

SOVIET CULTURE REVIEW

In this issue:

On the way of Lenin

V. Molotov, M. Kalinin, V. Kuibyshev
on the fourth and final year of the Five Year Plan

Peoples and republics of the USSR

System of wages in the Soviet Union

Soviet life in questions and answers

New Soviet publications

Chess

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The Eighth Anniversary of Lenin's Death

1924 ²¹ 1932

ON THE WAY OF LENIN¹

When the Soviet Government first came into power in Russia some people considered the problems put forward by the October Revolution «impracticable», «insoluble», «premature» for such a backward, uncultured country as Russia was. In reply to such critics Lenin wrote:

«If for the creation of socialism a definite level of culture is required (though nobody can tell where this level lies) then why not begin by winning over the revolutionary premises, necessary for this level and then only, on the basis of the workers' and peasants' government start to overtake the other countries. Our adversaries have told us more than once that it was a foolhardy business to try to introduce socialism in a country, which was not cultured enough for that. But they were mistaken in so far as we began not from the point from which, according to the theory of all pedants, we should have, and that the political and social upheaval in this country had preceded the cultural upheaval, that very cultural revolution with which we are now face to face».

By making a scientific analysis of reality, taking into account clearly and soberly all the present forces — both internal and international — Lenin showed that the only possible progress for Russia lay along the path of socialism.

And Lenin proved to be right.

Lenin's foresight, Lenin's general plan of socialist construction in the Land of Soviets was based upon the reality. Lenin's theory threw light on the future path of development of the Soviet State.

The fact that the Five Year Plan is being carried out in four years is proof of the practicability and truth of Lenin's conceptions.

Ten years ago Lenin wrote: «Look at the map of the RSFSR. To the north of Vologda, to the south-east of Rostov-on-Don and Saratov, to the south of Orenburg and Omsk, to the north of Omsk, lie immense areas, where scores of civilised states could be built up. And yet these areas remain patriarchal, half-savage, or even in some places entirely savage».

«Is it possible to pass from this patriarchal regime, this pre-capitalistic order, to socialism?» — asked Lenin. His own answer was:

«Yes, it is possible, but only under one condition, only if electrification is brought in, only if the heavy industries are restored and developed, for these form the basis of socialism».

The Five Year Plan is the fulfilment of Lenin's great prophecies.

Thanks to the achievements of industrialisation and collectivisation, this country, as Lenin has put it, is «leaving the lean peasant horse and mounting the steed of large scale industry».

The Soviet Union has made tremendous progress in the field of electrification for which the general plan was drawn up according to Lenin's directions.

¹ By courtesy of the editors of «Nashi Dostizhenia» («Our Achievements», editor in chief — Maxim Gorki).

The total capacity of all the power stations in the USSR, by January 1st, 1932, reached 1,050,000 kwts. On January 1st, 1931, it was 2,900,000 kwts. This means that during the year 1931 the total capacity of Soviet power stations has increased by more than 1,000,000 kwts. The plan for 1932 provides for a further increase of 1,500,000 kwts.

Stalin's slogan is that the USSR must become a country of metal. The toilers of the Soviet Union are carrying out the will of Lenin concerning the «development of heavy industry, which is the basis of socialism». During 1931 this country completed the laying of the foundation of the socialist economic system.

The pre-war level of industrial development has been left far behind. Old manufacturing centres have expanded and got stronger; scores of new ones have been and are being created. During the first three years of the Five Year Plan a great number of new factories has been built. To the ever growing network of power stations, stations at Shterov, at Zuevo in the Donbas, at Cheliabinsk and Kiselev etc. have been added.

Millions of small peasant farms have been collectivised. The individual farmer, that symbol of mediaeval backwardness, of patriarchy, and the exhausting, servile agricultural labour, has sunk into the background. This is a victory of worldwide historic importance. It shows the transformation of the Soviet Union into a country with the largest output of agricultural produce in the world. Collectivisation and the elimination of the «kulak» as a class, open up before millions of toiling peasants the way to a new life. Poverty, misery, the eternal fear of starvation — all these have become things of the past.

«It is necessary, — said Lenin in 1922,—that the mass of the peasants

should see the link between their hard, utterly miserable, utterly wretched present conditions and the work that is being carried out for the sake of the socialist ideal of the future.

Eight years have passed since Lenin's death. The toilers of the Soviet Union have made this link a concrete one. Socialist ideals are becoming material facts.

The workers, the members of the collective farms, the intelligentsia of the Soviet Union can now say to the world:

«Look at the map of the USSR. The immense territory of the former «prison of peoples» — the Russian Empire — glows with the lights of new industrial constructions. North of Vologda, in Khibin, under the shroud of Polar night, appetites are drawn from the bowels of the earth to enrich the soil of the collective farms. East of Moscow, near Nizhni-Novgorod, rise the buildings of the gigantic new motor-works, and farther to the east, on the ridges of the Urals, the first blast furnaces of Magnitogorsk shine out like beacons of the new metallurgic base of the country. South of Saratov, at the Stalingrad works, 140 tractors leave the conveyer daily, 140 tractors, which, together with the products of the Rostov, Kharkov and Putilov works, help to mechanize the country that was formerly known as «straw Russia».

South of Orenburg and Omsk rises the new industrial Kazakstan — yesterday a backward country of nomads, today the builder of the Turkestan-Siberian Railway, of Karaganda, and other bases of socialist construction. Over 1,000 machine and tractor stations, hundreds of mechanised state farms, new industrial centres, electrification, radio, and aviation — these are the means by which the wilderness that was Russia has been fought and destroyed. This is our new country»

In 1932, the last year of the Five Year Plan, the toiling masses of the USSR have full right to be proud of their country. They may also add, that this country is the only one in the world which ignores unemployment; that following the instructions of Lenin, illiteracy will soon be completely eliminated here; that the importance of the cultural workers is ever on the increase in the USSR. Lenin said that in the Land of Soviets the teachers must be raised to a height, that they could never attain in any other country. His words have come true.

These are the achievements, with which we are entering on the fourth year of the Five Year Plan. But the first Five Year Plan is only the first stage in the carrying out of the great historical task set by Lenin: to overtake and to outstrip those capitalist countries, that were more advanced

technically and economically. Lenin foresaw that socialist construction would, even in its first stage, increase tremendously the rate of our development. The USSR has said in the words of Stalin: «From 50 to 100 years divide us from the more advanced countries; we have to cover this distance in 10 years».

The will and energy of the toilers of the USSR has helped them to overthrow the reign of exploitation, violence and fraud. Their will and energy has helped them to complete the laying of the foundation for socialist economies. They will build up a socialist society, thus accomplishing the realization of Lenin's ideas. Productive force, science, culture will reach in this society heights that no culture of the past could ever aspire to. And from these heights a transformed world will shine for the great family of peoples of the Soviet Union.



The Moscow Lenin Institute. An exact reproduction of Lenin's cabinet in the Kremlin.

THE FIVE YEAR PLAN

From the third, decisive—to the fourth and final

The second session of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR was held in Moscow at the end of December, 1931. The session was mainly devoted to the summing up of the achievements of the first three years of the Five Year Plan and drawing up the controlling figures for the fourth and last year. The opening of this Session was preceded by the sessions of Central Executive Committees of the RSFSR, the Ukrainian, the White-Russian and other republics of the Union.

The session lasted seven days. The following reports were delivered and discussed:

V. N. Molotov, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissaries, and V. V. Kuibyshev, Chairman of the State Planning Commission—on the controlling figures for the national economy of the USSR for 1932.

G. F. Grinko, People's Commissar for Finance of the USSR—on the unified financial plan and State Budget of the USSR for 1932.

S. E. Chutskayev—report on the same subject on behalf of the Budget Commission attached to the CEC.

K. S. Atabaev—report of the Government of the Turkmenistan Republic. Below will be found material on the principal work of the session.

THE LAND OF ENTHUSIASM

Extract from a speech made by M. I. KALININ at the session of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee.

Besides the quantitatively tremendous scale of socialist construction as witnessed by the controlling figures for 1932, certain social and political, that is to say, qualitative points stand out.

The development of industry in pre-war days went on in a chaotic way, governed as it was by the demands of capitalist economy. Now it has to proceed in an organised fashion, according to plan, and in 1932 even at a greater rate than the last year.

Millions of tons of coal are demanded from Karaganda and the Kuznetzk coalfields, where formerly there was nothing at all. In the Urals, where industries were conducted in the most primitive way, where the immense sources of raw materials were ex-

ploited to a negligible extent, blast-furnaces of a size rarely seen have been built. The mass-production of motor cars and tractors is under way in the USSR. Formerly we only repaired tractors and cars, but never made them.

To put the matter in a nutshell, a real revolution is taking place here in the field of industry. The backward, primitive, barbarous methods of production are being replaced by the most up-to-date, based on the latest scientific achievements.

As a result of the immense quantity of labour, energy and enthusiasm put into industrial construction, newer and ever more complicated problems are solved from day to day.

**Total sum of capital investments
in national economy**

1931	16,000	mln rbls
1932	21,000	mln rbls

In summing up the results of the past year, it is with great satisfaction that we can note that the Soviet Union has made tremendous progress. Not one capitalist country has ever been able to know an annual increase of production of from 20 to 21%.

Many people abroad are surprised and are actually unable to understand where the forces, that are developing production at such a rate in our Union, are drawn from. We know well, however, the nature of those resources of our state. They are really inexhaustible. This can be said without the slightest exaggeration. The will, energy, and enthusiasm of millions and tens of millions of people, who formerly never took part in creative work, are directed on the goal that stands before us. For the first time in history these millions have been given the chance to join in creative work. As a matter of course, they give their energy, their heart and soul, themselves to it.

That is the inexhaustible source of power that is pushing ahead the construction of the Soviet Union, that is what makes up for the individual mistakes, that is what gives us full assurance that the plan for 1932 will be fulfilled and the Five Year Plan completed. That is what the toiling



masses want, because they know that the fulfilment of the Five Year Plan means the decisive victory for socialism in our country.

THE FIVE YEAR PLAN TO BE FINISHED IN FOUR YEARS

Extract from a speech made by V. MOLOTOV, chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR at the Session of the Central Executive Committee.

The Five Year Plan for the economic development of the USSR was finally approved in the spring of 1929. That year was also the first year of the carrying out of the Plan.

The working class succeeded in fulfilling the tasks of that first year. This aroused fresh enthusiasm among the masses. This created confidence and we realised that we would be able to complete the Plan not in five, but in four years.

The past year was the third year. It witnessed tremendous new achievements in economic construction.

1. The Five Year Plan in Industry

Already in 1931, the Five Year Plan was completed in some branches of industry. Among the largest branches that fulfilled the Plan in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 years are the

oil, electro-technical, tractor and general engineering industries.

It is now possible to sum up the results of that part of the Five Year Plan that has been carried out in three years.

If we take the programme of industrial production for each year, it appears that (according to incomplete figures) during the first year (1929) 106% of the annual programme were completed; in the second year (1930) — 107%; in the third year (1931) — 113%.

It is clear then, even from these incomplete figures, that the industrial production programmes were not only fulfilled, but even exceeded during each of the first three years. This excess rose from year to year (6%, 7%, 13%).

According to the Plan, industrial production in the fifth year of the Plan should have totalled Rbls. 30,155,000,000.



In order to achieve this, it was necessary to secure the growth of production over the previous year, by Rbbls. 8,296,000,000, that is to achieve an increase of 34.7% in industrial production. The present plan of industrial production for 1932 provides for an increase of Rbbls. 8,503,000,000, that is, 36% over the previous year.

This means not only the completion of the tasks of the fifth year of the Five Year Plan (34.7% over 1931), but also an actual excess of the original programme (36%). It also means that the pre-war output of industry will have been quadrupled.

But we are moving even faster in the field of capital construction of industry.

If we take the whole sum of capital investments for the first three years (16 billion roubles), and add to it the whole sum of capital investments for 1932 (10.7 billion roubles) — the combined investments in industry for four years will total 26.7 billion roubles. This means that in the matter of capital investments the Five Year Plan is being doubled in four years. In this lies the guarantee of our final victory, of the great future for socialism.

For the sake of contrast one might point to the fact that in 1913 the fixed capital

of all the industry of tsarist Russia amounted to only 4,160 million roubles. A comparison in roubles is, of course, conditional, but even then it must be admitted that the rate of the present capital construction is in no way to be compared with the growth of capital investment in pre war times.

In the socialised sector of public economy the capital investments for the whole of the five years have been fixed at 47 billion roubles. In connection with the plan for 1932 these investments for four years will exceed 54 billion roubles. Thus we should, according to the scale of capital investments, exceed the Five Year Plan by 16%.

The plan for 1932, in accordance with the main tasks of the Five Year Plan, concentrates its attention on the most important branches of industry — on the iron and steel industry, fuel (especially coal), engineering (first of all, machinery for railway transport).

Industry holds the leading position in public economy. All branches of the later depend for their development on industry, on the production of iron, steel and fuel, on the production of machinery, lathes, looms, and tools.

The mastery of technical methods has a tremendous importance for the fulfilment of the Five Year Plan. Until lately we were greatly dependent in this respect on foreign countries. But during the last few years the situation has begun to change noticeably. Now we have entirely freed ourselves in many important branches of industry of our technical dependence on the capitalist countries. The construction of tractors and «bloomings» has shown what progress we have made in the mastery of technical methods.

2. The Five Year Plan in Agriculture

In the course of the three years of the Five Year Plan we have accomplished a revolution in the production of agricultural machinery. This has advanced tremendously since the stage of production of the old machines destined for the small separate farms. The construction of agricultural ma-

**Capital investments in industry
(the socialist sector)**

1931	8,200	mln rbls
1932	10,700	mln rbls

**Capital investments in agriculture
(the socialist sector)**

**1931 3,600 mln rbls
1932 4,360 mln rbls**

chinery has been placed on a higher average level than that prevailing in capitalist countries. In 1932 agriculture should get more than a million horse-power from the new tractors that are all being turned out of our own tractor works — «Krassny Putilovetz», Stalingrad, Kharkov. In addition agricultural machinery to the value of Rbls. 900,000,000 is to be produced. It will consist chiefly of harvesters for grain crops, cotton, beetroot, flax, potatoes and so on. These are badly needed in agriculture.

A prominent place in the reconstruction of agriculture is occupied by the machine-and-tractor stations. In the course of the last three years these stations — known as MTS — have become more and more popular and indispensable to the collective farms.

At the end of the third year we have already 1,400 MTS, and in 1932 it is expected to organise another 1,700. Thus, by the end of the fourth year we shall have 3,100 MTS.

The example of the MTS is being followed in new branches, for instance, last year about 200 hay-mowing machine stations were founded.

Very good results were obtained on collective market-dairy farms created with government assistance.

How is the slogan of «Let's Finish the Five Year Plan in Four Years» being carried out in agriculture itself? It is, of course, well-known, that as regards collectivisation we have long ago exceeded the tasks of the last year of the Plan. According to the latter, 20% of the peasant farms should have been collectivised by the fifth year. Now at the end of the third year we have more than 60% of collectivised farms. The programme of the Five Year Plan in this field has been completed and trebled in the third year. In the most important grain districts

collectivisation is practically complete. There is no doubt but that 1932 will see the completion of collectivisation throughout the USSR.

The Soviet farms have also exceeded the Five Year Plan. The grain and stock farms, and also the Soviet farms where industrial crops are being raised, have grown with extraordinary rapidity. The Soviet farms have played an important part in the field of collectivisation as the first organisers of large-scale socialist agriculture.

The grain problem, thanks to the progress made in collective-farm organisation, has been practically solved in the USSR. On the other hand the plan respecting the area given over to industrial crops will be exceeded in the fourth year (133%). This means that in the creation of a raw materials' base for our industries we shall have made much greater progress by the fourth year than was demanded by the whole Five Year Plan.

From the foregoing it is clear that in agriculture, as in industry the USSR is not only fulfilling, but actually exceeding the tasks set by the Five Year Plan, and that the economic plan for 1932 is evidence of the fulfilment of the Five Year Plan, not in five, but in four years.

3. The Five Year Plan for the improvement of working and living conditions

The general condition of the working masses of the USSR has attained in these four years a much higher level than that provided for by the Five Year Plan.

According to the Plan we expected to have by the fifth year 15,800,000 workers. At the end of last year, however, we had 3,000,000 more workers and employees, their number being 18,700,000. The controlling figures for 1932 allow for a further

Capital investments in railways, road-building, water-transport and air-transport

**1931 2,720 mln rbls
1932 3,330 mln rbls**

Annual appropriation for wages for the workers and employees of all branches of national economy, and cultural construction work

1931	21,100	mln rbls
1932	26,800	mln rbls

growth in the number of workers and employees — to 21,000,000. This will mean that the Plan will be completed and exceeded (133%) in four years.

It was calculated that there would be 4,000,000 workers in industry by the last year of the Plan. By the end of the third year we had 5,400,000. By the fourth year this figure will mount to 6,200,000. It follows then that in the matter of training industrial workers we shall be exceeding the plan by 52%.

This will mean that the most important social foundation of the Soviet Union — the working-class — is growing rapidly. Every year the part played by the working-class is growing throughout the country. In order to describe the condition of the workers and employees in the USSR and the improvement in their standard of living I shall emphasize three points: wages, social insurance and the working day. In all these fields we can note a considerable excess over the Five Year Plan.

The total appropriation for wages for the last year of the Plan was calculated at 15.7 billion roubles. Already last year this appropriation was increased to 21.1 billion. According to the plan for 1932 it will rise to 26.8 billion. Consequently, the Five Year Plan in respect to wages is being fulfilled in four years with an excess of 71%. These figures speak for themselves.

The budget for social insurance was fixed at Rbls. 1,950,000,000 for the last year of the Plan. Last year it rose to Rbls. 2,500,000,000 — that is to say, we

have already in the third year exceeded the Plan for social insurance. Next year the budget for social insurance will be increased to Rbls. 3,490,000,000, that is, the budget for the fifth year will be almost doubled in the fourth year.

The Plan allowed for the introduction of the 7-hour working day in the fifth year. Actually, we have moved on much more rapidly and already in the fourth year we are going to complete the introduction of the 7-hour day throughout all industries.

At last we come to house-building and public utilities.

A big advance was made in this field last year in the Red Capital — Moscow. As is well-known, a great deal of work in the construction of houses and public utilities is being begun not only in Moscow, but in Leningrad and other industrial districts this year.

There is no doubt that this big move in municipal economy and house-building will bring about a great improvement in the living conditions of the toilers.

There is no need to prove here that in the village the material welfare of the working peasants is improving at an unheard-of rate. Collectivisation and the wiping out of «kulaks» as a class has opened new possibilities for the mass of poor and middle peasants. Thanks to this the great masses of the toiling peasants have been raised, for the first time in history, from poverty and ignorance. The very contradictions between the town and the village are being done away with.

Total outlay on the cultural and social requirements of the population (education, training of specialists, science, health service, social provision, labor protection, social insurance relief)

1931	6,600	mln rbls
1932	9,200	mln rbls

NEW SOVIET SPECIALISTS

Extract from a speech made by V. KUIBYSHEV, Chairman of the State Planning Committee, at the session of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR

By the end of 1931, 226,000 engineers and technicians with special qualifications and education were taking part in construction work in the USSR. If we include practical engineers and technicians without university degrees, the total rises to 600,000 as compared with 300,000 in 1929. This includes only those who are members of special engineers and technicians trade union organisations. It follows that in two years the number of engineers and practical technicians has been doubled.

In 1932, the training of future engineers etc. will be increased. For instance, in 1932 257,600 (139% of the 1931 figures) will be admitted to the universities, 591,000 (155%) to the technical schools; 358,000 (196%) to the workers' universities, and 1,036,000 (144%) to the factory and works' schools.

The technical schools will turn out 175,000 technicians, more than twice as many as in 1931. The workers' universities turn out 121,000, 80% more than last year. From the factory and works' schools 364,000 young skilled workers will graduate, that is, four times more than in 1931.

By the end of 1932, there will be about 4,000,000 students altogether in the universities, technical schools, workers' universities and factory schools as compared with 2,700,000 in 1931.

An extraordinary phenomenon can now be observed in the Soviet Union. Industrial, transport and agricultural workers while carrying out their ordinary, immediate work, study the scientific, technical



and theoretical side of the production processes. A new type of worker is being evolved. He possesses not only practical skill, but is to a certain extent a technician and even an engineer.

Capitalism divorced science from the worker. According to Marx, this was one of the laws of capitalist production.

Socialism is creating a new type of humanity. This is one of the signs of the times, of the development of our country.

THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND OUR STRUGGLE FOR PEACE

Extract from a speech made by V. M. MOLOTOV at the session of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR

The relations between the USSR and the capitalist countries have undergone no change during the period under review.

In the case of those countries with which the Soviet Union had formerly normal or friendly relations, these have been fully

maintained up to now. The Soviet Government endeavours to strengthen still further these relations founded on firmly established principles of Soviet policy. In the case of countries with which our relations seemed to us unsatisfactory, the So-

viet Government has striven to secure an improvement in the mutual relations. This also corresponds to the unchanging policy of the Soviet Government.

In connection with this policy, a policy of consistent defence of general peace, the USSR has begun negotiations for a non-aggression pact with Poland. These negotiations are still proceeding. We are striving for their satisfactory conclusion. In any case all that depends upon the USSR itself has been and is being done in this matter.

Recently Rumania, Finland, and Estonia have proposed to conclude pacts of non-aggression with us. We regard the conclusion of such pacts with these, as with other — in particular neighbouring countries—as fully in keeping with the peaceful policy of the Soviet Government and the interests of general peace. We are striving, as before, to bring the question of the conclusion of non-aggression pacts to practical realisation. Whatever depends on the Soviet Union in this respect is being done by the Soviet Government.

The events in the Far East — in Manchuria — are, of course, of the greatest importance for our foreign affairs. Recent incidents show that the sphere of these events is not only diminishing, but, on the contrary, shows a clearly marked tendency to expand still further.

This forces us to increase our watchfulness with regard to events in the Far East. We can never forget that our frontiers adjoin those of Manchuria. We cannot doubt that our heroes of the Far East will be equal to the situation and keep a close guard on the Soviet Far Eastern frontiers. (Prolonged applause).

The workers and the toiling masses of the villages of the Soviet Union are busy with home affairs, they are absorbed in the tasks of raising the economic level and their own standard of living. But the conditions of international life enforce us to be on the watch. And again we repeat our main principle—we do not need any other country's land, but neither will we give up an inch of ours. (Applause).

Along with the rumours circling around the calling of the Disarmament Conference, signs are increasing of the growing menace to general peace.

The acute economic crisis makes the contradictions between the imperialist countries all the sharper, and, on account of the sharpening of the class struggle, makes their internal situation still worse. The economic struggle has turned, in connection with the introduction of all forms of protectionism and super-protectionism, into a real economic war between individual capitalist states. Another step, and the struggle for the markets becomes an imperialist war. The danger of new imperialist military «adventures» is growing.

The USSR in particular must take into account the danger of a new imperialist attack. We are fully aware that at the present time the question of an armed attack on our Union is the subject of most lively discussion in certain diplomatic cabinets. It must not be forgotten that many of the organisers of the former «intervention» in the USSR are still alive, and working hand in hand with the new representatives of imperialism in the preparation of an attack on the Workers' Republic.

In connection with events in Manchuria more than one attempt to draw the USSR into an armed conflict has been unmasked both in ours and the foreign press, including bourgeois newspapers. The instigators of a new war, who belong to the imperialist camp, have more than once tried to draw the USSR into a war, and have been busy organising an armed attack on our state. We must be ready to resist this provocation.

Our reply to this is a consistent policy of peace, an increased watchfulness, the growth of socialist construction and, above all, the resolution to complete the Five Year Plan in 1932.

In our country creative work is going full steam ahead, a tremendous scheme of construction is being carried out, socialism is being built up. In this we see the strengthening of our position both at home and abroad. The successful carrying out of the economic plan, the completion of the Five Year Plan in four years, the developing of the struggle for socialism is our best reply to the class enemy. Our task is to support and strengthen the cause of general peace, and international socialism, to secure the victory of the working class. (Prolonged applause).

**Annual budget of social insurance of the
workers and employees**

1931	2,500 mln rbls
1932	3,490 mln rbls

Peoples and Republics of the USSR on the Threshold of the 4th Year of the Five Year Plan

THE CULTURAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE RSFSR IN 1932

Extract from the report made by D. SULIMOV, chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, at the Session of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee



D. Sulimov delivers his report at the Session.

1. The Abolition of Illiteracy

In this sphere the programme marked out by the Five Year Plan has been exceeded long since. In 1929, 1,500,000 received instruction, in 1930 — 5,500,000 and in 1931 — 10,500,000. 1931 was, in fact, the decisive year in the campaign against illiteracy. In 1932 the controlling figures foresee the wiping-out of illiteracy among 3,800,000 people. These are the last illiterates in the RSFSR.

A new task has arisen in this connection: the raising of the standard of literacy. In 1932 the number of those trying to improve their scanty education will increase $1\frac{1}{2}$ times, from 6,700,000 in 1931 to 10,300,000 in 1932.

2. The introduction of a seven-year course of compulsory education

Another victory in the educational field is the introduction of general compulsory elementary education. In 1931 all children

from 8 to 11 years of age were admitted into schools.

In 1931 the economic growth of the country allowed of the realisation of the most important part of the communist education of the young — the introduction of the polytechnic system in schools.

The introduction of seven-year courses of compulsory education in 1932 marks a significant step towards the raising of the standard of education in this country. 2,969,000 pupils, as compared with 1,879,000 last year, will be admitted to the new schools.

It should be noted that the compulsory seven-year course has already in 1931 been introduced in a number of towns and industrial districts.

3. Technical Schools and Colleges

In 1931 the number of pupils in the schools of factory and works apprenticeship was 152,000; in 1932 it will rise to 293,000. In 1931 there were 76,000 students in the workers' universities and in

1932 there will be 155,000. 323,000 students were admitted to the technical schools in 1931, and in 1932 — 473,000 will be admitted. These figures refer only to the schools which are directly under the authority of the RSFSR. If we take all the other technical schools in the RSFSR, including those established by the government of the USSR, the number of students rises to 491,000. In 1932, 700,000 will be admitted. There were 83,000 students in the colleges of the RSFSR in 1931 and in 1932 there will be 136,000. If again we take all the colleges situated on the territory of the RSFSR (including the central colleges of the Soviet Union) the number of students in 1931 was 246,000 and in 1932 it is expected to increase to

365,000. The number of university students in the Soviet Union in 1932 will be 365,000 or 32 to every 10,000 of the population. This means that the Soviet Union will be ahead of Germany, which has 14 to every 10,000, England which has 18 to every 10,000 and France with 8,6 to every 10,000.

About 75% of the students in the Soviet colleges in 1932 will consist of workers and peasants. All the students are supported by the state. Hundreds of millions of roubles are expended on this annually.

The expenditure on education will be increased enormously in 1932. In the RSFSR alone this will be 2.5 billions of roubles.

The increase in the scale of teachers' salaries for 1932 varies from 25% to 30%.

SEVEN YEARS OF SOVIET TURKMENISTAN

By N. AITAKOV

The course followed by the Turkmenistan Republic during the seven years of its existence bears witness to the fruitfulness of the national policy of the Soviet Government. The achievements of socialist construction in this republic show that in the Soviet Union a backward people, who missed or almost missed the capitalist stage of development, can pass straight on to the construction of socialism with the help of the more advanced nations and republics of the USSR.

What are the achievements in economic, national, and cultural construction in Soviet Turkmenistan?

Soon after the formation of the republic a reform of land and irrigation laws was carried out. This had a tremendous influence on the further development of Turkmenistan. It brought about radical changes in social and agricultural relations. This is of primary importance in conditions like those of Turkmenistan.

Extraordinary successes have been achieved here in reconstruction of the technical side of agriculture. The Turkmen peasant — the *dehkan* — knew nothing about modern agricultural implements before the Revolution and used the primitive «*sokla*» or wooden plough. At present the tractor, modern plough, cultivator, etc., are widely used in the fields of Turkmenistan. In 1931, 17 machine-and-tractor stations, and «tractor columns», comprising 711 trac-

tors, were operating in these fields. The year (1932), the number of tractors will be almost doubled.

The reforms in land and irrigation laws and technical achievements have aided in the socialist reconstruction and raising of the level of the backward agriculture of Turkmenistan. At the present moment 62% of the poor and «*serednyak*» (middle peasants, who are neither poverty-stricken nor «*kulaks*») farms are united in collective farms.

What are the victories to show in the front for the independence of the USSR in cotton? During the seven years of its existence Soviet Turkmenistan has attained the stage when cotton-growing has become the main branch of agriculture in the Republic. Between 1925 and 1931, the area under cotton increased from 62,800 to 187,500 hectares — that is, has been trebled.

This growth is accounted for by the development of the new irrigation works and the crowding out of the less profitable crops, such as grain.

Another large branch of Turkmen agriculture is sericulture. Silk is extremely important as an article of export and as raw material for the textile industry. Sericulture is now five times more developed than it was before the war.

The climate of Turkmenistan is very favourable for the development, along

with cotton, of a number of other industrial crops: oil and rubber-bearing plants, plants yielding volatile oils, plants used in the dyeing and tanning industries, etc. Experiments in the cultivation of the Mexican guayule have borne excellent results.

Before the October Revolution Turkmenistan had no industries or skilled workers of its own. The Soviet Government had to create industries there. On the base of local raw materials, great silk-filatures and textile mills, equipped with the latest machinery, were set up in Ashabad and Chardjui.

Turkmenistan possesses huge deposits of useful minerals and chemicals, and has, therefore, excellent prospects of developing these industries. Certain branches, such as the sulphur, sulphate, oil, ozocerite, viterite etc., will take an important place in the economics of the USSR.

In the course of seven years the gross output of the Turkmenistan industry has increased to 500%. The number of skilled workers has increased just as rapidly. 35,300 workers are engaged in the industries and transport of Turkmenistan; out of these 30.3% are of the Turkmen nationality.

Great progress has been made in cultural construction. As a result of a correct national policy the people of Turkmenistan, once illiterate, have now been enabled to create their own culture, which is national in form and socialist in content.

There is now an extensive system of schools, high technical schools, colleges, etc. in Turkmenistan. The republic has its own State publishing-house, its own theatres and cinemas. In 1931, the percentage of the population able to read and write rose to 35%. There are 4 central, and 9 district newspapers and 5 magazines published in the native language.

In the «aul» or village—doctors, cli-

nics, hospitals, an extensive system of institutions for the care of motherhood and infants have come to take the place of the old sorcerers and «tabibs».

The women of Turkmenistan, who before the Revolution were in the position of slaves, are now working on equal terms with men.

More than 11,000 of the children of collective farm workers were admitted to the crèches this year.

What are the tasks confronting the toiling masses of the Turkmenistan Republic today?

The local government is attacking the problem of irrigating the Kun-Daria region, where there is a huge area of first class land suitable for growing cotton.

As a result of this, the area under cotton should be increased by 200,000 hectares. The realisation of the complete plan of irrigation will increase the area of irrigated land by 600,000 hectares. The construction of the irrigation system in Kun-Daria assumes the nature of one of the biggest construction projects in the USSR.

Stock-breeding in Turkmenistan is leaving its nomadic stage through the increased organisation of Soviet farms, the assistance given to the stock-breeders, their joining cooperatives and their collectivisation. Particular attention is being paid to the breeding of caracul sheep.

As regards industrial construction the first place must be ordained to the Kara-Bugay Chemical Combine and the powerful sulphur works at Gaourdan. It was Lenin who first drew attention to the importance of the Bay of Kara-Bugaz, which is capable of supplying and even exceeding the demands of the Soviet Union for a number of chemical products.

Great significance must also be given to the oil industry.

The construction of the Chardjui—Kho-ryem arterial railway is an urgent ques-



Azgul Razbayeva, delegate of the Turkmen collective farmers at the Session of the C. E. C. of the USSR

tion, in so far as the existing line is insufficient to satisfy the growing economic and cultural demands of the Republic.

The most important problem for national and cultural construction in Turkmenistan is the further introduction of native officials and skilled workers into the government and industries. The national minorities, such as the Baluchis, Gemshids, Berbers, Kurds, and other immigrants from border-

ring countries are to be proportionately represented. During the coming year the system of compulsory education will be extended throughout the country. Illiteracy among the adult population will be abolished this year. In all schools and courses the teaching will be conducted in the native language.

Such are the results and the prospects for the construction of socialism in the Soviet Republic of Turkmenistan.

THE FIVE YEAR PLAN IN THE SOVIET UKRAINE

By A. Dudnik

The Ukraine has immense achievements to show in every field of socialist construction to-day, on the threshold of the fourth year of the Five Year Plan.

Among the new giants of socialist industry that came into line in 1931, one of the foremost places is held by Kharkov tractor works, which will produce 50,000 tractors a year. The production of other large agricultural machinery which is to revolutionise agriculture is going on apace. The first «Bloomings» produced in the USSR has been set up in the Makeyev works. The Zuyev power-station, which has a capacity of 306,000 kilowatts, has been put in operation, and the Shterovka power-station has begun to work at full speed.

The total output of the Ukrainian industries has increased by 20.8% in 1931. This growth includes not only the heavy industries, but also some of the light industries.

Along with the progress of socialist industry, big improvements in the field of agriculture and rural economy must be noted. The collectivisation of the most important districts of the Ukraine can be regarded as practically complete.

Collective farms embrace 72.4% of the total cultivated area, 69.3% of the total number of farms and 61% of the working cattle.

At the same time the Soviet farms have grown and become much stronger. They now cover up to 3,200,000 hectares. The number of machine-and-tractor stations has reached 330.

The cultural development of the country does not lag behind its economic growth.

More than 3,000,000 children are receiving an elementary education this year. The number of pupils in the factory and works schools has risen from 118,000 in 1930 to 241,000 in 1931. In the colleges, technical schools and workers' universi-

ties of the Ukraine 352,000 Soviet specialists are being trained.

There are three main problems the solution of which is provided in the economic plan for 1932. The first is the problem of iron and steel. Three large iron and steel works must be put into operation in the coming year: «Asovstal», «Dnieprostal», and the Krivoy Rog works. The problem of the coal industry is no less important. According to the plan for 1932, 6 gigantic pits with a total output of 6,100,000 tons of coal must be put into operation; in addition, 10 old pits must undergo complete reconstruction, and their output will then rise to 4,500,000 tons. In 1932, 421 kilometres of new railways will be built, and more than 400 kilometres of the existing railways will be electrified. Sea transport is being developed to a considerable extent.

In 1932 the Dniepr power station will start work. Capital investments in the Dnieprovsk Industrial Combine will amount to about Rbls. 300,000,000 in 1932.

The plan for agriculture provides for the completion of the collectivisation. 215 new machine- and -tractor stations will begin to operate. The total cultivated area of the Ukraine will be increased to 30,200,000 hectares.

Special attention will be paid to problems of collectivisation and cattle-breeding. The plan provides for a 50% increase in swine.

The question of improving the living conditions of Ukrainian toilers, occupies no small place in the plan of 1932. A number of measures will be taken with regard to the building of houses, water supply, transport etc. Investments of capital into the industries belonging to the system of the People's Commissariat for Supplies, will be considerably increased.

BIG ADVANCE IN THE SOVIET FAR EAST

Extract from the report made at the Session of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee by A. I. Butsenko, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Soviet Far-Eastern Region

Formerly the Far Eastern Provinces were chiefly notable as places to which exiles and those committed to hard labour were sent, where cruel exploitation and oppression of national minorities was the rule. During the foreign intervention a great deal of destruction was wrought here and the country got into a bad state.

Only after it became Soviet was it possible to begin economic and cultural reconstruction.

Its natural resources make the Soviet Far East one of the most important regions of the USSR. The deposits of coal there are estimated at 2,100,000,000 tons. Its forests cover an area of 78,900,000 hectares. Its oil deposits total 280,000,000 tons; the deposits of iron are amount to no less than 525,000,000 tons. Zinc, copper, gold and other valuable metals can be found there.

There are only two million people in the Soviet Far East. The problem of population in this region is a very urgent one.

As things are at present, it is populated by more than 100 different nationalities.

The majority of the farms favour collectivisation. 90 per cent of the farms belonging to the Koreans and Chinese have been collectivised.

80 per cent of the land under crops is being cultivated by the collective farmers.

The area of cultivated land is increasing from year to year. In 1931, 968,000 hectares were sown, and in 1932 it is expected to increase this area to 1,200,000 hectares.

In 1931, 20 machine-and-tractor stations were at work in the fields of the Far East. 25 additional stations will be organised in 1932. Combines and other complex agricultural machinery are already being used in those parts.

The output of timber increased from 675,000 cubic metres in 1923 to 5,000,000 c. m. in 1931.

The fishing industry has been reconstructed on new lines, and more than 20 canning factories have been built.

The coal industry has virtually been recreated, after the destruction that was wrought during the intervention period. At present more than 1,800,000 tons of coal are produced annually.

87 big factories have been built. In the Far North more than 30 factories have been built, including 3 very large ones equipped with the latest machinery.

Cultural and social construction is developing at a tremendous rate. By 1931 the number of people able to read and write had risen to 76 per cent. Educational work is being carried out first of all among the national minorities.

95 per cent of the children of school age have been admitted to the schools already. 44 technical schools have been opened, 9 higher technical schools, 2 universities, 11 scientific research institutes, and 26 scientific stations. The Soviet Government has built 24 schools for the national minorities.

3 national territories, over 29 national districts (Korean, Ukrainian and native), and 234 native village soviets have been founded there. The Chinese and Korean scripts are now being latinised. The national minorities are being trained in special technical schools, of which there are eight, including Chinese, Korean, Ukrainian and Jewish. In 1932 it is intended to open a higher technical school for the native population.

32,000 Koreans and 18,000 Chinese are learning to read and write their own language.

In the Far North 4 education-bases, 4 culture-yurts and hundreds of other cultural and social institutions (schools, hospitals and clubs) have been opened.



Labour and Industry in the Soviet Union

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

By A. Smulevich

In 1928¹ Europe, without the Soviet Union, had a population of 372,000,000, with an annual increase of 3,200,000, while the Soviet Union alone, with a population of 152,000,000, had a natural increase of 3,600,000.

It appears, then, that the Soviet Union has a greater annual increase than the rest of Europe, although the latter has twice as great a population as the USSR.

The population of the USSR increased between Jan. 1st 1924 to Jan. 1st 1931, from 137,000,000 to 161,000,000. The rate of growth of population therefore greatly exceeds that of pre-revolutionary Russia (10.9 to 1.000 in 1911—1913 and 22 in 1927—1929).

This tremendous increase is explained by the considerable drop in mortality, especially infant. This in itself is ample proof of the effectiveness of the economic and cultural construction in the USSR.

In no other country is such a sudden drop in mortality to be observed as in this country. In 1927—1929, in comparison with 1911—1913, the drop in mortality was as follows: USSR — 30.8%, Germany—19.3%, Italy — 13.5%, England — 9.4%, France — 6.8%, etc.

The tremendous growth in the urban population of the USSR should next be noted.

Migration from the villages to the towns was as follows: from 1897 until 1914, 300,000 persons a year on an average; from 1923 to 1926—1,100,000 persons and from 1926 to 1931—1,500,000. In 1930—1931 migration from the villages to the towns reached an extent unprecedented in the history of any Western European country or of the United States. This migration averaged 25,000,000 persons a year.

What is the reason for this tremendous development of the towns?

There is, first of all, the industrialisation of the country, chiefly through the growth of the heavy industries on the lines laid down by the Five Year Plan for so-

cialist construction. Hundreds and thousands of gigantic new works and factories are drawing millions of men and women from the country to the towns.

Along with the considerable increase in the number of those engaged in useful work, the figures for unproductive population show a marked decline. They fluctuate from 1.6 percent of the total active population in partially industrial and non-industrial towns to 0.2 percent of the population of Moscow.

The number and proportion of workers is increasing, while the number of home craftsmen is decreasing.

The increase is particularly noticeable in the heavy industries and the building trade. Though the total number of employees is increasing, the proportion is decreasing; both the proportion and number of domestic servants are also falling.

The number of those attending schools and colleges and receiving a government stipend has lately increased ninefold.

The absolute number of those receiving pensions has also increased, but not the proportion.

Along with the absence of unemployment and the rapid growth of the industrial proletariat we observe an almost complete disappearance of the idle element.

The above figures reflect what is extremely characteristic of socialist economics—the mass training of skilled workers and the care of those who are prevented either by old age or sickness from carrying on their work.

In the country similar processes go on at a still greater rate.

The Soviet Union, formerly a wilderness of poverty-stricken peasant farms, is being turned into a modern country of farming on a large scale according to up-to-date methods.

The collectivisation of agriculture together with industrialisation was the only satisfactory way of settling the problem of overpopulation. The producing capacity of the collective farms has been raised greatly since the introduction of machinery and rationalised methods and this has naturally increased the supply of labour

¹ 1928 is the last year for which complete statistics for European countries other than the USSR are available.

for industries. Under the socialist system it is possible to substitute the uncontrolled influx of peasants to the towns by a regular supply of labour.

These few facts will be sufficient to give an idea of the great social advance made in the Soviet Union. This social progress is determined by the success of socialist

industrialisation and the collectivisation of farming. Through the introduction of the latter, kulaks as a class have been wiped out.

Through the social processes described above the Soviet Union will arrive at the construction of a non-class society in the shortest historical period.

SYSTEM OF WAGES IN THE USSR

By A. Kuznetsov

The new system of pay-rates in the Soviet Union is based on the following principles: 1) at the present stage of socialist construction wages form one of the most important factors determining the material welfare of the working class; 2) in Soviet conditions wages form the most important factor in the organisation of labour in industry, in so far as it stimulates the raising of labour efficiency, the quality of production and also the raising of the level of skill amongst the workers.

It was, therefore, regarded as necessary to build up a new schedule of wage-rates which would take into consideration the difference between skilled and non-skilled labour, between heavy and light work» (J. Stalin).

The schedule had to be such as would exclude all possibility of equality in wages. The difference between skilled and unskilled labour had to be sufficiently well-marked as to provide an incentive for the workers to raise their standard of work, so that the unskilled worker might have an interest in obtaining a place in the ranks of the skilled. The new wage-rates give every worker a chance of being rewarded according to the results of his labour.

A schedule of rates is set up in the factories for regulating the workers' wages. The scale of the new rates, established in each branch of industry, is such that the number of grades is reduced to a possible minimum, while the differences between the rates are very marked. In the iron and steel industries, for instance, the rates are graded in eight categories, and the extreme ratios are—1 : 3.7 instead of, as formerly, 1 : 2.8.

The division of trades according to the categories of these rates guarantees high-

er wages to a highly-skilled worker following some particular trade, and also to workers engaged in heavy or exhausting work, or those working in conditions dangerous to health. Wages are fixed according to the rates applied in the USSR and the list of trades.

Conditions of work are taken into consideration when fixing the rate of wages. Workers with equal qualifications, working under different conditions are paid accordingly, since the amount of labour or effort required varies. The new system was worked out by the Trade Unions together with the economic organisations. The workers, engineers and technical staff took an active part in fixing the rates and the standards of skill.

The main systems used in the USSR are the piece-rate system and time-work. According to the latter, the worker is paid by the hours he works. Piece-work is divided into direct and progressive, which is connected with bonuses. Let us pause for a moment to consider this system.

Under Soviet conditions piece-work gives, on scientific and technical grounds, results that could never be obtained under the capitalist system. While the working day is reduced to 7 and even 6 hours, experience has shown that piece-work leads to the regular improvement of the welfare of the working-class. This system increases efficiency, increases the rate at which socialist construction is going on, and in this way ensures the further improvement of the living conditions of all toilers in the USSR.

The piece-rate system expresses the relation between the working class constituted into a government, and individual workers or groups of workers and at the same time it expresses the real socialist principle of pay according to work.

«With the exception of the amount of labour that goes into the social pool, every worker receives from society as much as he gave it...» — «An equal share of product for an equal amount of work». — Thus Lenin described the relations between society and individual workers under socialist conditions.

The introduction of the piece-rate system is preceded by a tremendous amount of work in technical standardization, which is the principal level in the rational organisation of labour, the correct order and employment of labour and the thorough study of technological processes. At the present time the question of technical standardization is attracting a great deal of attention in the USSR.

The wage-rate for piece-work is established on the basis of technical standardization. In this way, the piece-rate system is introduced into all phases of work, where exact regulation and calculation can be used. The worker's wages depend, therefore, entirely on the skill and quality of his work. He receives just as much as he can make in the course of the fixed working day, that is, he is paid on the results of his labour. Thus equality of wages disappears.

Workers who are not high-skilled and who being put on to piece-work, prove unable to earn the wage-rate fixed by the labour laws, receive pay according to the work they do, but not less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the rate.

In «direct» piece-work the coefficient is calculated in each case by dividing the wage-rate by the fixed amount of work required, and wages are determined by multiplying the coefficient by the actual work done.

Let us suppose that the monthly wage-rate of a given worker equals 100 units and the monthly amount of work required equals 50 units of production. If we divide 100 by 50 we have the pay-rate for one unit of production, in this case—2; by multiplying the figure 2 by the figure indicating the actual amount of production, we get the wages.

In work requiring a great deal of labour, and also in mass production, where the worker can develop a maximum technical productivity of labour, and take full advantage of mechanical equipment, the «progressive» piece-rate system is being introduced.

Progressive wages are based on the idea that the worker who produces more artic-

les than the fixed amount, should be paid higher wages. Higher wages are paid either for all the work done, or for that part of the production only, which is over and above the minimum.

This naturally serves as a stimulus for raising efficiency of labour.

In the case of the progressive system, the worker is interested in producing as much as possible in a given unit of time. By making this system widespread among all the workers on basic operations, the industry is able to increase its output per shift, per month, and so on, without altering the equipment and other technical conditions.

In this case the self-costs to the factory on units of ready-made production can be reduced, and this reduction is in proportion to the output. This represents a saving, part of which is given the worker in the form of a progressive bonus.

As experience has shown, with the increase in production over and above the plan, the worker's wage rises sharply and with the attainment of the maximum output, wages are increased by 50%.

Thus, piece-work, both direct and progressive, proves to be the most effective and stimulating system of payment, an incentive to increased productivity, to the raising of the worker's skill and of his wages.

In Soviet industries the piece-rate system is the main one. Time-work, that is, payment for the period of time spent on the work, regardless of the results, is only applied in cases of work that cannot be calculated, and of particularly responsible tasks, or where great accuracy is required or extreme attentiveness on the part of the worker is demanded.

Under this system bonuses are awarded on the following principles:

- 1) Time-saving.
- 2) Reduction of time when machinery is idle.
- 3) Reduction of waste-production.
- 4) High quality of work and its completion within the given time.
- 5) The fulfilment of the production plan, etc.

Workers paid on the time-system, are awarded bonuses for definite achievements along the lines laid down above. These bonuses are paid out of the savings effected by these achievements.

The Supreme Council of National economy (VSNH) and the All-Union Central Council of Trade-Unions (VZSPS) issued,

in the autumn of 1930, a special order, based on the above principles — the fixing of wages on the results of work, the placing of workers of the leading trades in special categories, and the application of a «stimulating» system of wages. This order concerned the leading branches of industry, — iron, steel and coal.

According to this order, all the workers in the iron and steel works and all workers in the principal branches of coal-mining are being put on a progressive piece-work basis. Not less than 70% of the workers in the auxiliary iron and steel workshops, 90% of all underground workers and 53% of surface workers in the coal industry are being transferred to «direct» piece-work.

For individual workers in these branches of industry who are not put on piece-work, the time-and-bonus system has been introduced, and a bonus fund established.

From October 1st, 1931, the rate of wages for piece-work in the iron and steel industries and for workers engaged in loading and unloading, has been raised in case of the 100% fulfilment of the plan.

In the southern iron and steel works and the main industries of the Urals the increase ranges from 25% to 100%.

A corresponding rise in wages has been introduced in other branches of the iron and steel industries.

In the case of the complete fulfilment of the monthly plan, underground workers are to get an addition to their wages, a bonus of 10–25%.

The engineers and technical staff of the principal iron and steel departments will receive a bonus of 60% of their salary, in case of the 100% fulfilment of the plan.

In the coal industry the engineers and technical staff will receive a bonus equal to 50% of the quarterly salary for the fulfilment of the quarterly plan, and up to 100% of the quarterly salary for excess of the plan.

Similar measures are being put into force in other branches of industry and trade.

This is a general outline of the new system of payment of industrial workers and of the policy of the Soviet Government with regard to wages.



A shock brigade of young carpenters working according to business methods.

The food industries, which are closely connected with agriculture, were in an extremely backward condition in pre-revolutionary Russia. The structure and technical equipment of the meat, fish, canning and vegetable industries was extremely primitive.

It is natural that even now the working up of meat, fish and vegetable products should be based to a considerable extent on small and technically imperfect industries remaining to the Soviet system from tsarist days. Now the rapid economic development of the country is bringing in its train the creation of powerful food industries, chiefly those of meat and canning.

«Up to now we have been economising in every direction, including light industries, in order to set the heavy industries on their feet. But this has already been accomplished. It is now only necessary to develop them further. The important fact is that we are now in a position to develop both light and heavy industries at a greater rate» (Stalin). The development of the light industries, and in particular, the radical reconstruction of the food industries is demanded by the new conditions of socialist construction. The rapid increase of the population of the towns¹, the interrupted improvement of the material and cultural condition of the toilers, particularly with regard to food, — all this makes the reconstruction of the food industries imperative.

The supply of raw material for the meat industry of the USSR is already organised. The problem of stock-raising has been solved in a socialistic manner. The «Skotovod» («Cattle-rearing») Trust has under its control 220 state farms with a herd of 1,850,000 heads of large horned cattle. The «Svinovod» («Pig breeding») Trust has 482 farms with a herd of 750,000 pigs (370,000 of these are sows). The «Ovtsevod» («Sheep-rearing») Trust has 131 farms with a herd of 4,215,000 sheep.

The share of large horned cattle on Soviet farms has been doubled since last year. The collectivisation of the herds, the trade collective farms and the activ-

ities of the cooperatives are all steps in the same direction.

Therefore, the most urgent task of the newly created People's Commissariat of Supplies is to reconstruct the meat industry.

This Commissariat is engaged in the extension and improvement of the industries in operation, in raising the level of sanitation, building separate departments for the utilisation of by-products, etc.

Next comes the construction of new meat enterprises on the most modern American lines.

The chief feature of the new construction work is the special bacon-curing factories, equipped on Danish lines. Before the Revolution there were only four small, ill-equipped bacon factories on the territory now occupied by the USSR. They were, in fact, curing-houses rather than factories. Two of them have now undergone radical repairs, two others that were falling into ruin, have been entirely rebuilt.

In the course of the last five years thirteen new bacon-curing factories have been built. Rbls. 25,000,000 were spent on them. Besides these, five more factories are nearing completion. The annual capacity of all the factories now operating is 2,182,600 pigs.

The «Soyus-Myaso» (Meat Trust) is developing the construction of new industrial meat combines and striving to utilise American experience on Soviet soil.

The People's Commissariat of Supplies has worked out a plan of construction to be carried out during 1931, 1932, and 1933. 57 new combines with a capacity of 1,500,000 tons in one shift are to be built. The supply of raw material, the scale of consumption in each district, and geographical conditions, that is to say, opportunities for breeding and feeding one or another species of cattle — will all be taken into consideration.

The task of creating the canning industry in the USSR was only begun within the last few years. Before the Revolution this branch of industry was very poorly developed, canning was carried out mostly by small workshops of a primitive type. Before the war only about 8,000,000 tons of food of all kinds were produced annually.

¹ See the article on «Significant changes».

The Soviet canning industry reached that figure in 1928/29, and in the year 1930, after the People's Commissariat of Supplies had taken over the control of the canning industry, 303,000,000 tins were produced.

In 1931, according to preliminary estimates, 650,000,000 tins will have been produced.

The development of the canning industry is extremely important for the USSR. It now becomes possible to utilise the wealth of raw products afforded by many districts, and to satisfy the demands of industrial districts, where the supply of fresh food is attended by extreme difficulties — for instance, where peat, timber or special ores are produced.

THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE SOVIET TOILERS

The material and cultural condition of the working-class of the USSR is improving steadily along with the rapid growth of socialist industry.

During the last three years — that is, from October, 1928, to October 1st, 1931 — the average monthly wage of industrial workers rose by 23.9 percent. Beginning from October, 1931, a new increase in wages has been introduced in the leading branches of industry. In the iron and steel industries this amounts to 23.5 per cent and in the coal industries to 12 per cent.

In the past three years wages have been raised in other branches as well: in the engineering industry — by 17.1 per cent, in the wood-working industries — 27 per cent, in glass — 32.4, in cement — 20, in the chemical industry — 20.1, in paper — 22.5, in the cotton textile industry — 13, in wool industries — 13.3, in the linen textile industry — 25, in food industries — 13.5, in printing — 11.9 and in the match industry — 20.6.

The improvement in material and other conditions is not, however, confined to the general rise in wages. A number of measures have been taken to raise the worker's general standard of living.

In 1928 the budget for social insurance amounted to Rbls. 980,000,000. In 1930 it rose to Rbls. 1,400,000,000 and in 1931 it already reached Rbls. 2,500,000,000.

The expenditure on building dwelling-houses rose to Rbls. 1,156,000,000 in 1931 as against Rbls. 682,000,000 in 1930.

The growth of expenditure to benefit the workers in such important industrial districts as the Don Coalfields can be shown in the following figures. The expenditure on safety devices in this district was Rbls. 6,100,000 in 1929, Rbls. 10,500,000 in 1930, and reached Rbls. 20,500,000 in 1931.

In 1931 150 out of every thousand of the Donbas colliers had their expenses paid in rest-homes. 10 out of every thousand were sent free to watering places, health resorts and sanatoria. Throughout all colliery districts the dwellings built in 1913 amounted to 549,000 cubic metres, in 1926 — to 716,000 cub. m., in 1927 — 1,696,000 cub. m., in 1928 — 1,601,000 cub. m., in 1929 — 1,600,000 cub. m., in 1930 — 1,700,000 cub. m., and in 1931 — 2,379,000 cub. m.

More than 1,000,000 industrial workers in the USSR have been put on to the seven-hour working-day. In the current year, the final year of the Five-Year Plan, the working day of new millions of workers will be reduced to seven hours.

Millions of new workers have been drawn into industry. In 1931 alone the number of workwomen increased by a million. In connection with this the welfare of the workers' family has also increased.

«All this creates such conditions of work and living for the working class that made it possible for us to bring up a new generation of workers — healthy, happy and fit to raise this mighty Soviet land to its rightful level» (Stalin).

In the technical library of the Petrovsky Works at Dniepropetrovsk lies a book called «A Description of the Ekaterinoslav South Russian Briansky Company». If you open its leather covers, you will read on the first page — «The building of the works was started in 1886».

During the forty years of its existence the Works has seen tremendous things.

Before the Revolution Briansky Works (as it was called) was regarded as the biggest iron and steel works. But the figures showing the annual output of pig iron in these times seem absurd in comparison with the yearly programme of the last few years. In 1913—one of the best production years for the works—the output was 436,684 tons of iron, 202,597 tons of Marten steel, 125,043 tons of Bessemer steel and 251,290 tons of rolled products. At present the yearly output is fixed at 852,146 tons of pig iron, 455,418 tons of Marten steel, 193,639 tons of Bessemer steel and 821,125 tons of rolled products.

How did the works arrive at such an output? Under the former owners the equipment of the works was extremely poor. The majority of the production processes, beginning from the supply of raw materials and fuel and ending with the loading of the finished products into the cars, were carried out almost exclusively by hand. Even elementary mechanisation was lacking. Power, mostly steam, was used, but not for the lightening and rationalisation of labour. Safety measures were unheard of.

The works came out of the turmoil of the civil war practically broken down. For three years — 1919, 1920, and 1921 — the works stood idle. Blast and open-hearth furnaces and rolling-mills did not produce a single ton of either iron or steel. The machinery rusted, the cranes stood still, the works were littered with scrap, trolleys and every kind of rubbish.

But in 1921 an order came out to set the works going, and new life throbbled once more in its veins. Scaffolding sprang up around the furnaces and ovens. Machinery was repaired. The process of restoration went on slowly, many great difficulties had to be overcome — lack of materials, the sabotage of the hostile section of the specialists, the inexperience of those workers who were fresh from the villages.

In 1922 the marten-shop produced the first 3,791 tons of steel. A little later came pig iron. In 1922,23 the furnaces produced 16,557 tons. The reconstruction process went on at a great pace. Inventions were



The Petrovsky Works at Dniepropetrovsk.
Blast-furnace No. 4.

worked out, production conferences were held, masses of workers joined circles for the study of rationalisation, the works outgrew the stage of technical conservatism and backwardness. In 1926/27 the pre-war level was exceeded: in this year the works produced 491,844 tons of pig iron (112.6% as compared with 1913), 238,557 tons of Marten steel (117.7%), 175,735 tons (100.6%) of Bessemer steel, and lastly 316,337 tons (125.9%) of rolled products.

Just at present the works is confronted with new tasks — a complete technical reconstruction, the building of new and extension of old workshops, the substitution of old-fashioned equipment by the most up-to-date, and the organisation of new branches of production. The works is now one of the biggest in the country. It is responsible for 18% of the pig iron produced in the USSR.

Much has already been done in the field of reconstruction. The small bridge-shop has become an independent works for the production of girders, bridges and iron structures. Alongside the works, on the steppe, a huge factory arose for producing coke and various chemicals. A new Marten shop was built. Two of its ovens turn out the same quantity of steel as was formerly produced by five furnaces. Two powerful turbogenerators have been installed. A thorough reconstruction of the Bessemer shop is now going on. The «gasification» of the works is finished.

Capital investments increase from year to year. Between 1923/24 and until 1929/30 approximately Rbls. 90,000,000 were spent. In 1931 Rbls. 28,000,000 were allotted.

Reconstruction had an immediate effect on production. In 1930 the works produced 697,406 tons of pig iron, 295,847 tons of Marten steel, 183,760 tons of Bessemer steel and 427,607 tons of rolled products.

That is the way that people made over the works. But the works, in its turn, makes over people, breaks up the old, warped life, trains people, and educates them. On the site where the old, dirty, smoky barracks stood, a new, socialist settlement has sprung up. During the last few years huge blocks of dwellings have been built. There is a Palace of Culture, a Palace of Health, a factory-kitchen, a crèche, a kindergarten, chemical and metallurgical technical schools. A permanent metallurgical exhibition has been organised.

The Petrovsky Works has produced thousands of shock-brigade workers struggling heroically for pig iron and for steel. It is no longer a rare occurrence for blast furnaces to produce 110% or 120% of the plan. And the Marten shops and rolling-mills do not lag behind. The working masses are acquiring technical knowledge and the number of conscious, educated builders of socialism is increasing daily in the works.



The Petrovsky Works at Dnipropetrovsk.
General view of the blast-furnace department.

Soviet Science

THE SESSION OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The Academy of Sciences is at present passing through a period of complete reconstruction of its work. Abstract scientific activities are giving place to practical research work on problems directly connected with the economic development of the USSR. The highest scientific institution in this country, where the greatest scientific forces are concentrated, is studying questions of socialist construction.

The reorganisation of the Academy has led to an alteration in the nature of its sessions. The Moscow session that took place in June of this year represented the first step towards a closer contact with the workers, towards organic fusing with the business of the socialist reconstruction of the country. During the session members of the Academy went about to the factories and workshops and made speeches and reports there. The workers of these factories, in their turn, made many valuable suggestions which were duly taken into consideration in the compilation of the Academy's plan of work for 1932.

The extraordinary session that was held in Leningrad at the end of 1931 was devoted entirely to concrete economic problems. Almost the whole of the programme of the session consisted of reports on one main theme—the question of natural resources and the prospects of the Leningrad Region.

All the reports read may be conveniently divided into four main groups: a) power-supply, b) the chemical and metallurgical industries, c) mineral raw materials and d) agriculture and afforestation. The report read by Gleb M. Krjijanovsky, M. Ac. Sc. on «The Power Resources of the Leningrad Region and the Plan for their Utilisation»—belonged to the first group, while E. N. Bach's, M. Ac. Sc., report on «The Chemicalisation of Industry—new form of the development of the world's productive forces» formed the basis of the second. Professor Fersman's, M. Ac. Sc., report was devoted to the question of mineral resources—«The mineral raw materials of the Leningrad Region» (third group). Professor Keller, M. Ac. Sc., spoke on «The Control of Land», N. I. Vavilov, M. Ac.

Sc., on «Problems of Soviet Agriculture» and these, together with several other members of the Academy, composed the fourth group. In addition, a lecture was given by an American scientist, Prof. Bridges, who happened to be in Leningrad at that time, on the genetic conception of life.

At the beginning of the session the Academy of Sciences wrote to the Leningrad Soviet a letter in which, speaking of the work of the session, it requested the Soviet to «give it the opportunity of bringing its work as fully and closely as possible to the notice of the workers of the town of Lenin, so as to be able to take into consideration their criticism and suggestions when drawing up the plan for the future work of the Academy of Sciences».

The principal and general papers were read at the plenary meetings of the session; reports devoted to special questions were reserved for the meetings of the corresponding sections. Finally a number of the reports were delivered in the factories and local educational institutions as had been done during the Moscow June session. Groups of members of the Academy visited the biggest factories and works in Leningrad and examined the workshops and the laboratories.

G. M. Krjijanovsky, J. N. Samoilovitch and other members of the Academy visited the «Krasny Putilovetz Works»; another brigade headed by professor Kistjakovsky, M. Ac. Sc., visited the «Stalin Works», and professor Orlov, M. Ac. Sc., together with four other scientific workers, went to the «Printing Yard»—the biggest printing-works in the USSR. The workers engaged in these industries put forward a number of practical problems for the Academy to solve. For instance, the «Krasny Putilovetz» workers brought forward the question of the reconstruction of the system of electric power supply in the works and of the construction of a new heat and power station. The workers from the «Stalin Works» made a number of suggestions with regard to the organisation of the production of heat turbines. The «Printing Yard» workers suggested the establishing in Le-

ningrad of a research institute for the printing industry.

The last session of the Academy was a new step in bringing it into closer contact with the proletariat and linking up its work with the problems of today.

And if the Moscow June session was to a certain extent, an «extraordinary» event

in the life of the Academy, and went beyond the limits of its previous, usual work, it is now clear, after this last session, that future sessions should always be arranged on similar principles. The systematic planning of the activities of the Academy will help in the successful development of its work.

THE CONFERENCE OF RESEARCH INSTITUTES OF CENTRAL ASIA

The above conference took place in Tashkent. More than one hundred research institutes, including thirty in Moscow and Leningrad, were represented at the conference.

Among the delegates were 30 professors, about 100 agronomists, 90 engineers, 110 economists, etc.

All the attention of the conference was concentrated around the question of the prospects of development of the Central Asia republics during the second Five Year Plan. The conference occupied itself with the scientific study of these prospects.

Central Asia is completing the third year of the Five Year Plan with a series of victories in the fight for Soviet cotton and the industrialisation of the distant parts of the USSR. The area under cotton in Central Asia is now 1,335,000 hectares. This is more than twice as much as the pre-war area. 53% of the cotton farms have been drawn into collective farms. The network of cotton collective farms is growing rapidly. The construction of the first part of the Tashkent agricultural machinery works has been completed. The giant Kuvassai Cement Works has been put into operation. The biggest silk filature in the world has been built at Khodjent, and the first regional power station in Central Asia at Kadiryin.

The natural resources of Central Asia render it one of the richest regions of the Soviet Union. The power resources of its rivers are about 40,000,000 h. p. The coal deposits are estimated at 3 billion tons, the oil in the Ferghana and Western Turkestan districts alone at 90,000,000 tons.

The work of the conference with respect to problems of non-ferrous metals, was extremely interesting. Geological prospec-

ting carried out during the last few years has shown that Central Asia is one of the richest regions in the USSR in non-ferrous metals.

There are deposits of rare metals such as mercury, antimony, radium, and tungsten. The deposits are exceptionally rich and favorably situated.

The deposits of raw chemical materials in the Bay of Kara-Bugass are the richest in the world. The sulphur, potash and phosphorite fertilisers found here form a basis for the development of the chemical industry that is an indispensable part of cotton-growing in Central Asia.

The conference emphasized the fact that cotton-growing in this country has extremely favourable conditions for development. According to recent information no less than 12,000,000 hectares of Central Asian territory are suitable for cotton-growing. But the question is not only of quantity. There are full possibilities for raising cotton of the highest quality on a large scale in Central Asia.

The problem of increasing the yield and improving the quality was paid particular attention to by the conference. It presented a number of interesting problems to scientists.

An important place was occupied by research work in the field of transport.

The work of the conference in the fields of education, science and labour reflected the tremendous growth of national and cultural construction in Uzbekistan, Turkestan, Tadjikistan, Kirghizia, and Karakalpakia.

Scores of shock-brigade workers and members of collective farms took part in the work of the conference and put forward numerous suggestions in connection with the second Five Year Plan.

The Latinisation conference was held in Vladivostok from September 26th to the 29th, 1931. It was organised and attended by the Chinese workers living in the USSR, and discussed the question of the substitution of Roman letters for Chinese characters. This reform is undertaken with a view to facilitating educational work among the Chinese living in the USSR. The conference was preceded by three years of work on the determination and propaganda of the principles of reform of the Chinese system of writing and by the examination of plans of a new alphabet, worked out by Chinese. In 1929, 1930 and 1931, a number of well-attended meetings of Chinese workers, teachers and students were held in Moscow, Leningrad, Chita, Blagoveshchensk, Khabarovsk and Vladivostok. The question of replacing the tens of thousands of Chinese written signs by Latin letters in the living dialects of China was fully discussed. The plan was worked out by Chinese scholars after much careful research work undertaken together with Chinese students. This was unanimously approved. It was published in Moscow as a separate pamphlet in 1930. This pamphlet denies, on the basis of the latest scientific facts, the necessity for denoting tones. It is, therefore, extremely simple and straightforward and can be easily understood by the masses. In this respect it differs greatly from other projects for the «Latinisation» of Chinese that have been published in China, or by Sinologists in other countries (see article by C. C. Wang in «Asia» for June 1930, also the alphabet published in Shanghai by Li-Ying si, etc.).

The above-mentioned pamphlet, containing the new alphabet, rules for writing in Northern Chinese, a dictionary and short pieces for reading, was eagerly bought up by Chinese living in the USSR, and became the subject of lively exchange of opinions. The Chinese toilers of Vladivostok have organised groups for the study of the Chinese Romanised alphabet. Scientific reports and discussions on the new alphabet were held in Moscow and Leningrad. As a result, the Latinisation Committee, attached to the Central Executive Committee of the USSR, approved the new alphabet with these corrections that had been made during the discussions by Soviet sinologists and Chinese people here.

The conference called in Vladivostok by the Latinisation Committee approved unanimously the proposed «Northern» alphabet as well as the accompanying rules. It emphasized the necessity for the Latinisation of literature, etc. in the living dialects spoken by the Chinese toiling masses. Since these dialects fall into five main groups, the development of literature in no less than five Chinese languages might be expected. The conference rejected the theory that Latinisation on the basis of the living Chinese languages would disunite the Chinese people. This theory would not bear criticism. It had been refuted in practice by the overwhelming success of various national civilisations in the USSR.

The conference passed a number of practical resolutions with regard to educational work among the Chinese toilers here and elected a Far Eastern Regional Committee for the Latinisation of the Chinese alphabet. Eighty-seven delegates took part in the conference. They represented all the Chinese schools in Vladivostok and Khabarovsk, all the Chinese newspapers published in the Soviet Far East and all the larger industries of that region employing Chinese workers. Chinese collective farms, Soviet-farms, the most important Chinese clubs and the larger Chinese settlements in the Soviet Far East and Eastern Siberia were represented. There were also delegates from the China Research Institute attached to the Communist Academy (Moscow) and the Institute of Oriental studies, attached to the Academy of Sciences (Leningrad).

The conference went off with great enthusiasm. The meetings were attended by great numbers of Chinese workers. More than 2,000 people came to the opening and closing meetings. A delegation of workers and students of Vladivostok, actors from the Chinese theatre, Chinese «Pioneers» and school-children greeted the work of the conference warmly. It was held in the Chinese theatre and club, situated in the centre of the Chinese quarter.

The rendering of Chinese characters into Roman letters or phonetic signs is a problem that under present conditions it is impossible to solve in China. In the USSR the best conditions exist for its solution. In the preparatory work for the conference and the discussion of the plan Soviet scientists took an active part.



Soviet Art

SOVIET ACTORS MEET SHOCK-BRIGADE WORKERS

A meeting of the best shock-brigade workers and the most prominent actors and actresses was arranged in the Moscow Theatre Club. The meeting was a very warm and friendly one, such as might be arranged between comrades. The «stars» of the Soviet stage told the workers of their lives and work and the shock-brigade workers in return told of their struggle for the fulfilment of the industrial and financial plan, for the new achievements of socialist industry.

The actresses — O. D. Knipper-Chekhova, M.M. Blumenthal-Tamarina, the actors — V. S. Kachalov, I. M. Moskvín — and others

alternated their stories with short recitations and sketches. In reply, one of the workers from the «Stalin Motor-Car Factory» read an appeal composed by the workers, dealing with the tasks of socialist construction, and the necessity for all representatives of art to take an active part in it, and to draw the material for their creative work from actual life.

At this meeting it was resolved to organise a special commission for the preparation of a repertoire suitable for the Fifteenth Anniversary of the October Revolution and to announce a number of competitions in all the arts.



In the first row: on the left — Boyarskiĭ, president of the Central Committee of the Union of Workers in Art; next to him the honorary artists of the Republic — S. Hyacintova, M. Blumental-Tamarina, E. Geltser; on the right — the hon. art. of the Republic — I. Moskvín.

In the second row: the honorary artists of the Republic — E. Lubimov-Lanskoĭ, A. Doroshevich, V. Kachalov, A. Tairov, I. Bersenev, N. Radin and the president of the Moscow Regional Committee of the U.W.A., V. Gorodinsky, among shock-brigade workers.

CONCERTS OF YOUNG SOVIET PIANISTS IN MOSCOW

The concerts of the young Soviet pianists, organised by VOKS in December 1931, were exceptionally well attended. Twenty-two young musicians from various cities of the USSR took part in these concerts. Local musical schools had selected the best of those aspiring to appear on the platform of the Moscow Higher Musical School (formerly the Conservatory). Moscow was represented by 13 pianists, Leningrad — by 4, the Ukraine (Kharkov and Kiev) — by 4 and Armenia (Erivan) — by 1.

The most prominent musicians and pedagogues were invited to appraise the performance of the young pianists. They included professors from the Moscow Higher Musical School: K. N. Igunnov, A. B. Goldenweiser, H. G. Neuhaus, S. E. Feinberg, professor L. Nikolayev of the Leningrad Conservatory, professor G. N. Beklemishev of the Kiev conservatory, professor P. Lutsenko of the Kharkov conservatory.

The concerts showed the high level of technique attained by young Soviet musicians and at the same time bore witness to the growth of musical culture in different cities of the Soviet Union.

As to the interpretation of the music itself (the programme consisted exclusively

of Chopin) it must be observed that the young pianists have introduced a number of entirely new features. The usual intimate, purely aesthetic «Salon» interpretation of Chopin has been replaced by healthy, vigorous performance, often astonishing in its depth and force of expression.

The following may be mentioned as the most outstanding of the young pianists: I. Aptekarev (Moscow), E. Grossman (Moscow), A. Dyakov (Moscow), T. Gutman (Moscow), A. Yokheles (Moscow), N. Perelman (Leningrad), V. Rasumovskaya (Leningrad), P. Serebriakov (Leningrad), A. Loofer (Kiev), L. Sagalov (Kharkov).

The talented performance of the seventeen-year-old Armenian pianist R. Andriasian (Erivan) attracted a great deal of attention.

The general opinion now is that such concerts are a great stimulus to the creative work of young musicians. Moreover, they promote the exchange of pedagogical and artistic experience between different centres of culture.

A further development of this idea is to organize a Beethoven Contest for young Soviet musicians (soloists and ensembles) in time for the celebration of the XV anniversary of the October Revolution.

AN AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHT ON SOVIET THEATRES

The following is taken from an article by Mr. Mc Evoy, an American playwright and critic, who came to the USSR to study the Soviet theatre.

In the productions of the Soviet theatres we can see the creative work of the writers of the plays, of the actors and of the audience.

The «Young Workers Theatre» (TRAM) and the Children's Theatre made the greatest impression on me. We have nothing like these in America. There are, it is true, children's theatres, but they do not resemble the Soviet ones in the least. Here the theatre puts certain problems before the Soviet youngsters and helps to solve them. The children are enthusiastic, they understand perfectly all that is going on around them. Soviet children are the creators of their own theatre. Here the whole theatre plays. The actors are at once on the stage and among the audience, which is composed of children. All this makes an unforgettable impression on one.

The same might¹⁾ be said of the «Young Workers'» Theatre, where I saw «Alarm».

It is interesting to note that this theatre employs very few theatrical and scenic effects (such as lighting, costumes, etc.). It does not need to resort to the usual theatrical properties. On the contrary, the theatre is very simple and true to life and this holds the attention of the most experienced no less than of the usual theatregoer.

I shall not pause to describe in detail the excellence of the production and acting in all those theatres that I visited — a great deal has been written and said about them all over the world. I shall only say that many of the rank and file Soviet actors are as good with respect to technique, as the «star players» in our theatres.

THE ART OLYMPIAD OF CAUCASIAN MOUNTAINEERS

During the last few years a great number of talented writers, artists and musicians have come to the fore among the peoples of the Caucasian mountain districts. They have helped to raise the art of the respective small nationalities to a high level. National theatres have been founded in Daghestan and Ossetia, where plays written by the mountaineers themselves are produced. Ha-

ced works of great artistic value. Among these writers are Kerashev (Adigeya), Katakotov (Karachai), Shohentsukov (Kabarda), Farinev, Bessayev, Ephkhev (Ossetia), Adtsev (Chechnia), Hamsat Tsadsky, Fatakhon, and Said Habiev (Daghestan).

It is now eleven years since Soviet government was established in the Northern Caucasus and Daghestan. To celebrate the event



Circassians at a performance in their national theatre.

dji Hadjibekov and Tsomak Hadiev are two of the dramatists whose plays are produced there. Tavassiev, Khokhoy, Djamailov are proletarian artists and sculptors who have produced many works of art on modern Soviet subjects.

An important achievement is the recording of the mountain melodies which form the basis of the development of national music. The most talented of the composers are: Galayev (Ossetia) and Hassanov (Daghestan).

In the field of literature there are a number of proletarian writers who have produ-

ced the Regional National Soviet organised an art contest for the mountain peoples. It was held in Rostov-on-the-Don. Fifteen nationalities were represented. Those who took part in the Regional Contest were mostly victors at the local competitions held during the celebrations of the October Revolution. At the contest national songs and orchestral music were heard, and five nationalities sent their own companies of actors. The painters, in addition to organising an exhibition of their works, took part in decorating the hall in which the contest took place.

Cinema Notes

THE CINEMA AND THE RED ARMY

The cinema-expedition of the «talkies» «Four People from the Communist Party of the USSR» has returned to Moscow from the Ukraine. The picture was filmed by the Mejrabpom-film Association. The director was Borodko, the producer Hendelstein, the operator Chelenko. Tsessarskaya, Batalov, and Chistyakov were among the film artists. The expedition was housed in the camp of one of the Red Army divisions.

A great deal of social work was done by the members of the expedition in the course of the three weeks spent in the camp.

Concerts, group-conversations on questions of the cinema were held and lessons in photography given. Photographs and short films of the life of Red Army division were taken. The division, in its turn, helped the expedition both in social and production work.

The expedition concluded a «social treaty» with the Red Army soldiers. This will strengthen the tie between the cinema-workers and the Red Army.

In this treaty the cinema party promised to let the Red Army folk know about the progress of the film and to send it to this division for criticism when completed. The Red Army soldiers promised to give advice on the military scenes in the film, to maintain a regular connection with this group of film-artists and workers, and to give their opinions on the film «Four People from the Communist Party of the USSR» before it should be released.

This will be a real tie between film-folk and the Red Army which has a great social significance.

«MOUNTAINS OF GOLD»

A new talkie «Mountains of Gold» is now being shown at all the central cinemas. It was produced by Soyus-Kino (The Cinema Trust) under the direction of S. Yutkevitch. This picture is regarded here as a great success for Soviet cinematography. Its greatness lies in its profound and earnest social thematics. The chief character is a peasant, Peter, who has left his native village to work in a factory with the idea of «earning a horse for himself».

The action takes place in the beginning of 1914. The factory, the years of the war and the revolution helped to change Peter's psychology until he eventually became a class-conscious, wide-awake revolutionary worker.

The music accompanying the picture has been composed by a young Leningrad musician, Dmitri Shostakovitch. The composer has made full use of the popular material at hand—folk-songs, church singing (in the scene where a religious service is being held) and so on.

The Association of workers of the revolutionary cinema arranged a debate on the subject of «Mountains of Gold». Those who took part in the debate remarked on the great artistic and ideological value of the film.

«THE HORIZON»

The shock-brigade of the talkie—«The Horizon» led by the producer, L. Kulshov, has returned from Odessa, where sea-life and the town itself was filmed. The film is being made by «Mejrabpom-film» and is in two languages, Russian and German.

THE «INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' RELIEF» EXCURSION FILMED

The «Mejrabpom-film» has made a record of the excursion of the foreign delegates of the «International Workers' Relief Association» (Mejrabpom). The first trip made by the delegates was to Elista (the capital of the Kalmuck Republic). There they visited the new town and the buddhist temple. From there the excursion went to Kislovodsk, where the new sanatoria and rest homes were visited. The next stage was Rostov, where the delegates were taken over the Selmashstroy (Agricultural Machinery works), the boot and shoe factory, the tobacco factory, the Artem coal mine, which they descended to a depth of 511 metres in the electric mine-lift, and lastly they visited the Dnieprostroy.

All this will be shown in a big international sound-film. American, German, and Mongolian members of the IWRA delegation took part in the excursion.



Soviet Life in Questions and Answers |

Q u e s t i o n . What is «Socialist Competition» and how is it carried on?

A n s w e r . The idea of Socialist Competition was put forward by Lenin. It became widespread only about two years ago. It came to the fore on the initiative of the workers and employees of the Leningrad «Karl Marx factory», who appealed to all the toilers of the Soviet Union to join in this form of competition.

In course of its development it took the most varied forms. The example of the factories was followed by many scientific institutions, schools, colleges etc. Socialist competition became one of the socialistic methods of organising labour in every field of economic and cultural construction.

In the beginning the principal form of competition was between individual workers, with the idea of raising the output of each worker. As the movement took on a mass character and the idea of socialist competition began to attract the wide masses, the brigade system arose. Now, it was not merely individual workers who competed with each other, but whole brigades, called «shock-brigades».

As a rule, these shock-brigades are composed of groups of workers more or less directly connected with each other in the process of production. By the conclusion of an agreement with one or several brigades, a given shock-brigade took upon itself definite obligations with regard to labour discipline, output and the raising of the level of technical education of those taking part in the agreement, etc. These obligations are expressed in figures. Thus it is possible to compare the work of the various brigades from the results of the competition.

Originally the task of the shock-brigade system was to enforce discipline in work. The worker took upon himself an obligation not to shirk work, and to observe the rules of the factory. Later on socialist competition rose to a much higher level.

The tasks of the shock-brigade workers were: in the first place, to strain every effort for the fulfilment of the industrial-and-financial plan, in the second place to master technical methods, and to participate in the work of rationalisation and planning.

The task undertaken by the brigade could be fulfilled through the mutual, comradely assistance of the workers and the labour-solidarity observed in every brigade. In this way the best social organisation of workers and employees is obtained, cooperation in labour is developed, and as a result its productivity is increased.

Lately, several new forms of shock-brigades have arisen. There is the «continuous» shock-brigade, so-called because it usually includes several workshops connected with each other by processes of production. Under this system an entire process, from beginning to end, is included in shock-brigade work. The continuous shock-brigades in their development often overflow the limits of one factory and extend to others that supply it with raw materials or half-finished products. That is how socialist competition arose between separate factories and then between districts etc.

The development of socialist competition and shock-brigade work creates new and particularly effective forms for the participation of the wide masses of toilers in the work of rationalisation and planning.

In the rationalisation brigades the workers analyse and study production methods with a view to using past experience and in particular all suggestions and inventions made by workers for the improvement of production.

One of the highest forms of socialist competition in which the share of the masses in the work of planning is carried into effect, is the counter industrial and financial plan, that is, a counter-plan brought forward by the workers. It is an improved and amplified edition of the plan received by the factory from the controlling economic organisations. The counter-plan is formed by the workers on the basis of careful study of the production possibilities and resources of the factory, its equipment, stock and so on.

Exchange of experience and comradely assistance given by the more advanced factories to others has taken the form of «social towing-along». This movement also arose out of socialist competition. The best shock-brigade workers and engineers visit industries that they have taken «in tow» and tell them of their experiences

and achievements. The «social towing-along» is characteristic of socialist competition and sharply distinguishes it from other forms of competition. The principle of capitalist competition is the defeat and death of some, the victory and supremacy of others. The principle of socialist competition is comradesly assistance to those who cannot catch up with the most advanced, in order to attain the raising of the common level (J. Stalin).

The importance of socialist competition for Lenin lay in the fact that it afforded a possibility of «drawing the majority of the toilers into a sphere of work where they might express themselves, show their abilities and their talents, of which there is such an inexhaustible store among the people, and which capitalism has repressed and choked down in thousands and millions».

●

Question. How is the work of a doctor organised in the Soviet Union?

Answer. A doctor's work is socialised in this country in the following way.

The usual doctor's working day is limited to 6½ hours, but some have shorter hours, as for instance, in the following cases:

1) Doctors working in hospitals, polyclinics, dispensaries and children's consultation centres have a 5½ hour day, if their duties include treating patients.

2) Doctors employed in anatomical institutes, in radium and Rentgen-ray institutes and laboratories work 4 hours a day.

In accordance with the general rule every doctor employed in some institution or other has the right to two weeks' holiday a year. Some groups of doctors get one or even one-and-a-half month's holiday with full pay. These groups include specialists in infectious diseases, rentgenology, radiology, and psychiatry.

Doctors working in distant places receive three month's holiday after each three years of work, including their annual fortnight's holiday.

The salary of doctors differs.

Doctors in villages, in prisons, and psychiatric and sanitation doctors have the right to a rise of 20% after every two

years of service. In distant regions and districts the salary of doctors is raised by 10% annually. Those working in villages and workers' settlements pay nothing for rent, fuel and lighting. After 25 years of uninterrupted employment in villages or workers' settlements a doctor is entitled to a pension, amounting to 50% of his salary. The years of service before the revolution are included.

Social insurance for doctors follows the same lines as that for all toilers.

Doctors working in villages and workers' settlements and also in distant places have the right after three years of service to a period of leave of from 3 to 6 months with full pay for the purposes of research work or attending higher medical courses.

Doctors in the Soviet Union have the right to work in more than one place simultaneously. Private practice is not forbidden.

The transference of doctors from one place to another cannot be effected without the consent of the doctor, except in case of natural calamity.

In addition to the foregoing, the Soviet Government has passed a number of measures for the improvement of the material and legal status of doctors working in various branches of their profession.

The attitude to patients now differs considerably from former times. The necessity for studying disease in connection with living conditions and the work that the patient happens to be engaged in are emphasized. This method of study makes it possible to carry out prophylactic measures more scientifically. The rapid rate at which industrialisation is being carried on, the wide development of collective and soviet farming has confronted the USSR with the necessity of rapid training of medical workers. This is the reason for the alterations in the system of teaching in the universities and medical faculties, where, at present, greater attention is being paid to practical work in hospitals, etc. Large groups of doctors in these institutions are being drawn into the work of teaching students, and thanks to this, medical education and the qualifications of medical workers are being raised to a much higher level.



New Soviet Publications

«Socialist Reconstruction and Science» — the organ of the Departments of Scientific Research and Technical Propaganda of Supreme Economic Council of the USSR. Published 10 times a year. The Scientific and Technical Press of the Supreme Econ. Council. № 1. Pp. 244.

Every year it becomes clearer that science and technical knowledge take a leading part in the Soviet Union, which is reconstructing its life on socialist principles. At the present time it is particularly important to furnish information of the progress of Soviet science and to study the latest achievements of Western European and American technical thought. One of the channels, through which Soviet scientists and engineers can examine Soviet and foreign technical attainments and conditions, is the large new magazine «Socialist Reconstruction and Science», edited by N. I. Bukharin, M. Ac. Sc.

The most prominent scientists of the Soviet Union take part in this magazine and scholars and engineers from Europe and the U.S.A. have been invited to join them.

The journal covers a wide field. Every number should have an opening article, the purpose of which is to link up the scientific and technical work with the tasks of socialist reconstruction. The articles fall into two large groups: those on theoretical questions and those devoted to technical problems. A special place has been accorded to articles on the organisation of science and research work.

The journal will publish reviews of foreign books on natural science and technical subjects. The achievements of Soviet science are noted under the heading of «The work of the research institutes of the USSR». In this section hitherto unpublished work of Soviet scientists may be included.

A great deal of attention is paid to books and magazines, chiefly foreign, now being published. In the course of the year the journal proposes to review all the most important scientific and technical publications appearing in England, Germany, France, Italy and the U.S.A. Lists of new Soviet and foreign books on natural science and general technical questions will be published.

In addition to the above-mentioned sections, an account will also be given of

what is going on in the scientific institutions, societies and industrial organisations of the USSR and abroad.

Articles written by Soviet scientists just returned from abroad and recounting their impressions of scientific and technical life in the West and in the USA will be found under the same head.

The first number of this magazine is an extremely rich one. All the main sections are represented in full. In the first section there is a particularly interesting article by Nikolai Bukharin, M. Acad. Sc., on «Theory and Practice from the point of view of dialectic materialism», a lecture read before the Second International Congress on the History of Science and Technics, held in London. This article, which is witty and full of interesting material, deals with the problem of the relations between theory and practice, from both a sociological and gnosiological standpoint. The concluding part of the article treats of theory and practice in the USSR and empirical verification of historical materialism.

The as yet unfinished article by V. Vikin is devoted to the capitalist crisis and the crisis in bourgeois theories of crises. There is an excellent article by N. I. Vavilov, M. Ac. Sc., on «The problem of the origin of agriculture in the light of modern research»—a summary of many years of research by the above-mentioned scientist on the principal agricultural centres of the world. Among other material in the main section there are interesting articles. Prof. A. M. Frumkin writes on «Problems of research in physical chemistry», Prof. A. A. Chernyshev on the «Principal technical problems of electrification», Prof. A. I. Oparin—on «Technical biochemistry and its part in industry», and M. N. Sorokin on «Industrial and technical problems of the reconstruction of engineering», etc.

The section «Reviews» contains abundant information on research work in the USSR and abroad. Extremely interesting facts about researches on peat are published in «The work of Research Institutes» which also contains an account of the activities of the State Building Institute, and many other things. The bibliographical section contains, among others, N. Bukharin's witty and critical analysis of a new book by Oswald Spengler—*Der Mensch und die*

Technik. Beitrag zu einer Philosophie des Lebens».

In the section of «Current Events» attention is called to a detailed account by M. Rubinstein of the Second International Congress on the History of Science and Technics, held in the summer of 1931 in London.

The journal is attractively got up and well-printed.

International relations during the imperialistic epoch.

Documents from the Records Office, relating to the tsarist and Provisional Governments—1878—1917. Series No. 3. Vol. 1 — Jan. 14th — March 13th, 1914. P.P. XVIII+614. State Publishing House for Social and Economic Press. Moscow — Leningrad. 1931.

The publication of authentic documents and first hand information on Russia during the epoch of Imperialism has been undertaken by a Commission attached to the Central Executive Committee of the USSR. The material is being edited by M. N. Pokrovsky, member of the Academy of Sciences, and Acting Commissar of Education in the RSFSR. The documents are extremely interesting and important. During the first few days of its existence, that is, immediately after the October Revolution, the Soviet Government made a solemn promise to unmask the secret diplomacy that led up to the catastrophe of 1914. Towards the close of 1917 secret treaties, hidden in the ministries of tsarist Russia, began to be published. Their publication aroused immense interest all over the world. They were the first documents of their kind to be published. This first casual collection was followed by systematically selected documents, that threw light on several problems and incidents of the World War period. There were, for instance, the well-known publications of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs — «The Division of Turkey in Asia», «Constantinople and the Straits», «The European Powers and Greece during the World War», a number of publications of the Central Records Office, valuable documents printed in «Krassny Archive» and so on.

A number of other states that took part in the World War followed the example of the USSR and collections of documents began to appear everywhere. Literature on the history of international relations

has been considerably enriched during the last few years.

But in the great majority of cases the principal questions were those of the origins of the World War and «those responsible» for it. The activities of diplomats during the war still remain obscure, but a great deal has been done in this field in the Soviet Union.

At present the publication in the USSR of documents relating both to the «origin of the war» and to the diplomacy of that time is carried on systematically. This new scientific work is being done on a big scale calculated to extend over several volumes. Suffice it to say that the first five huge volumes of Series 3 cover the period from January 14th to August 4th, 1914, that is, not quite seven months. A foreign edition is being published in the German language in Germany.

The first volume that appeared recently covers the period from January 14th to March 13th, 1914, and includes more than 650 pages and 444 documents. From the material in this book the gradual approach of the war becomes clear. M. N. Pokrovsky says in his introductory article — «The war was decided on, not in July 1914, but much earlier. The exact moment when it was decided upon cannot, of course, be established, for the simple reason that there was no such exact moment. None of the parties involved could say, when exactly it was decided upon to fight (this was probably settled long before 1914), and that it was decided to declare war in the summer of that year. The moment when the bomb was to explode was uncertain even for the person who laid it. But the general situation, which could only result in a European war in the near future, came to a head in the winter of 1913—1914» (pp. VIII—IX).

The documents included in this volume concern various aspects and incidents in the activities of the tsarist diplomats. «The Russian documents, — as M. N. Pokrovsky aptly remarked, — naturally afford the richest material for the unmasking of the predatory policy of Russian imperialism, that was military and feudalistic in essence, but already becoming capitalist» (p. X). And we do actually see how Tsarism began to stretch out its feelers towards the Near East — Persia, Turkey, and to the Far East as well. It is true that after the unsuccessful Russo-Japanese war the ardour for adventure in the Far East cooled down considerably. In the winter

of 1914, however, a species of expansion policy in Mongolia and North Manchuria was clearly noticeable. No small number of documents in volume I bear witness to the attempts to get «a firm footing» in the Far East.

The information about the tsarist policy in Persia is extremely curious. Here, in spite of the agreement, Russia came to loggerheads with its future ally — Great Britain. The frankly annexationist policy of the tsarist government in Persia, the despotic conduct of the consuls, the obvious attempts to secure Persian Azerbeidjan, and finally, the prolonged and sharp dispute respecting the Trans-Persian railway led more than once to strained relations between Russia and Great Britain. It is curious to follow in the published documents all the intricacies of these relations and the attempts to regulate them.

The results of the Balkan and Italo-Turkish wars were sharply felt. The relations with Turkey and the Balkan countries are given a good deal of space in these pages.

Many pages are occupied by the dispute about the well-known German military mission of Liman von Sanders. A lively exchange of opinions on this question took place between Russia, France and England. As was to be expected the problem of straits which had been debated in the previous years arose once more. In this connection the minutes of the special conferences (February, 1st—8th, 1914) are very interesting. These conferences were presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sazonov, and attended by the Chief of the Navy Staff, the Ambassador to Constantinople and a number of other high officials from the Army, Navy and Foreign Office (see document No. 295, pp. 373—391). The questions of landing troops, of action on land and sea, of means of transportation etc., were all discussed seriously.

Long before the Sarajevo murder and the Austrian ultimatum, Serbia appealed to Russia to supply the Serbian army with munitions. Evidence of this is contained in the letter of the president of the Serbian Council of Ministers, Pashich, who was also Minister for Foreign Affairs (No. 161, pp. 192—193). The question of subsidizing Montenegro was also brought up.

Russian diplomats tried to find out the economic situation in Rumania and Bulgaria. There are the reports of Savinsky, the ambassador to Bulgaria, of his conversations with king Ferdinand of Bulgaria, in the course of which the latter indulged in all sorts of ambiguities and adopted an attitude of false friendliness (No. 157, pp. 185—190).

It is natural, of course, that an important place in the documents should be occupied by the detailed reports of the Russian ambassadors to London and Paris. Here is no small quantity on material on the political situation on that time, on the role played by Sir Edward Grey, on Poincaré, Doumergue and others. Isvolsky frequently expressed his fears that the French Cabinet of Doumergue and Caillaux was too radical, and that new elections might put in a government of a still more «left» tendency. The Russian ambassador placed all his hopes in Poincaré. Isvolsky praised the president of the French Republic, and called him «a powerful political force». Along with him Brian, Millerand, and Barthou are marked out as «people who had made great efforts to arrest the decay of government life in France, and to return to a more prudent policy at home and abroad» (No. 433, pp. 568—572). Stephane Lausanne, then starting his journalistic career, is also mentioned. In a secret letter sent by the military agent in France to the quartermaster-general, dated January 22nd, 1914, we see — «Articles by Stephane Lausanne were printed in «Le Matin», under the heading «La plus grande Russie». These articles, which sang the praises of Russia, were unfortunately not written in a sufficiently serious vein and were somewhat fantastic» (No. 77, pp. 85).

It is impossible in the space of a short review to exhaust all the wealth of material in the first volume of documents. It may be said, indeed, that it is obvious that this is a mine of information about the World War. Europe is waiting for this publication: Poincaré has already attempted to vilify it in one of his articles in defence of war.

The Soviet publication of the documents of the World War should prove of great assistance to all research workers and the widest circles of the public interested in the unmasking of the war and in the fight for peace.

Chronicle of Socialist Construction

FOREIGN WORKERS AND SPECIALISTS TAKE PART IN THE WORK OF THE FACTORY AND WORKS' COMMITTEES

Many of the foreign workers and specialists now engaged in Soviet industries take an active part in the life of their factory or workshop, speak at the production conferences, and make valuable suggestions for rationalisation.

An election campaign for the trade union organisations was recently carried on throughout the whole of the Soviet Union. Foreign workers assisted in the examination of the work of the trade union organisations.

A number of factories have taken as their slogan «Let's elect the best foreign workers to the factory and work-shop committees».

The works' committee of «Dynamo»—one of the biggest of the Moscow works—includes now as member a German engineer.

The share taken by the foreign workers and specialists in the work of the trade union organisations should do much towards making them all feel more at home in surroundings that are as yet new to them, and help them to take part in socialist construction.

A GREAT VICTORY OF SOVIET WORKER-INVENTORS IN TRANSPORT

The People's Commissariat for Transport has organised groups of worker-inventors who carry on collective work according to plan and fulfil the tasks set by the Commissariat.

The application of this new method has already produced important results in connection with Soviet automatic coupling. The new automatic coupling was tested with a train that ran about 5,000 km.

During the run shunting was carried out, hill-climbing etc., especially along the North Caucasian, Southern and Kursk lines. The train weighed 4,020 tons, and had 364 axles.

The trial train was equipped with both Soviet and foreign automatic coupling devices. The best results were given by the Soviet automatic devices of the Young Communist workers, Mirosnichenko and the technician Bogdanov. Mirosnichenko's device actually gave better results than had been attained anywhere in the world.

The question of Soviet automatic couplings can, therefore, be regarded as completely solved. The new Soviet system will satisfy the demands of socialist reconstruction of railroad transportation.

TABLES OF HONOUR FOR ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS

The Secretariat of the USSR Central Trade Union Council has resolved to found tables of honour for the engineers and technicians of the Soviet Union. The names of all those who distinguished themselves in the struggle to carry out the programme for the third, decisive year of the Five Year Plan, who have been rewarded either with the Lenin Order or the Order of the Red Banner, will be recorded on these tables.

A VICTORY FOR THE SOVIET CLOTH INDUSTRY

The first cloth-printing mill in the USSR has begun to work in Moscow. This opens up new possibilities for the development of the Soviet wool textile industry.

The factory has been able to introduce a great number of new methods, in particular the application of substitutes which not only do not render the quality of the goods inferior, but even improve it. In addition, the factory is employing an entirely new process of dyeing half-woollen goods. This method adds considerably to the wearing-quality of the materials and ensures the fastness of their colours.

Persistent and careful study of printing methods now permits the factory to fully guarantee the quality of the dyes in these materials.

NEW DEPOSITS OF COAL IN THE KUZNETSK BASIN

The above were discovered in the south-eastern part of the Kuznetsk coalfields, near the Sieberg-Uluss. The coal-bearing coefficient of these new deposits is 25%. This is exceptional even for the Kuzbass.

The importance of the Sieberg coal-beds is increased by the fact that powerful deposits of iron ore have been discovered in the neighbourhood of Sieberg.

The geological expedition in the Soviet Far East, headed by Prof. Koslov, has finished its researches in the Vladimiro-Agnevsky district of Sakhalin.

Prof. Koslov has given a preliminary account of the results of the work. As far as can be ascertained at present there are more than 100,000,000 tons of coal in the district. The more valuable seams are from 5 to 7 metres thick and have particularly great calorific capacity. They were discovered near the mouth of the river Vladimirovka, 40 km from Alexandrovsk and 9 km from the gulf of Tartary.

CHROMITE DEPOSITS IN BASHKIRIA

An expedition sent out by the Bashkirian Geological Trust has, as a result of prospecting done during the current year, discovered new rich deposits of chromite near the Kaginsky works in Bashkiria.

The preliminary reports show that these deposits are very large—up to several hundred thousands tons.

The expedition is continuing its work. Boring has been begun.

A SCHOOL FOR THE CHILDREN OF ENGLISH SPEAKING SPECIALISTS AND WORKERS

Many of the foreign workers and specialists residing in the USSR have brought their families with them. In this connection the question arose of opening special schools, where foreign children might continue their education without waiting until they had mastered the Russian language. The first school of this type (the school for English-speaking children) has now been opened in Moscow. There are two workshops, a mechanical and a wood-working, attached to the school. There are also chemistry and physics laboratories, a music-room, a well-equipped gymnasium, and a dining-room. In the near future a kindergarten division will be opened for children under 7 years of age.

In one of the Russian schools in Leningrad departments have been opened for the children of English workers and specialists.

Instruction is carried on in both these schools by experienced foreign teachers and young graduates of the English departments of Soviet Normal Schools.

The Badakshan Autonomous Region is situated in the Pamirs, at a height of 4,000 metres above sea-level.

During the Tsarist regime no attention at all was paid to the civilising of this place. More than 99% of the population was illiterate. It can easily be understood, therefore, that the cultural revolution carried by the toilers of the USSR to the most distant corners of the country, was in this case fraught with great difficulties. And Badakshan did overcome all obstacles and has won victory after victory in the construction of socialism and the creation of a new civilisation.

Here is an instance of the progress made in the Soviet Pamirs. A regional newspaper «Badakshan-i-Surkh» («Red Badakshan») is now being published in the Bussian and Tadjik languages, in Khoroga, the chief town.

The appearance of a native newspaper in the Pamirs is a sure sign of a new and important victory for the national policy of the Soviet government.

THE PROGRESS OF COMPULSORY ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN THE TARTAR REPUBLIC

In the Tartar Republic more than 31,800 children, that is 91% of all the children of school age, are now receiving an elementary education. 100% of those who have finished the elementary school have been admitted into the seven-year school.

All the schools in the Tartar Republic are connected with some particular industry, soviet farm, machine and tractor station, or collective farm. Work-shops and work-rooms have been equipped in a number of schools. The village soviets took an active part in the setting up of the workshops, etc., and helped the schools with materials and with the gifts of equipment. They also assisted in the creation of the school funds and with supplies of provisions.

A great deal of work in training teachers is carried out in the Tartar Republic. Short courses are being organised, 650 members of the Young Communist League have gone into the teaching profession.

Special attention is being paid to the construction of school-buildings. 96 new schools are being built. The Tartar State Publishing House is making every effort to guarantee the schools with textbooks in the native tongue.

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KABARDA-BALKARIAN AUTONOMOUS REGION

Last year the Kabarda-Balkarian Autonomous Region was celebrating its tenth anniversary. In 1931 the Region has made considerable progress in cultural and economic construction. From the backward country that it was during the tsarist regime it has become one of the most advanced districts of the North Caucasus.

One of the biggest achievements is the completion in 1931 of collectivisation (more than 90%) and the resulting extension of the area under crops to much more than double that of pre-revolutionary times.

Industries for the working up of agricultural products have greatly developed here, and the study of the natural resources of the district guarantees the further development of industry.

The introduction of compulsory elementary education is one of the biggest advances made. The number of schools has increased from 33 in 1913 to 250 in 1931. Now the majority of grown-up people in the Region are literate, while before there were only 3% of literate people altogether.

The young people flock to the colleges. The national script and press is developing. The network of medical institutions and centres is also growing.

The government of the USSR intends to carry out in future a series of measures that will ensure the still more rapid economic and cultural growth of the Kabarda-Balkarian Region. Roads are to be built through the far-away mountain gorges. The construction of the Baksan power-station is being pushed on, and specifications for new water-power stations, etc., are being worked out.

New Gramophone Records

The latest set of gramophone records released by the Moscow Gramophone works shows a wide enough choice to suit any music-lover (all records mentioned in this review are «Grand» size).

Some of the records of national music are extremely interesting.

There is an old historic song from the days when Russia was under the Tartar yoke (Rimsky-Korsakov). It is sung by Andreiev (baritone) accompanied by a quartette of national stringed instruments. This is number 672.

«Testament» by the Ukrainian poet, Tarass Shevchenko, — a duet sung by Droyanikov and Belugin.

Two Russian songs (lyric and comic) sung by Anna Zagorskaya, accompanied by an orchestra of national instruments (1409, 1410).

The songs of the well-known peasant singer, Olga Kovaleva, — couplets (793), shepherd's song (with pipes) (794), lyric (1217).

Old gipsy songs sung by Merkholenko (contralto) (453, 253, 1547, 1548), and by Christophorova (454, 1549).

The very popular Piatnitsky peasant chorus renders old and new, comic and lyric dance songs (214, 216, 217, 247, 251).

Another peasant chorus, conducted by Yarkov (723, 721, 1501, 1506).

An orchestra of national stringed instruments (played with the hand) conducted by Alexeiev, gives various interpretations of Russian songs «The Garden» (1396), «The Sun went down behind the hill» (1396), «Near the Town of Saratov» with dancing (1411, 1412), and a fantasy of Glasunov's on the theme of Russian songs (1630, 1631).

The Andreiev orchestra of national stringed instruments, gives similar folk songs, etc. (139, 1413).

Among the numbers rendered by the quartette of national instrument directed by Lubimov, the following should be noted: Russian songs (817, 818), Uzbek and Kirghiz songs (819, 820).

Among those by the 1st ethnographical quartette—Tartar and Mari Songs together with the English horn (rendered by Nazarov) (1349, 1350).

Lastly, we must note the records of the excellent trio of accordion players from the Meyerhold theatre: the sailors' horn-pipe from «The Red Poppy» ballet, by Glier, the fantasy on the theme of Russian songs (1288, 1683), the Ukrainian dances (1286, 1290), and Russian songs and dances (1287, 1289).

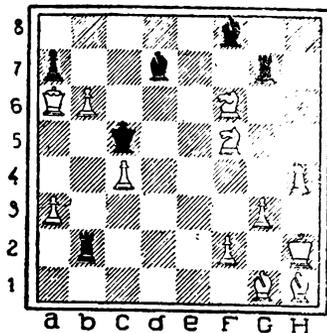
Chess

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

PROBLEM 3

M. M. Barulin (Moscow)

(1st prize at the USSR competition of the Ukrainian Chess Section VSKF, 1930/31)



Mate in two moves.

White: K h2; Q a6; R h4; B g1, h1; S f5, f6, P a3, b6, c4, f2, g3 (12).

Black: K c5; R b2, g7; B d7, f8, P a7 (6).

Those who send the correct solution will receive the next issue of our Review.

RESULT OF USSR CHESS TOURNAMENT

Winner — M. M. Botvinnik

The finals of the USSR Chess Tournament closed at the end of 1931. In our previous number we gave a list of the participants. The winner was one of the most talented representatives of young Soviet chess-players, a Young Communist student of 21 years of age M. M. Botvinnik. His success did not come as a surprise to us. When he was only 17 he had already won for himself the title of maestro and in the course of the last 3 or 4 years was unfailingly the victor in all the important contests in Leningrad. His record was $13\frac{1}{2}$ points (out of 17) and he beat his nearest opponent by 2 points. The second place was taken by a young Moscow player, N. N. Rumin. For a long time he kept at the head of the tournament, but after losing the decisive

game to Botvinnik, dropped to the second place ($11\frac{1}{2}$ points).

The matches between Botvinnik and Rumin, fixed for the near future, should be extremely interesting.

The 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th places were won, at 10 points each, by Bogatirechuk, Verlinsky, Yudovitch and Alatorsev. The two last-named players obtained more than 50% of the points and received the title of Soviet maestros. This title was also won by Mazell, Kirillov and Lisitsin. As «Izvestia» pointed out, the combined ages of the five new maestros is only 106.

The maestro Ilyin-Jenevsky was unsuccessful in the tournament ($8\frac{1}{2}$ points). This was due, no doubt, to the fact that he was out of practice. It is interesting to note that he won his game from the winner of the tournament, M. Botvinnik, which testified to the high quality of Ilyin-Jenevsky's play.

The toiling masses of the Soviet Union took a great interest in the tournament. In Moscow more than 500—700 persons, chiefly young workers, watched the tournament with intense interest.

CHESS IN THE USSR

The presidium of the Central Trade Union Council approved the estimated expenditure on chess (in connection with the trade-unions) of Rbls. 1,400,000, in 1932. This generous grant guarantees the further progress of the game among the widest circles of toilers of the USSR.

At the USSR Women's Tournament the first prize was won by a Moscow woman, O. N. Rubtsova, who did not lose one game in the tournament and had only one draw. Rubtsova has won the first place in the USSR for the third time.

To celebrate the USSR Chess Congress — a contest of problems and studies, with a total prize fund of Rbls. 600, was announced by the Central Committee of Problemists. All the best Soviet problemists will take part in this contest. The results will be announced shortly.

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Editor Prof. F. N. PETROV.

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