded enormous efforts and enormous will power. As a result, we have now achieved considerable successes in this strenuous work.

We observe in our country an exceptional growth and perfection of heavy industry and of the means of production. The victories on this front are enormous, however hard our enemies try to minimise them. Every sensible man will understand that the construction of the Magnitogorsk and Kuznetsk plants are important not only on account of their material values but also on account of the enormous accumulation of experience in organisation, of technical knowledge, and on account of the rapid growth in the number of industrial workers, all of which was of course lacking and could not but be lacking in old Russia.

It is impossible to pass over in silence our achievements in the industry of mass production: tractor works are releasing hundreds of tractors every day; the technique of the automobile industry has been fully mastered; the electrical industry has

increased manifold and has improved in point of quality; agricultural machine building has for the first time been organised. I do not mention here the hydroelectric stations. The completion of Dnieprostroy and the early completion of Svirstroy and Rionges by the end of the year, these speak for themselves.

In agriculture we have to overcome age-long superstitions and ignorance. Apart from agriculture proper we had to lift up the poorest and middle peasants who are overwhelmed by everyday needs. The liquidation of the kulaks as a class, the collectivisation of the bulk of the peasantry, such are the tasks, the solution of which is in itself an enormous achievement.

Our demands on agriculture have increased enormously.

We observe an exceptional growth of industrial cities. Cities with a population of hundreds of thousands are transformed into cities with a population running into millions. New cities with a population of hundreds of thousands have been founded.

It is obvious that the old industrial sector in agriculture, in spite of its great



M. Kalinin, president of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR

achievements, could not satisfy the increased demands made on it. Only big industry could cope with it.

The associations of peasants, the collective farms, lead to larger economies, and it is they in common with the State farms which are capable of satisfying the daily growing requirements of the ever-increasing city population.

Striking figures illustrate the development of our culture. In this respect we were inferior to all other European countries. Suffice it to mention that according to the old-Russian census of 1897 only 22.3% of the population could read and write. At the present time we are well on the way to achieving a 100% literacy. We can state with full assurance that in two or three years this will be attained. The magnitude of this task is exemplified by the fact that the USSR possesses nations which until recently possessed a literacy of only 2 or 3%.

The growth of culture is likewise exemplified by the increased circulation of newspapers. In 1913 the total circulation of newspapers amounted approximately to 2.5 million copies, in 1932 — to 33 million copies. Our political education system embraces tens of millions of people. Only a workers' government can allow itself the luxury of teaching political science to

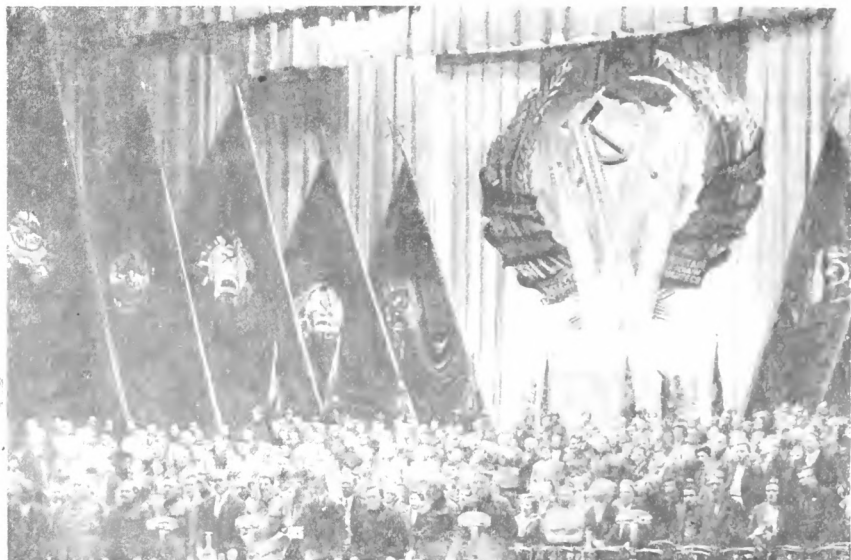
millions of people. Only a government of this nature can find it to its advantage to possess a politically educated population, for the more that education is spread the stronger will be the Soviet regime.

It is impossible to pass over in silence the development of national cultures, national in point of form but socialist in content. The toiling nations inhabiting the Soviet Union are not only free from the terror of imperialist oppression and dissensions but have become the actual builders of their future.

The Soviet Union has achieved definite and concrete results in the struggle for peace: the conclusion of a number of pacts of non-aggression — with Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Poland and other States. There is hope of concluding such a pact with France.

Our policy remains unchanged — with all available means we shall struggle for peace among nations and in the words of J. Stalin "we do not covet one inch of foreign soil, but neither shall we give up one inch of our own".

When summing up everything that has been done we see that we can boldly face the future. If we want to win the final victory we must in future keep Lenin's flag flying, and keep it pure and immaculate. Under this flag, under the guidance of J. Stalin, onward to new victories!



November 7, 1932, in Moscow. The meeting in the Grand Theatre. In the front row fourth from left K. Voroshilov, next to him V. Molotov and J. Stalin

WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR POLICY OF PEACE

(From the speech of K. Voroshilov, People's Commissary for Army and Navy of the USSR, delivered at the Red Square, Moscow, November 7, 1932)

Fifteen years ago the working class, together with the peasantry under the tried leadership of the Communist Party, and guided by the greatest of men, Lenin, proved victorious in the struggle for the cause of labour, for socialism.

No doubt, if a miracle had taken place and our brave working class would have been afforded a possibility immediately after the October Revolution to embark on the construction of socialism — and the struggle has been conducted precisely for that purpose — our successes would have been many times greater. We would by now have not only completed the foundation of our great socialist structure, but would now perhaps be erecting more storeys of that wonderful unparalleled socialist construction. However, in spite of the enormous sacrifices, in spite of rivers of blood shed in the struggle for the right to socialist labour, in spite of the fact that in this struggle we have lost many of the best men from among the working class, in spite of the fact that our country, which had already been ruined by war and badly organised, has been still further ruined, in spite of all this the results of our fifteen years' creative work are truly colossal.

At the same time everything that we are now observing in the capitalist world goes to prove that the old world has outlived its usefulness, that it is no longer capable of coping with inner contradictions, necessitated by the course of history, and that it is incapable of overcoming them.

The leaders and guiding spirits of the bourgeoisie are unable to offer a single efficacious means, which could point out to the capitalists even a temporary way out of the impasse. The only panacea they envisage is a new war, a new redistribution of the world.

We can once more state today that the peaceful policy of our State, which has been proved by deeds every day throughout the fifteen years of our rule, remains the same.

None of the States big or small can assert that the Soviet government has made any attempts either on its independence or on the integrity of its territory.

The Red Army, the armed stronghold of the workers and peasants, which is vigilantly protecting the frontiers of the



K. Voroshilov, People's Commissary for Army and Navy of the USSR, speaking at the meeting on a Soviet cruiser

Soviet country, is a trusty pledge of the integrity, strength and safety of the cause of the workers and peasants. Its strength consists not only in its iron organisation, not only in its arms, — its strength consists in that it is flesh and blood of the workers and peasants themselves, that its interests are identical with those of the country of the victorious proletariat and that its gospel is Marxism-Leninism. The Red Army is the only army in the world which knows what it is fighting for. It knows that its ideals are those of the whole of mankind.

Let the adventurous organisers of future wars always bear this in mind! Let them not provoke the proletarian State and its workers' and peasants' Red Army! We do not propose to go to war, but we shall never allow anyone to make an attempt on the integrity of our territory. Our frontiers are sacred and inviolable. They have been won by the blood of our workers and peasants, and we shall never, under any circumstances allow anyone to invade them.

ANGLO-SOVIET TRADE

By A. Kudriavtsev

Throughout the period of their development extending over more than ten years the economic relations between the Soviet Union and Great Britain have been affected by two factors which are diametrically opposed to each other.

On the one hand the business groups of England, particularly the industrial ones, are directly interested in consolidating and extending their connection with the Soviet market. The number of industrial enterprises interested in Soviet orders has greatly increased during the last three years. The resumption in 1929 of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Great Britain and the conclusion of the Anglo-Soviet trade agreement soon after, in 1930, favourably affected the trade relations. But it is quite obvious that the real factor which determined the notable growth of Anglo-Soviet trade in the course of the last three years has been the powerful economic development of our country, particularly the successful fulfilment of the industrialisation programme which caused an increase of orders for industrial equipment.

On the other hand the development of trade relations between England and the USSR has been constantly meeting with opposition on the part of certain political groups in England which are making every effort to disrupt Anglo-Soviet trade by one means or another. These circles rallied around the most irreconcilable section of the conservative party, the "diehards", and readily sacrifice the immediate economic interests of Great Britain itself in the name of those political aims by which they are guided. These consist of a programme calling for the economic and political isolation of the Soviet Union with a view to the organisation subsequently of an anti-Soviet blockade and armed intervention.

The diehards not only sacrifice the vital economic interests of England which demand the utmost extension of trade relations with the USSR, but in the very consolidation of these trade relations see something contradicting their political plans. They realise that the consolidation

and development of the economic connections between the USSR and the capitalist world strengthen the USSR, whose sworn enemies they are. They are also aware of the fact that the extension of the economic connections between the Soviet Union and the capitalist world leads to the strengthening of peace, which is again contrary to the plans of these inciters of new wars.

That is why in 1924 the diehards came out with their notorious fabrication which has entered history under the name of the "Zinoviev letter". That is also why in 1927, while in power, through the instrumentality of the famous Joynson Hicks and Austen Chamberlain they caused the rupture of diplomatic relations with the USSR at the very moment when Anglo-Soviet trade relations reached their highest point of development. And that is also why in 1932 the diehards brought about the denunciation of the Anglo-Soviet trade agreement of 1930.

It is the object of this article to give a brief review of Anglo-Soviet trade during the last period. It will be readily seen from it that the latest blow at Anglo-Soviet trade, expressed in the British government's communication of October 17th denouncing the trade agreement, coincides also this time with a notable growth of Anglo-Soviet trade, a growth which is the more striking since it is taking place on a background of a general disastrous decline of the world trade.

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It will be remembered that the national economy of Great Britain has been in a state of continuous depression ever since the end of the war. The world crisis only aggravated and sharpened to the highest degree the phenomena of permanent depression which could have been observed in England earlier as well. Thus the huge army of unemployed has become something immanent, as it were, to British economics. During 1924 and 1927, the "best" years in England, unemployment never fell below the million mark. In 1930 the unemployment figure rose to 1,900,000 and in 1931

to 2,700,000, while at the present time, despite the so-called "means test" rigidly enforced by the "National Government", the number of unemployed is close to 3 million, a record figure even for England.

Another indication of the grave crisis of British economic life is the continual decline of British exports testifying to the serious degradation of the position of British industry. This has resulted in a growing deficit of foreign trade year in and year out. In 1930 England had an adverse trade balance of 386,000,000 pounds sterling, and in 1931 this deficit reached the monstrous sum of 411,000,000 pounds.

Up to 1931 this enormous deficit was made up by revenues from the export of capital as well as from the invisible export. Thus in 1929 the net revenue of British capitalists from foreign investments amounted to 250 million pounds. The net revenue of British shipping companies amounted to 130 million pounds, etc. However, already in 1930 these items of national revenue sharply declined. This resulted in a phenomenon quite unprecedented in the economic history of Great Britain: in 1931 the country for the first time not only had an adverse trade balance but also an adverse payment balance. The deficit of the payment balance in 1931 reached the impressive sum of 75,000,000 pounds sterling. A tremendous role in the reduction of the revenues of British banks from foreign investments has been played by the general crisis of world finance, particularly by the condition of practical bankruptcy in which the Latin-American countries and a number of Central-European States have found themselves, with enormous British investments frozen there.

The condition of British industry is particularly grave. The output of many of the key industries has sharply declined and is far behind the pre-war level. Thus the average monthly production of coal in 1931 amounted to 19,000 tons against 24,000 tons in 1913. The figures for steel are 430,000 and 640,000 respectively, and for iron 313,000 and 855,000. The textile industry too is in desperate straits. While in 1913 British textile mills used 167,000,000 pounds of cotton per month, in 1931 the figure dropped to 81,000,000. The ocean tonnage launched in 1931 amounted to $\frac{1}{4}$ of the 1913 tonnage, the decline continuing in 1932 at the same rate.

Under these conditions England's economic interests imperatively demanded an extension of trade relations with the

Soviet Union which, on the background of the general decline of the world trade, is the only country whose trade with England has continued to grow even during these crisis years. In contrast to a number of other countries with which England is trading, the trade with the Soviet Union presents a number of specific advantages to England. The British national economy is not only interested in the USSR as an important customer who keeps a number of British industries working at a higher level, especially engineering; British economy, if we take into consideration not merely the narrow interests of capitalist groupings but those of the great masses, is interested likewise in the development of Soviet export to England. Indeed, if for instance French export to England has a purely consumptive character and largely consists of luxury goods — expensive wines, fruit, flowers, perfume, etc., — which are consumed by the parasitic classes, the export of the USSR to England consists solely of industrial raw materials and fuel (oil, wood, fur) and some food-stuffs (wheat and other grain products). The competition of Soviet grain products with American and Argentine grain which previously monopolised the British market leads to the cheapening of these products, which is entirely in the interests of the British toiling masses.

Therefore it is not in the least surprising that Soviet exports to England have grown in recent years. To be more exact, the share of the USSR in the general British imports has increased. Indeed, while in 1929 British imports from the USSR amounted to a total of 26,500,000 pounds sterling, in 1930 it reached 34,250,000 pounds sterling and in 1931 — 32,200,000 pounds. Thus, in absolute figures the import for 1931 even declined somewhat. To be sure, this was due to the general absolute reduction of British imports which amounted in 1931 to 862,000,000 pounds sterling against 1,044,000,000 pounds in 1930. But while in 1929 Soviet imports to England constituted 2.17% of the total British imports, in 1930 it amounted to 3.28% and in 1931 to 3.77%.

As regards British exports to the USSR, here we have a growth both as regards its proportion to the export from other countries and as regards its absolute value. Thus, in 1929 British exports to the USSR, according to the figures of the British Board of Trade, amounted to 3,750,000 pounds sterling, in 1930 to 6,772,000, and in 1931

to 7,120,000 pounds sterling. The share of British export taken by the USSR amounted to .51% in 1929, 1.18% in 1930 and 1.83% in 1931.

The principal articles of Soviet export to England are grain, which accounted for about 28% of the total value of the Soviet export to England in 1931, timber, which holds the second place in Soviet export to England, oil and furs.

As regards Soviet import from England, the USSR, as already indicated above, distributed chiefly in England orders for industrial machinery as well as some grades of industrial raw materials and semi-finished products. Between 1929 and 1931 the value of Soviet orders for industrial machinery in England mounted considerably. While in 1929 these orders were valued at 2,300,000 pounds sterling, in 1930 they rose to 3,600,000 and in 1931 reached 9,000,000 pounds.

To give an idea of the importance which Soviet orders have gained to the different leading British industries, it is sufficient to state that in 1931 the export of lathes to the USSR constituted 61.6% of the entire British export of these machines. Most of the large British lathe building companies in 1931 worked almost exclusively on Soviet orders. Had it not been for this custom this industry would have experienced the gravest crisis.

Of no small importance were our orders also to British electrical and boiler industries. The Soviet share of the British export of electrical equipment in 1931 amounted to 21.4%, and of the British boiler export to 23%.

Big orders were placed also with the British engineering industry (mining, transport, power, mechanical and metallurgic-

al equipment). The Soviet import of British machines of these nomenclatures grew from 87,000 pounds sterling in 1929 to 2,300,000 pounds in 1930.

Among the industrial raw materials the main articles of Soviet import from England are non-ferrous metals, rubber, raw textiles (wool and jute).

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This brief and entirely incomplete review of Soviet-British trade furnishes however sufficient material for the conclusion that if the development of this trade corresponds to the economic interests of the USSR which is successfully carrying out its programme of socialist industrialisation, no less obvious is it that the economic interests of England, whose industries are operating far below capacity and which is suffering from huge unemployment, imperatively dictate the development of trade with the USSR.

In England a vigorous struggle is taking place between the two tendencies mentioned at the beginning of this article, a struggle between the diehards who seek to renovate the old tales about Soviet dumping, forced labour, etc., and who dream of the organisation of an international bloc for an economic struggle against the Soviet Union, -- and the business groups which are anxious to conclude a trade agreement with the USSR in place of the treaty recently abrogated by the British government, and secure a considerable extension of the system of long term credits for the trade with the USSR.

The further development of the Anglo-Soviet economic relations will depend upon the outcome of the struggle between these two tendencies.



Science and Education in the USSR

SOVIET SCHOOL AT A NEW STAGE

By A. Orlinsky

The Soviet State, from the very first days of its existence, had proclaimed as its historic task the creation of the new school, the "transformation of the school from a weapon of class rule into a weapon for the total abolition of the division of society into classes, into a weapon for the communist regeneration of society".

Lenin — with his habitual lucidity and sharpness — defined in a number of statements the social and ideological nature of the old school. He vigorously assailed those who maintain that within the framework of the class society the school can keep "outside of politics", declaring such views to be false and hypocritical.

In full conformity with the Leninist conception, the Soviet school had to destroy the old school system which had for its purpose — to use Lenin's expression — "to furnish willing slaves to capitalism". On the other hand, the Soviet school, in common with other branches of cultural construction, must be guided by what Lenin said as regards the mastery of the cultural heritage of the past, critically utilising all the stores of knowledge accumulated by mankind.

The declaration of the Soviet Government on popular education that was published soon after the October Revolution, and

the subsequent decree on the separation of the church from the State and the establishment of the uniform labour school, laid down the basic principles of the new Soviet system of popular education.

Its basic principles are: the Soviet school is a labour school of two degrees with the free promotion of the pupil graduating from the first degree into the second. This school is uniform in its programme of tuition, with co-education for boys and girls throughout the educational system. The organisation of the school, in contradistinction to the harsh discipline of the tsarist school, is based upon cultivating in the children a conscious attitude to their work, especially along the line of self-government by the children. Such are the basic principles concerning the school that were laid down by the Soviets immediately after October.

The chief task of the Soviet system of popular education is to carry into effect the idea of the polytechnical school.

It is necessary to dwell somewhat on the very concept of the polytechnical school. This idea, as is known, was first formulated by Karl Marx and it was evolved as the result of a scientific analysis of English legislation on child labour (in the first half of the XIXth century). Having pointed



Stalingrad Tractor Plant. New building of the factory apprentice school

out already in the "Communist Manifesto" the importance of "combining education with material production", Marx dealt more fully with this proposition in the first volume of "Capital", where he drew the following conclusions: "Out of the factory system, as it may be traced from the work of Robert Owen, there grew the embryo of the education of the future, which will combine for all children, beginning with a certain age, productive labour with teaching and gymnastics, while this will be not only a method for increasing social production, but also the only method of promoting an all-round education for the people. In the resolution of the 1st Congress of the First International, Marx gave a complete outline of the school of the future "under a rational order of society". We give below a quotation from this exceedingly interesting resolution, which was jointly drawn up by Marx and Engels:

"By education we understand three things: 1) mental training; 2) physical development which is given by gymnastic and military exercises; 3) polytechnical education, which introduces one to the general scientific principles of all processes of production and at the same time imbues the child and the adolescent with practical knowledge in the handling of elementary tools in all processes of production."

These ideas of the founders of Marxism were the basis of the corresponding part of the programme of the Communist Party drawn up by Lenin, in which the demands are formulated for "the introduction of free and compulsory, universal and polytechnical education (imparting both theoretical and practical training in the principal processes) for all children of either sex up to the age of seventeen". The programme lays down the principles for a school which "closely combines teaching with socially productive labour, which gives all-round training to future members of the communist society".

Lenin repeatedly dealt with this question in his speeches and written articles. In 1920, in his comments on the theses of N. Krupskaya on polytechnical education, Lenin emphasised that the aim of the polytechnical system is "to pass on to the education, teaching, and training of people of all-round skill who can do everything".

In these comments Lenin explains the substance of the polytechnical school, pointing out that it should give the children systematic knowledge in the fundamentals of science, acquaint them with the chief

branches of socialist construction, and teach them to apply the knowledge gained to any branch of construction.

Such are the ideas of Marx, Engels, and Lenin, by which the building up of the school system in the Soviet Union is being guided.

The results of 15 years of cultural work, and especially the development of the school in the USSR, indicate that regardless of all difficulties, regardless of the entire novelty of the Soviet school system, which is carried out moreover in a country with a barbaric heritage, the Soviet school has attained huge successes.

There was newly built up a system of pre-school education which did not exist to any appreciable degree in tsarist Russia. Universal education in the mother tongue was introduced. Professional technical schools were established on a large scale. Let us recall the fact that whereas before the Revolution, in 1914/15, the school system covered 7.8 million children, in 1932 the Soviet schools were already attended by upwards of 20 million children. The number of students in the universities and technical schools during the same period has risen from 390,000 to 3.5 million. The new, young generation of the Revolution takes energetic part in the creation of the new school. It suffices to point to the active part played in the building up of the school by the young pioneers and Komsomol organisations.

The development of the Soviet school through all its stages harbours within itself tremendously important social and cultural processes. A new intelligentsia is emerging and growing from the ranks of the working class and the toiling peasantry. The Revolution has given them the facilities to learn, to raise their cultural level, to acquire the knowledge necessary to conscious builders of a new society. It suffices to refer to the system of workers' faculties which originated upon the initiative of one of our leading revolutionary savants, the late academician M. Pokrovsky, which opened the doors of higher education to tens of thousands of the working class.

The intelligentsia of the old school, realising more and more clearly the world-historic significance of the successes of socialism in the USSR, are joining more and more widely the ranks of the active workers of the Soviet Union. In the USSR, for the first time in the history of mankind, science, emancipated from the necessity

of subordinating creative work to the interests of human exploitation, has been entirely placed at the service of the working class, at the service of socialism.

The representatives of the highest seat of science in the country, the members of the USSR Academy of Sciences have become familiar figures on all the fronts of socialist construction. Academicians are attending all the important new constructions on the Dniepr, in the steppes of the Volga, in the Urals, and in the extreme subpolar regions. In the course of four years the number of scientific workers has doubled, and the budget of the USSR Academy of Sciences has increased five times.

It is generally known that in all the capitalist countries, under the destructive crisis with its 40 million unemployed, the development of science and technics has been arrested. Technical retrogression is now becoming the watchword of capitalism. Research institutes and laboratories are being shut down together with factories and plants. Scientists and intellectuals are swelling more and more the ranks of the unemployed.

A different picture obtains in the country of Soviets whose supreme endeavour is to promote the further development of knowledge. The USSR, a country of flourishing forces of production, a country that is re-equipping its entire economy upon the basis of new technique, opens such vistas before science, before scientific workers, engineers and technicians, such opportunities for creative work as were never known in human history.

It stands to reason that the demands made upon scientific and technical workers are growing tremendously in a country that is upon the threshold of building up a society without social classes. New scales and new quality of scientific work are dictated by the building of gigantic industrial combines, by the necessity of mastering the technique of latest machinery and tools in industry and in agriculture. In no lesser degree are these demands raised by our cultural construction, by the task of socialist education for the millions. The struggle for cadres implies the struggle for training such people as would be 'all-round educated builders of the new society', as Lenin said.

Such are the vistas of practical work in the USSR as regards the practical training of cadres.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the XVIIIth Conference of the Communist



Class of a recently opened school of colhoz youth ("Stalin" colhoz, Bukhara)



The preparatory group of the "Lepse" seven-year school in Moscow



At the evening workers faculty attached to the Moscow University. Workers at study.

Party of the USSR, in drawing up the basic outline of the second Five-Year Plan, laid such emphasis upon the problem of quality in the training of cadres. "The quantitative growth of technical cadres in the Soviet Union, says the resolution of the XVIIth Conference, "should in no way minimise the importance of the question as to their scientific qualification, as to the obligatory study by them of all the basic achievements of world science and technics. The solving of the problem of technical cadres is the most essential element of the bolshevik fulfilment of the tasks of the cultural revolution and the successful building up of socialism. The quickest possible achievement of universal literacy, the quickest raising of the whole level of technical education, and the strongest material support by the State to the development of science in the USSR — these are the immediate tasks of socialist construction in our country.

Now that the country has entered into the second Piatiletka, the struggle for the quality of cadres, and especially for the quality of school work in all its stages, has been put on the order of the day by the leading organs in the Soviet Union.

During the last year a number of decisions were made on school matters: the decision of the Central Committee of the CPSU on September 5th, 1931, "On elementary and secondary schools", the decision of the same body on August 25th, 1932, "On school programmes and regime in elementary and secondary schools", and lastly, the decision of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR on September 19th, 1932, "On school programmes and regime in high schools and technicums".

All these decisions have recorded tremendous successes in the extension and reorganisation of the school system: radical change in the social composition of the pupils, the development of teaching in the mother tongue (education in the USSR is being conducted in 70 languages), and lastly, imbuing with new ideological content the whole system of school work. The school gives to the children an infinitely wider socio-political outlook, as well as general development, than was given by the pre-revolutionary school.

Similar successes were achieved also by the higher schools and technicums both in regard to social composition and development and specialisation of the higher schools. In a number of essential branches of national economy, such as light and heavy industry, timber industry, agriculture, and railways, the number of higher technical schools has increased five times during the last four years. Thus, the higher school has obtained a mighty basis for the training of such specialists as would be equal to the level of the tasks of technical reconstruction of the entire national economy under the second Five-Year Plan.

The recent decisions, in outlining the new tasks that are dictated by the growth of national economy and culture, criticise at the same time the defects which our schools must eliminate in order to cope successfully with the complex demands made by the present stage in socialist construction.

In the decision of the Central Committee of the CPSU on September 6th, 1931, on the elementary and secondary schools, referring to Lenin's thesis that "one can become a communist only after having



The Industrial Pedagogical Institute, Saratov

enriched his memory with the knowledge of all those rich values that were worked out by mankind', stress was laid on the fundamental defect of our school, despite all the successes achieved in recent years. "School does not give a sufficient grasp of general science", it is pointed out in the resolution, "nor train students for the higher school and technicums possessing a fair knowledge of fundamentals of science (physics, chemistry, mathematics, language, geography, etc.)".

Proceeding to analyse the origin and nature of these defects, the decision points out two tendencies which are fraught with danger to the Soviet school. First, the tendency which might lead to the detachment of the school from practical life, from the tasks of socialist construction, to the recrudescence of the old methods of the tsarist school (excessive memorising, etc.). Another, and even more dangerous tendency is represented by those who advocate the "passing away of the school", asserting that the children should be taught directly at work in the factory. Such "theories" unquestionably betray an indiscriminating adoption of the American "project method", of "business enterprises" whose ideal is to create a narrow practical businessman who has "ability" but no "knowledge". It was urged by exponents of these theories that the basis of school education should be work in the factory or on the field. Consequently, teaching should be carried out only by the way. Clearly, such a system of school work has nothing in common with the ideas of Lenin and of the Leninist Party which urge the mastery of all the cultural wealth of mankind, which urge that in the polytechnical school labour should be subordinated to the teaching and educational aims of the school. This was the reason why such a firm stand against these vulgarising theories was made by the Communist Party and press, and by the whole of Soviet public opinion.

A year has passed since the above decision was published. School work has considerably improved during this period. This improvement is directly recorded in the latest resolution of the Central Committee of the CPSU "On the school", where it stated that "during the last year considerable changes have developed in the elementary and secondary schools in connection with the realisation of universal compulsory education and the transition to systematic assimilation of science upon the



Students of the Mining Institute on practical work in the mines of Donbass

basis of definite school plans, programmes and schedules".

Nevertheless, the new decision continues the criticism of defects that was contained in last year's decision. Thus, it is pointed out that the school programmes, although more systematically and more comprehensively drawn up, are suffering from the defect of being too crowded, of a lack of connection between the separate programmes. In the teaching of social sciences is to be observed a rather vulgarising method of undue simplification, a lack of sufficiently profound historical approach. The decision calls particular attention to the inadmissibility of methodical "projecting", notably the abuse of the brigade and laboratory method of work. Some sorry practitioners of this method contented themselves with merely handing out independent tasks to a brigade of pupils, charging the teacher with the task only of subsequent checking up, instead of securing organic work of the teacher with the children. As a result of such irregular methods there was not a sufficient mastery of the fundamentals of science, while the teacher became detached from the pupils. Finally, the irregular organisation of the work was bound to be



Scientific Research Institute for Oil, Moscow

detrimental to general discipline in the school.

This analysis of the defects which took place in the preceding stages of development of the Soviet school may serve as an example of bolshevik self-criticism, of the ability boldly to raise and handle new problems, eliminating casual survivals of old methods, of irregularities and mistakes that are inevitable in connection with fundamentally new constructive work.

The latest decision 'On the elementary and secondary school' places in the hands of Soviet teachers and the public at large a programme of action that may serve as a model by its concreteness: improved and remodelled programmes, firm discipline in the school, based upon systematic educational activities in which part must be taken by the public, by the parents, and by the Komsomol and pioneer organisations. The decision urges the proper organisation of the pedagogical process, applying the most diverse methods of teaching. The basic form of teaching should be the lesson. The Soviet school is developing the collective forms of school work and devotes special attention to the checking up of lessons and results. The role and importance of the teacher should be raised even higher (a higher level of political and ideological development in the teacher, material assistance to the latter, etc.). A number of suggestions of this kind are developed in detail in the last decision of the Central Committee of the CPSU 'On the elementary and secondary school'.

The decision of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR deals especially with the system of higher education which has already been referred to above. The CEC, while noting the achievements of the higher school, deals also fully with its

defects and its new tasks. It urges stability of the teaching process (during the preceding period there were frequent revisions of plans and programmes). On the basis of the same principles as the XVIII Party Conference, this decision suggests building up the programme so that it might reflect the latest achievements in science and technique. The higher school should be emancipated from an excessive multitude of subjects and from artificial splitting up of scientific disciplines. The work of teaching should be built up as an organic process which includes also practical production. There should be abolished the so-called "conveyor system", i. e. the studying of separate subjects at short notice without any graduated procedure. The Soviet school, which has done a good deal of study on problems concerning the "profile" of the specialist, should also attain greater clearness on questions relating to the character and scope of training for new cadres in one or another branch of construction.

Constant production practice for students has become in the USSR an essential element of the entire educational work of the higher schools and technicums. While recording the unquestionable achievements of production practice, especially the existence of close contact between theoretical study and practice, the decision suggests a series of concrete measures for improving the practical activities of the students as an integral part of their studies (excursions of teachers with student groups to the place of practice, attaching students to specified enterprises, etc.).

Great attention is given in the decision of the CEC to the methodology of teaching, increasing the role and responsibility of professors and teachers, organising the pedagogical process on the basis of precise plans, with a rigid schedule of lessons and a firm discipline among students and teachers. In this connection, higher demands are made upon both students and teachers of higher schools and technicums. There shall be no graduation before the completion of the terms. The scheme of the educational year is to be unified for all the schools. There is to be rigid control of attendance and work, in order to wage a struggle against violation of school discipline, with penalties reaching up to suspension for a period of five years. A system of very thorough examinations is to be established. Provision is made for the decisive realisation of the principle of the single authority,

with the participation of properly organised public control.

This militant programme is remarkable for its concreteness as well as for its profound approach to reality, being organically linked to the present stage in socialist construction. We have here the practical embodiment of the creative ideas given to mankind by Karl Marx, Engels, Lenin, and by Stalin who ably continues their work.

As on the other fronts of socialist construction, the Soviet State will continue and carry out to the end the struggle for the training of socialist cadres. Naturally, this struggle may evoke and does evoke the resistance of the class enemies, of the enemies of the new socialist culture — of a culture that is not the monopoly of a few

at the top, but is the heritage of the large masses of the people that are spiritually growing. As an example of absurd insinuations might be mentioned the “canards” which appeared in the anti-Soviet press alledging a complete restoration of the “pre-revolutionary regime in the Soviet school”, etc.

The best answer to the calumniators is given by a simple acquaintance with the facts which characterise school construction in the U.S.S.R. and its achievements during 15 years.

This socialist country, growing stronger materially and technically, is passing on to the next, higher stage in the struggle for quality in education and in the scientific and technical training of the builders of classless society.

SOVIET SCIENCE AND THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION

Views of Soviet scientists

A. Karpinsky,

President of the All-Union Academy of Sciences

SCIENCE IN THE USSR SERVES THE INTERESTS OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY

The basic difference between Soviet science and that of other countries lies in the method of advancing scientific achievements and their utilisation. All progress and achievements gained in science in the USSR are turned to the general benefit of the entire country. Problems of personal benefit of private individuals or enterprises under the existing conditions in our country do not and cannot in any way negatively effect scientific discoveries. Competition between institutions conducting similar scientific research is entirely excluded and in cases of identical work the respective institutions sign an agreement on the basis of socialist competition.

Contrary to this in other countries, where the social system existing is entirely different, there are existing, besides State research institutions, also private research institutes, laboratories and bureaus serving the interests of private individuals and enterprises. All these often serve as a hindrance to the popularisation of scientific achievements. Instead, such achieve-

ments more often are used in the benefit of private individuals to the detriment of the community as a whole.

The characteristic trait of Soviet science lies in the fact that it freed itself from serving individual interests devoting instead all its efforts toward making science accessible to all and turning over all achievements and accomplishments gained in all branches of science to the benefit and welfare of the entire country.



B. Keller,
Member of the Academy of Sciences

THE USSR IS THE GOLDEN MINE OF NEW HUMAN TALENT

We are entering upon the second Five-Year Plan.

At this historical point the principal outlines and general character of the development of a new socialist science are quite clear to us.

Our gigantic socialist construction puts very big demands to science. Nowhere in the world is science as highly appreciated as it is in the USSR.

Socialist science means science planned. Planning affords the possibility of solving some of the most complicated problems which are approached by strong and numerous units of scientific workers engaged in various specialities.

At the present moment science in our country penetrates into our vast territory reaching the factories, the kolhoz and sovkhoz fields, the broadest masses engaged in various inventions, etc.



The October Revolution revealed the unlimited sources of a golden mine of human talent and capabilities. The USSR is the only country in the world where

the development of science constitutes a vital daily demand of the many millions belonging to all the various nationalities of the USSR.

This is why science in the Union of Socialist Republics enjoys great perspectives for its further and extensive development.

A. Bach,
Member of the Academy of Sciences

COLLECTIVE CREATIVE GENIUS MAKES SOVIET SCIENCE POWERFUL

From the very first days of its existence the Soviet government has always displayed great interest in science emphasising its important role in the matter of socialist construction. During the 15 years of its existence, the Soviet government has founded hundreds of scientific research institutions which have advanced Soviet science to an enormously high level.

Science in the USSR is closely interwoven with the entire system of the upbuilding of a new life and therefore differs fundamentally from the methods of scientific work conducted in capitalist countries which reflect the anarchistic system of capitalist production.

The social standard of the people engaged in scientific research work in our country also differs entirely from those working in the same field in capitalist countries. Thousands of young men and women who have come from the rank and file are constantly adding to the big army of research workers. These youths carry with them new habits approaching scientific work from new angles. This new army of scientific workers, which grows by leaps and bounds, will raise socialist science to a level which no capitalist country can even dream of.

Least but not last, scientific research in the USSR differs from that in other countries in its method of organisation. In the scientific laboratories in the capitalist countries research workers are not only not being encouraged to grasp and acquaint themselves widely with all the elements studied in the respective laboratories, but are even forbidden to do thus. This fact undoubtedly tends to hinder progress and possibilities for the research worker to attain higher skill, thus deteriorating his work.



Contrary to capitalist countries, we in the USSR are using our best efforts to turn productive labour into socialistic-collective forms. Similar collectivisation of scientific labour is systematically conducted also in our scientific research institutes. Reports on scientific work that has already been completed, as well as on future plans, are made and discussed at the production conferences. Every department in each research institution holds its own production conferences, reports, study classes etc. Every collaborator of the respective institution takes part in the general work of the entire problem treated at his institution and independently conducts part of the general scientific work.

This method of collective scientific research constantly helps to improve the character of the work, raises the skill of the workers and provides the possibility for the gradual advancement of the most able collaborators in the field of science.

THE USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ON THE 15th ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION

By Academician V. Volgin,
Permanent Secretary of the All-
Union Academy of Sciences

The Academy of Sciences has traversed a difficult path during the 15 years which have passed since the great October Revolution.

The speeding of the eliminating process in the Academy, which had begun before that period, the election to the Academy of new scientists devoted to the cause of socialism, such were the conditions which have rendered possible those achievements of the Academy made during the last few years.

Since 1919 the Academy has been fundamentally reorganised both outwardly and as regards the content of its work.

The Academy was the first of the scientific institutions of the Union to publish its production plan for 1931. It took a most active part in the first conference on the planning of scientific work convoked by the scientific research section of the Supreme Council of National Economy and the State Planning Commission. It became the centre of planned scientific work and organised a number of conferences dealing with various branches of science.

The inclusion of scientific activity in the plan of socialist construction raises theoretical thought to an unprecedented height.

Contributing to the creation of a single scientific plan, the Academy at the same time sought to establish immediate practical contact with socialist construction and direct ties with the broad proletarian masses of the USSR. It offered full scientific assistance to the different People's Commissariats. At the request of these latter the Academy of Sciences conducts a considerable amount of work in their institutions and an even greater work by way of expeditions and explorations in Khibiny, Mountainous Shoria, Kuldanda, Angara, Trans-Volga, etc. At the same time the Academy held a number of sessions (an entirely new form of activity) devoted to various groups of local problems of socialist construction.

A special and entirely new method of work by the Academy is the setting up of branches and bases in regions where big



Academician V. Volgin

construction works are located (the Urals, Transcaucasus, Kazakstan, Tadzhikistan).

The Academy is thus spreading a new network of institutions scattered all over the USSR — from Khibinogorsk to Tiflis

and Stalinabad, from Leningrad to Iadivostok. The Academy of Sciences is becoming an All-Union institution even from a geographical standpoint.

The new aims of the Academy logically necessitated the extension of its personnel. The old Academy did not have in its midst representatives of technical sciences. The whole field of applied science was in fact foreign to it. The new Academy began to organise technical chairs and now it possesses a powerful technical group. It includes now the directors of our biggest construction jobs — Winter, Vedeneev, Graftio, Bardin.

The Academy of Sciences has during the last few years absorbed the most highly qualified scientists of the land. The directors of the biggest scientific institutions are fully-pledged members of the Academy and participate in the deliberations of its special groups. It is precisely these groups which were and are the organisers of a series of special conferences on planning the respective branches of science.

The Academy of Sciences has all the possibilities of becoming such a scientific institution which is able, both on account of the variety of sciences represented in it and on account of the high qualifications of its personnel, to take upon itself the complicated and difficult task of compiling a single plan of scientific work.

THE JUBILEE SESSION OF THE USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The latest session of the All-Union Academy of Sciences was held in honour of the XVth anniversary of the October Revolution.

The opening of the session was preceded by the great work of drafting the second Five-Year Plan of the Academy.

The plan of the Academy of Sciences for the second Five-Year period provides for a number of most important works in all branches of knowledge. One of its most important tasks is the study of the natural and productive resources of the country. All the main problems of natural sciences will be dealt with exhaustively and particular attention will be paid to energetics, physics, chemistry and geochemistry. The branches and institutes of the Academy will organise during the second Five-Year Plan an extensive network of scientific research institutions.

According to preliminary data the total expenditure of the Academy during the second Five-Year Plan on the study of national productive forces will exceed 400 million rubles.

22 million rubles will be assigned to the social sciences section, which will extend its work very widely. Along with the existing Institute of Russian Literature, a new Institute of World Literature will be founded.

The second Five-Year Plan of the Academy will finally be adopted at a conference for the planning of scientific work at the State Planning Commission.

The opening of the session coincided with the opening of a great exhibition "15 Years of Soviet Science". Most interesting material has been collected at the exhibition, which describes the work of

Soviet scientific institutions during the years following the October Revolution.

The session lasted a week. The link between the academicians and the social organisations, the masses of workers, has now become a standing feature in the work of the highest scientific institution of the Union. Some of the sittings of the jubilee session were arranged in the enormous halls of the district Houses of Culture in Leningrad — those of the Moscow-Narva, Vyborg and Volodarsky districts. The workers of the Leningrad factories and works who filled the halls listened attentively to the reports of the representatives of the vanguard of sciences on its latest achievements.

The third and fourth days of the session were mainly taken up with excursions to a number of large factories. 10 brigades were formed, consisting in all of 40 academicians, as well as the directors of scientific institutions of the Academy, aspirants and young scholars. The factory workers looked forward to meeting these brigades. In various works and departments explanations were given about the importance of the session, and also the questions raised at the session. The academicians were met at the works-gates in festive manner. On their arrival at the factories the scientific workers acquainted themselves with the production-financial plan, inspected the departments, talked to the workers and read papers in workers clubs on subjects pertaining to the given enterprise. Academician Lebedev, author of many articles and books on synthetic rubber, read a paper at the "Red Triangle" rubber plant. Academician Mitkevich delivered an address at "Electrosila". The workers of the optical-mechanical works listened with tremendous interest to the lecture of Academician Grebenshchikov on the new methods of polishing glass worked out by the State Optical Institute.

Many interesting papers were read at the session on various branches of science. Great interest was aroused by the paper Academician Bach read at the House of Culture of the textile workers on the progress of ensimology during the 15

years of Soviet rule (the enzymes are a kind of catalysers in organic substances contributing to the quickening of the life process). The speaker quoted a number of cases illustrating the practical importance of the enzymes. Apart from the role it plays in the progress of medicine, ensimology constitutes one of the main problems of technical bio-chemistry, which is called upon to play a great role in many branches of industry.

A special sitting of the session was devoted to questions of Soviet energetics. Among the reporters were such authorities as Academicians Krzhizhanovsky, Alexandrov ("The classification of hydro-electric plants"), Chernyshov ("Vacuum and the latest progress of electrotechnics"). Academician Baikov dealt very exhaustively with the problem of ferrous metallurgy. He dealt in detail with one of the most important themes — the obtaining of iron directly from the ore.

Academician Gubkin quoted in his paper many interesting facts on the successful exploration of the mineral resources of the USSR.

Even in the best of years under tsarist Russia the geological committee had only 50 geologists and never more than 250,000 rubles assigned for its work. Now we have a colossal army of 6,000 scientists and 200 million rubles are yearly spent on exploration.

The fifth day of the session was taken up by four most interesting papers. Academician Yoffe informed the audience of the results of his investigation of the electrical properties of solid bodies. This work is directly connected with the practical tasks set by modern electrotechnics,



Academicians Oldenburg (left) and Bukharin (right)



From left to right: academicians Kurnakov, Kisliakovskiy, Demyanov and Favorsky, Members of the Chemical Section of the U.S.S.R Academy of Sciences

in particular by the cable works. G. Gamov, a young Soviet scholar who has already gained a European reputation, spoke of the structure of the kernel of the atom, one of the most debatable themes in modern physics.

Professor Nikiforov, head of the Seismological Institute of the Academy, drew in his paper a picture of the great scientific results attained in the domain of the investigation of earthquakes; he related the setting up of a network of seismic stations organised by the Soviet Government.

The paper of Academician Lazarev "The present-day problems of bio-physics and their practical importance" dealt with an entirely new branch of science, the influence which the physical factors exercise on the functioning of the human nervous system. A series of interesting reports was read at the sittings of the physical-mathematical, technical and chemical groups.

As regards social sciences the most important papers were those read by Academician Marr — "Changes in the technique of language and of thought"; by Academician Oldenburg — "Soviet orientology for the past fifteen years", and by Professor Tomsinsky — "On the achievements of Soviet historiography".

Academician Marr pointed out the enormous progress of Soviet science in the field of linguistics and laid stress on the fact that it became possible owing to the application of the Marxist-Leninist method to the work of the Institute of Language and Ethnology.

Academician Oldenburg drew a picture of the activities of the Academy of Sciences as regards the working out and the propagation of the latinised alphabet and the creation of literary languages in the Soviet East.

Academician Oldenburg stated that the compilation of encyclopedic dictionaries

in the languages of the various nationalities rendered possible the translation of the works of Darwin, Marx and Engels. The masterpieces of Eastern literatures are being rapidly translated into Russian as well as the works of Russian and Western literature into the languages of the East. The bibliography of Eastern literatures is carefully being kept up.

Professor Tomsinsky stated in his paper that the publication of documents taken from tsarist archives yielded rich material for the study of the nationalities of the USSR and of the revolutionary movement of the proletariat. A series of documents referring to the war of 1914—



Academicians Karpinsky (left) and Fersman (right) in the Mineralogical Museum of the Academy of Sciences

1918 has attracted the attention of the whole world.

Important information was supplied by Academician Alexeyev — “The evolution and revolution of the Chinese language and literature” and by Academician Perets —

“The national policy of the USSR and the revival of Ukrainian literary studies”.

At its concluding plenary meeting the session worked out the text of an appeal to all the scholars of the world, which we print below in abridged form.

To All Scholars, Scientists and Technicians of the World

The Academy of Sciences of the USSR at its solemn session devoted to the XVth anniversary of the October Revolution addresses to you a fervent appeal to march alongside all manual workers.

The whole experience of the great Revolution in our country has proved to us that it is only along that path that it is possible to find a way out of the overwhelming crisis through which the whole of humanity is now passing.

The course of world historic events, which took place in our country, spectacularly proved that the only force capable of crossing the great historical threshold and lead behind it the entire mass of people is the proletariat, that heroic class, capable of making enormous sacrifices, a class which is creating, building up and organising.

Whole regions of enormous deposits of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, coal, oil and potassium salts are being discovered. Innumerable new cultural centres are being rapidly founded in the extreme North. A number of expeditions to the arctic regions have become famous throughout the world. Of late the entire economic situation has changed beyond recognition.

Enormous psychological changes has taken place among the masses: the refashioning of human beings proceeded on an unprecedented scale, whole armies of builders of new society have been formed. Culture has made decisive conquests.

This gigantic sweep of construction demanded a rapid growth of scientific research institutions. A whole network of these has been founded since the Revolution and their importance has increased enormously. The practical trend of their scientific work stimulated their theoretical successes.

We are working on the raising of the standard of living of the masses. We have no intention of building up a soulless civilisation, in which the toiler would be a mere appendage of the mechanised system. On the contrary, we are building up the

most perfect technical basis of a society in which man will become the master of that system, not its slave; this system will serve to satisfy the growing requirements of the toiling masses and become the weapon of emancipation from excessive labour and the basis of the future cultural progress of a brotherly commune.

The Academy of Sciences, the highest scientific institution of the USSR, proudly states that our country is the backbone of a new socialist world. It regards it to be a matter of honour to give up its forces to the cause of socialist construction.

We call you to active defence of the USSR.

We call you to fight against reaction which is looming over the countries of capitalism.

We call you to join the ranks of fighters for socialism.

We, on our part, undertake to fulfil everything the proletariat will demand from us as regards the solution of the tasks of construction for the second Five-Year Plan.

We assure the Central Committee of the Party, its leader Comrade Stalin and the Soviet Government that we shall not retreat one step from the solution of the tasks connected with the whole heroic epoch of the great work of socialism.

A. Karpinsky — President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

N. Marr, G. Krzhizhansky — Vice-Presidents.

V. Volghin — Permanent Secretary of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

Academicians: A. Borissyak, S. Vavilov, V. Alexeyev, S. Zernov, S. Oldenburg, D. Rozhdestvensky, A. Orlov, S. Solntsev, I. Krachkovsky, A. Favorovsky, N. Derzhavin, B. Keller, N. Bukharin, A. Richter, I. Gubkin, N. Lukin, S. Strumilin.

Chemistry was one of those sciences doomed of necessity to eke out a miserable existence in reactionary tsarist Russia. No better evidence need be adduced than the fate of the great genius Mendeleev. The society of bourgeois and nobility, unable and unwilling to appreciate the great contributions of a Mendeleev, could at best bestow upon him official honours of doubtful value. The tsarist government found no better way than to make of Mendeleev an administrator and appointed him a director of the Chamber of Measures and Weights.

The progress of chemistry since the October Revolution may be taken as one of the striking evidences of the transformation of science by the Revolution.

The October which converted tsarist Russia into a land of industrialisation created for chemistry the situation which the science properly requires in a State building its entire social and economic life on the basis of a scientific socialist plan and applying the latest achievements of theoretical thought in every field of construction.

It is precisely in the development of chemistry, a science which calls for the co-ordination of a variety of industries, for plan and experiment on a vast scale, that the superiority of the Soviet economic system could make itself manifest.

Among the industrial giants erected during the first Five-Year Plan are huge chemical plants: the Berezniki, Voskresensk and Neva chemical combines, the synthetic rubber mills, the Leningrad and Dniepr aluminium factories, coke and chemical plants and scores of other works. The number of trained persons engaged in the chemical industry grows annually by thousands. The amount and extent of chemical research is astonishing.

Soviet chemistry commemorated the XVth anniversary of the October Revolution by calling the VIth All-Union Mendeleev Congress on theoretical and applied chemistry.

The Congress was held in Kharkov, the capital of the Soviet Ukraine.

Two thousand delegates were expected but over three thousand came; not only from all the Soviet republics but from



Academician Zatonsky delivering his report at the VIth Mendeleev Chemical Congress

foreign countries. Among foreign chemists of note were Professors Klages (Berlin), Hess (Königsberg), Liesegang (Frankfort-on-Main), Pitsch (Berlin) and Greenwood (Australia).

Two generations of chemists met and exchanged experience at the Congress. Among those who read papers were many young Soviet academicians, professors, their assistants and engineers. The papers read by Academician Semionov, Prof. Syrkin, Rummer, Academician Frumkin, Balandin, etc., dealt with the problems of chemistry on the plane of advanced theory. The proceedings were marked throughout by an interweaving of theoretical with practical problems.

What problems?

The growth of the national economy, the necessity of creating new products to meet the growing demands of the toilers dictate new speeds in chemistry. The speed of chemical advance and the production of ever greater quantities of new products constitute primary practical problems which the chemical industry must solve. This explains the attention paid by the Congress to problems of catalysis. Catalyzers, it will be recalled, quicken the speed of chemical reaction and determine the volume of the product formed. Academician Semionov told the Congress that "the creation of a science of chemical dynamics is one of the main physico-chemical problems of our time".

The improvement and increase of agricultural crops make ever growing demands upon chemistry and getting more yield from socialist fields has become a paramount task of Soviet agricultural chemists.

Nitrogen fertilisers are now being made in the USSR. The world's richest potash deposits have been discovered in the Northern Urals. Soviet chemistry has advanced the slogan "every coke plant—a fertiliser factory", utilising its by-products to produce nitrogen. Recent successful experiments have enabled the country to produce blast-furnace gases suited for ammonia synthesis. This opens up new vistas for development of the productive forces of the country.

Application of chemistry in the food and light industries to produce articles of general consumption also was an important part of the agenda.

Among its foremost problems Soviet chemistry regards machine building for the chemical industry, the production of



Foreign scientists at the Mendeleev Congress left to right, sitting: prof. Klages (Berlin) (Königsberg), standing: prof. Liesegang (on-Main), prof. Pitsch (Berlin)

materials for such an industry, control of the production and of the quality of product and electro-chemistry.

Scores of important lines of production have been developed and created on the basis of electro-chemical processes. Electro-chemistry therefore necessarily plays a great and ever growing role in the national economy of the USSR. A great future for electro-chemistry is assured by the electrification of the USSR, which is to raise power output in the country to 100 milliard kilowatt-hours.

Such were the main subjects taken up at the Congress.

"Soviet chemistry grapples with death and struggles for bread, for fodder, for meat, for new raw materials, for rendering labour easier and raising labour productivity. Soviet chemistry fights for the creation of new material values, for a flourishing culture" ("Pravda").

The Mendeleev Congress endorsed the resolutions of the Amsterdam Anti-War Congress and issued an appeal to the chemists of the world to "war upon war".

The Congress agreed to call the VIIIth Mendeleev Congress in Leningrad in 1934, the 100th anniversary of Mendeleev's birth. The creation of an All-Union Chemical Society was also voted. Academician Bach was elected chairman of the committee to organise the Society.

Academician Zatonsky, summing up the results of the Congress, described them as tremendous.

WAR AGAINST WAR!

TO THE CHEMICAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

(From the appeal of the Vth Mendeleev Congress)

The VI Mendeleev Congress, attended by over 3 thousand delegates from among the chemical workers of the Soviet Union, raises its voice in appeal to the chemical workers of the whole world.

The danger of a new world war hangs menacingly over the world. It grows out of irreconcilable contradictions, out of the deepest crisis of the whole capitalist system.

Capitalism is preparing a new war against humanity and, in the first place, against the Soviet Union, where a new socialist society is being successfully built.

Men of science, accustomed to analyse, haven't the right to close their eyes to the numerous signs of the coming war, which are more evident today than before the imperialistic war of 1914-1918.

Europe is already living in an atmosphere of poisoned gases, chauvinism and militarist frenzy, so memorable to our new generation after the slaughter of 1914-1918 which destroyed tens of millions of human lives.

The bloody monster of war, making use of the most powerful weapons of science and technique, is preparing a new murder of millions of men and women, old people and children, destruction of towns, enslavement of peoples.

At the time when the capitalist world is seized by chaos and aarchy, by poverty side by side with riches, the capitalist world with its 40 millions of unemployed, with mass suicides, with social, political, mental and cultural reaction, with suppression of human dignity, with the stagnation of scientific and technical progress, with its obscurantism -- the USSR is building a new socialist world.

The growth of scientific cadres and institutions never seen before shows that the creative power of scientific-theoretical thought, the full appliance of forces by a

mental worker to the development of a new, genuinely human culture, are possible only under socialism.

This is proved by the fact that the best, most thoughtful and creative part of the scientific-technical intelligentsia of the West is beginning to turn towards the Soviet Union.

The firm, steady and consistent peace policy carried on by the Soviet Government, not giving way to any provocation, is known to everyone as is also well known the sabotage of the Soviet proposals of real and general disarmament at the Geneva "disarmament Conference. From its peace policy, from the tremendous successes of socialist construction the USSR will get invincible forces of enthusiasm and selfsacrifice to defend from barbarous destruction all that has been built, with heroic efforts, by the united ranks of manual and mental workers under the leadership of Lenin's Party.

The scientific workers of the Soviet Union heartily greet the Amsterdam Anti-War Congress, summoned by the best elements of the Western intelligentsia.

Exposing the hypocrisy of the pacifist phrases of the organisers of new wars and their agents, the chemical workers must hinder the preparation of a new crime against humanity -- the fire of a world's war.

But, if notwithstanding war does break out, then the duty of all chemical workers will be not to let chemistry -- a powerful lever of progress -- be turned into a weapon of barbarous destruction of human lives, of labour and cultural attainments. War against war!

Chemical workers of the world, form a united scientific and working front to lead an active struggle against the impending war, to defend the first country in the world, victoriously constructing socialism!

Our policy is the policy of peace... We shall continue to follow this peace policy with all our might, with all the means at our disposal...

J. Stalin.

THE USSR AT THE INTERNATIONAL PHYSIOLOGICAL CONGRESS

By E. Kirillov

The XIVth International Congress of Physiologists took place in Rome. The attention of the Congress was concentrated on the problems of the energetics of nervo-muscular processes, of endocrinology, of the physiology and chemistry of vitamins. A series of reports were devoted to the questions of the central nervous system and its relation to the processes of psychic order.

Among the reports made by the Soviet scientists we should point out, in the first place, that of Academician I. Pavlov, who gave an extremely clear summary of his most important works on the questions of the study of the superior nervous activity of the animals by the method of conditional reflexes. The report was closely followed and received by stormy cheers.

A well-known physiologist, Prof. V. Zavadovsky devoted his report to the principal problems of physiology and the interchange of hormones in the organism.

Prof. Zbarsky, the Director of the Nutrition Institute, called the attention of the Congress to a series of interesting facts concerning the problems of social nutrition in the Soviet Union.

Finally, we should mention the reports of Prof. Rozenkov "On the nervo-humoral nature of emulation", and of Prof. Kashayants "On the physiological characteristic of the muscular cell of different species of animals in different stages of their development".

The reports of the representatives of the Soviet delegation were met with the highest approval.

"We can state with satisfaction", writes Prof. Zavadovsky, one of the Soviet delegates to the Congress, "that the specific particularities of our methods, their being penetrated by social ideas and their connection with the actual tasks of socialist construction were sufficiently understood and pointed out by, at least, the most serious foreign scientists".

On the conclusive plenary sitting of the Congress Academician I. Pavlov, speaking in behalf of the Soviet delegation and the Soviet government, moved the proposal to hold the next Congress in the Soviet Union. This proposal was accepted unanimously by the International Organizational Committee.



Academician I. Pavlov, illustre Soviet scientist, director of the Physiological Institute in Leningrad. Acad. I. Pavlov was a member of the Soviet delegation to the International Physiological Congress

The foreign scientists' impression of the character of scientific work in the Soviet Union found its expression in the words of Prof. Yordan, one of the most important Dutch scientists. Conversing with the USSR representatives, Prof. Yordan pointed out that, in his opinion, the work of the Soviet delegates are subordinated to a certain general principal standpoint, that they are full of a deep principal sense extending beyond the framework of the immediate empiric of facts.

Professor Yordan expressed his deep content at the possibility of a visit to the Soviet Union and said that only there he hopes to find a full comprehension of the general conceptions, which he considers indispensable for the carrying out of any kind of scientific-investigatory work.

The numerous unofficial meetings of the Soviet delegates with other delegates at the Congress also gave witness of the very lively interest towards the USSR and of the deep respect held for the methods of development of Soviet science.

THE USSR MUSEUM OF REVOLUTION

(At its 10th anniversary)

By N. Druzhinin

In the heart of Moscow, on Gorky street, stands an old artistic building of "empire style", now occupied by the Museum of Revolution. At the beginning of the XIXth century this building was the private residence of one of the biggest aristocrats of former feudal Russia — Count Razumovsky. Some time later this residential palace was turned into a club for noblemen, known as the "English Club", which was frequented not only by the idle rich, but also by some of the most notable men of the time, such as the famous poet Pushkin, Chaadaev and many others.

Following the October Revolution, this former palace became the property of the State and was placed at the disposal of the Museum which has since become known as the Central Museum of Revolution of the USSR. This Museum is the centre of attraction of hundreds of thousands of visitors — of factory workers, colhozmen (members of collective farms), school pupils, students, teachers, research and scientific workers, scholars, as well as of great numbers of foreign workers' delegations and tourists from different parts of Europe and America. Large crowds of visitors constantly fill the many spacious halls of the Museum, decorated with some of the finest bas-reliefs, pictures and other artistic masterpieces so different in form and content from any exhibits usually seen at expositions on general historical or social subjects. The Museum of Revolution is the real product of the triumphant October Revolution.

In studying the contents of the 37 halls of the Museum, some of the richest pages of the history of the struggle of the Russian workers and peasants are revealed. There are to be found some of the rarest data of precious historical material portraying scenes of mass rebellion of peasants — serfs of the feudal lords, heroic, but fruitless revolutionary gestures on the part of single individuals, representatives of the intelligentsia in their attempts to raise upheavals, the strenuous and persistent work of the bolshevik organisations, the gradual development of workers' strikes and demonstrations, the first upheaval of 1905.

Historical documents and exhibits on the most outstanding events covering a

period of the last decade and a half, add to the great interest of the visitor, before whom is revealed some of the richest pages in history: the dethronement of the tsar, intense struggle of the various political parties, the development of the mass movement against the war, the provisional bourgeois government, the glorious days of the October Revolution in Petrograd, Moscow, Ukraine, as well as in other principal parts of the country that was beginning to liberate itself from the yoke of oppression. Following these there is a display of material showing the hard struggle against foreign intervention and civil war — a period of immeasurable deprivation and unprecedented revolutionary enthusiasm. On this background rises the striking figure of Lenin — the genius — and the organising creative part played by the bolsheviks led by him. This wealthy collection of exhibits closes with the section dealing with the contemporary international proletarian revolutionary movement.

Such are the contents of the Museum of Revolution which presents in a most vivid manner the history of the class struggle, arouses proletarian class consciousness, invokes hatred for the old system and inspires with bright hopes for the future of socialism.

The very character of the material displayed differs much in style from any other collection and presents quite an unusual sight. Samples of explosive shells prepared in the underground chemical laboratories of the old revolutionaries lay side by side with home-made weapons of revolutionary partisans, party banners, that were carried through severe battles of revolutionary fights. There are on display gifts made and presented by groups of workers in commemoration of some revolutionary event as well as many other relics of historical significance. Pre-war illegal revolutionary literature presents another very interesting feature of the Museum's collection. Here are to be found copies of proclamations, pamphlets etc., published illegally in tsarist days by revolutionaries and on account of which hundreds of them had suffered penal servitude and exile for long years. The pictures and sculptures of contemporary artists, as well as the works of some of their predecessors, depict in

a general way the most vital and outstanding episodes of the Revolution. A gallery of portraits and documentary illustrations form an impressive sight that helps to revive in the imagination of the visitor many of the revolutionary events, as well as the portraits of revolutionary heroes.

All of this diversive material is exhibited according to a strictly laid out plan and system. Scientific research constitutes an important part of the Museum's work in the matter of a proper interpretation of historical facts. For this reason all of the material is closely examined and followed up in strict chronological order. Each and every stage of the revolutionary movement is carefully traced and studied in order to make clear the economic and social basis that preceded each stage and to show the historical sequence of the natural law of development of the revolutionary movement.

During the ten years of its existence, the Museum has constantly laboured on the improvement of its exposition. Today, celebrating the tenth anniversary of its activities and reviewing the work done during that period of time, the Museum may well be proud of the tremendous accomplishments gained in the process of its daily and educational work ¹.

During the past ten years the sources of the Museum have grown immensely. Out of these funds the Museum draws very valuable information that is constantly adding a new interest to the exhibits and various materials displayed. The archives of the Museum contain at present over 500,000 different objects, including manuscripts, publications and many other valuable articles of art that have been accumulated during the past decade.

Very important sources of information which enriches the Museum's collection are living witnesses, personal participants in the revolutionary movement, veterans of the populist movement (narodnichestvo, 1860—1880), members of the underground revolutionary workers' circles (beginning with 1880), active participants and leaders of the revolutionary movement of 1905 and 1917, participants of the October Revolution. Many of them have served long terms in jail, penal servitude and exile, having devoted their entire lives to the revolutionary cause. Their memoirs are living pages of history, and this is the reason

¹ An exhibition entitled „Ten Years of the USSR Museum of Revolution“ is specially devoted to this subject.



S. Mitskevich, director of the USSR Museum of Revolution

why the Museum enrolls their assistance in the collecting of historical data. For this purpose the Museum has organised different groups of workers — active participants in revolutionary action, revolutionary sailors, organisers of revolutionary battles, red guards and partisans.

Of particular value and interest is the questionnaire which is issued to the above named groups. Information obtained in this manner eventually becomes the object of study and serves as a base for the scientific research works of the Museum, where this information is usually put to a critical analysis, verified and added by facts, according to the documents, obtained from the secret files of the tsarist police, as well as from the court records of the pre-revolutionary period.

In addition to this the Museum conducts a systematic search for material among files of other museums, library archives, second-hand book-sellers and collectors. Thus, the Museum's collections are constantly growing in number and form a real valuable base for its vital activities.

The Museum of Revolution, more so than any other museum in the country, serves as a powerful centre for political education of the toiling masses. The utmost efforts are, therefore, exerted in displaying the exhibits in a popular and comprehensive manner, accessible to the visitor, whose

political views become considerably enforced in the actual process of acquainting himself with genuine historical facts.

The increasing popularity of the Museum may be judged by the following growth of visitors covering the period of 1923/24 up to 1931:

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| 1923/24 | 36,452 |
| 1924/25 | 171,350 |
| 1925/26 | 209,146 |
| 1926/27 | 185,728 |
| 1927/28 | 236,726 |
| 1928/29 | 252,540 |
| 1929/30 | 270,572 |
| Last quarter of 1930 | 65,913 |
| 1931 | 279,398 |

Pupils of elementary and secondary schools form the majority of visitors constituting 30%, next come factory workers — 25%, technicum and university students — 21%. Another big group of visitors is composed of foreign workers' delegations and foreign tourists from many countries: Germany, England, France, Italy, Turkey, U.S.A., Japan, China and others.

The featuring of films portraying the process of revolutionary struggle is also part of the general activities of the Museum that add to its educational value. Only films on revolutionary historical topics are illustrated at the Museum, either in the form of documents, chronologically arranged, or single scenes artistically combined. The cinema performances are usually preceded by a lecturer's note. These films include: "Battleship Potemkin", "October", "Mother" and many others. Over 306,000 persons attended the cinema performances at the Museum in 1931.

The wide activities of the Museum are confined not merely to services extended to the visitor within the Museum, but far beyond, reaching directly workers at the factory, colhozmen in the field etc. For this travelling exhibitions are widely employed, being arranged according to definite topics such as: "On the Road to October", "The Five-Year Plan", "The First Revolution" etc. Competent lecturers accompany these travelling exhibitions, which visit industrial centres and rural areas.

The department of travelling exhibitions has arranged since January 1931 110 exhibitions on 22 subjects, including 85 exhibitions abroad. In Moscow such exhibitions are usually organised in the summer period, the street boulevards, Parks of Culture and Rest being used for this purpose. Some of these exhibitions, — for instance the one held at the Central Park of Cul-

ture and Rest, — are converted into permanent ones.

During the 10 years of the existence of the Museum of Revolution a number of auxiliary departments have been founded.

The consulting department on methodical problems caters to all interested in the matter of arranging expositions, excursions etc. The photo-laboratory prepares pictures not only for the Museum's needs and for travelling exhibitions, but also fulfils requests for illustrations from scientific institutions, schools, publishing houses, theatres etc. During 1931 the photo-laboratory prepared 3,895 negatives and printed 22,369 photos. The Museum's archives issue various information, supply with copies of exhibits the local historico-revolutionary museums and city exhibitions. The reading room of the Museum is open to all interested in questions of the revolutionary movement. About 1,700 persons availed themselves of its services in 1931.

A large part of the general activities of the Museum is devoted to the publication of albums, post-cards and literature on historico-revolutionary topics and on methodical questions. 7 albums and about 20 million copies of post-cards, dealing with revolutionary heroes, leaders and various episodes, have been printed in the last 6 years.

At present the Museum is occupied with the task of preparing new cadres of museum-research workers. For this purpose it has created a special institute for post-graduates with a two-year course and a preparatory department for factory workers. There are 30 students at the institute who are making a deep theoretical study of the history of the western peoples, history of the various nationalities of the USSR, dialectical materialism etc. The students are at the same time carrying on practical work at the Museum. A number of graduates of the institute have been included among the permanent scientific staff of the Museum.

The general activities of the Museum have expanded to such an extent that the old building of the former English Club cannot accommodate its growing needs. Steps are now under way for the construction of a new building that will provide ample space (according to the project it will have 68 halls, — 4,175 square metres) and will be technically well equipped and fully answer the demands for the ever growing scope of scientific research and educational work conducted by the Museum. The Museum will then be able to extend its

work on a much wider scale and will be in a position to present the picture of the revolutionary movement not only on the territory of the former Russian Empire, but also of various countries of the West and East. The visitor will then get a good chance of acquainting himself with similar processes that were simultaneously taking place in various countries: peasant wars (in France), the Wat Tylor revolt; the period of 1525 in Germany; the Razin and Pugachov uprisings in Russia; a number of bourgeois revolts which destroyed the remnants of feudalism (the English revolution of the XVIIIth century, the Great French Revolution, the revolutions of 1830 and 1848, the Paris Commune etc.); mass proletarian movements of the epoch of industrial capitalism, the history of the three Internationals, the struggle of the colonial peoples for liberation, revolutionary movement in the epoch of imperialism and the beginning of the decay of capitalism.

The idea of organising a "Museum of the World Revolution" is the Museum's programme for the second Piatiletka. This programme puts new tasks before the Museum. It demands reinforced efforts in the matter of research work, a search of new materials that will be necessary for the expansion of the activities of the Museum. To fulfil this responsible task the



The USSR Museum of Revolution

Museum hopes to gain the assistance of all those who sympathise and are anxious for the organisation of a "Museum of the World Revolution".

The auxiliary "Association of Friends of the Museum of Revolution" is extending very valuable service in this direction. It now has a number of branches throughout the country with quite a big membership actively engaged in the collection of historical data.

THE 300th ANNIVERSARY OF SPINOZA'S DEATH.

The philosophy of Spinoza, like every other philosophical system, is a product of the age in which it was evolved. In the XVIIth century Holland, the birthplace of the philosopher, was a country in which capitalism had reached a relatively high stage of development. It had already undergone its bourgeois revolution, and even earlier, in the XVIth century, there had been a strong revolutionary, communist movement led by Thomas Muntzer. In the XVIIth century Holland was passing through a stage of relatively peaceful development, when trade was good, handicrafts prospered and production by machinery had just begun.

Marx devotes considerable attention in his "Capital" and other works to a study of the economic development of Holland during this period. He emphasises the fact that "Holland of the XVIIth just as France of the XVIIIth century represented a typical manufacturing country in the

true sense of the word". Thus, for example, the division of labour in manufacture had advanced to such an extent in Holland that by the XVIIth century the manufacture of web for power looms was already a specialised industry. Marx further mentions that "in Germany during the XVIth and XVIIth centuries machines were invented which were employed only in Holland". Throughout this period Holland had extensive colonies and showed a tremendous growth of merchant capital. The growth of merchant capital at the expense of plundered colonies is typical of the development of capitalism. Marx observes that "the history of Dutch colonial economy — and Holland in the XVIIth century was a model capitalist country — presents an unexampled picture of treachery, corruption, murder and every kind of meanness".

At that time Holland had large possessions in both Indias, the whole trade of

Cochinchina and the Zonds Islands was in the hands of Dutch merchants. Holland was the leading trading country of the world. Her East- and West-Indian trading companies are well known.

Being a well developed capitalist country, Holland was at this time also the centre of considerable, and relatively free scientific, philosophical and artistic progress. This little country, having undergone its bourgeois revolution and enjoying the political conquests of its rising class, was the scene of a tremendous awakening and became the centre and focus of contemporary science, art and philosophy. Painting flourished (Rembrandt lived at this time) and mathematics and natural sciences had reached a very high level.

The XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries were marked by the rise of materialism and the positive sciences in all the chief countries of Europe. Particular progress was made in mathematics and mechanics, and the mathematical sciences began to be looked upon as the prototype of scientific truth, scientific inquiry and proof.

Spinoza expressed in a very vivid form the ideology of the bourgeoisie of this period and its most advanced and radical tendencies. Spinoza was the ideologist of the comparatively peaceful development of Holland, of its age of prosperity, and the rise of its trade and financial capital.

Spinoza stands at the apex of the scientific knowledge of his time. His philosophic system, which is in the direct line of evolution of the materialism of the XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries, is a generalisation of the progress made up to his time in the natural sciences, mechanics and mathematics.

The fate of Spinoza's philosophy is particularly instructive. The philosophical works of this great materialist thinker, when they appeared in the XVIIth century, were met by the supporters of the church and of reaction with the utmost hostility, and called forth the hatred and contumely of idealists of every breed. Later on, however, there was a definite change of attitude. The bourgeois ideologists, after capitalism had overcome feudalism, began to count Spinoza amongst the idealists. Thus it was that the idealistic interpretation of Spinoza's system has become the traditional one in the history of philosophy.

Spinoza is one of the greatest materialists of the new age. However Spinoza's mater-

ialism was not consistent to the end. His materialism was dressed up in theological garments. Feuerbach wrote as follows about Spinoza's philosophy: "Spinoza with his paradoxical proposition: 'God is that which is extended, that is the material existent', hit the nail on the head. He found what was for his time at least the true philosophical expression of the materialistic tendencies of the new age; he legalised these tendencies, sanctioned them. God himself is a materialist." And in another place: "Spinoza was the Moses of contemporary freethinkers and materialists."

While showing the materialistic character of Spinoza's philosophy, Feuerbach at the same time points out where the inadequacy of Spinoza's materialism lies. In Feuerbach's view it arises from the fact that his is a "theological materialism, the rejection of theology on the basis of theology itself".

Spinoza bases his philosophy on an analysis of substance which he at the same time calls God. Feuerbach again very clearly showed the true meaning of this conception of Spinoza's, the secret, as it were, of his philosophy: "After careful examination what do we find it is that Spinoza calls logically or metaphysically substance and theologically God? It is nature and nothing else."

The conception of substance in the philosophy of Spinoza has given rise to endless disputes and altogether contradictory interpretations in the history of philosophy. On a basis of the theological bias of Spinoza's philosophy, historians who wished to combat materialism started the legend of Spinoza as an idealist.

In the works of Marx, Engels and Lenin, dialectical materialists can find a perfectly clear exposition and appreciation of Spinoza's philosophy which will arm them for the struggle against idealistic philosophy and every kind of revisionism.

In the "Holy Family" Marx and Engels give the following exposition of Spinoza's substance: "In Hegel's system there are three elements: Spinoza's substance, Fichte's self-consciousness, and Hegel's necessarily contradictory combination of both — absolute mind. The first element is metaphysically disguised (or dressed up, travesty) nature divorced from man, the second is metaphysically disguised mind divorced from nature, and the third is a metaphysically disguised combination of each, the real man and the real human race."

Marx and Engels with their characteristic thoroughness disclosed the secret and true meaning of the philosophical systems referred to. In their view Spinoza's substance is metaphysically disguised nature. While accepting the main outlines of Feuerbach's exposition they make an important correction which is of great importance if Spinoza's system is to be understood. His nature is "nature divorced from man". Marx and Engels here emphasise the metaphysically passive character of Spinoza's philosophy, his meditative materialism.

At the same time Engels emphasises the great significance of Spinoza's famous proposition that nature has its cause within itself (*causa sui*) and depends on no transcendental or supernatural causes for its existence. With this principle of his Spinoza dealt all idealistic and theological systems a deadly blow and gave materialism a firm proposition on which to build.

Referring to the progress of the sciences from the XVIth to the XVIIIth centuries Engels writes: "It is very much to the credit of the philosophy of this time that it did not allow itself to be influenced by the limited outlook of contemporary natural sciences, and that, beginning with Spinoza and ending with the great French materialists, it resolutely sought to explain the world from within, leaving it to future science to give a detailed justification of this attitude."

We can thus note the following points about Spinoza's materialism: 1) a recognition of the objectivity of the world, of nature and of matter, and of their existence independent of human consciousness; 2) nature has its cause within itself and does not require any supernatural creator, is without beginning and without end; 3) a strict principle of mechanical causality and determinism holding good throughout nature, society and the process of human thought, and consequently a rejection of teleology and of the freedom of the will.

The history of materialism and atheism is intimately bound up with Spinoza's name.

Spinoza was one of the greatest atheists of the new age. He has come down through history as the "prince of atheists". In his works, especially in his "Theological and Political Treaty", Spinoza carried on a systematic and thoroughgoing criticism of religion and the Bible. Spinoza, as even the bourgeois historian Windelbandt admits, was "the first great representative of historical biblical criticism". In this respect Spinoza's influence on the further

development of anti-theological and atheist literature was very great indeed. Both the French materialists in their militant atheist literature, and the young Hegelians in Germany on the eve of the revolution of 1848 (Strauss, Bruno Bauer and others) as well as Feuerbach in the "Essence of Christianity" were undoubtedly very much influenced by the method of approach to religious criticism of which Spinoza was the initiator. He approached religious superstitions from a broad historic standpoint and disclosed the historically limited nature of religious beliefs, showing that religion and religious beliefs have nothing permanent about them, that they are not "laid down once and for all by God", but given the necessary conditions arise in the course of history.

Spinoza devoted a great deal of time to denying and criticising theological mythology. He held that the God of the theologians, as a being which sets itself a goal, as creator of the universe though standing outside of the universe, God pointing out the way to go, is a tremendous contradiction of human reason. Such ideas arise, according to Spinoza, because the aims and attributes of men are made to apply to the absolute and thus take on a divine character. Throughout the world there is a universal conformity to law, a strict and necessary causality which leaves no place for such a theology.

Religion and religious ideas, from Spinoza's point of view, have no theoretical significance whatsoever. This does not mean that they have not a very distinct practical influence on society owing to the fact that ruling authorities make use of every kind of superstition and religion in order to gain power over the people. Spinoza held that it is just on this kind of superstition that the monarchical system upholds its authority. According to him fear is the basis of superstition.

One can well understand therefore the kind of reception which Spinoza's philosophy met with amongst the militant ecclesiastics of the XVIIIth century.

Neither in his materialism nor in his atheism is Spinoza consistent to the end. In this respect the militant French materialists of the XVIIIth century stood on a much higher level. This however must not blind us to the really tremendous revolutionary importance which Spinoza's philosophy has had in the past and still has at the present day.

K. TSIOLKOVSKY, A SOVIET INVENTOR

The name of K. Tsiolkovsky, the inventor of the all-metal dirigible and airplane capable of mounting to great heights, is internationally known. For fifty years he has worked on the problem of inter-planetary flights. In tsarist Russia he worked in complete solitude. He was cold shouldered and ridiculed by the government bureaucrats. Only in the USSR is he surrounded with every possible care by the government and the people.

Scientists are particularly surprised at the ease with which Tsiolkovsky in his theoretical works is able to leap over the elementary details and as if by a stroke of genius come to such conclusions which others only arrive at after long, painstaking practical experience. Take for instance the designs of an airplane he made eight years prior to the first flight by the Wright brothers, before Santos-Dumont and Ader. It is very similar to the airplane of today. Even long before the Zeppelin was invented, when man could but dream of flying in the air, Tsiolkovsky had already made the designs for an all-metal dirigible.

As to inter-planetary flights, scientists the world over who are trying to solve the question of retroactive motive power acknowledge Tsiolkovsky their teacher. The German scientist Ober whose rockets have already pierced the stratosphere wrote to him thus: "You have set alight the wick, and we shall continue in our endeavours until this mightiest dream of mankind has been realised."

After the October Revolution Tsiolkovsky's inventions came into their own. He began to receive State support. All his material wants were attended to. His work on retroactive motive power began to be widely studied. His plans for the construction of an all-metal dirigible became a part of the dirigible construction plans in the USSR.

Tsiolkovsky's all-metal dirigible has overcome all the defects and shortcomings of the dirigibles hitherto constructed. The whole of it is built of corrugated steel. Its covering is to be like roofing iron. As a house with an iron roof does not require any special protection, so this steel dirigible will not need a hangar. Perpendicular motion will not likewise require wastage of gas, nor will there be any need to carry any burdensome ballast. All these and many other features will considerably enhance the feasibility of exploiting steel

dirigibles of a new type and make them a better and cheaper means of transport.

The higher the altitude at which an airplane flies, the faster can it travel. An increase in speed can therefore be more easily attained at a greater altitude. It has been proved after very careful calculations that in an atmosphere rarified 4, 9 and 100 times the speed can increase by 2, 3 and 10 times under the condition the power of the motor should be increased. In a rarefied atmosphere the rate at which a missile can travel is equivalent to its motive power. And these are just the points which are being solved by Tsiolkovsky's all-metal dirigible.

The Soviet journalist L. Kassil in speaking of an interview which he has had with the inventor says: "He (Tsiolkovsky) speaks of interplanetary flight with marvellous clarity. He is by no means an Utopian. He is continually engaged in calculations. This is knowledge without pride, confidence without affectation. Tsiolkovsky's latest work deals with the question of inter-planetary repopulation."

The 75th anniversary of Tsiolkovsky's birth has recently been celebrated in the Soviet Union. In Moscow it was honoured in the Columns Hall of the House of Trade Unions which was filled to overflowing by representatives from scientific and social organisations, from works and factories. Speeches were made by R. Eideman, President of the Central Council of Osoaviakhim, E. Luppel, President of the Chief Scientific Committee, Prof. Veger, representing the VARNITSO (Organisation of Soviet scientific and technical workers), and representatives of Moscow factories.

Prof. Rynin made a speech on the "Life and work of Tsiolkovsky in connection with aviation and retroactive motive power". This was followed by a speech by Prof. Vorobiov who spoke of Tsiolkovsky's work in the field of aviation construction.

In his reply to the speeches and greetings, Tsiolkovsky declared that he had only been given free scope in his work after the coming of the Soviets into power, and that he felt sure that his all-metal dirigible would serve the cause of the USSR.

In accordance with a decree passed by the Central Executive Committee of the USSR Tsiolkovsky has been awarded the Labour Order of the Red Baumer. 5 scholarships have been endowed in scientific-research institutes in his name.

USSR, from Coast to Coast

IN THE SOVIET ARCTIC

By E. Kay

About ten years have passed since the first Soviet scientific expedition to the North was organised, on Lenin's initiative, on the steamer "Persey". The small expedition on the "Persey" served as the beginning of the Soviet arctic explorations.

Since then there has been created a floating Marine Institute subsequently reorganised into the State Oceanographic Institute.

At the same time there was also set up an Institute for the study of the North. Finally, in 1930 the government organised the All-Union Arctic Institute, the only scientific institution in the world specially devoted to the study of polar countries.

With every passing year the work of exploring the North is developing on a broader and broader scale. Already more than 50 expeditions beyond the Arctic circle have been carried out by Soviet navigators.

The arctic cruises of 1932 are of special importance. On the 1st of August began the Second International Polar Year. Among the tasks which world science laid upon the expeditions of this year was the opening of new polar stations to the number of at least 17, of which 10 had to be opened by the Soviet Union.

During the past summer vessels flying the Soviet flag left the Archangel port in rapid succession. In the history of polar explorations of the Soviet Union 1932 will be marked as a year of the greatest achievements and heroism.

The USSR carried out its task in excess of expectations. Many of the stations opened this year are of considerably larger size than had been planned and their equipment makes it possible to carry on the work on a broad scale. Thus in the Tikhaya Bay (Pacific Bay) on Franz Joseph Land, there have been built, in excess plan, a pavilion of actinometry, a telephone station, a radio laboratory, and other scientific laboratories.

This year's favourable ice conditions facilitated the success of the expeditions. This unquestionably helped the ice-breaker "Malyguin", the hero of the Soviet polar voyages, to carry out its record-breaking arctic explorations, in making two trips in one summer to the remote and inaccessible Franz Joseph Land. At the extreme point of this archipelago, on Rudolf Land, a site has been selected for the northernmost polar station in the world.

On August 15 the "Malyguin", with a cargo of building materials, equipment and provisions for winter stations, left on its second voyage.

"Enveloped in fog the ice-breaker is paving its way through the White and Barentz Seas", the special correspondent of "Izvestia" telegraphed from the vessel. "Day and night pilots take turns on the captain's bridge. They search the fog, studying the compass to guide the way — on the lookout for ice, for land..."

"Neither ice nor land, and the 77th and the 78th degrees northern latitude





“Malyguin” in the ice-fields

have been left behind. Last year in these latitudes the “Malyguin” had long been battering the ice, nosing for an opening among the ice-fields. We have passed the 79th and the 80th degrees northern latitude, that of Nordbruk Island, that of Cape Flora.

“Neither ice nor land — naught but fog and water. Finally on the night of the 21st the screen of fog began to thin, finally lifting completely. In the glare of the mid-night sun breathlessly stretches the ocean, and three miles from us appears the magnificent George Land. Cape Grant towers above us in a dark mass; beyond it a mighty glacier stands like a bluish precipice above the shore, red lichens spotting its snow-white cap. And trailing the precipitous glacier a row of icebergs like a frozen breaker. Franz Joseph Land...”

August 22, at dawn the “Malyguin” put in at Tikhaya Bay, a place no longer justifying its name. For there in 1929 a winter station was built, a single house holding 10 persons.

This year the bay has been made into a veritable scientific colony. Among the crags that surround it are scattered half a score of buildings, all of them wired for telephone and electricity. Last year only the usual meteorological and magnetic observations were made. Now the programme at Tikhaya provides for extensive scientific studies. Twenty persons remained for the winter, among them scientists of eminence such as the German physicist Dr. Scholtz and the engineer Arkhangelsky. In charge of the winter colony is Ivan Popanin, former lathe hand and red partisan.

For four feverish days wintering materials for the colony were unloaded in Bay Tikhaya. Then the vessel hoisted anchor and steamed northward where land is no more, where only ice and water stretch far as the pole.

On the last day of August the “Malyguin” broke the record for vessels sailing in northern latitude within the European arctic. At 82° 27' the ice-breaker was checked by an immense mass of ice, 7 to 8 metres thick.

The ship turned back to Teplitz Bay and on the 7th of September at 11 p. m., while a violent storm was raging, the northernmost station in the world was solemnly opened. The crew of the “Malyguin” and the members of the expedition, the workers who built the station and the local colony joined in the ceremonies. Greetings were expressed, a salute was fired and the red flag of the Land of Soviets was hoisted on the radio mast erected here, at 81° 47 northern latitude.

The “Malyguin” expedition accomplished its aim splendidly. A station was built and the first time in history men stayed for the winter on Rudolf Island.

The biggest scientists and the most courageous navigators of the Soviet Union have been engaged in the practical solution of the problem of opening new sea routes for the USSR. The names of the men who succeeded this year in honourably fulfilling the responsible task assigned them by the Soviet government — to cover in one navigation season the entire route from the White Sea to the Pacific Ocean — will forever be inscribed in the annals of northern sea voyages. Their names are: Prof. O. Schmidt, leader of the expedition, Prof. V. Wiese, head of the scientific section, and V. Voronin, captain of the ice-breaker “Sibiriakov”, which carried out a voyage that has no parallel in the history of arctic exploration.

Their feat would have been impossible without the heroic co-operation of every participant in the expedition. “The trying conditions which the ice-breaker met were overcome by the spirit of organisation and enthusiasm of the entire crew and of all the scientific workers, by the socialist competition of the brigades, which broke speed records in unloading cargo and all but declared themselves shock brigaders” — so said the leaders of the expedition in their report to the Soviet government.

The route covered was one which had caused many of the bravest seafarers of the world to fail. Only three men had been

successful in negotiating it before: Norden-skjöld, Vilkitzky and Amundsen. The first was forced, however, to spend the winter several miles from his goal, the second spent three years to achieve his aim, while the third wintered twice en route. The "Sibiriakov", on the other hand, covered the entire distance — nearly half the circumference of the globe — in 65 days.

The head of the expedition Prof. Schmidt chose an entirely new route, one which proved to be the most difficult. The ice-breaker rounded Northern Land from the North enabling the expedition to ascertain the conditions for sailing in these unexplored latitudes. This route, by which the mouth of the Kolyma river is reached from the West, opens up great possibilities for the economic development of the Yakutian Republik.

The ice-breaker "Sibiriakov" left Archangel on July 28. The first half of the voyage was attended by relatively favourable conditions. On September 10, however, the vessel met with its first serious mishap when the ice snapped the blades and screw propellers. Five days of strenuous work permitted the vessel, without seeking port, to repair the propeller and replace the blades. But more serious troubles lay in store.

On September 18 heavy polar ice accumulated over a period of years near Stone Heart Cape ripped the screw propeller and the blades sheer off. It was then that the heroic struggle of the "Sibiriakov" crew began. The expedition had to be completed. By all manner of means — drifting



Landing on an ice-floe

with the current, blowing up the ice barriers, dragging from ice-floe to ice-floe by ropes, hoisting impromptu sails on the mast — the ice-breaker was kept moving on its course. Early in October S. Kameney, President of the Arctic Commission, received the following telegram:

"On October 1 at 3 p. m. 'Sibiriakov', under sail, crossed the meridian of Dezhnev Cape. We entered clear water in Behring straits. Task accomplished. North-Eastern covered on single trip without outside aid despite shipwreck."

Inside the straits, in clear water, the "Sibiriakov" met the trawler "Ussuriets" which a few days earlier had rushed to its aid but been kept from overtaking it by the current which had borne the ice-breaker off its route. Taken in tow by the trawler, the "Sibiriakov" went into port for repairs, to staunch the wounds sustained in its heroic struggle with the elements.

The voyage of the "Sibiriakov" opens up a new era in the history of arctic navigation. It has proved the possibility of covering the entire distance of the Arctic Ocean in one navigation season. It has brought arctic science very close to a solution of the problem of opening up the "Great Northern Route".

The "Sibiriakov" expedition is, moreover, closely bound up with the Ushakov expedition which has just



Heroes of Soviet Arctic expeditions: right to left—prof. Wiese, prof. Samoilovich, prof. Schmidt

GREETINGS TO THE ICE-BREAKER "SIBIRIAKOV"

Ice-Breaker "Sibiriakov".

Prof. O. Schmidt, Commander of the expedition.

V. Voronov, Captain.

Cordial greetings and congratulations to the participants in the expedition which has successfully solved the historical problem of sailing through the Arctic Ocean in a single navigation season.

The success of your expedition which has overcome unbelievable difficulties shows once again that there are no strongholds which bolshevik during and bolshevik organisation cannot take by storm.

We are putting the request before the Central Executive Committee of the USSR that the participants in the expedition should be awarded the Order of Lenin and that of the Red Banner of Labour.

Stalin, Molotov, Voroshilov, Yanson.

returned after two years of explorations in Northern Land.

The exploration of Northern Land, and in particular the determining of conditions governing voyages between it and the continent, demanded some knowledge of this hitherto unexplored section of the Arctic Ocean.

The expedition led by G. Ushakov is an example of the new way in polar exploration. This expedition brilliantly demonstrated that the study of the earth's surface in the Arctic and of the Arctic Sea routes is possible not only in snatches but in a planned and permanently organised way.

On August 24, 1930, the ice-breaker "Sedov" landed four men on one of the islands of a previously unknown group later named Sergey Kamenev Islands (in honour of the chairman of the Arctic Commission).

With Ushakov, who was in charge of the expedition, were Urvantzev, engineer-geologist, S. Zhuravlev, hunter, and N. Iodov, radio-operator.

In deciding to remain on the Sergey Kamenev Islands these four men knew that they would face an uphill struggle, that they might cut off from the outside world for several years, that the odds against them were tremendous. But a determined will, a deep scientific interest in their work and confidence in their own powers inspired them with hope for success.

The farewell whistle of the "Sedov" had hardly faded when the members of the expedition took up their work. There was no time to lose. An arctic winter, a four-month polar night, lay ahead. G. Ushakov describes the first sally:

"We determined to utilise the remaining period of daylight for initial attempt to reach the shores of Northern Land. Once, when visibility was exceptionally good, we sighted from the S. Kamenev Islands these shores along the horizon. The ice leading to them looked smooth and promised a successful crossing.

"But anyone at all familiar with ice on sea knows that it is as unreliable as the word of princes. Our expedition had hardly made 5 kilometres when a strong coastal wind blew up and a blizzard started in the opposite direction. Blinded by the snow dust, the dogs refused to pull the heavily laden sleighs. But to stop to near open water is to hazard the danger of being carried to sea. Be the difficulties what they might, we must push on. With 18 kilometres covered the expedition was forced by darkness, and the dog's exhaustion to bivouac for the night. The blizzard raged through the night and by morning the camp was practically buried under snow. At noon, blizzard beginning to give way, the expedition started plodding further, in an Eastern direction. More obstacles were ahead, for in many spots the wind had swept the ice clear of all snow and left a jagged surface. The dogs cut their feet and their blood stained the ice. Not until the evening of the third day, after a final effort, did the dogs pull the sleighs into the mysterious shores of Northern Land. We had left a total of 90 kilometres behind."

The expedition spent the winter in its main base preparing for explorations in the spring. The work was conducted by plan, step by step. Itineraries were outlined and food bases established along the pro-

posed route. Repeatedly Ushakov and Zhuravlev made a start through pitch darkness for Northern Land, in order to deliver provisions to the supply bases.

Only after the polar night was ended could the expedition start out to make a topographic map and do other preparatory work for a thorough survey of the land. In the course of 1931 two journeys were made. One lasted 36 days and the other — a much more difficult one both in respect to distance covered and conditions of travel — 52 days. The third and fourth journeys were made during the second year.

The highly valuable scientific material gathered has already been worked over in part and is shortly to be published. This material is remarkably rich and varied. The data on the hundreds of minerals investigated are interesting both from a scientific and an economic point of view, the expedition having found indications of various ore deposits. The diaries or logs of the expedition (containing detailed descriptions of the fauna of Northern Land) point out the very rich industrial possibilities of the islands.

During the last voyage of 1932 the topographical map of Northern Land was completed. The blank of the Arctic Ocean has been filled in by the Ushakov expedition, which made a complete chart of the archipelago and named all its islands. The

map drawn by Urvantsev gives the contours of the Bolshevik, October Revolution, Komsomolets and Pioneer Islands, surrounded by smaller islands and divided by the Red Army, Jungsturm and Shokalsky straits (the latter strait was discovered earlier, but had been thought to be a bay). This was the map used by the expedition which Prof. Schmidt headed when on the "Sibiriakov" it rounded Northern Land, for the first time, from the North.

Thus, as a result of the work of the Soviet arctic explorers the blanks on the section of the Arctic which belongs to the USSR are disappearing. Lands previously indicated on the charts by dots to show uncertainty are now delineated with precision. New, hitherto unknown islands have been discovered, valuable ore deposits new fisheries, hunting regions etc. found. From year to year the wealth of scientific materials has kept accumulating. All this has been made possible, as S. Kameney, the chairman of the Arctic Commission of the USSR, declared, because "the survey of these lands has been taken in hand by new, proletarian explorers" endowed with strength, energy, the will to fight their way through to victory and imbued with the conviction that "the discovery and exploration of new sea routes are part and parcel of the great plan of socialist construction" (report of the "Sibiriakov" expedition).

WHAT IS ANGARA?

(From a recent book "The Country of the Bull")

By Daniel Fiebich

In an aeroplane cabin one can ponder over things quietly, circumstantially, thoroughly. The horizon is wide, the field of vision is extended enormously.

During the hours of the sing-song monotonous hum which I spent in an open mail Föcker (Irkutsk—Nizhneudinsk—Krasnoyarsk—Novosibirsk) and then in a cabin full of prosaic comfort, sitting next to the window of a three-motor ANT (Novosibirsk—Omsk—Kurgan—Sverdlovsk) during these beautiful tours in the air the whole of Siberia, which was lying a thousand metres beneath, passed before us like a live geographical map.

It swam past us covered with motley shadows of the clouds creeping over its fields, wooded hills, ornamented with the silver lace of innumerable rivers flowing

northward. It was overgrown with bluish-green, thick-haired fell of the Siberian virgin forests and in the south it passed into the blue smoke which delineated the mountain ridges of Pamir and Tyan Shan.

It passed glittering with the lead of Angara, Yenissei, Irtysh, on the banks of which there appeared the mosaic of big industrial cities, the glass and concrete cubes of new constructions, the smoke of mills, the new bright yellow constructions of saw mills, Soviet farms.

We followed the course of birds — by that great international route which for the first time was struck by the Soviet air squadron, which flew from Moscow through the ancient sea sands of Gobi to Peking and which is now being followed not only by our powerful aeroplanes, con-

structed at our works, which are regularly following this route, but also by Germans, French, Americans, Japanese, Italians. They are flying from Europe to the Pacific, from Tokyo to Paris, flying round the world. I have seen at the Irkutsk aerodrome a white and blue aviette, similar to a dragon-fly, which belonged to Japanese airmen. In Kurgan, when waiting to mount the plane, three Parisians descended from the air, a young woman in horn-rimmed spectacles wearing male pyjamas and two men.

The number of passengers and the amount of mail bags and luggage on the Transsiberian mail route is increasing yearly. In July 1930 the Moscow—Krasnoyarsk air line carried 5 passengers, 1,4 tons of mail, .09 tons of cargo. In July 1931 the corresponding figures were 288 passengers, 5,4 tons of mail, 2,3 tons of cargo.

... When flying, in the clouds it is well to ponder over things.

I thought of Siberia — of the extraordinary country of which I saw and learned only a little. I thought of those fascinating horizons, which the Revolution opened up before Siberia.

The country of convict prisons, of convict songs, of terrible roads which chained prisoners used to tread, is being transformed — in fact has been transformed — into an Eldorado, into an industrial base of colossal power and energy.

Some one has said that in the course of the last centuries the world industrial centres have been shifting from the shores of the Atlantic to those of the Pacific.

The Urals serve as one of the illustrations of this statement. The half-deserted Urals which under capitalism were regarded as “non-paying”, with their factories, built under serfdom, the Urals which at one time yielded supremacy to South-Russian industry, now hold the key positions.

The blast furnaces of Magnitogorsk, Kuznetskstroy, the growing metallurgical giant of Nizhny-Tagil...

The Ural mountain ridge is being transformed into the spine of the Soviet heavy industry.

It is now the turn of Siberia.

Siberia, the freed Mongol slave, cruel, enigmatic, precious, like a box filled with jewels, possessing mighty streams, where power stations are destined to rise, with steppes capable of feeding many thousands of herds of cattle, with huge forests and mountains harbouring millions of tons of coal, all kinds of ore, and gold.

We know of the virgin forests of Siberia, which have been sung by hundreds of poets, with its romanticism after the fashion of Fennimore Cooper, with animals unscen by man, with forest inhabitants, who shoot in distant forest paths successful gold prospectors or liquor smugglers.

But do we know that the Siberian virgin forests occupy an area, exceeding all the forests of Western Europe put together?

Is it known that the yearly increase of Siberian forests is itself capable of satisfying one-third of the demand for timber in the whole of Europe?

We have had enough of the archaic romanticism. We are surfeited with it. It is not only harmful, but also out of date.

Today, another romantic conception is coming to the fore. The romanticism of magnificent constructions, of heroic labour. The romanticism of scientific-research explorations investigating the jungles. The romanticism of the pioneers of a new epoch, of scouts, whose faces bear traces of terrible wounds inflicted by mosquitoes, with boots covered with morass mud, who are working veins and making surveys of an unknown country.

These are the scouts of the great coming socialist advance on the virgin forest, the gloomy hostile nature, of old Siberia. They will be followed by armies of hundreds of thousands of workers, who will fell century-old cedar trees, blow up rocks, build high roads and electric railways, dig the ground with excavators, mix concrete, assemble and erect machines, lay cables on mountains which will transmit a high tension current for a distance of hundreds of kilometres.

They will erect constructions such as have not yet been seen by mankind. And here we can refer to Angarostroy.

In the days I spent in Irkutsk the loudspeakers in Karl Marx Street were telling loudly about Angara, about millions of horsepower, about kilowatt-hours.

The first scientific-research Congress of Eastern Siberia was at that time taking place. Engineers, professors, specialists, academicians, who arrived from Leningrad, were discussing the plan of the coming great work which will transform the huge region beyond recognition.

The agenda placed as its first item that same rapid river with green waters which, without in the least suspecting such flattering attention to it, was tearing along past the pillars of a long wooden bridge,

not far from where the Conference was taking place.

Let us quote engineer V. Malyshev, who is guiding the construction of Angarostroy:

"The total capacity of Angara throughout the whole of its length is about 15 million H.P. The rapids can give up to 25 million kw.-hours a year of exceedingly cheap electrical energy. If we compare this figure with others, the immensity of its power will become obvious; it is 90% of the energy produced by the whole of Germany at all its power stations. This means the feeding of industry equal to 90% of all the industries of present-day Germany. It means an energy capable of satisfying 25% of all the industries of present-day America. This energy we are able to obtain at one spot near the rapids of Angara. And if we take into consideration also the Small Angarostroy, then these two stations put together will be powerful enough to feed the entire German industry."

In order to grasp the magnitude and power of the Angara hydro-electric power constructions, we can compare them with Dnieprostroy. The completed Dnieper power station will at first be able to muster 500,000 H.P. Later on the figure will reach up to 800,000 H.P.

But as regards Angara — let engineer Malyshev speak on this:

"It is possible to construct two stations, one of 2.7 and the other of 2.5 million HP. Thus these two stations could supply a power of 5,200,000 H.P. of equal tension throughout the whole year. This latter circumstance is particularly valuable, since it makes the Angara stations superior in this respect to other hydro-electric power stations of the world.

"Apart from Angara great reserves of energy of considerable value are obtainable from other big rivers, such as Irkut, Kitoy, Oka, etc."

The furious onslaught of the waters of Angara will be utilised in sections most favorably situated for that purpose. At the first section of the Angara, 12—18 kilometres from the Baikal, dikes and stations of the Small Angarostroy are being planned. The Great Angarostroy will be constructed near the rapids below Bratskoye village, covering a distance of about 230 kilometres. There the river is tearing along, foaming and storming, compressed by very steep banks of hard mountainous rock, leaping over stones and rocks. Dams will

bar Angara here at three points. Near the Padun Rapids, where the height of the dike will be 21 metres, a hydro-electric power station will be built with a capacity of 1 million H.P. Near the Long (Dolgy) Rapids, a station of 1,750,000 H.P. will use the pressure of the waters falling from a height of 35 metres. Finally in the neighbourhood of the Slaman Rapids, the dam will be 25 metres high and the station will have a capacity of 1,200,000 H.P.

The total capacity of the Great Angarostroy alone will be 4 million H.P. ("Angarostroy" by engineer A. Goravsky).

The Leningrad bureau of "Energostroy" has estimated that the approximate cost of electrical energy in the Small Angarostroy will be .56 kopecks and in the Great Angarostroy .25—.30 kopecks per kilowatt-hour. So far the cheapest electrical power in the Union (the Dnieper station) will give current at .75 kop. per kilowatt-hour.

Angarostroy is a construction unique in the whole world as regards its power. It will be an electric power centre of world importance.

The construction on the Angara is being planned as a single unit, a combinat. It will be constructed on the same principle as Dnieprostroy.

This implies not only the construction of an hydro-electric station, but also the construction around it of new gigantic works, new socialist cities, the building of electric railways, of everything that will be fed by the electric power of that station.

Dnieprostroy is being created in an industrially populated area of the Ukraine. In Angara, on the other hand, the tasks are more complicated and wider — the colonisation of new uninhabited territories, the reconstruction of agriculture, the development of all kinds of transport, total reorganisation of a wild sparsely populated and inhospitable region.

There on the shores of Lake Baikal, in virgin forests infested with bears, it is possible to create an all-Union centre of electrical industry, of non-ferrous metallurgy, of light machine building, of silicic and chemical industries.

This is indicated by all the natural characteristics of the region.

Cheap electrical power, coal and iron, non-ferrous metals, high-grade clays, forests. Moreover, the construction of mighty power stations will give Siberia a new water-route 5,000 kilometres long. Almost throughout its entire length the region

is intersected by one of the largest water arteries: Selenga—Baikal—Angara—Yenisei. When the Angara rapids, which are now innavigable, will be destroyed, nearly the whole of this system can with relative ease be transformed into a navigable route. Steamers loaded with lumber, raw material and manufactured goods of the new gigantic works will proceed from Baikal straight to the sea of Kara, on the route of the Kara expedition, along which we are yearly transporting tens of thousands of tons of export goods. It will then be possible to travel by water from Hamburg, London or New-York to Mongolia, to the threshold of Gobi.

Angarostroy will be constructed by inhabitants of a classless socialist society.

Preliminary exploration work is now being carried out. In the forests are roaming scientific expeditions, digging near the banks of Kitoi, making surveys and hydroulic observations on the Irkut, investigating the Padun rapids, where in the days to come the lights of the main station will shine.

And round about, as far as one can see, there stretch virgin forests, jungles, morasses, full of wild animals, huntsmen's paths, and the primitive huts of the tunguzes.

... Late at night after a forced landing at some unknown pasture near the fringe of the forest we succeeded at last in tear-

ing away from earth and to speed upwards'

The passengers are sleeping in their wickerwork chairs. From the pilot's cabin, after opening an oblique door, the mechanic creeps out, treading firmly the narrow corridor.

In the lilac haze of dawn, through the duraluminium wing, we sight the city of Omsk.

It begins to shift the chessboard of its square blocks lined with a sparse row of lights. Irtysh glitters like lead.

There it is — the former hornet's nest. The capital of the little tsar of Siberia. The residence of the "supreme ruler of the Russian State", the city of Admiral Kolechak. Here the battalions of the interventionists were strutting about. Here they dictated the man with black double-headed eagles on his shoulder straps to advance either in this or that direction.

I recall the people I have met. Tens of former guerilla fighters, underground workers, Red commanders.

The fact that a Soviet aeroplane was now able to fly over Soviet Omsk was largely due to their present and past life, to their everyday work. At present their work included the transformation of Siberia of the convict prisons, the Siberia of Kolechak, at one time groaning under the heel of the interventionists, into a modern Siberia — that of Angarostroy and of socialism.

SHAMSHOVI, A SOVIET HEALTH-RESORT

By Shalva Soslani

Shamshovi, this word is a compound of two proper names — of a man and a place. Shamshe Lezhava, a communist physician, had discovered this wonderful health resort in his native valley among the Shovi hills, in the midst of a thick pine forest, in the highlands of Georgia.

A rare name is Shamshe.

The doctor is now an old man. In his young days he was active in the revolutionary movement, worked underground, was hounded by the tsarist spies and police, and went through imprisonment and exile. All those years he cherished an undying affection for his native home, and as a physician he thought much about the great medical possibilities of the mineral springs and pine forests of Shovi.

In his childhood he had heard many stories about the wonderful cures effected by the Shovi waters. The origin of these springs and forests is shrouded in ancient mystery and folklore.

Once upon a time, in the hoary past, David the Builder, or his grand-daughter tsarina Tamara, riding on mules, drove through this locality, making a halt at the village of Glola. All the mules — so the story goes — made straight for the water and would not budge one step farther. The tsarina herself sampled this water, and the fact of such royal appreciation was duly commemorated. A church was built on the rock, and the village grew into a large township. As the population grew, so did also its superstitions. The

church stood for eight centuries and grew into one with the country and its people, and its rocky hills.

Here, near the bridge of the Rion river, straight from the rocky shore, gushes a strong spring of gaseous ferric water.

Here and there, on the meadows, on the slopes of the hills, are the miserable huts of the poverty-stricken peasants...

Such were the conditions not so very long ago. In such a hut, with a hole in the ceiling for a chimney, and an open hearth in the middle of the living room, a crowd of peasants would gather around the fire to listen to hoary tales handed down through the ages.

The oldest patriarch begins the story.

"As is known, the Devi¹ dwell in the mountains...

"And the spring, which gushes right here under the hill, was guarded from times immemorial by the good fairy Vodza, the patroness of the poor...

"Her hair flows in gigantic tresses. If she spreads out one of these tresses, a thick pine forest grows forthwith out of the ground; she spreads out another tress, and a spring begins to gush...

"Nine gruesome Devi fought for her hand, and in their furious combat they overturned hills and rocks, uprooted trees.

"And fleeing from her terrible wooers, the beautiful fairy tore down one rock, a second, and a third, and gathering them in her lap she lay in ambush between two hills — the Buba and the Dgviora hills which wear snow veils over their heads.

"A great battle raged between the Devi for possession of the fairy...

"It all happened here, amid the Shovi hills...

"A stone was not left in its place. Huge primeval alder-trees flew about like splinters in the hands of the Devi. Mountains were shifted. Many of them were swept down by floods. And one of Devi, having clutched a mountain — they say it was the Mamison Glacier — desperately tore away a block of ice. A huge stream began to gush from the heart of the mountain, flowing downward in a swift river. Another one of the Devi sought refuge in the Buba cliff, but Buba angrily threw him down the glacier and poured a river over him. (Thus came the swift running Bubis-Tskhali river). A third, the most agile among the Devi, climbed up the Tehkhont-chu Peak, but his tail got caught in a

¹ "Devi" — mountain ghosts, according to popular Caucasian belief.

crack of the glacier, the ice was torn open, and the Tehkhontchuri river began to flow...

"Thus the Devi failed to overtake the fairy, either drowning in the iron waters, or losing themselves in the impassable woods. The rising sun found the Devi exposed in the mountains and they were turned into stony rocks...

"Listen, children... Do you hear the sound of rumbling? At night the Devi rise in the mountains, and everytime one of them shifts his foot, the rock underneath begins to rumble..."

And the young listeners would huddle around the fire, thrilled and awe-stricken. The old man would clean his pipe for another smoke, and another story.

This time it is a story of real life.

A story about events no less terrible, although perpetrated by human Devi — the feudal landlords and oppressors of the common people, the vicious and ruthless rulers of Svanetia and of Ratcha.

Shamshe Lezhava turned over in his mind these reminiscences in his far-away exile. In 1910 he returned to his native home.

He found the same old Shovi — ignorant and superstitious, fearing God, the landlords, the police, and the terrible Devi. The ferric water streaming down from the Mamison Glacier...

Down the slopes of the Shovi plateau, where the green pastures are bordered with pine trees, the carbo-oxide waters trickle down through the bushes and moss, leaving a red ferric sediment. And in the middle of the plateau — amid the thick alder-trees and birches — is a little lake of clear water.

The ground all around is muddy. There is no path for human feet, and only the cattle manage to wade a path to the clear refreshing water.

Here, in the valley of the rivers Chanchakh and Buba — where the bolshevik doctor found concealment in a shepherd's hut — the idea originated of building the Shovi health-resort.

Doctor Shamshe, in 1913, a fugitive from the tsarist authorities, organised the first "Auxiliary Society for building the Shovi health resort".

The idea developed. The dream turned into a feasible plan.

The plan roamed through the virgin forests, like the Devi of old, shifting mountains and rocks. Roads were built to the north and to the south.

The plateau between the Shovi valleys was cleared. The swamps were drained.

The stream of the ferric waters was traced to its source — the Vodza Spring.

Investigation revealed the existence of four groups of mineral springs — astringent acid springs, which have long since been attracting malarial and anemic patients from villages near and far.

Thus was the plan first originated in the dark days of tsarist rule.

But the plan was born into a land in captivity.

Both the land and the plan were in the captivity of tsarist Russia, and they remained so until the October Revolution of 1917.

Finally, the Soviet Union became the native land of Dr. Shamshe, and his cherished plan was then revived.

The plan was turned into a real thing.

The building of the Shovi health-resort was started in the very next year after the sovietisation of Georgia: it was one of the first health-resorts in Transcaucasus to be built according to preliminary plan. It was the first Soviet health-resort.

*

The years that passed since 1922 to this day were full of arduous and persevering labour carried on in true bolshevik fashion under most difficult and trying conditions. Machines and building materials had to be hauled up the steep mountain paths, over bottomless precipices, amid numerous handicaps and dangers.

Down below, at the bottom of the gorge, runs the river Rion, noisily forcing its course through the impeding rocks.

At the top, where the clouds are on a line with the pinnacles of tall beech trees, the mountain climber has to proceed cautiously, step by step. Here, along the slope of the mountain, the Military Ossetian Highway leads its winding course to Shovi and on to Mamison Pass.

Man looks so pitifully small among these imposing grandeurs of nature — like ants toiling on a hill.

There is not one place in the mountain, not a single village or meadow, associated here with the name of man — most of them bear the names of animals, or of various species of trees and minerals, or of the outward shape of mountains and rocks, or are dedicated to the memory of various battles both successful and unsuccessful.

Today, amid the Devi mountains, man encounters nature, fully armed with technical equipment and scientific knowledge.

Governmental commissions, scientific expeditions, geologists, chemists, engineers

and technicians, architects and professors, proceeded to Shovi along the tortuous mountain paths, to study the locality of the future health-resort and to organise the preliminary work... The plan of the great balneological resort of the future has become a tangible reality.

In 1928, on the tenth anniversary of the October Revolution, the Shovi health-resort was officially opened, and named after Shamshe — in honour of the untiring physician and veteran bolshevik Shamshe Lezhiava.

These hills, these rocks, the forests and the glacial altitudes, the noisy rivers of Chanchakh and Buba, listened on that day for the first time in the thousands of centuries of their existence — to the tale of their ultimate subjection to the will and determination of man.

The builders of the Shovi health-resort and their guests — peasants from surrounding villages, deputies from Svanetia and Ossetia, engineers and chemists, geologists and common labourers, shepherds and foresters — all of them danced in chorus on that day upon the Shovi plateau the ancient folk-dance Perklisi as the supreme expression of joy and elation.

*

In times past there used to be fights and encounters among the different races and tribes inhabiting the mountain villages. Today they are organised in State and collective farms, forming a happy and united, prosperous agricultural family. The only rivalry now existing is that of "socialist competition", the only fighting is that of "shock brigades" endeavouring to outdo one another in the carrying out of production plans.

*

The future of Shamshe has already become its present.

It seems as though the hills, the air, the sun, the water, and the forests, are being rejuvenated here, along with everything else in this country.

From local red stone, gray granite, and pine timber, the Shamshe health-resort is being built.

Built to face the sun and snow-clad mountain peaks.

Built in the pine forest, close to the Vodza springs.

And the future of the great health-resort that is to be is already discernible from the plan of development mapped out for Shamshe in the second Five-Year Plan.

The Map of the Five-Year Plan

THE GREATER VOLGA

Six years ago the first big Soviet hydro-electric station with a capacity of 60,000 kilowatts was opened on the Volkhov river. The builders of the Volkhov station were then transferred to Dneprostroy. The huge hydro-electric station on the Dniepr with an ultimate capacity of 810,000 kilowatts (of which 450,000 are already in use) was opened on October 10, 1932.

In the second Five-Year Plan the workers of Volkhovstroy and Dneprostroy are to be faced with a task of even greater magnitude: they are to build on the Volga four power stations exceeding several times the capacity of the Dniepr station.

Three of the stations will be built on the Middle Volga: in the Ivanovo-Voznessensk district, in the Nizhny-Novgorod district and in that of Perm (on the Kama river).

The approximate capacity of these power stations will be between 800,000 and 1,000,000 kilowatts. The stations are to be completed not later than October 1, 1935.

The Nizhny-Novgorod, Ivanovo-Voznessensk and Perm districts represent important industrial centres in which are concentrated the textile industry, big metal plants, etc.

These powerful electric stations will lend further impetus to the development of the productive forces of these districts by raising the technical level of the industrial enterprises.

The fourth and most powerful hydro-electric station will be built on the Volga in the region of Kamyshin, and will be the greatest hydro-electric plant in the world, with a capacity of 1,800,000—2,000,000 kilowatts. Its construction is planned for completion in 1937, the end of the second Five-Year Plan.

While the first three stations will chiefly serve industry, the fourth station is part of a major project to irrigate the regions of the Volga subject to drought.

Prof. Chaplygin, the author of the scheme for reconstruction of the Volga and irrigation of the Trans-Volga regions, said of this work:

“The irrigation of this territory will insure a regular crop of 1.5—2 tons per hectare. This must be multiplied by the 1—1.3 million hectares which are to be irrigated to conceive the far-reaching economic benefits expected from the proposed Volga irrigation system.



Kamyshin on the Volga, where one of the new power stations is to be built

“The Trans-Volga region will be converted into one of the largest granaries in the Soviet Union, with a gross yield of 5,000,000 tons of wheat from irrigated lands.

“The Kamyshin power station will yield 9—10 milliard kilowatt-hours of energy per year against the Dniepr station's 2—3 milliard kilowatt-hours. Kamyshin will therefore be equal to four Dnieprostroy's.

“The dam of the power station will be a structure unexampled in history, as it is to be some 3 kilometres long and 30 metres high.

“The obstacles to irrigating the Trans-Volga steppes are immense. The area in view is at an altitude considerably above the Volga. In consequence about 25 milliard cubic metres of water will have to be raised annually to a height of from 60 to 100 metres.

“As the irrigation season lasts for only three months, stupendous pumping stations would be required to pump this mass of water in so short a space of time, but my plan foresees the creation of a system of reservoirs — giant internal lakes — over the irrigated area. Into these reservoirs the water will be pumped the year

through and during the irrigation season their water will be used to flood the fields.

“Irrigation itself will also be organised along new lines. Instead of running water through ditches as is commonly done, it is proposed to use the wholly new method of sprinkling by electrical means.

“The estimated cost of the Volga irrigation scheme is from 5 to 7 milliard rubles.”

The daring project for irrigating the drought-menaced Volga steppes is no utopia but a tangible fact in socialist construction. Already 3,000 technicians and 11,000 workers are engaged in the preliminary work. The next few months will see their number grow to 6,000 technicians, 20,000 workers and 3,000 collaborators of projecting organisations. The government has issued orders to complete all surveys, charting and draughting within half a year.

During the second Five-Year Plan four power stations are to go into operation on the Volga; the immense Kamyshin station to be one of them. And the Volga region will, in addition, be fed by an astoundingly large and modern irrigation system.

THE WHITE SEA - BALTIC CANAL

This November marks the completion of a canal connecting the Baltic and the White Seas. The next navigation season vessels will proceed from Leningrad through this canal straight to the White Sea.

This canal is one of the biggest constructions of the Soviet Union. It is 226 kilometres long and has been built in record time — 300 days. The Suez Canal, which is 164 kilometres long, took 10 years, and the Panama Canal, 82 kilometres long, took 9 years to build.

The White Sea-Baltic Canal is located in the land of lakes — Karelia. It begins near Port Soroki on the White Sea, then proceeds along the river Vyg, the lake of Vyg, river Telekinka and merges into the Onega lake near the town of Povenets. From here along the Onega lake, Svir river, Ladoga lake and Neva river, boats will proceed to Leningrad.

The canal has a history. The route it follows has been known for several hundred years.

Already in the XVth century two Englishmen Thomas Southen and John Spark

went by the water route from the White Sea to the Onega lake in order to sell their goods to the local inhabitants. They made their journey on three boats — partly on lakes and rivers and partly by portage. Up to the present day has been preserved along the route of the canal an enormous cleared path cut out in 1702 by order of Peter the Great.

Thus the necessity of creating a through route connecting two important seas was felt very long ago. Under the tsarist government there was frequent talk of the construction of a White Sea-Baltic canal, plans were frequently drafted and surveys made. As late as 1915 the State Duma discussed the question of building a water route. However nothing came of it. It is only now under the Soviet government that we were successful in realising this grandiose enterprise.

The enormous task which confronted the builders of the canal was not only to connect into a single system rivers and lakes which are situated between the White Sea and the Baltic, but also to make such

a canal¹ navigable. This task could be solved in two ways, either by deepening the waterway of rivers and lakes or by raising their level by means of dikes, dams and sluices. The builders of the canal elected the second course. By means of enormous sluices built near Povenets ship will be raised to the height of 76 metres and then through a lock 6 kilometres long cut in rock will gradually descend towards the White Sea. Near the ancient village Nadvoitsy powerful dikes are being constructed. When they are completed the famous Nadvoitsy rapids will be completely submerged.

A great piece of construction work is the Dubrovskaya dike built near village of Nadvoitsy. This dike will have to bear the pressure of $5\frac{1}{2}$ milliard cubic metres of water coming from lake Vyg. The dike stretches for $3\frac{1}{2}$ kilometres. A special committee of the Scientific-Research Institute of Hydrotechnics has inspected this dike and expressed the opinion that it constitutes one of the most interesting and original constructions of recent years. It was built in 100 days by 3,000 men.

Lower down, 20 kilometres from Nadvoitsy, near lake Shavanskoye, one of the most original constructions has been erected, — a wooden dike bound with iron rims. Semicircular in form, it reminds one of a gigantic log placed across the river.

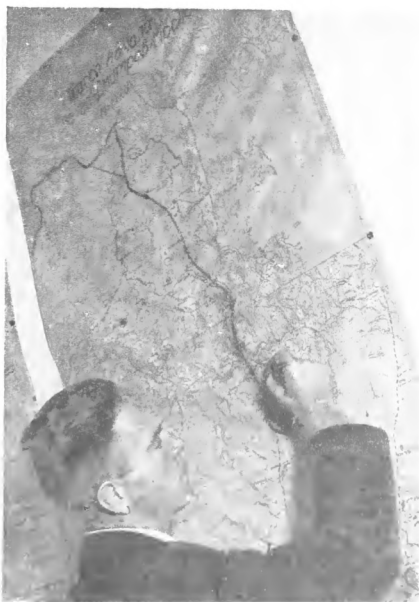
Sluices, dams and dikes intersect the whole canal raising the level of the water and making it navigable for sea-going vessels. The main part of these constructions is already completed. The following striking figures illustrate the enormous work that has been carried out: 1,800,000 cubic metres of rock, 6,700,000 cubic metres of earth, 334,000 cubic metres of concrete, etc. This means a considerably bigger volume of work accomplished than either the Panama or the Suez Canals.

The importance of the new White Sea-Baltic Canal is enormous. The wealth of Karelia, — the Karelian timber, the Khibiny apatite, the coal of Pechora, granite etc. — is incalculable. Hitherto the absence of highroads for transport was the main difficulty which hampered the development of the productive forces of that country. It possesses only one railway, the Murman railway. The White Sea-Baltic Canal solves this most important question.

Big ships sailing from Leningrad to the White Sea will no longer have to follow a roundabout route along the shores of Scandinavia. They will be able to go by the shortest direct route.

The last constructions which will make the canal navigable for sea going vessels are being completed. In the summer of 1933 the ships will for the first time use the White Sea-Baltic Canal.

One of the most interesting projects to be realised during the second Five-Year period is the construction of a canal connecting the Volga and the Moscow River



On the photo: engineer Semionov, chief of the group who drew up the project, before the scheme of the Volga-Moscow River Canal

Literature and Art

THE CONGRESS OF SOVIET WRITERS

Our journal has already taken note of the reconstruction of the Soviet literary and art organisations, which resulted in the formation of a United League of Soviet Writers.

In autumn of 1932 in Moscow took place the first enlarged plenum of the Organisational Committee of the League, attended by writers of the RSFSR, the Ukraine, the Transcaucasian Federation, Tartaria, Turkmenia, the Crimean Republic, Moldavia, Tadzhikistan, Uzbekistan, Kirghizia, Kazakstan, Siberia, the Udmurt Region. 129 delegates in all. About 500 writers and members of literary circles were present as guests.

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The first plenum of the United League of Soviet Writers coincided with the 15th anniversary of the October Revolution. Thus the results summed up at the plenum were at the same time the results of the development of Soviet literature for the past fifteen years.

Soviet literature appears before the whole world with an enormous list of names and works created in the land of the October Revolution.

The first theme, which expressed the strongest ties which bind our literature to present-day life, was that of civil war. In a number of important works the heroic years of struggle against armed counter-revolution and intervention have been portrayed. The creation of such works was for the writers a great test of their revolutionary qualification and of their creative forces and mastery.

Socialist construction has opened up a new period in the development of Soviet literature, having been responsible for works in which there appear the living images of the men of the Five-Year Plan, images of the new village, of State and collective farms.

These creative efforts made possible only by a decisive struggle against the hostile influences of the old world forces acting in literature as potently as in the other spheres of economic and cultural life. The organisations of proletarian writ-

ers, which existed in the preceding period, helped to conduct this struggle.

The main body of writers who witnessed the downfall of the pillars of the old world, the progress of gigantic construction, the growth of unprecedented enthusiasm on the part of millions of people, resolutely and irrevocably took their stand on the side of the Soviet government.

These events led to the unification of all Soviet authors in a single league, which replaced the former literary organisations, whose limitations had begun to hamper the further development of Soviet literature.

The decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party concerning the dissolution of those organisations and the creation of a United League of Soviet Writers (as well as a league of artists, composers, etc.) was carried out on April 23, 1932. Only a few months elapsed from that date to the plenum. The plenum gave a striking proof of the absolute correctness of this decision.

All writers, including many of those who hitherto had taken no active part in social-literary life, came to the plenum in order to declare their close allegiance with the construction of socialism in the USSR.

Dozens of representatives of the literature of the RSFSR, the Ukraine, Georgia and other Union republics passed before the plenum. Some of them were proletarian authors, others old writers who grew up under conditions of bourgeois culture, such as Andrey Bely and Mikhail Prishvin. What was the bond uniting them all? It was the desire to fight for the construction of a socialist society, the desire to work on the creation of socialist culture.

The plenum was a demonstration of a brotherly alliance between the literature of the nations of the USSR and proved that the October Revolution had really caused a revival of art among all nations which were previously oppressed. Suffice it to mention that the Ukrainian State Publishing House possesses a reserve of 20 long novels, some of which are extremely original, both in point of art and ideas.

The plenum devoted much attention to the problems of the theory of literature, of style and of artistic method. Of all theoretical questions the fundamental one at the present stage is that of "socialist realism" as a style of Soviet literature. This slogan does not mean, of course, that all writers are bound to follow a uniform method. The principal and most profound meaning of the formula of socialist realism is the demand that the artist should be truthful and should not snapshot isolated facts which may often distort the real picture of life. He should be truthful in the sense that he should reveal the leading tendencies of actual life, showing the present events in the fullness of their development. Such method does not contradict the presence of revolutionary romanticism in Soviet literature, a romanticism which expresses the excitedness of the author, his tendency to get an insight into the future of the Soviet Union.

This position determines the tasks of Soviet criticism.

A Soviet critic must not be one who destroys or extols a writer on account of the presumed ideas of the writer and the pre-

sumed lack of correspondence between these views and the standpoint of the critic himself. A Soviet critic is bound to lay emphasis on actual life which the artist represents in his images and show the degree to which the artist approaches to or deviates from real life. It is only in this way that it is possible to investigate the causes of success or failure of a given author. It goes without saying that only Soviet criticism based on the principles of the teaching of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, is able to present such an analysis of the literary work and is therefore capable of helping the author in correcting his errors and developing his creative abilities.

The plenum also discussed various kinds of Soviet literature and indicated, among others, the great achievements of Soviet drama and the enormous importance of plays for the Soviet Union, where plays enjoy particularly popularity among the masses.

Soviet literature enters the 16th year of the October Revolution with assets of indisputable successes, and is setting itself tasks worthy of the great work which is being performed in the Soviet Union.

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECHES DELIVERED AT THE PLENUM OF THE UNITED LEAGUE OF SOVIET WRITERS

I. Gronsky,

President of the Organisational Committee of the United League of Soviet Writers

The creation of a United League of Soviet Writers has been rendered possible owing to a change in the attitude of the broadest masses of the old intelligentsia which grew up under conditions of bourgeois culture, a change in favour of the socialist Revolution. This change has been prepared by the whole preceding development of the proletarian Revolution.

The old intelligentsia saw that the bolsheviks were right. They were convinced of it by such facts as the crisis of world economy, the successful realisation of the Five-Year Plan, the victorious development of collectivisation and the wide sweep of the cultural advancement in our country. And on becoming convinced that the bolsheviks were in the right, the intelligentsia turned in a body towards the Soviet government.

The writers are not separated from the rest of the intelligentsia by any Chinese Wall. They constitute one of its most progressive socially active detachments. The change, to which I have just referred, took place also among the writers.

The old writers, the old masters of literature turned towards the Soviet Government, towards the socialist Revolution. This is a fact which is so obvious, that hardly anyone would venture to dispute it.

I. Kulik,

President of the Organisational Committee of the League of Soviet Writers of the Ukraine.

Never has Soviet Ukrainian literature experienced such a renaissance of its creative activity as now. This is sufficiently proved by a mere enumeration of the most important works written by Ukrainian writers during the past few years.

Epik has written a novel, "Petro Romen", Hvyliovoy has completed his new novel,

“Mikola”. I. Mikitenko has written a new play. Gordy Kotsuba has written an important book on Dnieprostroy, Miroslav Irchan — a new play, “Two Orders”, Arkady Lubchenko a play, “The Earth is Aflame”. Ostap Vishnya has abandoned his tales of rural life and small feuilletons in favour of big novels. He has just completed a novel dealing with the Donbass.

Le is working on the novel “Integral”. A. Kopylenko, I. Semchenko and I. Kirilenko have published new books. New collections of verses have been prepared by Tychina, Bazhan, Yanovsky and Pervomaisky.

An enormous change has taken place among the Ukrainian writers. Most of them are sincerely supporting the Soviet government, they sincerely wish to take part in socialist construction.

We can boldly assert that the Ukrainian literature is no longer narrow or provincial, as was recently the case. Tsarist oppression made it narrow and provincial and the Ukrainian bourgeois chauvinists tried to keep it in that state. We can state with pride that Ukrainian fiction now occupies a place of honour in Soviet literature.

N. Tikhonov

You all know of the changes that have taken place and are taking place in the country. If you will travel over the USSR you will discover enormous changes wherever you go. The whole country is in a state similar to that of a gigantic conveyor. Things, men, characters are being refashioned and produced. Everything is in a state of colossal flux. Need one add that it is a most grateful task to live and write in such an epoch.

Lev Nikulin

The non-party intelligentsia, the non-party writer went through a series of most complicated vicissitudes. The non-party writer witnessed assaults made on the Party by its enemies; gradually he was educated, changed and finally he was able to grasp such conditions and things, which ten years ago did not impress him. Gradually (I am forced here to speak for myself) this re-education went so far that at the moment when I work on a book I no longer experience the influences of these circumstances.

I write as I feel, but when I read over my work from beginning to end, I note with joy that in no way does it contradict the Marxian world conception, and it seems to me that I am writing a book for the Party and the question of the Party in the book itself becomes a perfectly simple one for me.

Andrey Bely

The very debate we are having today is in itself an eloquent answer to the call which we heard yesterday. This fact shows that the question of some kind of an agreement, of some mutual understanding has become ripe and, as far as I can see, this fact indicates that the Dnieprostroys of literature must be built, Dnieprostroys which prove not only the quantity of new talents and groups but also the qualitative regeneration of individual writers and groups, not by means of outward leveling but by means of a mutual overcoming of difficulties.

Undoubtedly all questions of cultural revolution inspire us with great enthusiasm. There is a consciousness that my writer's “bench” has been socialised by the State, and since such is the case how can I fail to struggle in order that it be in good working order?

M. Prishvin

In my opinion a writer must write rather than speak. Personally, I can only speak when I am among friends. Here, in this society I shall speak. I shall tell you what I felt when I read the decision of the Central Committee of the Party. I am supposed to be an old writer, but I do not regard myself as such. When I begin a new book I look out for something new, I feel myself young. Now I am the youngest writer because I have just started a new book.

I believe that nowhere in the world is there such protection extended to the writers as in this country. I think it is extraordinary. Just now shock brigading has entered the sphere of literature. This has a profound meaning. I have dreamt all my life of poets coming from the lowest strata of the proletariat and peasantry.

I am also a revolutionary. Had I been another kind of man I would not have performed creative work, and yet at least three-fourths of my best works have been created after the Revolution.



Shura, Bulychov's illegitimate daughter
(C. Mansurova)



Egor Bulychov
(Honorary artist
B. Shehukin)



Varvara, Bulychov's daughter
(D. Andreeva)

“EGOR BULYCHOV AND OTHERS” AT THE VAKHTANGOV THEATRE

By G. Sobolev

Egor Bulychov's grandfather was a raftsman. He was a muzhik, whose power lay in the grasping and tenacious brain which helped him work himself up in the world. Gorky has given a good many portraits of such men, greedily for life and gain, who upon going through the severe school of hunger, privations, social disfranchisement, rose to the surface, not sparing their enormous physical powers and giving little thought to what in this harsh and dark life is called “conscience”.

The grandfather worked himself up and his father did so too. His father no longer shivered on autumn nights on the Volga rafts, and did not bleed his callous hands by hard toil. Egor Bulychov's father went to the city and started in business. This was probably in the seventies of the past century when the semi-Asiatic country with feverish haste tasted of the first fruits of the capitalist system and the locomotive of Russian history already sped along the rails which brought the empire to the European markets. Money became the dominant factor of the epoch. Wealth became the dream of all those who had been drawn into this headlong play of stock exchange speculations, stock companies and banking manipulations.

The “Bulychovs” were growing rich. Yesterday's rafters, drovers, publicans, vil-

lage shopkeepers, crude capitalists whose money was kept in household jugs, were growing “civilised”. Quit-rent muzhiks, who during the epoch of “great reforms” received freedom without land, were building factories. Tall chimneys began to belch forth smoke on the dismal Russian steppe.

All of these Zhukovs, Morozovs, Konovalovs, Guchkovs who still remembered the fetters of serfdom were becoming masters of life. Indeed, Konovalov's grandfather was a slave, the “baptised property” of the landlord; his grandson became a minister of the provisional Russian government which replaced the imperial power. The imperial power had held Guchkov's grandfather in bondage, and his grandson went to Pskov to “seek” the abdication of the last Romanov.

Such were the dialectics of the rise of the Russian bourgeoisie. Maxim Gorky in his “Egor Bulychov” gives a magnificent portrait of a man of the same ravenous type to which belonged the Guehkovs, Konovalovs, Zhukovs, Riabushinskys. Only Egor Bulychov's fate was different. We do not know how his grandfather and father lived, but we surmise that they had that violent temperament which precisely because of its recklessness, ruthlessness, precisely because it knew no measure or limit, led to degeneration within half a century.

The grandson of the rough-hewn muzhik who drove rafts down the Volga, Egor Bulychov, suffered in old age such mortal anguish as had not been experienced by his father and would have been totally inexplicable to his grandfather, but which brought Egor to complete moral prostration.

This breed of men greedy for life and gain began to give in. These men whose ancestors had felled woods, uprooted the land, robbed on the highways, cheated folks in the beerhouses, underweighed them in their shops, fed them rotten meat in the factories and did their brutal work of enrichment without thinking or philosophising, these men, in this new age, filled with the presentiment of the revolutionary storm, suddenly sank in spirit and body. Their blood proved to be sclerotic. And their conscience which had not known any reproaches was suddenly beset with doubt. They began to be troubled with painful thought.

This process of withering, this picture of decline was given by Gorky, with the mercilessness of the greatest realist, both in "Foma Gordeev" and in "The Artomovs". In "Egor Bulychov" the moral and physical death of one of the representatives of the big Russian bourgeoisie reveals the moral decay of the class as a whole.

Gorky's new play is one of the most powerful of his works in which is so fully revealed the process of accumulation, growth, consolidation and disintegration of Russian capitalism. Engels, expressing his admiration of Balsac's masterpieces, said that some pages of this mighty realistic artist might successfully replace complete treatises on social-economic questions. Engels' statement is fully applicable to Gorky's play. His play, being filled to the brim with the deepest social content, represents proof of the fact that the author by purely artistic methods is fulfilling the most difficult task of convincing and forceful agitation. Gorky, portraying Egor Bulychov on the background of his class foundation, reveals his internal world and the intricate complexity of those human relations which are woven around the personal drama of the hero of the play. Egor Bulychov is revealed in all of his contradictions. He is convincing because he is shown through a prism of the interplay of light and shadow. The colours are well distributed and the psychological analysis is done with great subtlety. The collapse of Egor Bulychov is revealed and explained even though the

artist does not resort to those "labels" which playwrights following the line of least resistance so readily paste upon their personages.

The drama by its name stresses the fact that it is precisely Egor Bulychov upon whom the attention of the author is focused. "Egor Bulychov and Others" is the name given to his play by Gorky who thus emphasises that he will expose the contrasts existing between Bulychov and those surrounding him. About the "others" a new play must be written for in this one which is devoted to Egor Bulychov they are given only in splendid outline.

Through Egor Bulychov's personal drama the author raises the highly complex social problem of the historically predetermined doom of his class.

When Egor Bulychov grows prematurely old and he, a thoroughly earthly man who has a carnal appetite for life, is doubled up by a severe disease, he suddenly realises that he had lived "apart from real life". Everything that had constituted the basis of his existence went to pieces before his piercing and suffering gaze. What had formed the foundation of his grandfather and father — family, religion and the State — slipped away from under him.

Here is the woman who is his "legal spouse". She is loquacious, coarse, disgustingly stupid, she cannot be depended upon either for aid or counsel. She is prepared to rob the dying Bulychov. Here is the elder daughter: she is calculating, greedy, she is of the same species of carnivorous ravens who flock to Bulychov's death-bed. Here is her husband — a glib lawyer, a slick liberal who has "neither conscience nor honour behind his soul". A polished swindler, he will dexterously adapt himself when the Revolution comes.

It begins to appear that everybody around Bulychov — the immediate relations, the old partners, the trusted employees — all those who together with him took part in the arduous and sinful task of enrichment, are his worst enemies. They wet their sharp fangs, they cover up by foxen tails the slyness of their secret designs and like jackals are prepared to fling themselves upon his inheritance even without waiting for the last sigh of the dying man. And the only joy of Egor Bulychov is derived from what constitutes the "breach" of his family relations, the younger daughter born out of wedlock, and the simple housemaid who, having become his lover, gave him sweet tenderness which Bulychov so

painfully lacked in his "legitimate" family.

There is no family, nor is there any church. The church is personified in father Pavlin, a sly, false individual, who behind his long, shallow and bombastic sermons poorly covers up his own indifference to what constitutes the essence of religion. And next to father Pavlin is the abbess Melania, a sister of Bulychov's own wife who in the past had herself "sinned" with Bulychov. Can she be trusted by Bulychov who well remembers her beastly sensualness? And these servants of the church plead with him in the name of God, threaten him with hell and promise heaven should he, Egor Bulychov, buy this "eternal bliss" at the price of a commercial deal profitable to the church. No, away with both Pavlin and Melania, away with God, the devil, and the "blessed" Propotey by whose naive charlatanery they want to cure the hopelessly sick old man.

The State... Was it so many years ago, that the tsar himself had shaken hands with Bulychov during the celebration of the House of the Romanov's tercentary, and all of Kostroma looked on with envy at this honour bestowed upon the merchant Bulychov. And he, greedy, acquisitive, bold and ravenous, who did not know of mercy for his competitors in business, had once felt that he was living in the security of tsarist laws, this system with governors and sheriffs. And now it appears that the tsar is a mediocrity who had lost one war to the Japanese and has now involved himself, "God knows what for", in another. It appears that the commercial system which main-

tained itself by bayonets and whips failed to safeguard the country against a Revolution, against those workers who want to live without bosses and to govern their own lives as their own masters.

The bosses... During his life Egor Bulychov has seen enough of them and, having seen, realised that "theft is a legal business". "It is not you who steals, it is the rouble that steals. It is itself the main thief." What a simple truth this was! But it appeared that there was some new truth which upset Egor Bulychov's consciouness and exposed the profound falseness of his convictions which had only recently been expressed in the solid formula: "It is my business to make money, it is the business of the muzhik to work."

And so everything — family, God, the State — vanished. Disease-ridden Egor Bulychov looks into the mirror and tells himself: "You are in a bad fix, Egor. Even your face isn't yours somehow. What are you guilty of? Eh?" And he finds no answer. There is no way out of the impasse of doubt and moral void. And for the last time Egor Bulychov is bent upon "mischief". Egor has done enough mischief in his life, but this time he is bent on mischief making with calculated spite, with vicious railery, with clever sarcasm: a naive charlatan comes to him, a fireman who cures all diseases by the sound of a trumpet, for sixteen rubles. Bulychov gave the trumpeter sixteen rubles and ordered him, in mockery of himself and of all of Egor's relatives, to blow his silly trumpet. And the trumpet roars, and Bulychov furiously laughs, for the ridiculous charlatan



Gavriila the trumpeter
(A. Koltsov)



Abbess Melania
(N. Russinova)



Nenia Bulychova, Egor's
wife (A. Zaporozhets)

the fireman heralds forth the end of the world. Let the trumpet play louder! To the devil with the old world! It creaks and crumbles! Let it! Let the trumpeter play louder!

Suddenly a deep symbol is revealed in this scene. In the episode with the trumpeter Egor Bulyehov's personal drama assumes a universal significance. It is not Egor Bulyehov, it is the class of Bulyehovs that is breaking down.

And when Egor Bulyehov is dying, clinging to life to the last minute, cursing death, there, in the street, beyond the windows of the solid home of the Bulyehovs, rises a bold song; the Revolution marches. To the tune of its victorious hymn comes to an end the life of the restless, sinful, distressed, unsupportable Egor Bulyehov.

In Gorky's play Bulyehov holds the central place. Everything around him is merely a background. And all the "others" lack the monumentality of Bulyehov.

The performance at the Vakhtangov Theatre revealed the social atmosphere by which Bulyehov is surrounded. The stage-manager Zakhava created an atmosphere

which brings us back to the days of the eve of February 1917, and found the proper characteristics for each part no matter how cursorily drawn.

The actor Shehukin plays the part of Bulyehov with tremendous power. He uses a great variety of colours and creates a portrait woven from various shades: humour which sounds like scalding sarcasm; tenderness flaring up at times for his daughter Shura and the maid Glafira; undisguised hate and rudeness towards all the others, tenacious greed for life — all this is revealed in the integrity which drives home to the spectator the image of Bulyehov in its entire fulness and depth. Shehukin does not accentuate the biological details, giving Egor Bulyehov's physiology in a few sparing strokes. Shehukin, like a true artist, understood that the drama of Egor Bulyehov's death is not in the disease of the liver.

"Egor Bulyehov" raises a number of most important questions of principle regarding the creative ways and methods of the Soviet theatre. It is both a lesson and an exhortation.

“THE FLAME OF PARIS”

On November 7th, the XVth anniversary of the October Revolution, the Leningrad State Theatre of Opera and Ballet performed for the first time "The Flame of Paris", a ballet dealing with the Great French Revolution and specially written for the revolutionary anniversary. The music was composed by B. Asafiev (also known under the pseudonym of Igor Glebov), the libretto was written by N. Volkov and V. Dmitriev, and the ballet was directed by ballet-master V. Vayonen (dances) and Sergey Radlov (mimic scenes). Preparations are now under way to produce the ballet in the Moscow Grand Theatre, one of its acts having already been performed on November 6th during the anniversary celebration.

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"The Flame of Paris" cannot be regarded as a ballet in the ordinary sense of the word. This is a complex spectacle not confined to the framework of an ordinary ballet performance, and constituting the result of organic co-operation between the playwright, ballet-master, composer and director. The new principle embodied in "The

Flame of Paris" is the production, on the basis of the classic dance, of a dramatic and musical spectacle in which dancing as such is not an ornamental diversion but naturally arises out of the action itself. Hence an entirely approach to all the elements of the dancing spectacle. An intelligent, clear, and dramatically well arranged subject, serious, interesting music, as a result not only of creative art but also of an extensive historical study of music, entirely new choreographic settings — these are the outstanding characteristics of "The Flame of Paris".

N. Volkov,

one of the authors of the libretto
"The Flame of Paris"

A DANCING PERFORMANCE ON THE FEAT OF THE MARSEILLE BATTALION

In working on "The Flame of Paris" we conceived the libretto not only as an outline of the story but as a special ballet dramaturgy not limited merely to the composition of the story but seeking a general style for all the means of expression through

the ballet. Our task consisted of creating a choreographic spectacle of a monumental character based upon the materials of the Great French Revolution.

We decided upon the year 1792 when the royal power was finally overthrown. The main event to us was August 10th, the capture of the Tuileries Palace. At the head of the masses who stormed the palace was the then famous Marseille battalion which came to Paris from the South in the summer of 1792. It is this battalion which represents the principal hero of our ballet.

We looked for materials for our libretto everywhere — in engravings, art works, memoirs of contemporaries and in historical works. The statement found in one of the documents to the effect that the young actress Catherine Pochette on August 2nd, 1792, joined the battalion of the "Red Boys" in Paris gave us the picture of one of the central roles of "The Flame of Paris", the royal ballet dancer joining the Revolution.

The second female part, that of a peasant girl participating in the Marseille advance, was also inspired by the story of women members of the army. Among them for instance was Barbara Paran, the daughter of a cooper of Valenciennes.

"The Flame of Paris" has four acts divided into eight scenes. It begins almost like an idyll, a peaceful scene, the collecting of brushwood by a peasant family in the landlord's wood. However, the idyll is soon disturbed by the hunt of his lordship the Marquis, who owns the wood and who deals cruelly with the "boors" daring to interfere with the "noble recreation". The action is then transferred to Marseilles at the time of the proclamation of the slogan "The Country is in Danger" and formation of the Marseille battalion.

The second act is devoted completely to the banquet given by the royal guard to the Flandres regiment arriving in Paris (here the chronological events have been somewhat shifted, an earlier episode being shown in 1792).

The third act depicts the events which took place on the night of August 9—10, 1792. The first scene is performed on the square near the Jacobin club, the second represents the capture of Tuileries itself.

A solemn ceremony in honour of the victims of August 10th begins the fourth and last act of the ballet. We wanted to bring upon the scene torches throwing a dim light upon the mob bristling with

lances around the funeral pyramid with the simple inscription: "Hush, they are resting". This is followed by the festival, "The Triumph of the Republic" staged in accord with the *mise-en-scène* of the artist David, and the whole ballet ends in an outdoor ball on the ruins of the Bastille.

One of the peculiarities of "The Flame of Paris" is the participation in it of a chorus. Chorus singing at the highest emotional moments adds force to the musical fabric of the ballet and does not contradict the general "silent" character of the action.

Sergey Radlov,

director of "The Flame of Paris"

A NEW BALLET STYLE

"The Flame of Paris" is a play destined to open a great battle for a new style in the art of ballet. What was the first and foremost task before us?

In the first place it was necessary to restore to the art of the classic dance the emotional tensivity, the dramatic concentration, the fullness of content. Only then will it be possible seriously to think of organic motion, of organic changes in the style and technique of the dancing art.

In this struggle for an intelligent, interesting, thrilling ballet performance a revision of the relations between dance and pantomime is essential. No doubt dancing in the ballet has been and remains the basic part of the spectacle. But pantomime while not replacing the dancing must affect it, stimulate it, prepare and condition the dramatic tensivity of the dance. I am referring not to the old ballet pantomime, this language of the mutes. Our theatre proceeded from the necessity of taking into account and assimilating the main achievements, the main conquests of the dramatic art in order to saturate with them the pantomime language of the dancer. It was in this struggle for a new pantomime and through it for a new quality of the ballet performance that I saw my task.

I want to emphasise very much that in this case the co-operation between the director and the ballet-master proved to be a purely organic combination. If we divided the work — the ballet-master attending to the dances and the director to the pantomime — we did it not mechanically and in a number of important pieces combining dancing with pantomime we worked together, jointly seeking the

best means of solving the thrilling and grateful task before us, that of giving in a musical performance a picture of the Great French Revolution, of conveying the atmosphere of the epoch and of those who made it.

Igor Glebor,

composer of "The Flame of Paris"

THE MUSIC OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

The music of the ballet "The Flame of Paris" represents partly a combination of the historical heritage of the music of the Great French Revolution, and partly a new composition in the character and style of this material. I viewed this music with the eye of the historian. I quoted, paraphrased, complemented and developed the great amount of material on hand, as if writing a historical musical novel, paraphrasing the musical historical documents in the modern instrumental language.

I will not name the composers from whose works I have drawn material. In my work I proceeded not from individual names, and any work which interested me was valuable to me as a musical expression of life's contents.

The music of "The Flame of Paris" was written by me as an emotional growth

of symphonic episodes reaching a climax in the outburst of popular wrath during the capture of Tuileries (end of the third act).

The climax is followed by scenes of mass festivities in the fourth act conceived as the finale of a heroic symphony which is preceded by a tragic prologue: this is the funeral march of Gossek accompanying in the performance the funeral of the victims of the Revolution.

In the first act of the ballet I use the "Marseillaise" not as a hymn but as a mass song picked up by the mob during the formation of the Marseille battalion.

"The old regime" (the second act: the banquet and counter-revolutionary conspiracy in Versailles) is shown not in the style of sentimental-pastoral or salon songs but on the basis of the musical material of Lulli, as a striking expression of French absolutism, and partly upon the work of Gluck.

If the second act represents a symphonic andante, the third and central act of the ballet, based upon the melodies of the national dances and mass songs, is conceived as a broadly developed scherzo. The central mass dance of the third act develops on the tunes of the "Carmagnole" and other characteristic songs which were heard in the streets of Paris during the Great French Revolution.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY FILMS

The Soviet cinema industry came to the XVth anniversary of the October Revolution with a series of new creative victories. This is forcibly demonstrated by a number of films released in the USSR during the anniversary.

"The Counter-Plan", a film produced by the Leningrad studio of Soyuzkino, is unquestionably the most interesting and striking of the series. Two gifted young directors who have already gained a wide reputation in the Soviet film industry, Friedrich Ermler, the author of "Fragments of an Empire", and Sergey Yulkevich, whose latest production "Golden Mountains" is regarded as one of the greatest achievements of the sound film industry in the USSR, combined their abilities to produce this new film. This collaboration proved to be a happy one. As a result of the joint work of these two directors, each with a strikingly expressed artistic in-

dividuality, a definite unity of style has been achieved in "The Counter-Plan".

"The reality of our programme — it is you and I, living people." It was upon these words of J. Stalin that the authors built their film. The struggle for a counter-plan of production which constitutes the subject of the picture is revealed here in the "living and practical work of the millions" (J. Stalin) of whom the main heroes of the film are typical representatives.

The subject of "The Counter-Plan" is a simple one. A great turbine factory. The counter-plan advanced by the workers to build a turbine of 50,000 kilowatt capacity — is threatened by a "miscalculation" in the designing bureau, a mistake committed not without the participation of a wrecker. The entire mass of the factory workers mobilises itself for the struggle for the fulfilment of the "counter-plan", for successfully carrying it into effect despite

the attempt at sabotage. The entire story is centred around this struggle in which different characters collide, bonds of love and friendship break, and — this is the gist of the picture — the old foreman Babchenko is reclaimed to a new life.

Babchenko, the central figure of the film, is its "hero", if the traditional term is to be used. However, in reality there is nothing of a hero in him. The old foreman of the turbine plant is shown as an ordinary worker, whose joys and sorrows, whose strong and weak points are quite ordinary and natural. He grew up in the factory, he lives and breathes its life, its interests. He grumbles and complains at times like any other old man. In addition he suffers from a serious malady, he is fond of his drink. He knows his machine like the palm of his own hand and he therefore does not recognise any precise measurements and instruments but works by the eye, until once, after a heavy drinking bout, his "eye" fails him, resulting in the spoiling of the job on which he worked. It was then that for the first time in his long life the old man, after some hesitation, puts the customary glass of vodka aside. Nor is there any heroism in the fact that when the fulfilment of the "counter-plan" is threatened Babchenko is the first to find a way out of the difficulty and to mobilise his brigade, the "old guard", for the restoration of the neglected shop.

It is precisely in this simplicity and humanness of the old foreman that his power lies. Throughout the film Babchenko provokes the deepest sympathy among the audience, from the moment when, aggrieved by his failure in the factory, he soaks himself full of alcohol to the tune of a most vulgar grammophone record, until the final shots when after the victory of the counter-plan and the successful test of the 50,000 kilowatt turbine the old man decides to join the Party and drinks a tiny glass of vodka "in honour of the new communist Babchenko". The magnificent acting of Gardin, who plays the part of Babchenko, is largely responsible for the powerful impression made upon the audience by the figure of the old foreman. The actor succeeded in finding methods of playing, and in assuming a general appearance, voice and gestures which create a truly artistic generalisation of the social, living and psychological characteristics of an old worker.

Another unquestionable success of the film is the figure of the secretary of the

Communist Party nucleus of the factory. Here, too, the directors and the gifted actor Tenin, who performs this part, succeeded in creating a very human, unstilted and genial type of man. Vassily is quite as ordinary a worker as Babchenko, and as any other member of the huge working force of the factory. To him, too, "nothing human is alien". But in his relations with the workers, in his approach to them, whether party or non-party, there is so much heartiness and human understanding, and on the other hand so much firmness and such an ability to subordinate personal sentiments to the interest of the cause, that on the whole this figure must be regarded as one of the best personifications of a communist and leader ever created on the Soviet stage or film.

"The Counter-Plan" is based upon the principle of artistic realism. It freely combines elements of healthy romance with joyous comedy, dramatic intensity with lyric warmth. Scenes saturated with the intense dynamics of daily life and toil in the factory alternate with unimpeachable pictures of Leningrad's white nights.

The music written by the young Soviet composer Shostakovich is organically woven into the artistic fabric of the film. It not only accompanies but accentuates the events in the picture, helping to reveal them and bring their meaning home to the spectator. It is also necessary to note the splendid sound effects of this film which excels all previous Soviet sound films.

Special mention should be made of the work of the painter-architect Dubrovsky-Eshke who built within the film studio a giant department of a metal factory with all of its machines and lathes.

Man as the vehicle, creator and accomplice of the great plan of socialist construction holds the centre of still another film production devoted to the XVth anniversary of October. We refer to "Ivan", a new work of the gifted Ukrainian director A. Dovjenko. This is a story of a simple village lad, of thousands others like him who come from the villages, from collective farms, to the great construction jobs of the country, a story of those by whose hands has been created the Dnieper power station and who in the process of creating this power station threw off the burden of custom and tradition, of petty personal interests, and grew into the new socialist type.

The method chosen by Dovjenko differs from that by which Ermler and Yutkevich

solved their task. While "The Counter-Plan" is built upon a display of single figures, of individual characters, Ivan is rather a collective figure, the incarnation of thousands of village boys who upon entering a building job make their first timid step towards the proletariat and then begin, at first uncertainly but later more and more boldly and confidently, to step forward, towards communist labour, towards education, towards the Party.

As in Dovjenko's earlier works, objects, materials at times dominate the picture overshadowing the characters. To be sure, the nature of these objects has changed — concrete piles and metal structures taking the place of the blooming apple-trees of "The Earth".

Quiet shores of the Dnieper. White blocks of ice majestically, noiselessly glide along the surface of the river. From afar come the voices of singing girls. White clouds curl over beds of rush. From the village peacefully scattered along the shore comes Ivan. But suddenly the author turns the camera away from this scene. Stillness is gone. The Dnieper roars over the rapids, foams among the rocks. Men blow up nature. Din and rattle, whistling of locomotives, crashing of concrete from upset buckets. Ivan is agitated and dismayed, overawed by the blazing fires, by the rattling of the excavators, by the gigantic panorama of the construction job.

Such is the story of the film. Further we see this feeling of dismay gradually disappear in the process of labour and make room for a sense of assurance. Ivan begins to see and understand the things around him in a new way. The film ends with two episodes revealing the further career of our hero. Ivan is admitted to the Party and enters a university. And yesterday's meek youth turns to the professors of a higher school, to the keepers of knowledge and science with the cheerful and bold challenge: "Comrades Professors, tell Ivan all you know".

Quite a distinct place among the October films belongs to the work of Esther Shub entitled "K.S.E." (Young Communist League — Patron of Electrification). This is a documentary film which has attained a very high artistic standard.

Lenin's words that communism is Soviet power plus electrification served as the basis for practical, everyday "patronage" by the Young Communist League over the work of electrifying the Soviet Union. Shub's film which exhibits to the spectator

a broad canvass of the electrification of the country shows how the youth of the Soviet Union exercises its patronage among the vanguard of the builders of the socialist society, mastering the technique of electricity, this basis of material culture of socialism.

In the first shots of the film, in its overture which boldly reveals the "kitchen" of the picture (here we see the sound-film itself in process of production) the spectator sees and hears "Termenvoks", the "music of the future", a metallic rod from which the soloist derives, without touching it, by merely moving the hand to and fro, floods of sounds of an unusually gentle and deep timbre. In the concluding scenes the spectator is shaken by thunder and lightning produced by one turn of the switch by Academician Chernyshov from a high voltage installation in his Leningrad laboratory. Between these two extreme points, throughout the six parts of the film, the spectator receives the reports of the struggles and victories of the young communists — lamp makers of Moscow, electric welders of Leningrad, builders of the Dzoraget electrical station, concrete makers of Dnieprostroy.

The film itself, from beginning to end, is nothing but a striking demonstration of victories of electrification in the field of sound films. Throughout the picture sound is reproduced with exceptional precision and purity. The spectator hears every detail of an international telephone conversation. Militant speeches at a meeting make the spectator a living participant of it. Dnieprostroy sounds from the screen, a complete industrial symphony of noises and rattles.

All of these living links of electrification collected in an "electric" sound picture and presented with great expressiveness make the "K.S.E." into a highly interesting, exciting and truly artistic spectacle.

In this review we have dealt with only the most outstanding of the films released during the days of the October anniversary. Lack of space prevents us from discussing in detail the other films released at the same time. We shall limit ourselves to mentioning two of them as the most characteristic in addition to those which made up the subject of this review. This is "Shakir" produced by the State Cinema Studio of Georgia and devoted to the question of collectivisation in the national republics, and "Three Soldiers", a film produced by the Leningrad Soyuzkino studio.

NEW PLAYS IN MOSCOW THEATRES

In honour of the 15th anniversary of the October Revolution some of the Moscow theatres produced a number of new plays that were first performed during the holidays on November 6, 7, and 8.

The State Little Theatre produced "The Defeat". This play dealing with the period of the civil war is based on the famous novel by Fadeev, "The Nineteen". It was also staged during the October holidays in another Moscow theatre -- the Lenin-District Theatre.

Another play devoted to the subject of civil war is "Mstislav the Brave" written by Proot. It was staged at the Moscow Workers Art Theatre.

The Second Art Theatre had on "Earth and Sky" by P. and Y. Toor. The main idea underlining the play is to show how in the practice of socialist construction the solution of particular problems is combined with the solution of general ones, "earth" with "sky", manufacture of field-glasses with the discovery of new stars. This play also touches upon the problems of the intelligentsia in the period of Revolution, a subject that is also treat-

ed in Afinogenov's play "Fear" which has met with great success.

The Moscow Dramatic Theatre -- formerly Korsh -- chose for the holidays the play of V. Kataev "Speed up, time", which shows the great enthusiasm of the people engaged in one of the biggest works of socialist construction.

Another very interesting play is "My Friend" by the well known playwright N. Pogodin, staged at the Theatre of Revolution. The leading character in this play is the chief of construction of a new big plant. He is a real type of the heroes of socialist construction, a fine, simple, modest person creating big things.

"The story of the city of Glupov" was the new holiday production staged at the Satiric Theatre. The new play is not dealing exactly with the contemporary problems, but is a splendid satire based on Saltykov-Shchedrin's book under the same title, presenting one of the finest masterpieces of classic literature.

The well known artists Kukryniks, the brilliant masters of satiric art, have helped in the staging of this play.

SOVIET COMPOSERS ORGANISE

The musical composers of the USSR have recently founded their own union. The main object of this organisation is to rally all composers and other prominent musicians who have adopted the Soviet platform, and who are actively participating in the creation of a new musical culture which will merit the great epoch of socialist construction.

In the USSR the very process of extensive development of musical culture is conceived not merely in the works of highly skilled or expert musicians, but in the way to attract the toiling masses of the Soviet Union and invoke their interest in music, as well as to develop new musical forces from among the factory and colhoz (collective farm) workers. Out from their midst are to be drawn the new cadres for Soviet art.

The Union is actively engaged in the promotion of its creative productive work. For this purpose the Union frequently arranges lectures, reports on musical art, recitals introducing new musical creations, special musical performances

for promoting contact between authorities of the musical world with representatives in other spheres of art. The Union also organises classes on the technique of composition, for the study of contemporary Western musical art etc. To the latter the Union of Soviet composers devotes particular attention. With the assistance of VOKS the Union hopes to establish close contact with musicians of various countries by correspondence, exchange of compositions, and establishing personal contact, inviting foreign composers to visit the USSR and arranging of trips of Soviet composers for studying the musical art in other lands.

There is a creative musical section in the Union which on the basis of Marxian Leninist theory conducts scientific research work on musical theory problems.

Apart from these activities, the Union also publishes two magazines: "Soviet Music", dealing with scientific-theoretical problems, and "Non-professional musical art", which is a popular journal.

Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries

SOVIET ART AT THE 18th INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION HELD IN VENICE

Italian Press Comments

Soviet artists, as in all previous exhibitions held in Venice were very well represented in the latest, the 18th International Art Exhibition, which closed on November 1st, 1932.

This year's visitors to the Soviet pavilion saw not only the works representative of the various tendencies in art, but also personal exhibitions of the leading Soviet artists, particularly the works of some of the younger generation.

There were paintings by Sterenberg, Kuznetsov, Konchalovsky, Rozhdestvensky, A. Deineka, all regular participators to the Venetian exhibitions, and Andrey Goncharov, Konstantin Vyalov, Ekaterina Zernova and others.

In all 50 Soviet artists participated in this exhibition. Among them were the Ukrainian artists Sedliar, Padalka, Kasian, Fradkin. There was a total of 229 works of art: 134 paintings, 12 sculptures and 83 belonging to the graphic arts.

The Italian press, as in former exhibitions, paid particular attention to the Soviet pavilion and printed a number of criticisms on it.

The younger generation of artists was very highly praised. "Gazetta del Popolo" of June 6th, 1932, wrote as follows:

"Russian art of today is represented by Deineka, Pimenov, Labas, Zernova and Williams. To them we may add A. Kupreyanov and a few others who are able to keep in stride with the younger generation." "There are three modern themes which the Soviet artists choose, but they may be expressed in just two words: the Five-Year Plan. The three themes are industrialisation, collectivisation of agrarian economy, and the new life."

"Giornale" comments thus on the works of our younger artists:

"Among the youth Deineka may be considered the leading artist. Next to his picture "War" we find "Textile Workers" interesting because of its limpity, its bold colours, its sharpness of delineation, and because of its simplicity and its outstanding expressiveness. To a certain degree

there is a similarity in the work of Deineka and Ekaterina Zernova. We should also mention here Williams' picture "Motor Race" which is dynamic despite the very economic use of artistic expression".

As to the older artists "Giornale d'Italia" of June 26th, 1932, wrote as follows:

"Of the artists more bound by tradition we can place Konchalovsky as one of the foremost. He contributes 14 large canvases, all full of the joy of living. The most interesting of his works are two small impressionist portraits of the musician Zecchi, life-like and quick with movement. Next to Konchalovsky we should place Rozhdestvensky who has taken from the East its glowing colours and its blinding brightness as in "Tadjikistan". His big composition "The Itinerant Barber" is likewise very gaudy. As a result of his travels to the North we find in one of his pictures the dull, grey skies hanging over a fishing village, and in another the gleaming silver in a polar night. But regardless of how much Rozhdestvensky may be attracted by his love for colours, he can never be wooed away from his painstaking search for form."

In speaking of the themes selected in Soviet paintings "Corriere Padano" says:

"In this exhibition the Russians have sent in a very small number of paintings of landscapes, still-life, and those everlasting nude bodies. Konchalovsky's extremely fine "Window to the Crimea", and a few tastefully done still-life paintings by Sterenberg, were the only exhibits where the themes chosen were not from modern life or life in the factories. Kuznetsov has several different paintings which we find full of light, fresh colours, clear and simple in technique as "Herdsmen at Rest", and "Oil Derricks at Baku", where both people and objects are seemingly deformed with just that amount of freedom the Parisians employ in their paintings. In "War" Deineka strives above all else to make his paintings express tragedy and pathos. Four figures are enough to show the real synthesis of struggle and

death. A still grimmer but technically well done painting is Barto's "Teaching Eastern Women by Radio". The critic considers that what is characteristic of Barto is the strength with which he executes his paintings. These words may be applied to Pimenov in his picture "Dairy Sovhoz" painted in yellow and green tones, which lyrically portrays reclining forms simply and unaffectedly, but which at the same time shows the genuine artistry of the painter still more subtly and convincingly."

This is what "Gazetta del Popolo" writes on Soviet sculpture and the graphic arts:

"That extremely interesting section devoted to the graphic arts includes a number of water colours by Deineka, Kupreyanov, the works of Favorsky, Kravchenko, Zelenovich, Brodsky, Barto and others. The high sculpture "Maternity" by Sandomirsky, sculptures by Frich-Char, Efimov and Ranuranskaya helped to complete this pavilion which is undoubtedly one of the most interesting sections of the Venetian exhibition.

The pastels by Nakhman and the water colours by Kupreyanov were also commented upon by "La Tribuna".

The entire press was loud in praising the Soviet pavilion.

"Corriere Padano" of June 21st, 1932, remarked that "the excellence of the Soviet pavilion is been due to the extraordinary organisational ability and the seriousness with which the artists have been selected... It is noticeable that Soviet artists are not bound down by any set rules, and that each of them is given an opportunity of expressing his individuality."

According to "Giornale d'Italia", "the exhibition succeeded in providing, above everything else, documental evidence of the problems to be met with in the Soviet Union. The dominating theme of the exhibits is labour."

"Cronica Prealpina", of June 22nd, 1932, in analysing the work of Soviet portrait painters noted the part that is being played by women in Soviet art.

"Cronica Prealpina" remarks that "the things that first strike one in the large pastels of Eugene Katsman are the outstandingly beautiful drawings and the lively colouring. He has given us a number of portraits, but they are more than mere portraits. They are expressive of life. In "Labour Enthusiasm" we see first of all the expression of joy which arises from

the fact that everybody has an opportunity of working and taking part in the construction. This joy is explained by the rebirth of the individual that the Soviet government is striving for through educating the people collectively.

"We must acknowledge the fact that women in this exhibition are playing an important part. We are convinced that the women who labour in the Soviet Union work with enthusiasm. There are even women who direct factories and plants and who fill high posts. They want to prove that they are worthy of the freedom that the government has given them. The so-called "women activist" has found for herself a place in the USSR. Olga Yanovskaya is represented by two portraits of these "women activists", delegates to the 16th Congress of Soviets. They are interesting not only because they are well drawn portraits, but mainly because they are pictures of definite types. Serafima Ryangin engagingly draws the girl student on practical work taking part in the construction of river transport. Ekaterina Zernova has given us "Girl Shooting an Arrow", "Ski Race" and "Selmashstroy".

"Sculpture also has its following among the women. The most outstanding are Sara Lebedeva and Maria Ryndziunskaya. The former — with a portrait of Solts and the latter — with portraits of an aviator and a collective farmer.

"All the themes chosen are basically the same — the New Life.

"Here we see life in the Red Army, life among the peasantry, the industrialisation of the USSR, the fight against illiteracy, the emancipation of woman, portraits of shock-brigade workers, the joy that the new society is bringing into the lives of the people."

"Cronica Prealpina" considers the Soviet pavilion one of the most interesting to study and analyse and the one possessing the deepest psychological interest.

One can easily see from the quotations reprinted above that the Italian critic is keenly interested in Soviet art and that he analyses not only the themes selected but also the art value of the works.

The Italian critic notes as well what may be considered the most characteristic feature about Soviet art — its single hearted desire to portray the great socialist construction. And it is just this which makes it so well worth-while and so refreshing.

FOREIGN ARCHITECTS IN THE USSR

On the initiative of the French magazine "L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui" which shows great interest in Soviet architecture and regularly publishes items on socialist construction, an excursion of French architects to the USSR was organised. The excursionists were to inspect the construction jobs going up all over the country, and meet Soviet architects for a joint discussion of the problems of Soviet architecture. The All-Union Society for cultural relations with foreign countries (VOKS) together with the Academy of municipal economy, the All-Union Council of municipal economy and the Society of Soviet architects prepared a programme for the reception of the group, which included visits to points of interest and a series of conferences.

The group arrived in Moscow on August 31, where they remained until September 3. Among their number were prominent architects such as Agache, a town-planner of distinction (who planned Rio de Janeiro and Buenos-Aires), Sebille, also a town-planner, Joseph Vago, who was awarded first prize in the League of Nations building contest, Pingusson, Fischer, Pierre Vago, editor of "L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui", and André Bloc, another magazine editor. Besides the Frenchmen, the group included the Belgian Dedoyard, the Portuguese Pardal Monteiro, the Italians Barli, magazine editor Ambrosiano, Casabella and others.

In Moscow the architects inspected in detail the Lenin mausoleum, the "Dynamo" stadium, the Electro-Technical Institute, workers' clubs, a kitchen-factory, the Government House, the House of the finance commissariat employees, the airport, the Tsentrosoyuz building which is being erected after the project of Le Corbusier, the Park of Culture and Rest and other new buildings. Three conferences were held in the VOKS and in the Architectural Planning Department of the Moscow Soviet, between the members of the group and representatives of Soviet architecture at which the addresses were delivered by Soviet architects. "The reconstruction of Moscow" was discussed by Semionov, "The basic tendencies of Soviet architecture" by Arkin, "Formalism and rationalism in modern architecture" by Higer, whose address was in response to request from the foreign architects, and "Town-planning" by Baburov.

Arkin, whose address dealt with general principles, stressed two definite features of the development of Soviet architecture: the planned character of all Soviet building activity and the conception of architecture as construction for the great masses. He pointed out that the fundamental problem of Soviet architecture is the creation of types of mass dwellings and mass public buildings, such as workers' club-houses, Palaces of Culture, Palaces of Labour, etc. Arkin discussed the achievements of housing construction as related to the peculiarities of housing organisation in the USSR, and brought out the underlying architectural principles of town building as founded upon the industrialisation of the country. The speaker also touched upon the questions of constructivism and functionalism in Soviet architecture as stages now past. He pointed out that Soviet architecture, in search of a new style, aspires toward an organic synthesis of technical function and artistic form and utilises the experience of the past. Arkin's address was well received by the French visitors.

On the theme "Formalism and rationalism", treated by the French architects, statements of foreign architects were read by the Frenchmen; the architects quoted were Luben Tonev (Sophia), governmental town planning architect, Boken (of the society of Dutch architects), Anvo, Belgian architect, Franz Jourdain, President of the Society of modern architects.

Others whose views were quoted were Karl En (Vienna), Joseph Hofmann (Vienna) and Professor Torgi (Budapest). The statements adduced had been received by the editors of "L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui" in response to a questionnaire in which they raised the problem of the decorative elements in architecture.

The first to speak at the Conference in the VOKS was Fischer, of the group, representing the left tendency in French architecture. Fischer began by stating that all activity of the architects in the West resolves itself, thanks to the crisis, to theoretical discussion and paper projects. Fischer gave the view that modern architecture must contain no ornamental or decorative elements, whether of sculpture, painting or ornamentation. Ornamentation is a relic of primitive culture. Modern architecture faces a technical and social problem, and must take into consideration

primarily social needs. Its object is the creation of a city and street rather than an individual house. In a talk at the next meeting Fischer developed this view further.

Fischer's opinion was contested by his colleagues Bloc and Pierre Vago. Bloc declared that to deny an ornamental art is "to deny the entire great heritage of the architectural past". Now, while "prosperity is not a feature of the world", Bloc said, referring to the crisis, decoration in the construction of a building has been relegated to the background, but the time will again come for the rebirth of decoration, which will serve as a symbol of general prosperity.

Vago explained the policy of the magazine "L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui", which combats the tendency known as "neo-formalism" — a reactionary tendency in disguise. The formalists debate the question of facades, cubes, windows, columns, and scorn everything that is not concrete, metal, glass, forgetting that they build not to have pictures of the buildings published in the press, not for the purpose of making fine photographs, but for the needs of life. An architect in our opinion, he said, must work not for an utopian

ideal, not for classes privileged materially or intellectually, but for satisfying the urgent material and intellectual needs of the masses. Too many designs and buildings actually constructed, in every country, reveal a complete lack of study, contemplation and rational criticism. The young architects doomed to forced inactivity by the crisis, which has been incorrectly called a crisis of overproduction and a speedy solution of which is highly problematical, hasten to imitate the noisily advertised new forms without thought to the material prerequisites which constitute the point of departure of an architectural work. In addition, there still prevail academic canons which introduce a false esthetics. Vago cited examples of extreme infatuation with formalism.

R. Higer, representing Soviet architecture, also took up the question of "Formalism and rationalism".

Beginning with the remark that Soviet architects were working together in a single Society of Soviet architects, Higer proceeded to state that formalism was a stage of Soviet architecture long left behind. Its effect was expressed in works "in which every attempt was made to stress by formal means the geometrical, physical, me-



French architects in the VOKS. In front row from left to right: Agache, Pierre Vago, Goldenberg (President of the USSR Municipal Academy) and Higer



Modern Soviet architecture. New building of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party (Kharkov)

chamical and other properties of form, leading to the creation of a peculiar abstract architectural construction, while the real content of the social tasks which properly belonged in the architectural objects were ignored”.

The speaker regarded it as a valuable achievement of formalism that it drew attention to architectural form and prompted the attempt to visualise the creative architectural process. The other tendency, rationalism, or as it is called in Soviet architecture “constructivism”, is characterised by the attention concentrated on the content of the architectural object. “Constructivism made a fetish of the technical elements of architecture, supplanting with them the problem of the artistic effect of form”, while “formalism”, Higer said, “cultivated architecture as a pure art”. Both are unacceptable to the Soviet architecture of today, he pointed out. The useful principles introduced by these two tendencies into Soviet architecture made for functionalism, i. e. an embodiment of the “living and production processes for which the given structure is intended, the introduction of the latest engineering achievements into the architecture of the ordinary building”.

It is necessary to utilise for Soviet architecture the heritage from the past, especially ancient architecture.

Another important issue is the employment of sculpture and painting in architecture as decorative factors. Soviet architecture assigns an honourable place to adornment.

Aside from the problem of formalism and rationalism, the Conference devoted

considerable attention to the question of reconstruction of old cities and planning of new ones.

The reconstruction of Moscow was dealt with in a comprehensive address by the architect Semionov, who set for the plans and took up the problems of tree planting, expanding the area of the city to meet the growth in population, etc. The reconstruction of cities was discussed by Sebille, who handled the problem of town building from the standpoint of the relations between the city and the individual.

Touching upon specific questions in the reconstruction of cities, Sebille stated, among other things, that despite the great amount of reconstruction work carried on in Moscow and Leningrad the principle of protection of art values is being strictly observed.

Agach supported the views of the previous speaker: in the reconstruction of cities all the good elements must be preserved and all the bad destroyed. In replanning a city it is necessary to take into consideration all its peculiarities and solve not any one problem but all pertinent problems, such as replanning of streets, garbage disposal the sewage system, etc.

A city planner, he explained, is like an orchestra leader who has a number of scores before him. In replanning esthetics must be kept in the background. A town is a machine intended for work.

The French town-planners displayed special interest in the address on socialist city planning delivered by Baburov, an entirely new problem to architects from capitalist countries. Baburov described the basic work of building socialist cities in the USSR.

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From Moscow the architects proceeded to Dneprostroy and Kharkov. They declared that during their stay in the USSR they realised the tremendous construction work proceeding in the Union, noted the enthusiasm of the masses participating in this work, and became aware of the limitless possibilities of Soviet architecture.

In Kharkov the group of French architects inspected the Ukrainian architectural exhibition which is to be sent abroad as well as the exhibition entitled “Planning a greater Kharkov”. A group of Kharkov architects placed before the visitors a number of questions relating to the city’s public utilities André Bloc and Pengusson gave replies.

Bloc declared that the "great work already accomplished in building up Kharkov inspires us with the deepest admiration. Criticism of the defects inevitable in such vast construction work you are able to make yourselves".

Bloc emphasised that there were tremendous achievements in the development of Kharkov and expressed the hope that after further perfecting construction methods the Ukrainian capital would achieve a high degree of prosperity and greatness.

Pengusson who followed Bloc declared that "Kharkov combined within itself the most diversified forms of socialist architecture, typified both by the number of newly built structures and by their execution. The achievements in this field during the years of the Revolution have been so enormous that no architect, whatever his nationality, whichever school he may support, can afford to ignore them.

Pengusson expressed sincere joy as an architect at having been able to observe that in the USSR the plan is indeed "omnipotent". He also greeted the fact that all jobs are in charge of architects who sift immediate demands, yet take into consi-

deration the needs of the future, who direct and realise construction with the greatest economy of time, money and labour, combined with the highest type of execution. "You recognise no obstacles to the fulfilment of a plan, no matter how great its scope or how brief the time for its execution. Your social system has solved the problem of power based upon collective creation."

The speaker further noted that in the USSR the economic plan has been made to serve the idea of collectivisation and unity. In socialist construction, he said, he observed a search for a new style developing under the influence of two tendencies, functionalism and expressionism. Soviet architecture seeks new construction methods and the application of new materials. He sees new civilisation being created in the USSR.

Turning to the Soviet architects, Pengusson expressed his "amazement at their great achievements".

"L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui" proposes to publish a special issue of the magazine devoted to the visit made to the USSR by the foreign architects.



Modern Soviet architecture. A new building in Cheboksary, Chuvashia

NEWS FROM ABROAD

U.S.A.

The Society for Cultural Relations with the USSR in San Francisco arranged an exhibition of Soviet drawings. Great interest was shown in the exhibition and the achievements of Soviet graphic art were favourably reviewed by the press.

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Senator Sabbath spoke on the question of the recognition of the USSR at a meeting conducted in Chicago by the Society for Cultural Relations with the USSR.

As is known, Senator Sabbath introduced a motion in the Senate concerning the recognition of the USSR.

ENGLAND

On the occasion of the XVth anniversary of the October Revolution, the London society for Cultural Relations with the USSR arranged a "We have been to the USSR" dinner.

The dinner was attended by 250 persons, many of whom were members of the Society. A number of speeches dealing with the achievements of socialist construction and cultural revolution in the USSR were delivered. Mrs Mansell-Moullin, Chairman of the Society, sent a message to the USSR congratulating it on the XVth anniversary of the October Revolution.

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The S.C.R. in Birmingham has drawn up a big programme of lectures for the next months.

The following topics have been indicated: 1) Education in the USSR, 2) Marriage in the USSR, 3) The second Five-Year Plan, 4) The system of financing in the USSR, 5) The psychological stimulus for work in the USSR.

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The S.C.R. in Liverpool has organised a circle composed of students and others to study the second Five-Year Plan.

BELGIUM

VOKS received the following appeal from the Belgian Society for Cultural Relations with the USSR:

"The Council of the Society for Cultural Relations with the USSR has decided

to work tirelessly for the realisation of its social task of furthering the development of cultural, scientific and literary connections between Belgium and the USSR and requests VOXS to transmit to the competent government authorities its warmest congratulations on the occasion of the glorious XVth anniversary of the October Revolution.

"It hopes that the time is not far off when normal relations will be established between the governments of both countries and when cultural exchanges will be considerably extended and strengthened at a time when the Russian Revolution will victoriously realise its aspirations."

At a general meeting of the Society on November 5th the following text of the appeal to the toilers of the USSR was proposed:

"The assembly of Belgian intellectuals at its meeting devoted to the XVth anniversary of the Russian Revolution, organised by the Society for Cultural Relations with the USSR, expresses to the toilers of the Soviet Union its fraternal and warm sympathies for the marvellous energetic struggle, which they have been conducting for 15 years on one-sixth of the globe for the realisation of their revolutionary ideal.

"It expresses the wish that the USSR, taking advantage of the present peaceful conditions, would carry out to the end the first international experiment of socialist construction, by continuing to create new intellectual and material values."

At this meeting a paper was read by Mme Heiliger-Leroy on the revolutionary months February—October 1917, and Engineer René Plot of Paris—on Lenin and Gorky.

JAPAN

There has appeared a new book by Fukuro "A Short History of the Cinema in the USSR".

Soviet literature was represented at the international exhibition of literature and cultural achievements in Tokyo.

Soviet literature enjoys great success in Japan. A number of works of Soviet authors—Sholokhov, Vs. Ivanov, Shaghi-nyan, Lavrenev, Seifullina and others—have been or are being translated.

A number of Japanese men of letters are preparing books on the industrialisation of the USSR, on Soviet music, on the cultural achievements in the USSR, etc.

Soviet Fiction

E. Gabrilovich

NINETEEN THIRTY

(Fragment from a story)

"1930" is written by the gifted young Soviet author Eugene Gabrilovich. The chief character of the story is Kasymov, an old Tartar peasant.

At 49 years of age, Kasymov starts studying, joins a colhoz and becomes an active colhoz organiser. In spite of the desperate resistance offered by the reactionary elements in the village, in spite of all the difficulties, Kasymov, being a man of tremendous energy and ardent belief, deep'y conscious of his close connection with the masses, finally triumphs. The colhoz is organised. It successfully carries through the sowing campaign. Kasymov is killed by his foes — the kulaks and mullahs. But his death only strengthens the solidarity of the colhoz members.

In the author's foreword we read:

"Everything has changed in the regions dealt with here. A big agricultural unit is now to be found where once Kasymov laboured. But there was a 1930. I saw this year in the boundless steppes beyond the Volga. I saw its heroes and its wreckers. I want to describe what I saw."

The fragment given below represents Kasymov's journey through the colхозes, his trip to the town, the struggle for the fulfilment of the spring sowing plan in the colhoz, and Kasymov's death.

We drove from village to village. As soon as we arrived at a place Kasymov would call a meeting in the local "people's house".

Crowds came to the meetings. As soon as Kasymov got up on the platform hundreds of questions were fired at him from all sides. There was a whirlwind, a storm, a simoon of questions. One would need to be an agronomist, engineer, a veterinary surgeon, economist, meteorologist and lawyer combined in one to answer all the questions. And Kasymov, the old Tartar, was none of these. He was not even a speaker. When he made a speech, he got muddled after the first three words. Interruptions from the audience put him out altogether. He closed his eyes. He seemed to have fallen asleep. The audience shouted and roared. Some humped up from their places, and pulled him by his Tartar's gown, swore at him. Kasymov was silent.

Little by little the room quietened down. The audience became aware that the man, silent and with closed eyes, was evidently waiting for a chance to speak. Silence came of itself. Then Kasymov shook himself and called one of the men sitting nearby up to the platform. Kasymov began to hold a loud conversation with this man. He asked his christian name and called him by it. It was at this point that the meeting proper began. Kasymov, who could get no further than the three first

words of a speech, possessed a wonderful gift for carrying on a conversation. He could see and understand the man's doubts, as he could see a house, a wood, or a meadow, and replies that one would have to be an economist, an engineer, or an agronomist to give, fell from his lips of themselves.

It was the most penetrating form of agitation I have ever heard. The collective farm was knocked down, was hurried, was surprised. The collective farm lost things, doubted, yawned and looked about it. The meeting held its breath as it listened to that astonishing dialogue.

At 4 o'clock in the morning Kasymov closed the meeting. At 8 we went on our way.

Three weeks went by like this. Sometimes of nights Kasymov asked me to read the newspapers to him. I would read him the headlines and slogans and try to interpret them for him. The slogans frightened him, at the steely directness of the slogan he paled; had he made some mistakes, he wondered? He was so afraid that I was afraid for him. For several hours he would be not quite himself. He would pace up and down, thinking, slip-slapping his galoshes and gesticulating. He muttered to himself.

In a few hours' time he got used to the idea of the slogan just as he had got accustomed to the beard, the buttons and coat of his companion in conversation.

Now it was the slogan that lost things and doubted, and got wick, hurried and was knocked down. That was enough. Now the slogan could be seen, had become his.

In the course of those three weeks the gradual crystallisation of the collective farm was brought about.

Grain, forage, plans, labour norms, and credits settled the business. The collective farmer could see a brigade, a collective farm field, and collective farm sowing methods clearly and definitely.

The brigades, the disappearance of private hedges and the work of sowing — which up to now had been exclamations, convincing but unearthly — suddenly smelt of tobacco smoke, wore high boots, scratched themselves, became a crowd. One could see the sand that had dried on the blade of the collective farm sowing machine, and the pimple on the cheek of the brigade worker. Taste, smell, sight and touch were once more called into play, this time inside the collective farm. That was the thing. The collective farm, the real one, was growing stronger, stronger every hour.

There was one weak spot, however. The implements needed mending.

On April 5th the board of directors sent Kasymov to Samara to look into the matter personally.

He arrived to Samara. He went down a side-street. For the first time in his life he saw pavements, and lamp posts along them, stuck with bills. Then the side-street ended. He saw for the first time in his life a boulevard, inscriptions over gates, gratings to let water through. He went up to a tram stop. Here he stood and looked at the women with baskets, the cab drivers, the crowd, windows, portfolios. He quailed. He feared that he was in this town for ever. He was alone. Perhaps all these things were invented for him alone. Everything looked so flimsy and unreal. He stood shaking his head. The tram came up. Kasymov would have liked to run away, to get to the hotel, to Sargar, to see the director's frame house again, and the saddle workshop. He took one step backward — and then got on the tram. For the first time in his life he saw a conductor's wallet, the roll of tickets, the short seats for sitting on and the traffic warnings pasted on the walls.

At last he got to the offices of the Regional Collective Farm Union. People of the most varied professions were scurrying about here. Brigades of agronomists, engineers, instructors, docters, blacksmiths

and clerks were formed here. It was as if a tremendous pulse could be felt throbbing intensely through the tables, cupboards, inkstands. With every hour more people from the villages came trooping in here. People came from all parts of the country, received instructions, boots, sheepskin coats, pamphlets, and went out. The next day they were no longer to be seen. Some went away for two or three months, some for six months, and other for five years.

Kasymov was told here that 25 repair workers' brigades had been sent to the Asulino district. There were no more brigades at the disposal of the Union. Kasymov had better appeal directly to the workers about the brigades. The chairman advised Kasymov to get to the Party nucleus and the shop committee of the machine works here. They had already dispatched 17 workers' brigades for the sowing.

Kasymov went to the machine works. The secretary of the Party nucleus listened attentively to the old man's broken talk, and said he would put the matter before the workers at the general meeting in the dinner hour next day. He asked Kasymov to make a speech at the meeting. The Kasymov went back to the hotel.

He began to prepare his speech for the next day. He drew out of his sack sheets of paper covered with figures. The book-keeper had given them to him just before he left. Kasymov read the figures over and over, whispering to himself: "I'm no speechmaker."

It grew dusk. About 6 o'clock Kasymov decided to learn his speech by heart. He rose and began to caper up and down the room. He whispered, fidgeted, gesticulated. He learnt it paragraph by paragraph. He tramped and tramped, hitching up his trousers, now and again shuffling his galoshes. And muttering all the time.

By 10 in the morning, when he had got it off by heart, he went out. For the second time in his life he saw the theatre posters, the boulevards, the inscriptions, the gratings for the rainwater to run down. He walked, rode and ran stumbling sometimes. He arrived at the works at 11 o'clock, an hour before the meeting. They told him to wait in the committee-room. He sat there a long time. He could remember the beginning and the end of the speech very well. He sat without moving, repeating the middle of the speech to himself — seraps of the middle, exclamations from it.

At half past 12 he was called in to the club. A huge hall full of people. He was invited to come up to the platform. He began his speech. The beginning of it he managed quite well. He spoke clearly though he was embarrassed. But the middle of the speech tripped him up. He made a mess of it.

He went on talking and talking and thinking to himself:

"It's all up with me now, I'm no speech-maker."

But it was not all up with him. In this room they were all his own kind. They understood: the old man had got winded, got into a sweat, got all tied up. They understood that it was not his words but his business that mattered.

When Kasymov finished, the secretary of the Party nucleus came out on the platform and said:

"We've got to pick out still another brigade, comrades."

He pointed out that the works had already sent out 17 repair brigades and that they would have to make tremendous efforts so as not to let their own industrial and financial plan fall through.

"And still, comrades", he said, "we've got to send out another brigade."

The meeting adopted a resolution to send still another brigade to "Dawn". It was to leave on April 16th, when the works' industrial plan for the half month will be completed.

The business was over; Kasymov left Samara.

The train boomed out of the station. Outside the windows wet gullies and slippery steppes rolled by. At rare intervals there were low one-storied railway stations. About 7 o'clock it began to rain and the wind arose.

The worker's brigade arrived on April 17th, and started work at once. It worked day and night, and repaired 5 ploughs, 10 harrows, and 3 sowers every 24 hours, and still the rapid thaw of the spring of 1930 was ahead of the rapid work of the brigade.

The general sowing began on the 30th, that is, with a delay of five days. The sun was scorching. It was necessary not only to fulfil the daily sowing task, but also to make up for the delay.

On May 3rd arrived repair brigades from the more prosperous collective farms, as also the newspaper correspondents. So did the agronomists, the political workers, the Young Communist groups.

Travelling field smithies were organised; bellows, two sacks of coal, five hammers, a cart, a horse, an anvil. The repairing of farm implements on the spot started.

Meetings also began. Fifteen political instructors drove about to the villages, explaining the policy of the Soviet government with regard to the collective farms and individual farmers. Associations of individual farmers arose. The Asulino-medical and sanitary brigade opened creches. Travelling kitchens were opened.

A travelling library was the next thing. A covered cart was dragged out of one of the sheds, put on wheels and used to carry books, magazines and newspapers round the villages. A travelling wall newspaper was launched. It was taken round by the Asulino brass band. Whenever the band arrived in a village it would strike up a march. As soon as a fair number of people had gathered round, the band would nail up the newspaper to the gates of the village Soviet.

On May 4th, five days after the alarm had been sounded, the amount of work done had increased by 40%. This was not enough. The sun was baking. The soil got drier every hour. It was hard to doubt that the sowing would be a failure.

Brigades of Young Communists were picked out; they worked in the fields. Propaganda vans went out into the fields, explaining the political nature of the sowing campaign, and agitating for increased speed in work. The Asulino Party brigades arrived. They worked in the fields after their day's work in the offices and works where they were employed. At night they left the ploughs and went back to Asulino, to start work again in the morning. Propaganda groups arrived singing couplets and giving performances of light sketches. Journalists sat about in the fields describing actual difficulties and actual disorders. Shock-brigades were formed. Socialist competition began.

Individual output rose 30% over the figures of the plan. And even that was not enough. The sowing was delayed by 11 days. The sun baked the earth and it was getting hard. A daily extra 100% was demanded.

Night work by the light of fires and lanterns was organised. The collective farm shock-brigaders who had finished their own jobs went to work on the backward fields. The Party members and Young Communists of 18 Party nuclei were put on to this work.

Journalists, actors, doctors, students, and agronomists formed brigades. These brigades did auxiliary work, thus releasing people who could be employed on the main business, the actual sowing.

Sargar was well nigh unrecognisable. It vibrated. New people kept coming into it from all sides. A travelling printing works rattled. Motors shone. Wires of field telephones hung from trees. Sargar groaned and boomed. A tremendous force, drawn from everywhere, swelled it out. It blew out like a ball, shuddering and twitching. It was awakened from its sleep, raised and carried in human hands.

On May 11th 90% above the sowing plan were completed.

Next day Kasymov went to a meeting in Maximovka. He spent the night in Novaya Veriga, the village where he was born. He slept on the table in the village Soviet. In the night he heard the clatter of broken glass. He opened his eyes. The lamp was smoking. By its dim light he could see the portraits and placards on the walls. It was quite still. A breeze blew in through the broken window. Kasymov passed his hand over his cheek and saw drops of blood and the mark of a bullet on the table. He raised himself, astounded.

A shot rang out. Kasymov fell off the table. He was shot in the back. He crawled towards the door, trying to keep close to the floor, hoping that the lamp would go out at last. Now he had got to the door. To reach the bolt he would have to raise himself, but he was afraid to do so. He decided to wait for the alarm bell. There was not a sound. He raised his hand. All was still. He could not reach the bolt with his hand. He raised his shoulder. The blood flowed from the wound in his back. The lamp was still burning. As he lay on the floor, Kasymov could see a waste paper basket, a broken pen, and some black sand. He raised his head. Another shot rang out. Kasymov was killed.

Next day the murderer was caught. It was the son of the mullah who had been arrested in connection with the beating of Kasymov.

On the 15th day of the sowing we buried Safatdin Kasymov in Novaya Veriga.

We carried red banners. The orchestra played Chopin's march. We walked with bent heads. The mournful music drew every-

body out into the streets. Down the street we went, through the fields, to the graveyard. The collective farm workers of many villages stood here waiting. They bore red banners with the words: "Thousands will come to the relief of one". Then the farewells began. I waited my turn, I moved slowly on. I saw the black fields, the ploughs, the tractors, the sowers, the daily plan that had been doubled in the course of work. I went up to Kasymov. I could see his wrinkled face, his lumpy forehead. I said good-bye to him and made way for the next man. Afterwards we lowered the coffin into the grave and closed it. The Mordovian Okolov, who was chief of the Sargar farm, stepped up on the grave.

"Comrades", he began. "It's a great old man that lies here. He believed in a better life. Some scoundrels killed him. But what did they get out of that? Nothing. Only one old man died. But we are all alive. The sowers, the ploughs and the harrows remained. Good-bye, old chap. We'll remember you: you were not very big and you were thin. You always went about in your Tartar gown. You were shy at the meetings. You got muddled sometimes and you would cough to pass off. But we swear to go the same road you went, the road the great Soviet Government and the great Communist Party are leading us along."

The band struck up. We went our ways.

It was dusty on the road. The sun was scorching. I sat down by the co-operative. There were clanging sounds from the kitchen; it was 10 in the morning. A group of pioneers with waving banners passed by. The travelling library cart passed by. A woman came out of the gate, glanced at the sky and began to pump water. The caretaker of the co-operative yawned. The repair brigade strode by with their tools. The agronomist passed on horseback. A wind blew. The river splashed. The birds sang. It was noon, dinner-time.

They say that real pathos is inconspicuous. This is not so. It may be expressed haltingly, in such a low voice that it can scarcely be heard. And yet it thunders forth. And when a man takes the pen in his hand to write down what he has seen, he is stunned and carried away by this obscure pathos.

Editor-in-chief M. APLETIN

