

Index to Volume VII of Soviet Union Review

January 1929 to December 1929

A

- "A Girl in Soviet Russia," 204
- Academy of Sciences:
 - Expeditions of, 35
 - Reorganization of, 86
- Academy of Fine Arts, 67
- Adjustment Convention, Soviet-German, 48
- Administration:
 - Appointments, 19, 126, 127, 187
 - Complaints, Bureau of, 58
 - Elections, 99
 - "Light Cavalry," 59
 - Municipal, 152
 - "Sectioners," 58
 - Soviets, 58, 60, 99
 - Workers' and Peasants' Inspection, 58
- Adult Education, 157
- Afghanistan:
 - Ambassador to Moscow, New, 202
 - Exchange of Radiograms with, 202
 - Note of Afghan Ambassador, 49
 - Rykov on Relations with, 111
- Agriculture:
 - General, 169
 - Bashkirs, 75
 - Collective Farms, 169
 - "Contractation," 170
 - Crops, 166
 - Daily Agricultural Paper, 85
 - Far East, 207
 - Five-Year Plan, 71
 - Grain Institute in Moscow, 86
 - International Agricultural Institute in Moscow, 34
 - Machinery, 125
 - Report on, by Kalinin, 115
 - Sown Area Extended, 142
 - State Farms (see separate item)
 - Tax, 18
 - White Russia, 25
- Alcoholism, Campaign against, 67
- Altai Expedition, 35
- American Expedition in U. S. S. R., 187
- Anti-War Protocol, Soviet:
 - Editor of "Izvestia" on, 81
 - Poland, Signing by, 46, 81
 - Turkey, Adherence of, 57
- Archeological Discoveries, 186
- Arctic Expeditions, 186
- Armenia:
 - Film Industry, 105
 - Armenia, Soviet, 26
- Army (see "Red Army")
- Art:
 - Exhibition of Revolutionary Artists, 127
 - Museums, 199
- Arts, Fine, State Academy of, 67
- Austria, Soviet Trade Delegate to, 113
- Automobiles:
 - Automobile and Good Road Association, 10
 - Construction of, 50
- Aviation:
 - General, 50
 - Air Lines, 103
 - Black Sea Air Line, 11
 - Chukhnovsky's Visit to Europe, 98
 - Flights in 1924, 85
 - "Land of Soviets," 126, 142, 162, 171, 205
 - Moscow-New York Flight, 126, 142, 162, 171, 205
 - Trans-Siberian Air Line, 50
 - "Avtodor," 10
- Azerbaijan:
 - Film Industry, 105
 - Scientific Institutes, 207

B

- Bacteriological Warfare, Soviet Resolution on, 96
- Baku-Batum Pipe Line, 66
- Baltic States, Rykov on Relations with, 111
- Bashkir Republic, 75
- Bessarabian Question, 111
- Biological Experiments, 86
- Bolshoye Zaporozhye, 194
- Book Notes, 161, 185, 204
- Books:
 - Children's, 78, 175
 - Classics, 77
 - Jubilee, 126
 - Modern Authors, 78
 - Publishing, 77
 - What They Read in U. S. S. R., 103
- "Borah's Letter to Rakovsky," 54
- Brick Plants, 125
- Bubnov, A., New Commissar for Education, 168, 187
- Budget, 62, 155
- Bukharin, N. I., Head of Scientific Department of Supreme Economic Council, 127

C

- Canning Industry, 125
- Caucasus, Air Line, 11
- Cellulose Industry, 125
- Cement Industry, 125
- Central Executive Committee, Manifesto of, 18
- Chemical Industry:
 - Fertilizers, 125
 - New Enterprises, 102
- Chemical Warfare, Soviet Resolution on, 96
- Children:
 - Books for, 78, 79, 175
 - "Five-Year Plan," 175
 - Homeless, 27, 142
 - Homes for, 27
 - "House of Children's Books," 79
 - Mortality, 123
 - Motion Pictures for, 175
 - "Pioneers," 17, 175
 - Theater for, 175
 - Town, Children's in Odessa, 27
 - Vagrancy of, 85
- China:
 - Aggression, Chinese, on Soviet Territory, 150, 169
 - Execution of Soviet Citizens, 184
 - German Embassy, Soviet Statement to, 150
 - Joint Statement Proposed by Chinese, 147
 - Joint Statement, Soviet Draft of, 147
 - Litvinov, Interview with, on Soviet-Chinese Controversy, 148
 - Notes, Soviet, to, 130, 132, 133, 202
 - Protest, Soviet, to, 112
 - Railway (see "Chinese-Eastern Railway")
 - Soviet Declaration on Soviet-Chinese Controversy, 146
 - Soviet Trade with, 135
- China:
 - Supplements to Soviet Verbal Notes, 181
 - Verbal Notes, Soviet, to, 149, 180, 182, 184
- Chinese-Eastern Railway:
 - General, 135
 - Soviet Notes on Seizure, 130, 132, 133, 135
 - Statement on Financial Condition, 151
- Chukhnovsky's Visit to Europe, 98
- Cigarette Machine, Soviet, 50

Cinema:

- Children, for, 175
- Eisenstein, 177
- Industry, 63
- Lunacharsky on, 117
- National Republics, in, 104
- "Old and New," 177
- "Talkies," 163
- Villages, in, 162
- City Planning:
 - General, 154
 - Moscow, 194
 - Bolshoye Zaporozhye, 194
- "Civil Training in Soviet Russia," 161
- Clubs, Trade Union, 22
- Coal:
 - Concession in Sakhalin, 19
 - Mining Construction, 124
- Collective Farms, 34, 169
- Colonies, Children's, 27
- Communist Party:
 - Membership, 19
 - Soviet Elections, 99
 - Women in, 12
- Communist Youth League, 17
- Complaints, Bureau of, 58
- Concessions:
 - General, 73
 - Applications for, 107, 207
 - Automobile Transport, 50
 - Chief Concessions Committee, Chairman of, 127
 - Coal, in Sakhalin, 19
 - Hammer, 73
 - House Building, 139
 - Japanese, 19
 - "Kita Karafuto Sekiu," 73
 - Lena Goldfields, 73
 - Municipal, 66
 - Possibilities, 73
 - Road Construction, 50
 - Sakhalin, 19
 - SKF, 73
 - Swedish General Electric Co., 73
 - Tetlukhe Mining Co., 73
 - Timber, 19
 - "Zhest-Westen," 73
- Conferences and Congresses:
 - Economic Statistics, International, on, 7
 - London, on Safeguarding Human Life at Sea, 98
 - Penitentiary Workers, 35
 - Scientific in U. S. S. R., 35
 - Soil Science, 126
 - Women Members of Soviets, 11
- Continuous Working Week, 142, 155, 166, 195
- "Contractation," Agricultural, 170
- Control, Workers', 58
- Convention for Campaign Against Counterfeit Money, 98
- Cooperatives:
 - Consumers', 66
 - Housing, 34, 173
 - Women in, 11
- Correspondence Courses, 40, 41
- Correspondents, Women, 11
- Cotton Planting:
 - Armenia, in, 26
 - Egyptian, in Central Asia, 162
- Crop Rotation, 34
- Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Society for, 86, 143
- Currency, 155
- Customs Convention with Finland, 98
- Czecho-Slovakia:
 - Soviet Plenipotentiary Representative in, 67, 87
 - Soviet Trade Delegate in, 152

D

- Dairy Industries, 125
- Danzig Joins Soviet Anti-War Pact, 98
- Defense, National, 62
- Dining Room, Students', 160

Diplomatic Service, Changes in, 19, 33, 49, 67, 87, 98, 113, 152, 207
 Disarmament:
 Chemical Warfare, Soviet Resolution on, 96
 Commission, Soviet Note to, 32
 Litvinov on, 90, 94
 Proposals, Soviet, 93
 Soviet Resolution on, 94
 Divorce Statistics, 85
 Dnieper District Industrial Combine, 107
 Dnieper Super Power Project, 50, 194
 Documents, Legalization of, 187
 Doygalevsky:
 Negotiations with Henderson, 136
 Soviet Representative in France, 119
 Donetsk Basin:
 Electric Power, 107
 Railways, 11

E

East:
 Elections, 100
 Film Co., 105
 Peoples, 67
 Women, 12, 100
 East-Prussian Delegation in U. S. S. R., 84
 Economic Statistics, International, 7
 Education:
 General, 168
 Adult, 117, 157
 Armenia, 26
 Bashkirs, 75
 Commissar for, New, 168, 187
 Courses for State Farm Personnel, 75
 Expeditions (see separate item)
 Films, Educational, 64
 Five-Year Plan, 117
 Higher, 24, 40, 159
 Illiteracy, Elimination of, 51
 Karelia, 44
 Libraries, 87
 Literacy in the Soviet Union, 205
 Lunacharsky on, 116
 Minor Nationalities in Siberia, 163
 Moscow, 158
 Museum, 107, 197
 Primary, 24, 40, 158
 Progress, 157
 Public, 24
 Schools, New, 18
 Scientific Institutes, 121
 Secondary, 24
 Self-Education, 40
 Specialists, Training of, 190
 Technical, 190
 Trade Union Educational Activities, 23
 Training of Skilled Workers, 117
 Vocational, 24
 "Workers' Faculties," ("Rabfaes") 27, 77
 Egyptian Cotton in Central Asia, 162
 Eisenstein, 177
 Elections, Soviet, 99
 Electrical Industry, 125
 Electric Power:
 General, 167
 Construction, 124
 Dnieper Super Power Project, 50, 194
 Donetz Basin, 107
 Five-Year Plan, 70
 Power Plants, New, 102
 Total Output, 19
 Electrification:
 Dnieper Power Project, Extension of, 50
 Plan for 1928-29, 50
 "Electrola" Instrument, 107
 Electro-Technical Works, New, 102
 Engineers, 190
 England:
 Anglo-Soviet Protocol, 178
 Business Delegation, British, in U. S. S. R., 81, 97, 114
 Karakhan's Note to, 136
 Litvinov's Statement on Resumption of Relations, 179
 Oil Agreement, Soviet-British, 56
 Private Claims of British Subjects, 97
 Relations, Soviet-British, 56, 82, 110
 Resumption of Diplomatic Relations, 136, 169, 178, 201
 Rykov on Relations with, 110
 Trade, Soviet-British, 81, 82

Estonia:
 Adherence to Soviet Anti-War Protocol, 46, 81
 Relations with, 45, 111
 Trade Treaty with, 113, 152
 Ethnic Composition of U. S. S. R., 42
 Exhibitions:
 Art and Handicraft, 19
 Press, in Baku, 127
 Society of Revolutionary Artists, 127
 Expeditions:
 Academy of Sciences, 35
 Altai, 35
 American in U. S. S. R., 187
 Geological Committee, 35
 Scientific, 107
 "Sedov" Expedition, 186
 Exports:
 Handicraft Articles, 28
 Oil, 96, 162

F

Fair, Nizhni-Novgorod, 162
 Far East, Development of, 206
 Farms:
 Collective, 34, 169
 Rice, 66
 State, 9, 66, 74
 Fertilizers, Production of, 125
 Film Industry, 104 (see also "Cinema")
 Finances:
 Budget for 1929-30, 154
 Currency in Circulation, 155
 Finland:
 Customs Convention with, 98
 Relations with, 45, 111
 Soviet Plenipotentiary Representative in, 98
 First Aid Clinics, 18
 Fishing in Far East, 207
 Five-Year Plan:
 General, 70, 115, 166
 Industrial Production, 137
 Piatakov on, 83
 Railroads, 106
 Socialist Competition, 137
 Standardization, 100
 Tractor Construction, 106
 Training of Specialists, 190
 Food Industry, 102
 Foreign Relations of U. S. S. R.:
 General, 169
 Litvinov on, 2
 Rykov on, 110
 Foreign Trade of the U. S. S. R., 168, 203
 Forests in Far East, 207
 Forgeries, Anti-Soviet, 54, 169
 France:
 Relations with, 2, 110
 Soviet Trade Delegate in, 19
 Fuel, 70, 102

G

Geological Committee, Expeditions of, 35
 Georgia, Cinema in, 63, 105
 German-Volga Republic, 75
 Germany:
 Economic Negotiations with, 19
 Rykov on Relations with, 110
 Scientific Expedition, Soviet-German, 16
 Soviet-German Adjustment Convention, 48
 Gold Fields in U. S. S. R., 186
 Gorky, Maxim:
 Children's Colony "Maxim Gorky," 27
 "Our Achievements," 79
 "Gosizdat," 77
 Grain:
 Exports, 166
 "Factories," 170
 Institute in Moscow, 86
 Trust, 127
 Greece:
 Soviet Diplomatic Representative in, 207
 Soviet Trade Delegate in, 49, 98
 Gypsies in the U. S. S. R., 87

H

Hammer Concession, 73
 Handicraft Industries:
 Industries, 105
 Exhibition, Russian, in New York, 28
 Harvest Festival on State Farm "Giant," 162
 Health, Public:
 Armenia, 26
 Workers' Polyclinic in Kharkov, 107
 Henderson, Negotiations with, 136
 Homes:
 Children's, 27
 Invalids', 18
 Homeless Children, 27, 142
 Hospital Workers, 23
 House Building:
 Concessions, 139
 Construction, 18, 34
 Five-Year Plan, 72
 Housing:
 Cooperatives, 34, 174
 Houses for Workers, 172
 Students', 159
 "Humanity Uprooted," 204

I

Illiteracy, 51, 157, 205
 "Illustrated History of the Russian Revolution," 204
 Industry:
 General, 167
 Continuous Working Week, 142, 155, 166, 195
 Five-Year Plan, 137
 Museums, Industrial, 197
 New Enterprises, 102
 Quality of Goods, 157
 Seven-Hour Day, 205
 White Russia, in, 25
 Inspection, Workers' and Peasants', 58
 Insurance, Social, 18, 51
 Internal Situation in U. S. S. R., 115
 International Congresses, U. S. S. R.
 Participation in, 98, 186
 International Law, Consultation Bureau, 85
 Interplanetary Communication, 86
 "Intourist," 143
 Invalids, Homes for, 18
 Inventions:
 "Electrola" Musical Instrument, 107
 Cigarette Machines, 50
 Joint Stock Company to Sell, 207
 Irrigation in Armenia, 26
 Italy:
 Rykov on Relations with, 110
 Soviet Trade Delegate in, 33

J

Japan:
 Concessions, 19, 73
 Rykov on Relations with, 111
 Jews in White Russia, 25

K

Kalinin, M. I.:
 Agriculture, on, 115
 Biographical Note, 76
 Kamenev, L. B., Chairman of Chief Concessions Committee, 127
 Karakhan, L.:
 China, Notes to, 112, 130, 132, 133
 England, Note to, 136
 Statement on Soviet-Chinese Controversy, 134
 Karelia, 43
 Kazak Republic, 11
 Kellogg Pact:
 General, 169
 Litvinov on, 2
 Official Copy Received by Soviet Government, 152
 Poland, Litvinov's Note to, on 30, 44
 "Kita Karafuto Sekiu" Concession, 73
 "Kombinat" in Dnieper District, 107
 "Komsomol," 17
 Kritzman, L. N., on International Conference on Economic Statistics, 7
 Krjizhanovsky, G. M., on Standardization, 100
 Krupskaya, N. C., 76
 Kuzma-Pavlovo Railway, 11
 Kuibyshev, V. V., on Standardization, 101

L

Labor:
 Commissar for, 19, 187
 Continuous Working Week, 142, 155
 Disputes, Settlement of, 23
 Productivity of, 167
 Seven-Hour Day, 51, 139
 Trade Unions, 22
 Unemployment, 22
 Wages, 22, 51
 "Land of Soviets" Flight of, 126, 142, 162, 171, 205
 Langovoy, A., Military Expert of Soviet Delegation, 93
 Latin Alphabet among Eastern Peoples, 67, 141
Latvia:
 Anti-War Protocol, Soviet, Adherence to, 46, 81
 Cultural Relations with, 126
 Soviet Diplomatic Representative in, 152
 Soviet Trade Delegate in, 152
Law, International, Consultation Bureau, 85
League of Nations:
 Disarmament, Litvinov's Speech on, 90, 94
 International Conference on Economic Statistics, 7
 Soviet Note to Disarmament Commission, 32
Leather Industry, 125
 Legalization of Documents, 187
 Lena Goldfields, 73
 Lenin, V. I., Portrait, 167
Leningrad:
 Population, 67
 Public Library, 87
 Libraries, 87
 "Light Cavalry," 59
 Literacy in the Soviet Union, 51, 157, 205
Literature:
 New Russia, of, 13
 Peasant Writers, 127
 Technical, 41
 White Russia, 25
Lithuania:
 Litvinov's Note to, on Kellogg Pact, 30
 Relations with, 45
 Soviet Representative in, 19
Litvinov, M.:
 Anti-War Protocol, Signing of, 46
 British-Soviet Relations, Statement on, 56, 179
 Chinese-Soviet Situation, Interview on, 148
 Disarmament Commission, Note to, 32
 Disarmament, Speech on, 90, 94
 International Situation, 2
 Non-Interference, Soviet, 6
 Poland, Note to, on Kellogg Pact, 30, 44
 Propaganda, Soviet, 6
 Loan, Industrialization, 205
 Locomotive Construction, 125
 Lumber Industry, 102, 125
 Lunacharsky, A.:

Appointment, 187
 Education in U. S. S. R., on, 116

M

Machinery and Tractor Stations, 170
 Manganese Production, 205
 Manifesto of Central Executive Committee, 18
 Marriage Statistics, 85
 Medical Service, 162 (see also "Health, Public")
 Mendicancy, 18
 Merchant Fleet, Soviet, 50
 Metal Industry, 71, 102, 124
 Mexico, Trade Delegate to, 33, 113
 Minsk, 25
 Mortality, 122, 123
Moscow:
 City Planning, 194
 Courses for Foreign Physicians, 106, 186, 207
 Education, 158
 Elections, 99
 Figures, Statistical, 74

Moscow—continued:
 Musical Season, 119
 Radio - Telephone Moscow - Sverdlovsk, 206
 Theater, 187
 Toy Museum, 200
 Mothers, Homes for Destitute, 12
 Motion Pictures (see "Cinema")
 Municipal Development:
 General, 152
 City Planning, 194
 Concessions, 66, 152
 Moscow in Figures, 74
 Murmansk-London Steamship Line, 50
 Museums, 107, 197
Music:
 Musical Festival, 143
 Musical Season in Moscow, 119
 Radio, 120
 Red Army Song Ensembles, 143

N

Nationalities, Minor, 140, 163, 206
National Minorities:
 Publishing House for, 163
 White Russia, in, 29
Newspapers:
 Postal Service, 138
 Women's, 11
 See also "Press"
 Nizhni-Novgorod Fair, 162
 Non-Aggression Pacts, Soviet Proposals for, 2
 Non-Interference with Internal Affairs, 6
 North, Soviet, 206
 Nyezhin-Priluki Railway, 11

O

Odessa:
 Children's Town, 27
 Home for Destitute Mothers, 12
 Office Workers, 23
Oil:
 Baku-Batum Pipe Line, 66
 Concessions in Sakhalin, 19
 Domestic Use, 174
 Export, 96, 162, 174
 Industry, 174
 Ural Fields, 126
 Works in Construction, 124
 Old Age Pensions, 18
 "Old and New," 177
 Orsk-Troitsk Railway, 11
 Ossinsky-Obolensky (see "Avtodor") 10
 "Our Achievements," 79

P

Palekhi Paintings, 29
 Pamir Expedition, 16
 Paper Industry, 43, 102, 125
 Park of Culture and Rest, 142
 Parks, 154
 Patek, S., on Soviet Anti-War Protocol, 47
 Pavlovo-Kugma Railway, 11
 Peace, Soviet Efforts towards, 2
Peasants:
 Cultural Activity among, 163
 "House of Peasants," 142
 Schools for Peasant Youth, 40
 Tax Exemption, 127
 White Russia, 25
 Writers, 127
 Penitentiary Workers, Congress of, 35
 Pensions, Old Age, 18, 127
Persia:
 Customs Convention with, 84
 Rykov on Relations with, 111
 Petrovsky, D. I., Trade Delegate to Austria, 113
 Physical Culture, 38
 Physicians, Foreign, Courses for, 106, 186, 207
 Platakoy on Soviet-British Relations, 82, 97
 "Pioneers," 17, 18, 174
 Planning, City, 194
Poland:
 Anti-War Protocol, Adherence to, 46, 81
 Litvinov's Note on Kellogg Pact, 30, 44

Poland—continued:
 Protocol Proposed to Poland on Kellogg Pact, 31
 Relations with, 3, 111
 Rykov on Relations with, 111
 Soviet Trade Delegation in, 87
Population:
 Ethnic Composition of U. S. S. R., 42
 Growth of, 122
 Leningrad, 67
 Mongol Tribe, Discovery of New, 127
 Postal Conference, International, 98
 Postal Service, 138
 "Pre-School Campaign," 158
Press:
 General, 106
 Agricultural Daily, 85
 Exhibit in Baku, 127
 German Paper in Moscow, 143
 See also "Newspapers"
 Prices, 72
 Priluki-Nyezhin Railway, 11
 Primary Education, Universal, 158
Prisons:
 General, 35
 Correspondence Courses in, 41
 Cultural Work among Prisoners, 35
 Reform, 195
 Propaganda, Soviet, Litvinov on, 6
 Prostitution, Struggle against, 28
 Protocol Proposed to Poland, 31
 Public Utilities, 152
 Publishing in U. S. S. R.:
 General, 77
 National Minorities, 163

Q

Quality of Goods, 137
 Quartz Deposits in Karelia, 44

R

"Rabfaes" (Workers' Faculties), 27, 77
Radio:
 General, 118, 206
 Broadcasting, 51
 Lunacharsky on, 117
 in Prisons, 35
 Telephone, 206
 Theater, 51, 129
Railways:
 Bridges, 11
 Donetz Basin, 11
 Kugma-Pavlovo, 11
 Moscow-Kiev-Voronezh, 11
 Nyezhin-Priluki, 11
 Operation, 167
 Postal Service, 138
 Troitsk-Orsk, 11
 Turkestan Siberian, 11, 66
 Venev-Uzlovaya, 11
 "Rakovsky's Letter to Norris," 54
Red Army:
 General, 60
 Budget Appropriations, 62
 Military Museum, 199
 Song Ensembles, 143
 Red Cross, 18
 "Red Star in Samarkand," 204
 Reading Matter in U. S. S. R., 103
 Rice Farms, State, 66
 Road Construction, 50
Roumania:
 Adherence to Soviet Anti-War Protocol, 46, 81
 Relations with, 3, 45, 111
 Rykov on Relations with, 111
 Rubber Industry in the U. S. S. R., 66, 206
 Rykov, A.:

Foreign Relations of U. S. S. R., 110
 Internal Situation, 115

S

Sakhalin, Concessions in, 19
 Salaries of Office Workers, 23
 Saltpeter Deposits, 17
 Samoyeds, 140
 Savings Campaign, 85
 Scholarships, State, 159

Schools:

General, 168
 Armenia, 26
 Expenditures, 40
 Higher, 40
 Lunacharsky on, 116
 Peasant Youth, 40
 Primary, 40
 "Raofacs," 27, 77
 White Russian, 25
 Workers' Faculties, 27, 77
 See also "Education"

Science:
 Ancient Manuscript Found, 127
 Historical and Archeological Museum, 199
 Scientific Activities of Museums, 200
 Scientific Expeditions, 16, 107
 Scientific Institutions (see separate item)
 Scientific Research, 35
 Scientific Institutions:
 General, 121
 Agricultural Institute in Moscow, 34
 Azerbaijan, in, 207
 Grain Institute in Moscow, 86
 Scientific and Technical Department of Supreme Economic Council, New Chairman of, 127
 Scientific Workers, Situation of, 51
 Scientists, Soviet, 86, 186
 "Sectioners," 58
 "Sedov" Expedition, 186
 Self-Education, 40
 Seven-Hour Day, 18, 139, 205
 Shestakov, S., Portrait of, 171
 Shipbuilding, 125
 Shipping, (see "Steamship Lines")
 Ships, American, Purchase of, 207
 Siberia:
 Education among Minor Nationalities, 163
 Railways, 11
 Trans-Siberian Air Line, 50
 Turkestan-Siberian Railway, 11, 66
 SKF Concession, 73
 Skilled Workers, Training of, 168
 Social Insurance, 18, 51
 "Socialist Competition," 137, 193
 Soil Congress, International, 126
 Sokolnikov, G. Y.:
 Biographical Note, 201
 Soviet-British Oil Agreement, on, 56
 Soviets:
 General, 99
 Congress of, 115
 Elections, 99
 Members of, 60
 Women Members of, 11, 163
 "Soviet Rule in Russia," 161
 "Soviet Union Year Book," 161
 Sown Area, 169
 Spar Deposits, 44
 "Spartakiad," 39
 Specialists, Training of, 190
 Sports, 38
 Squares, Public, 154
 Stalin, J., Portrait of, 168
 Standardization, 100
 State Farms:
 General, 9, 74, 170
 Harvest Festival of "Giant," 162
 Rice Farms, 66
 Statistics, International Economic, 7
 Steamship Lines, New, 50
 Students, Soviet, 159
 Sugar Industry, 125
 Sun Power Station, 206
 Sweden:
 Conventions with, 84
 Five Years of Soviet-Swedish Relations, 84
 Soviet Trade Delegate in, 33
 Trade with, 84
 Swedish Concessions, 73, 84
 Swedish General Electric Company, 73

T

Tadjikistan, 176
 "Talkies" Soviet, 163
 Tanning Extract, 125
 Taxes:
 Agricultural, 18
 Exemption for Poorer Peasants, 127
 Tchitcherlin, G., Statement Regarding Health of, 203
 Teachers' Salaries, 23, 40
 Technical Assistance Contracts, 167
 Technical Help, 72, 168
 Technical Literature, 41
 Technical Schools, 191
 Tetiukhe Mining Company, 73
 Textile Industry, 102, 125
 Technical Literature, 41
 "The Curious Lottery," 161
 "The Soviet Union and Peace," 185
 "The Soviet Union Looks Ahead," 185
 Theaters:
 General, 87
 Children's, 175
 Moscow, 187
 Radio, 51, 120
 Thirteenth Year, The, 166
 Timber:
 Concessions, 19
 Industry, 43
 Tourists, Foreign, in the U. S. S. R., 143, 196
 Toys, Russian, 29
 Tractors:
 Construction, 106
 Farms, on, 75
 Plants in Construction, 125
 Purchases in U. S. A., 162
 Stations, 170
 Trade, Foreign, 81, 82 (see also "Exports")
 Trade Unions:
 General, 22
 Correspondence Courses, 41
 Education, 157
 Film Distribution, 65
 Radio Stations, 206
 Transcaucasia:
 Air Line, 11
 Railway Bridges, 11
 Women, 80
 Transport:
 Automobiles, 10
 Five-Year Plan, 71
 See also "Aviation," "Railways," "Steamship Lines"
 Trilling Concession, 73
 Troitsk-Orsk Railway, 11
 Turkestan-Siberian Railroad, 11, 66
 Turkey:
 Adherence to Soviet Anti-War Protocol, 57
 Conventions Concluded with, 49
 Rykov on Relations with, 111
 Tuva Republic, Soviet Trade Delegate in, 152

U

Uglanov, N. A., Commissar for Labor, 19
 Ukraine:
 Cinema, 63, 104
 Kharkov Polyclinic, 107
 Unemployment, 22, 66
 United States:
 American Business Delegation to, U. S. S. R., 114
 American Concessions in U. S. S. R., 73
 American Expedition in U. S. S. R., 187
 Relations with, 5
 Russian Art and Handicraft Exhibition in U. S. S. R., 19

United States—continued:

Rykov on Relations with, 110
 Ships, American, Purchased by U. S. S. R., 207
 Tractors, American, Purchased by U. S. S. R., 162
 Trade with, 168
 Ural Oil Fields, 126
 Uzbek Film Industry, 105
 Uzlovaya-Venev Railway, 11

V

"Vagabonding at Fifty," 161
 Vagrancy of Children, 85
 Venev-Uzlovaya Railway, 11
 Villages:
 Cinema, 163
 Rural Soviets, 60
 Visitors, Foreign, in U. S. S. R.:
 American Business Delegation, 114
 British Business Delegation, 81, 97, 114
 East Prussian Delegation, 84
 Vocational Schools, 24
 Vodka Output, 19
 "VOKS" Annual Meeting of, 143

W

Wages, 22, 51, 72
 Water Supply Systems, 154
 Week, Unbroken Working, 142, 155, 166, 195
 Welfare Public:
 Cultural Work Among Prisoners, 35
 Old Age Pensions, 127
 Prostitution, Struggle Against, 28
 Workers' Polyclinic in Kharkov, 107
 See also "Health," "Homes," "Red Cross"
 White Russia, 25, 105
 "White" Aggression Against Soviet Territory, 150
 Women:
 Eastern, 12, 100
 Communist Party, in, 12
 Cooperatives, in, 11
 Correspondents, 11
 Houses for Destitute Mothers, 12
 Industries, in, 11
 Newspapers for, 11
 Prostitution, Struggle Against, 28
 Public Life, in, 11
 Soviets, in, 11, 163
 Transcaucasia, in, 80
 Voters, 99
 Woodworking Industry, 125
 Workers:
 Elected to City Soviets, 99
 Houses for, 172
 Preparatory Schools for, 77
 Production Meetings of, 162
 Unbroken Working Week, 142, 155, 166, 195
 "Workers' Faculties," 77
 Working Hours, 72

Y

Yemen, Treaty with, 49
 Youth, Communist, 17

Z

"Zhest-Westen" Concern, 73
 "Zinoviev Letter," 54
 Zuckerman, B. G., on Soviet Oil Exports, 96

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Litvinov on the International Situation The Literature of New Russia Organization of Large Soviet Estates International Economic Statistics Women in Public Life in the Soviet Union The Pamir Expedition

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page		Page
The Foreign Policy of the Soviet Union:		The Pamir Expedition	16
The Soviet Union and Disarmament	2	The Communist Youth League	17
Relations with France, Poland and Rumania	2		
Soviet-American Relations	5	Miscellaneous News	
Non-Interference with Internal Affairs	6	Carrying Out of the Manifesto of the Central	
Decision of Central Executive Committee	6	Executive Committee	18
Mr. Kritzman on International Economic Sta-		Tenth Anniversary of the Soviet Red Cross	18
tistics	7	Struggle Against Mendicancy	18
State Farms in the Soviet Union	9	Japanese Concessions in the Soviet Union	19
Automobiles and Good Roads	10	Output of Electric Power	19
New Rail and Air Lines	11	Production of Vodka in the U. S. S. R.	19
Women in Public Life in the Soviet Union	11	Membership of the Communist Party of the	
Homes for Destitute Mothers	12	U. S. S. R.	19
The Literature of New Russia	13	Administrative and Diplomatic Appointments.....	19
		Russian Art and Handicraft Exposition in New	
		York	19

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The Foreign Policy of the Soviet Union

AT the Fourth Session of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R., held in Moscow on December 10, 1928, Mr. M. M. Litvinov, Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, delivered a report on the international situation. Excerpts from the report are given below:

"... Crossing the path of our disarmament proposals came Mr. Kellogg's proposal for an international pact for the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy. Our Government assumed a critical attitude towards that pact, having pointed out its insufficiency and its limitations. The principle of renunciation of war is likewise embodied in our projects for non-aggression pacts which we proposed to a number of countries. But our projects treated the non-aggression problems from a broader point of view and did not permit of any equivocations. The pacts proposed by us included also the obligation to remain neutral and not to participate in hostile alliances and combinations. The adoption of these proposals by a majority of the countries would deal a powerful blow to that system of military-political alliances, combinations and coalitions which was characteristic of pre-war international diplomacy which resulted in the world war, and which, as I have said previously, is fraught with the danger of new wars on a world-wide scale. Nevertheless, having realized that the countries which signed the Kellogg Pact are assuming certain moral obligations before public opinion with reference to non-aggression, and that the pact had a certain, if restricted, significance, our Government unhesitatingly joined in that pact and has immediately given full legal form to that adhesion. Thus the Soviet Union was one of the first countries to ratify the so-called Kellogg Pact which up to the present has not been ratified by any one of the fourteen states that signed the pact at Paris and are considered the initiators of the pact. The lack of particular speed with regard to the ratification of the pact cannot astonish those who carefully studied the history of the origin of that pact and the correspondence between the U. S. A. and the other Governments on that subject, and who know how long and stubborn was the resistance to that pact, and that, aside from the Soviet Union and a few of the lesser powers, the pact was accepted quite reluctantly by the majority of its participants. It would not be devoid of interest to point out that up to the present the pact has not been ratified by Poland and with the ex-

ception of Lithuania, not one of the Baltic Countries has adhered to the pact.

"You see that the steps towards peace undertaken by the Soviet Government meet with no response on the part of the other countries. This was the case in Genoa (1922); the same happened at the Moscow disarmament conference called by us; this was the case at the time when we were proposing non-aggression pacts; this is also the case when we propose disarmament pacts. Moreover, our activities in behalf of peace are quite distasteful in some quarters, and are even causing open irritation in some countries. Apparently the Soviet Government's efforts towards peace, which are at cross purposes with their policy demanding the maintenance of armaments at their present level or even their further increase, do not improve our relations with those countries.

"We must admit that our peace proposals are placing the imperialist countries in quite a difficult position. For, while rejecting our proposals, they are bound to pay a certain tribute to the anti-war sentiments of the working masses and of the petty-bourgeois pacifists. For this reason they do not cease solemnly to affirm their love for peace; the word 'peace' does not cease to flow from their lips; and as it is politically inconvenient publicly to admit one's unwillingness to disarm, and as our arguments in favor of disarmament cannot be refuted, they resort to questioning the sincerity of our proposals. A cheap, unconvincing argument that misses the mark. There is no way of testing our sincerity other than by accepting our proposal; and if they had really been convinced of our insincerity, then in order to unmask it, they should have at least pretended that they were accepting our proposals. But this they would not do knowing how risky such a step might be; for they know that we would agree to disarmament and that an actual test of our sincerity would only lead to their embarrassment.

Relations with France, Poland and Rumania

"Incidentally, M. Poincaré, President of the French Council of Ministers, recently offered the following bold challenge. He declared in the Chamber of Deputies that as soon as our willingness to submit to general disarmament is proven, he would 'solemnly oblige himself to follow our example.' M. Poincaré is very well aware of the fact that the Soviet Government has given its

assent to general disarmament, and that it has given it not in the form of an occasional reply, but at an open session of an international organization, the Preparatory Disarmament Commission—before the whole world. What we demand from him is no more than an assent in a similar manner. But why, then, did it happen that M. Paul Boncour and other delegates for the French Republic not only declined our proposal as absolutely unacceptable, but even joined the ranks of the main opponents of our proposal in the Preparatory Commission? If M. Poincaré's proposition is serious and sincere, then let him only propose an immediate convocation of the Preparatory Commission and I, in the name of the Soviet Government, solemnly obligate myself again to repeat our proposal and to consent in any form that may be desired to the complete disbanding of the Red Army, in accordance with our draft convention. This will be a real test of sincerity. But I sincerely doubt M. Poincaré's readiness to resort to this test.

"From M. Briand, another Minister of the French Republic, we heard recently a statement which was unexpected and entirely incredible (to say the least), naming as an obstacle to general disarmament—what would you think?—the Red Army. I am referring to an interview of M. Briand which was published in the press, and in which he is supposed to have said: 'The European powers are unable to proceed further with the limitation of armaments chiefly for the reason that the Soviet Union maintains a numerous and powerful army and even boasts of its fighting ability.' And M. Paul Boncour, likewise declared at a session of the League of Nations held last September that 'the fate of disarmament depends upon the decisions of the United States of America and of the Soviet Union.' It is true that we are proud of the fighting ability of the Red Army because it is only due to this fighting ability in which we have faith, that the proletarian state has been in existence for over eleven years, and is able to engage in the building up of socialism. But we need an army that is able to fight only as long as it is opposed by powerful armies of the capitalist countries. As soon as these armies are eliminated, disbanded, we shall not need an army of our own. We will find for our Red Army men a more useful and productive occupation than military training. We proposed that and the Government of M. Briand rejected it and still rejects it. Of what value are then all kinds of innuendos about the Red Army?

"In order to produce a stronger effect M. Briand considered it necessary to state at the General Assembly of the League of Nations, without, for politeness sake, exactly mentioning our name, that the Soviet Army is growing more rapidly than that of the other countries, both with regard to man-power and military equipment. If this were actually true it could not in any case serve as a justification for the rejection of our

disarmament proposals. But this statement is not true as a matter of fact. I am not going to compare the numerical strength of the armies of the two countries because this would not prove anything. In view, however, of the repeated assertions as to the actual reduction of the French army as compared with the pre-war period, it might not be amiss to inform you that in accordance with the official French data and the information given by the League of Nations, France's military expenditures, as expressed in dollars, amounted to \$349,000,000 in 1913, and to \$393,000,000 in 1928. I consider, however, the following as more convincing:

	France	U.S.S.R.
Number of Soldiers per 1 sq. km.	666.7	26.5
Number of Soldiers per 1 km. of land frontier	132.3	31.2
Number of Soldiers per 1000 inhabi- tants	9.2	3.8
Military Expend. per cap. of population	\$9.60	\$2.60

"In discussing this subject it is necessary not to lose sight of the following circumstances: Prior to the war France was forced to reckon with a powerful German army numbering about 800,000 men and doubtlessly representing a threat with regard to France; at the present time that army has been reduced to 100,000 men. Moreover, there has been concluded the Locarno Treaty which obliges Great Britain to assist France with her entire power in case of an attack directed against her eastern frontier. I am disregarding entirely the obligations with regard to France on the part of her allies Czecho-Slovakia, Rumania, Yugoslavia and Poland, while we cannot count upon any outside military assistance. The countries along our entire western frontier are armed and are continuing to arm, and have, moreover, reason to count upon the assistance of the French army as well as of the armies of other countries. In comparing the armies of various countries it is necessary to keep in mind their character and structure, and for this reason it is not permissible to disregard the fact that the Red Army is organized chiefly upon the principle of territorial formations, thus being suitable chiefly for defense and not for attack. But predominating over all this should be the consideration that by proposing our non-aggression and disarmament pacts, as well as by our entire policy for the last eleven years, we proved the peaceful character of our intentions, while the policy of other countries which rejected our proposals, gives us sufficient reasons to doubt their peaceful intentions with regard to the Soviet Union.

"M. Briand, in mentioning our army, spoke not only about France but also about Poland and Rumania which are supposedly 'viewing Russia's intentions not without alarm'; and M. Briand added that he understood that alarm. In this connection M. Briand pointed out that 'Poland and Rumania wished to maintain only peaceful rela-

tions with Russia.' I would like to have the opportunity to ask M. Briand the following questions: How does he explain the fact that Poland declined all our peaceful proposals? Why did Poland decline our proposals in 1922, for the proportional reduction of armaments by the Soviet Union, Poland and the Baltic countries—a proposal which represented a much greater risk for us than for the other participants of the conference? Why did not Poland accept our proposal for the conclusion of a non-aggression pact which at least would have reduced its 'alarm' with regard to the U. S. S. R. by offering a greater guaranty of peace than the Kellogg Pact? At that time Poland explained her negative attitude towards that question by her inability to sign such a pact containing no mention of her obligations with regard to the League of Nations, and no clause about compulsory arbitration. But by recently signing the Kellogg anti-war pact without these conditions, Poland proved the complete groundlessness of her attitude during her negotiations with us. It must, therefore, be inferred that she was prompted by other considerations in refusing to conclude a non-aggression pact. What, then, were these considerations? Moreover, why does Poland systematically decline to conclude a trade agreement by beginning negotiations only with the purpose of breaking them off immediately? A trade agreement is not a guaranty against aggression; but, nevertheless, it consolidates the relations between the countries concerned and is therefore a factor for peace. In what ways did Poland prove her peaceful intentions with regard to the U. S. S. R.? Was it, perhaps, by the speeches of her wojewods (governors) who publicly expounded their ideas about the violation of the territorial integrity of the Soviet Union? Was it by the feting of emigres—enemies of the Ukraine of the workers and peasants; or by openly discussing in the Polish press the question of depriving the Ukrainian and White Russian Soviet Republics of their independence and of enslaving them? Let them show us at least one Polish proposal which could be interpreted as an expression of a peaceful disposition on the part of the Polish Government. We do not harbor any aggressive sentiments, intentions or desires with regard to Poland. We take note of the correct relations existing between us and Poland, but we consider them insufficient. We have given sufficient proofs of our endeavors to consolidate and strengthen these relations. We will continue these endeavors because we are conscious of the tremendous importance of an improvement of our relations with Poland for the cause of peace not only in the East but also for general peace. We would only like to receive evidence from the other side as to the existence of a desire to meet these efforts halfway. I take the liberty of assuring M. Briand that his anxiety for the fate of Poland, as far as we are concerned, is

devoid of all grounds. We would only like to feel safe as to Poland's policy in eastern Europe and towards the Soviet Union.

"As to Rumania our passive attitude towards her is the most striking proof of our peaceful intentions, when it is considered that the question of Bessarabia which is under Rumanian occupation, has not been settled so far. All the successive governments in power in Rumania up to the present having rejected our proposal made at the Vienna Conference for an honest and peaceful solution of the question at issue, in accordance with the interests and the will of the population of Bessarabia, preferred to make preparations for the settlement of that problem by force of arms. With this aim in view they concluded military alliances against us, they took part in anti-Soviet combinations and supported preparations for uprisings made by the adherents of Petlura and by Russian monarchists. Such a policy, obviously, cannot lead to a settlement of the Bessarabian question. Let us hope that the new Rumanian Government will seek other ways of reaching an agreement with the Soviet Union.

"Grounds for apprehension are furnished not by the peace policy of the U. S. S. R., but by the facts which I have pointed out with regard to the attitude of the Polish and Rumanian Governments towards us; by the continuous conferences between the general staffs of these two countries and their lively relations with French military spheres. Not only the Soviet newspapers, but the entire European press turned its attention to the frequent trips of the French general Lerond to the countries which are our nearest neighbors. Through the French Ambassador in Moscow, I received a statement to the effect that general Lerond had no official mission whatever. I am not going to question the official statement of the French Government, but the fact that general Lerond was increasing the frequency of his visits to eastern and southeastern Europe is irrefutable, and public opinion in our country is not inclined to believe that generals should be engaged in carrying olive branches and for this reason its anxiety is quite comprehensible.

"We are sorry that M. Briand mentioned us only in connection with our army which could and should least of all cause anxiety to France. I am convinced that M. Briand does not attribute to the U. S. S. R. even the slightest unfriendly feelings or intentions with regard to the French Republic. He cannot be unaware of the fact that on our part there are absolutely no obstacles to the creation of the most friendly relations with France, and that between the U. S. S. R. and France as an individual country there are absolutely no conflicting political interests, and that for this reason either of them should be least of all interested in the army of the other party.

We would have preferred it if M. Briand had mentioned the non-aggression pact which we proposed some time ago; if he had mentioned the offers which were made over a year ago by Rakovsky for the settlement of questions in which wide strata of the French people are interested, and which are still awaiting solution. We would have preferred, instead of engaging in a controversy on military subjects, that was forced upon us, to talk with M. Briand about the conclusion of commercial and other agreements which would stimulate the economic relations between the two countries. We would further wish to see M. Briand better informed about our intentions and endeavors; and then he would perhaps refrain from those attacks directed against us, of which I just spoke to you.

Soviet-American Relations

"We state with great satisfaction that our economic relations with the United States are growing rapidly and continuously. That country represents perhaps the most striking expression of the common interests of the capitalist world; nevertheless we must, in all fairness point out that up to the present the government of the United States has not appeared among those governments conducting intrigues against the Soviet Union. We do not forget that in time of distress, during the famine, the American people rendered us generous aid, through the American Relief Administration, which at that time was headed by Mr. Hoover, President-elect of the United States.

"Although for many years the United States kept aloof from us, nevertheless there is now a growing realization of the need and the opportunities for utilizing advantageously the economic possibilities of the U. S. S. R. with the help of American financial resources and of the highly developed American technique. There was a time when there were more prejudices against the U. S. S. R. and a greater abundance of fables and absurdities about the U. S. S. R. in America than in any other land. This is not astonishing, for, while anti-Soviet agitators—often lavishly financed—Americans and persons of other nationalities, but especially from the ranks of the counter-revolutionary emigres, enjoyed a free field for their anti-Soviet campaigns, Soviet citizens were barred—they are still partly barred—from the opportunity to meet this campaign with factual information about the situation in our country. The change of attitude which I have referred to is being furthered to a considerable extent by the ever increasing visits of representatives of American finance, commerce and industry, and of American cultural life, who have the opportunity of discovering personally the absurdity of those tales about the Soviet State with which America has been fed for so many years. One may confidently state that 99 per cent of the opin-

ions expressed by Americans who visited our country, are quite favorable towards us. More eloquent however, than all opinions are facts and figures, such as the constant increase of American exports to the U. S. S. R., our increased utilization of American technical forces, and the scrupulous exactness in observing the obligations assumed by us. It must be acknowledged, of course, that this economic intercourse suffers considerably from the absence of a legal background, owing to the lack of official relations between the governments of the two countries. The references of the British Cabinet members to these economic relations as an evidence that they are possible even in the absence of normal relations, are mere sophistry. Economic relations are to a certain extent possible even with countries whose attitude towards us is most hostile. We conducted and are still conducting some trade with England, even after the rupture, but the inexorable export and import figures which the members of the British Government are forced to quote in parliament, point to the ominous downward tendency in economic relations, which the breach has brought about. It is, therefore, not difficult to guess that, satisfactory as may be our present economic relations with the United States, they would increase twofold, threefold, and even more, in case of reestablishment of normal relations. Moreover, the British cabinet ministers pretend not to see any difference between the non-reestablishment of normal relations, and the breaking off of the same where they had already existed; they do not notice that political antagonism which arises after a rupture of relations, and which cannot help reflecting upon the economic relations.

"When we speak of official relations we have in mind not merely *de jure* recognition. We are, for instance, little interested in the purely legal question which is at present being discussed in the United States, as to whether our signing of an international pact jointly with the American Government, constitutes recognition. This kind of recognition might have been discussed during the first few years following the November Revolution, but in the twelfth year of its existence, a state is no longer in need of a merely verbal recognition by any one country. Eleven years of existence of the same Government at the head of a people of 140,000,000, occupying one sixth of the globe, is objectively in itself a generally recognized fact. Talk about the recognition of the existence of the Soviet Government is quite ridiculous at present. Recognition may be of importance as the creation of a legal basis when it is accompanied by an exchange of representatives and by the establishment of that official intercourse which is absolutely necessary for a regular maintenance and development of both political and economic relations. We have never concealed our regret on account of the absence

of official relations between us and the Transatlantic Republic, with which we neither have nor foresee any conflicts. The facts I have pointed out create a suitable prerequisite for the settlement of some existing points at issue in case both countries agree to enter into direct contact with each other.

Non-Interference with Internal Affairs

"Non-interference with the internal affairs of other countries has not only been proclaimed by us, but has also been proven by the example of our relations with Germany, Italy, and with other countries which never had any cause to complain about the violation of this principle on our part. Those who speak of our interference or propaganda, create only artificial obstacles, or use them only as a pretext for justifying their hostility towards the Soviet Union which is dictated by entirely different reasons; or they resort to that means for reasons of domestic politics. One of these artificially or deliberately created obstacles is the periodical repetition and spreading of the legends about our difficulties, about alleged crises, catastrophes, insurrections and the approaching end of the Soviet regime. Very often such campaigns are used for the purpose of covering domestic troubles, and for side-tracking public attention from disturbances and social conflicts in the countries concerned. A campaign of this kind is being conducted on a large scale precisely at this time, when advantage is being taken of our self-criticism which has been permitted by us to an extent unthinkable in any other country; of our own statements in our press and in public speeches about our shortcomings, our difficulties which we ourselves do not conceal—a thing which not a single capitalist government would venture to do. The difficulties admitted by us are being distorted and exaggerated to incredible dimensions in the bourgeois press abroad. Our actual conditions are being reflected there as in a distorting mirror. This situation is being skillfully exploited by masters of anti-Soviet propaganda, who personally are very well informed and understand very well that a bad harvest in any one part of the enormous territory of the U. S. S. R.; that the temporary shortage of one kind of grain or another; that its temporary insufficient delivery to this or that region—cannot be fraught with catastrophic consequences for our country with its rich resources. Neither can they fail to know that our temporary difficulties are sometimes the result of our deliberate acceleration of the pace of the construction work which induces us to sacrifice the comforts of the present day for the higher and more rapid achievements of tomorrow. While they understand this themselves, they nevertheless take advantage of the ignorance and lack of information on the part of their audiences and their readers, and they brazenly speak of the 'house tumbling down' in order to justify

their inactivity or opposition to the movement in favor of the establishment of better relations with the Soviet Union.

"All these machinations of our adversaries will not compel us to swerve from that path which we have been following confidently for over eleven years towards the goal which we have set to ourselves. Aims of conquest and aggression of any kind have always been foreign to us. We are not out to attack anybody; on the contrary, we will as heretofore, and even with renewed efforts continue our struggle for peace and disarmament."

Decision of the Central Executive Committee

Upon a proposal made by Mr. V. Chubar, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic, the Central Executive Committee adopted the following decision:

"The Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R., having heard the report of Mr. M. M. Litvinov, Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, about the foreign relations of the U. S. S. R., resolves as follows:

"1. To approve in its entirety the policy of the Government of the U. S. S. R. directed towards the attainment and the consolidation of peaceful relations of the U. S. S. R. with all the countries of the world.

"2. Considering that the consistently peaceful policy of the Soviet Government, its systematic efforts towards general, or even partial but actual disarmament, are meeting with opposition on the part of the strongest capitalist states—to direct the Government of the U. S. S. R. unflinchingly to continue the policy of peace and disarmament; at the same time to watch carefully all the attempts directed towards the violation of peace and towards embroiling humanity in a new slaughter; and to conduct an active campaign for the unmasking of those attempts and for the strengthening of the peaceful relations of all peoples."

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International Economic Statistics

AT the International Conference on Economic Statistics held in Geneva early in December, 1928, under the auspices of the League of Nations, Mr. L. N. Kritzman, head of the Soviet delegation, made the following statement:

"The Government of the Soviet Union, recognizing the great importance of the organization of the statistical service, gives much attention to, and makes corresponding allowances for government statistics. To describe the place statistics occupy in the Soviet system, suffice it to state that the Central Statistical Board of the Soviet Union is a Department enjoying the rights of a People's Commissariat, and that the Director of the Central Statistical Board is a member of the Cabinet of the U. S. S. R.

"As is doubtlessly known Government statistics of the U. S. S. R. are an absolutely necessary link in the system of national economy which in the U. S. S. R. is being conducted according to plan.

"Both the working out of the plans of State and national economy, whether drawn up for a year or for several years, as well as the compilation of figures giving a survey of the situation of State and national economy of the U. S. S. R. on the basis of which the carrying out of the adopted plans is being controlled and amended, are based upon the data furnished by Government statistics and would be impossible without these data. The entire statistical service of the U. S. S. R. is concentrated in the Central Statistical Board of the Soviet Union which contains as subdivisions the Central Statistical Boards of the various constituent republics, of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic, of the Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic, of the White Russian Socialist Soviet Republic, of the Transcaucasian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic, of the Uzbek Socialist Soviet Republic, and of the Turkoman Socialist Soviet Republic. The statistical services of the other departments are under the direction of a special organ of the Central Statistical Board of the Soviet Union. In the course of the ten years of the existence of the Central Statistical Board of the Soviet Union a great amount of work has been accomplished in the field of centralization and reorganization of the old statistics of the Tsarist epoch, and new branches of statistics have been created. To a certain extent the growth of the statistical activities can be illustrated by the fact that at present the expenditures for the statistical service are more than tenfold the expenditures made in this field during the last pre-war years. The wide scope attained by the activities of Government statistics of the U. S. S. R. within a short time; the extent of information gathered by it; the speed with which it

is being obtained—all this would have been impossible had not one of the basic obstacles met with by statistics of the other countries been eliminated in the U. S. S. R., viz. the business secrets which do not exist in the U. S. S. R. for the State and cooperative enterprises which are bound to give publicly a complete account of their activities, and which make up the bulk of the large industrial and commercial enterprises.

"The U. S. S. R. is increasing and consolidating its economic connections with other countries from year to year, in the interest of the furthering of the productive forces of the U. S. S. R. Fully supported by the working masses, the Government has set to itself the task of overcoming the economic and cultural backwardness of the country, a heritage of the Tsarist regime, and to bring about such a rapid development of the productive forces of the U. S. S. R. and such an improvement of the welfare of the masses of the U. S. S. R. as would enable the Soviet Union to become economically the most advanced country in the world. This task is being solved by the U. S. S. R. through socialist industrialization of the national economy of the U. S. S. R.

"Both for the extension and consolidation of the economic connections of the Soviet Union with the other countries, and for the best possible solution of the task of bringing about a general development of the productive forces of the U. S. S. R. it is necessary to be able to compare their present condition with their former position in the U. S. S. R. and with the level attained by the productive forces of the other countries, for which purpose it is essentially necessary to have statistical data showing the situation of world economy and its development both as a whole, and according to the various countries, on a basis making it possible to draw comparisons.

"The Government of the U. S. S. R. is ready to assume the obligations resulting from such an organization of international economic statistics, fully aware of the fact that the creation of international economic statistics is impossible without the U. S. S. R.—a country which occupies the first place in the world with regard to territory and the third with regard to population, and which occupies one of the foremost places in the world in a number of branches of national economy, in particular with regard to agriculture and certain natural resources.

"In my capacity as representative of a country which is not a member of the League of Nations, I must emphasize that the Soviet Delegation reserves for itself the right to express its point of view with regard to organizational problems on occasion of the discussion of the corresponding

points of the draft convention. At present I will restrict myself to an analysis of the statistical content of the project under deliberation.

"In this respect it must be said that the draft convention distributed by the initiators of the conference is a document quite unsatisfactory in many respects.

"The various parts of the convention show a striking lack of proportion. Foreign trade statistics have been worked out in great detail. The same is the case with regard to mining and fishing statistics. Industrial statistics are elaborated to a considerably lesser extent; agricultural statistics still less; and occupational statistics even less than agricultural statistics; labor statistics are almost entirely omitted. Domestic trade statistics are merely mentioned. Not a word is said about transport and housing statistics.

"Thus, for instance, it is noteworthy that strike statistics are omitted altogether; statistics of coal mine strikes are, however, included in the draft convention.

"Thus the draft convention is not equal to the task set before it, which is to secure the gathering of statistical data showing the state and the development of world economy. This project bears the marks of the special interests of the various countries: of countries with a developed foreign trade, with a developed mining and fishing industry; of countries for which mining strikes are of great significance. Moreover, the draft convention shows the marks of special interests of separate groups of capitalists, such as mine operators, owners of fisheries, etc.; of their struggle for markets.

"In this respect it is noteworthy that in the Annex No. 3 it is asked that the number of machines of every type used in the output of coal should be given separately, as well as the quantity of coal mined with the help of each type of machinery; and all this according to the various kinds of coal and according to the various coal districts.

"Familiarity with the convention likewise suggests the question, whether, in addition to the commercial interests of the various countries and of the various groups of manufacturers, other, purely political, interests are not being reflected by the convention—namely the desire to prepare for the application of the so-called economic sanctions.

"On December 8, 1926, the Council of the League of Nations instructed the General Secretary "systematically to gather exact information on the economic and financial relations of the various countries in view of a possible application of Article 16 of the Covenant." This refers to the application of economic blockade and boycott.

"In the report of the Economic Committee, which together with other reports was appended to the report of M. Rudgers that was approved in

the resolution of the Ninth Assembly of the League of Nations as of September 20, 1928, it is said: "As regards the steady supply of documentary material of an international character, the Economic Committee does not consider it useful to count upon other material than that which is at its disposal. Equipped with this documentary material the Council will be in a position correctly to estimate the resources with regard to which any country depends upon foreign countries, as well as those resources which it has on its own territory."

"And now the draft of the convention under deliberation—and this must be pointed out quite openly—devotes particular attention exactly to those questions which are dealt with in the documents quoted by me. The Soviet Delegation does not consider it possible to pass over this fact in silence.

"However, complete international economic statistics would be impossible if they would exclude all such information about the material resources of the various countries as might likewise be used for the purpose of the application of the so-called economic sanctions.

"It is perfectly obvious that the U. S. S. R. is a determined opponent of such a use of the statistical data by the League of Nations. However, the Soviet Delegation does not consider it necessary to forego the publication of such information for fear that it may be used in that manner.

"Moreover, it must not be overlooked that the manufacture of, and traffic in arms and war material is an economic fact of no lesser importance which must of necessity be covered by international economic statistics. Without statistical figures on that subject it is likewise impossible to create really complete international economic statistics.

"Matters would, of course, be quite different, and the question of the statistics of armaments would not play such a part at the present conference, if the complete disarmament plan proposed by the Soviet Government had been accepted.

"However, as you know, the project was rejected by the Preparatory Disarmament Commission, and the second Soviet project on partial disarmament was not even discussed at all, and nobody knows when it will be discussed. Similarly, the activity of the League of Nations in the same field has not led to any practical results.

"All this naturally is bound to evoke apprehensions about the growing menace to peace.

"Under these conditions the question of the constantly increasing size of armaments, and likewise of the extent of the expenditures therefor which is an economic fact of great importance, assumes extraordinary significance. However, it is noteworthy that the statistics of the manu-

facture of, and the traffic in arms and war material are omitted in the draft convention.

"The draft convention is likewise marked by an almost complete absence of labor statistics. Labor creates all the riches of the world. The draft convention, however, entirely disregards this basic economic factor. Such problems as working hours, unemployment, conflicts, social insurance, remain outside the scope of the draft convention. The same thing is to be said about the housing problem which plays a considerable part in the matter of portraying the standard of living of the workers and of other strata of the working population.

"Statistics of the most important economic relations in the rural districts are omitted in the draft convention. Renting of land, agricultural credit, taxation of peasants and tenant farmers, which could be elucidated with the help of a statistical investigation, were not mentioned at all in the draft convention.

"Occupational statistics, such as proposed in the draft convention, are unable to give any idea of the class composition of the population, of the numbers of hired workers, clerical employees, self-employed persons, and employers of labor.

"Proceeding from what was said above the Delegation of the U. S. S. R. considers it necessary:

(a) That the convention should include statistics on the manufacture of arms and war material by incorporating the corresponding industries and goods in the industrial and foreign trade statistics;

(b) That the convention should include labor statistics, working hours, unemployment, conflicts, social insurance;

(c) That the convention should include housing statistics;

(d) That the section of the convention dealing with industrial statistics should be extended and modified;

(e) That the section of the convention dealing with agricultural statistics should be extended and modified;

(f) That the section of the convention dealing with occupational statistics should be extended and modified;

(g) That the convention should include transport statistics;

(h) That the convention should include domestic trade.

"It is unfortunate that in the speeches made by the representatives of certain countries proposals prevailed which were directed towards a restriction of the scope of international economic statistics as proposed by the draft convention.

"The Delegation of the U. S. S. R. is, as I have stated before, in favor of the creation of complete international economic statistics, and actuated by these motives it is making its proposals to the draft convention."

State Farms in the U. S. S. R.

THE plans of the Soviet Government for the creation of large State farms (Soviet estates) were founded upon the feasibility of obtaining the necessary land in the regions subject to drought, where the annual crop had averaged between 50 and 53 poods (five-sixths of a metric ton) per hectare* over the last pre-revolutionary decade. Provisionally it was decided to take up about five million hectares, of which three and a half million were to be tillable land. Calculations indicated that the required capital investment would amount to 350,000,000 rubles (\$180,000,000). The ensuing survey of unfarmed tracts has given reason to expect that the proposed allotment of five million hectares will be even more than fulfilled. It appears that the following unused tillable areas may be secured in the various regions:

	Hectares
Northern Caucasus	up to 400,000
Middle Volga Region	up to 810,000
Lower Volga Region	up to 920,000
Ural Region	up to 280,000
Siberia	up to 400,000
Kazak Republic	up to 2,000,000
Bashkir Republic	up to 100,000
Crimea	up to 50,000
Ukraine	up to 150,000

The possibility of securing virgin lands in Central Asia, Transcaucasia, and the Far East has also been brought out.

These new tillage tracts are mainly in regions subject to drought with black to chestnut soils and a moisture precipitation of 270 to 350 millimeters or occasionally higher.

On the new State farm areas within its territory the Government of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic (Soviet Russia proper) has confirmed the application of a three-year program of redistribution of land holdings, in accordance with which the tracts to be cultivated will be prepared one year in advance. The allocation of some land tracts was begun in 1928, so that it was possible to begin plowing on ten State farms during that year. The total area newly plowed during the past year was expected to reach 153,000 hectares with 15,000 hectares of winter grain sowings. At the same time agrarian redistribution was carried out on 1,500,000 hectares for the organization of State farms in 1929.

Program figures for the development of State farms during 1929 have been set up. They are based upon the following principles:

1. Organization of extensive grain farming exclusively during the next few years without resorting to alternation of sowing until it becomes necessary to restore the productivity of the soil.

* One hectare equals 2.47 acres.

This is possible because the lands allotted to the State farms are either virgin or have lain fallow for many years.

2. Organization of fifty State farms, including the ten now in operation, with a total area of 1,500,000 hectares.

3. Plowing of 700,000 hectares in 1929.

4. Organization of State farms with optimal individual areas of thirty, forty or fifty thousand hectares, depending upon the available tracts.

5. Division of State farms into sections of three to five thousand hectares located at a distance of not more than fifteen to twenty kilometers from the main farm buildings, a distance of up to twenty-five kilometers to be permitted only in exceptional cases.

6. The greatest possible use of machinery on the State farms through the application of tractors for tillage and other work, motor truck and automobile transportation, and the mechanization of indoor operations.

7. Full completion of construction work on State farms within three years, the absolutely necessary structures of a productive character and living quarters for the administrative personnel and permanent labor force to be put up in 1929. Inexpensive local building materials are to be employed, but the necessary comforts and due compliance with labor protection and sanitation laws are to be assured.

8. The State farms are to be under the direct supervision of the Board of Directors of the Grain Trust.

9. The immediate management of each State farm is to be lodged in a single director and two vice-directors, one of these being in charge of financial matters and the other in charge of production.

To facilitate the execution of this program most of the problems connected with the procurement of supplies and equipment in the domestic and foreign markets have already been worked out. With the collaboration of the Commissariat for Foreign and Domestic Trade the import plan was shaped to provide for these needs and orders for tractors and other agricultural machines were placed abroad during 1928. It was confidently expected that, unless unforeseen obstacles were encountered, adequate equipment and supplies would be on hand in time to begin spring farming operations.

The Index to the sixth volume of the "Soviet Union Review" will be sent free of charge to all readers of the Review.

The Automobile and Good Roads Association

THE Automobile and Good Roads Association ("Avtodor") was organized in September, 1927, as a result of a campaign started by Mr. V. V. Ossinsky-Obolensky, former Director of the Central Statistical Board, in the Moscow "Pravda" in favor of the wider use of automobiles in the Soviet Union. The campaign met with an enthusiastic response and a group was formed to establish this society. The initiating group assembled on September 13, the first meeting of the charter members was held on September 22, and the by-laws of the organization were officially approved on October 5, setting a record for rapidity of incorporation in the U. S. S. R. Were evidence needed, this speed and the subsequent expansion of the association would constitute proof of the timeliness of the idea.

The First Annual Congress of the organization was convened toward the end of October, 1928. During the opening year of its existence the association performed very extensive work. The records showed that at the end of that time it had 59,000 members in 57 sections throughout the territory of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic (Soviet Russia proper). In this connection it is interesting to note that some of the local units were spontaneously organized before the official incorporation of the society. As a matter of fact, many of these local organs were formed for the resurrection of old cars in the "automobile graveyards," which have yielded about 150 machines suitable for use in instructing Avtodor members.

Hitherto in the Soviet Union the automobile has generally been regarded as a luxury and fancy contrivance. The Avtodor has succeeded in altering this point of view and is mainly responsible for the recognition which the "automobilization" idea has received.

Besides carrying on its regular activity the association has participated in the reorganization of the system of road administration and in the elaboration of a project for the introduction of a road tax in kind. The "Avtodor" Presidium, which is divided into six sections, has broadly developed its educational activity and has taken measures to reduce automobile operating costs and to increase transportation by motor boat. For the immediate future the principal task of the association is the active penetration of the rural districts through the establishment of a dense network of branches.

The First Avtodor Congress held last October demonstrated that there is widespread en-

thusiasm and determination to achieve the objects of the association and there can be no doubt that a firm foundation has been laid for steady progress toward this goal in the future.

New Rail and Air Lines

ROUND the eleventh anniversary (Nov. 7, 1928) of the November Revolution, several new railway branches were opened to traffic. Shortly before that date freight from the hinterland of the Kazak Republic (Soviet Central Asia) was moved for the first time over the newly constructed southern division of the Turkestan-Siberian Railroad. On November 4, the first train ran on the Troitsk-Orsk Railroad from Aiderlya Station to Terinsk.

Toward November 7, the track work was scheduled to be completed on the Nyezhen-Priluki branch, 64 kilometers in length, and traffic was to be started on the Kugma-Pavlovo line, serving the important "kustar" (peasant handicraft) industrial region of Nizhni-Novgorod Province.

Besides new branches various railway reconstruction projects were completed around the eleventh anniversary of the Soviet Revolution. The laying of a second line of track was finished on the Vnukovo-Sukovo division of the Moscow-Kiev-Voronezh Railroad and on the Kharkov-Sortirovochnaya section. The opening of a new railway bridge over the Rion River on the Transcaucasian Railroad was also set for the eleventh anniversary of the Revolution.

New North-South Railway Trunk Line

On November 5, train movement was begun on the newly completed Venev-Uzlovaya railway link between the Syzran-Vyazemsk and Ryazan-Uralsk railroad lines. The new road is of great importance because it facilitates the transportation of coal from the Donets Basin to the central industrial region of European Russia and creates a third through trunk to the south, paralleling the Kursk and Kazan Railroads and relieving these two lines of freight routed to and from points in Central Russia. Besides penetrating into the Donets Basin, this new branch also reaches into the lower Volga area via Elets, Gryazi and Stalingrad (formerly Tsaritsyn).

The Black Sea Air Line

A new air line from Moscow to the Caucasus is being organized at present, which will include the following points: Moscow, Kharkov, Rostov-on-the-Don, Sochi, Sukhum, Kutais, Tiflis, Gandja and Baku. This line is to take the place of the Moscow-Baku-Persia line which up to the present was following the route of Moscow-Kharkov-Rostov-on-the-Don—Mineralniye Vody—Vladikavkaz—Makhach Kala and Derbent.

Thus all the health resorts of the Northern Caucasus and of Transcaucasia, as well as a few capitals of the Transcaucasian republics will be connected by a rapid line of communication with Moscow and the Ukraine.

The distance between Tiflis and Moscow may be covered by airplane in the course of one day instead of three and a half days by train.

The new line is one of the most picturesque and interesting airlines for Soviet and foreign tourists. An air trip of forty-five minutes from Sochi to Sukhum; an hour's flight from Sukhum to Kutais, a two-hours' flight from Sochi to Tikhoretzkaya Station will enable the passenger to see the entire mountain range of the Caucasus with the snow covered peaks of the Elbruz and Kazbek.

Women in Public Life in the Soviet Union

THE Second Congress of working and peasant women members of Soviets, which took place last year, showed what an increase there had been in the numerical strength of the women taking part in the Government of the Soviet Union. At present 153,600 feminine workers and peasant women are connected with the work of urban and village Soviets. The percentage of women workers in the Soviets has advanced from 5.7 to 21.4 per cent, while the proportion of peasant women in these bodies has risen from 1 to 11.8. The trade unions include 2,569,000 women, or 26.1 per cent of their total membership. Female workers now hold 8.6 per cent of the posts in the directing organs of the trade-union movement, as against only 4 per cent in 1923. The percentage of women in factory committees has already reached 19.

The number of women engaged in production has also increased steadily. The large scale industries employ 770,742 women, equivalent to 29.1 per cent of their total force. Important progress has been made in raising women workers to more skilled occupations. During the past year alone 5,000 female workers secured higher classification. In recent years thousands of girls have gone through the vocational schools and courses. The feminine enrollment now constitutes 34 per cent of all the students in the factory schools.

About 3,000,000 working and peasant women, including housewives, are connected with the co-operative movement.

The reports of the twenty thousand women worker and peasant correspondents also bear witness to the great cultural and political growth achieved by the female population. This progress is also confirmed by the increase of working and peasant women's newspapers, which now have a combined circulation of 700,000.

The increase of female membership in the Communist Party likewise points to a considerable expansion in the cultural and political activity of the mass of working women. During the past six years the female percentage of the total enrollment has risen from 7.8 to 12.9.

An enormous amount of work had to be done by the Party in order to give the women of the working and peasant classes confidence in their own strength and an understanding of the necessity for their participation in the upbuilding of the new system. In this regard a vital role was played by the meetings of delegates, through which about two and a half million working women passed during the decade. This is the instrumentality which unites the Party with the women, attracting them to the consideration of current problems facing the country, teaching them the business of governing the nation, and the work of socialist construction.

The Party had to exert strenuous efforts to help the working and peasant women to make use of the rights which they had received as a result of the Revolution. Backwardness and ignorance still prevailing among considerable sections of the population even now hinder the complete carrying out of Soviet laws concerning women not only in the rural districts, but even in the cities. The attention of the women's sections of the Party has always been, and for a long time to come will continue to be, focussed upon the struggle against traditional prejudices and upon the effort to lighten the heavy burdens imposed upon women by long-established customs of life. Particular difficulty has been encountered in putting women's legislation into effect in the eastern Soviet Republics and Autonomous Areas, which are the most backward economically and culturally. The Communist slogan of equal rights for Eastern women has met with stubborn opposition on the part of the rich farmers, the Mohammedan clergy and the "beys," causing a great deal of trouble in the actual emancipation of these women. However, in this sphere, too, very extensive results have been attained. Already there are in the Eastern districts 50,000 women members of Soviets and 100,000 have passed through the delegate conventions. The number of literate Eastern women is increasing. The men are being imbued with the new attitude of comradeship toward the women. Along a wide front a determined battle is being fought for the removal of the veil, the abolition of purchase marriage and other remains of harem life.

A new edition of the Constitution of the Soviet Union, containing all amendments adopted since 1923 will be ready for delivery by the end of January. Price: 15 cents.

Homes for Destitute Mothers

IT IS the object of these homes to take homeless, destitute mothers with children off the streets, give them shelter and accustom them to habits of work, thus preventing the abandonment of infants.

The experience of recent years has proved that such institutions are practicable and really necessary. The number opened has far exceeded the provisions of the three-year program for combating homelessness among children. During the past two years twenty-five mothers' shelters have been established (Leningrad, Moscow, Nizhni-Novgorod, Samara, Buguruslan, Kazan, Kursk, Omsk, Tomsk, Saratov, Sverdlovsk [formerly Ekaterinburg], Pokrovsk, Astrakhan, Kostroma, Ryazan, Sarapul, Orel, Pskov, Cherepovets, Taganrog), this despite the ubiquitous housing crisis and the extremely meager funds appropriated for the purpose by the central Government, most of the money for the homes having come from local sources. In certain districts, such as Orenburg, Novo-Sibirsk, Minusinsk, Simferopol, Kerch, Stalingrad, Novorossiysk, where the housing crisis is especially severe and local financial resources are weak, the basis for future community homes is laid by establishing workshops for destitute mothers and sending their children to day-nurseries.

During 1928, the organization of ten new homes was started. The fundamental principle of these institutions is self-maintenance. The mothers are given an opportunity to work and thus pay for their sustenance.

The steadily increasing number of these homes for destitute mothers is expected to play a very important role in the struggle against homelessness and desertion of children.

Odessa Home for Destitute Mothers

A new home for destitute mothers was opened in Odessa last summer. It is housed in a large detached building surrounded by a luxuriant, though not extensive, garden. The clean, comfortable rooms for the mothers and children, the spacious dining room, solarium, pharmacy, baths and showers—all go to make up a little working commune for destitute mothers.

The home is occupied by poor, homeless, unemployed women with nursing children. Here they receive linen, clothing, shoes, a bed for themselves and a cot for the child in an adjoining room. They are visited daily by a physician, and a nurse makes the rounds of the children's rooms each morning. The infants receive medical attention of excellent quality and care.

There is a sewing shop in the home. At first it had only two or three machines in poor condition. Now there are twenty-one good machines

in operation daily. These were purchased by the home with its own funds. Here the mothers learn a new trade under the guidance of a skilled instructress. Not only do they learn, but they also do actual jobs, so that the shop supplies linen for hospitals, day-nurseries, maternity homes, etc.

The institution is supported by funds provided through the local budget. Eighty per cent of the money earned by the women in the sewing shop is applied to their maintenance in the home, while the remainder is turned over to them when they leave. All other expenditures—equipment, fuel, light, clothing, staff salaries—are met by local budget appropriations.

Under the regulations mothers may remain in the home for not more than six months. At the end of this period an effort is made to find outside work for them. This, of course, is not always possible and many of the mothers stay in the home longer than six months. However, during the past year positions in factories and institutions have been provided for sixty-eight mothers. This is of considerable importance, for the number of foundlings left in the Nursing Infants Home has decreased since the Home for Destitute Mothers is in existence. It is scarcely necessary also to emphasize the fact that this institution aids in the struggle against prostitution.

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The Literature of New Russia

TO THE western world, Russian literature is chiefly known through translations of Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Turgeniev, Chekhov, Gorki, and Andreyev. These mighty classics mirrored the currents of thought under Tsarism, showing, in Tolstoy, how the world looked to a religious nobleman of genius; in Dostoyevsky, a mystical appraisal of a world penetrated by a profound psychologist; in Turgeniev, a vacillating spokesman for the liberal intelligentsia at its height; in Chekhov, at its decline; in Andreyev, at its collapse; while Gorki was articulating the aspirations of a growing working class. These classics are still published in the Soviet Union. In connection with the centenary of Tolstoy's birth the State Publishing House ("Gosizdat") issued the great novelist's collected works in 100 volumes.

The writers of the new Russia naturally could not merely resume where their classical predecessors left off. The November Revolution of 1917, destroyed old values and created new ones. In the early days of the Civil War the young Russian writers had to face the problem of reflecting in literature the profound social changes which had taken place. However, the stormy nature of the revolution and its creative aims did not permit them to be content with mere reflection; they were ashamed to be passive mirrors, and aimed to take their place among the active creators of the new civilization. A reaction set in against passive naturalism, and the new literature sought to speak directly to the masses of the Russian people, to proclaim their aspirations in vigorous imaginative terms, and to stir them on to reorganize social consciousness. A striking example of this attempt of literature to participate actively in the march of the new order are the works of Demyan Byednyi. The songs, poems, and agitational rhymes and satires of this talented political poet were directed to the wide masses of the people; they spoke in the language of factory and farm, and stirred militant hopes in the millions of workers and peasants who read them. Demyan Byednyi's verses appeared almost every day in the Soviet press for a number of years, and today he is recognized as the leading popular Communist poet in the country.

Another poet who shaped the themes, form and language of his verse to the mould of the Revolution, is Vladimir Mayakovsky, the leader of the Futurist school in the Soviet Union. Mayakovsky, however, is much more sophisticated than Demyan Byednyi. Raised in Russia's literary Bohemia, Mayakovsky brought to the Revolution the technical experiments of futurism, as contrasted with Demyan Byednyi's simple ballads based on old folk forms. Mayakovsky's "Left March," "Manifesto," "150,000,000," "Lenin" and "Mysteria Bouffe" express the new era in strong, fresh rhythms, words and images, from the point

of view of the intelligentsia which was on the side of the Revolution. Whatever may be the ultimate fate of Mayakovsky's work, it is generally conceded by Soviet critics that he is the most original and the most influential of Soviet poets.

The most eminent poet of the pre-revolutionary intelligentsia who tried to understand the Revolution, instead of running away to European capitals, was Alexander Blok. In his gifted poem "The Twelve" he treats the Revolution as a mystical phenomenon, a cyclonic collapse of culture, a rebellious transvaluation of those values which had been sanctified by religion. He envisions the transvaluation as experienced by a profoundly suffering humanity. In "The Scythians" he develops a similar idea, this time suffused with the spirit of nationalism, conceiving it to be the special mission of the Russian people to link the culture of the West with the barbarism of the East. Blok approached the Revolution as an intellectual whose imagination worked with religious images; and in that sense is generally considered to have failed in grasping the full import of the new era.

A poet completely different from any of the foregoing is Serge Yessenin, whose premature death several years ago deprived Russian literature of perhaps its most gifted lyricist. Yessenin's poetry had its roots in the village, though it also showed the influence of the literary Bohemia in which he moved during the last years of his life. He was the best product of the Imagist school which for a time had considerable vogue in early Revolutionary Russia. Though it used different technical means, this school resembled Futurism in its Bohemian tendencies, and its attempts to shock the reader by the novelty, surprise, rudeness and even vulgarity of its images. The Imagists, however, did not break with old aesthetic traditions, as did the Futurists, who demolished the old aesthetics altogether and to that extent were revolutionaries in art. Because of their preoccupation with the image, which they considered the basic element of poetry, leading poets of the Imagist school like Marienhof, Kuzikov, Grusinov, and Shershenevitch neglected revolutionary themes. These poets enjoyed a brief fragile glory in the early days of the Revolution. Had Yessenin been merely an Imagist he would have passed away with them. But he was more than that. Apart from his superb lyric gifts, he expressed the psychology of the backward peasant. In long poems like "Pugachev," "Inonia" and "Pantonrata," he describes the revolt of the peasants sweeping away city culture including the church and preparing the way for a peasant paradise. Yessenin was not a revolutionist. This declassé child of prosperous peasants never accepted urban civilization based on machine industry. One of his lyrics expresses this in the image of a pony futilely trying to overtake a speeding locomotive. All Yessenin's sym-

pathies are on the side of the old village, living its own isolated and self-sufficient existence independent of the city. However, being a great poet, he could not help understanding that the village had no future. He realized that destiny was on the side of the proletarian revolution and made strenuous efforts to go over to it. These efforts are expressed in poems like "Soviet Russia," "The Letter to a Woman" and "The Passing Word." It was this tragic contradiction between his sympathy and his insight which broke Yessenin's spirit and contributed to his suicide at the age of twenty-eight.

The storm and stress period of the Revolution was naturally favorable for verse and unfavorable for prose. Short poems were the only possible vehicles for the only people who were in a position to write, and who were still influenced by the old culture of the nobility, the bourgeoisie and the city intellectuals; it was the inevitable medium for the individualistic romanticism of transition writers. The end of the civil war brought victory for the workers and peasants, peace and reconstruction. Actual workers, who had been too busy fighting on the battlefield, now turned to reflect on the tremendous experiences through which they had passed. They now had sufficient leisure for sustained prose, and the Soviet Union produced a number of novels which were in effect memoirs of the civil war.

Among the best of these is Furmanov's "Chapayev," describing a revolutionary working man, and "The Revolt," dealing with the civil war. In these chronicles the method is naturalistic, depending on documents and facts which speak for themselves. Both these books breathe a spirit of grandeur, but their power is derived almost wholly from the facts they present.

The civil war is treated romantically in Lebedinsky's "A Week," which has been translated into English. A similar method is employed by Serafimovitch in "The Iron Stream." The romanticism of these writers is far from the European type associated with mysticism and pacifism. These authors portray the heroism of a great historical era and implicitly celebrate the will to act, the collective effort of the masses overcoming enormous difficulties. Both Serafimovitch and Lebedinsky are Communists and are counted among the so-called "proletarian writers." One of the pre-revolutionary novelists who described the civil war from the liberal intellectual's point of view is Veresayev whose "Deadlock" has been translated into English.

The peace following the civil war encouraged the development of the so-called "Fellow-Travelers," writers of various types and talents who were not themselves of the new order, but who accepted the revolution, and were willing to "travel" along with it. They came from the peasantry, the intellectuals and the urban middle-classes. These writers lacked the active spirit

of the Revolution animating the works of Demyan Byednyi, Mayakovsky, Serafimovitch, and Lebedinsky. They retained a good deal of pre-revolutionary passivism, being content to portray events as they saw them, without seeking to extract their full social implications. Because many of these writers had come from classes which enjoyed higher education, their works show great technical mastery. This, combined with their sincerity, enabled them to produce works of great social and literary significance. In fact, it was they who laid the ground for a realistic literature, which Soviet Russia is coming to accept as the most desirable kind at this stage of its development. The "Fellow-Travellers" also wrote their first books around the civil war from which they had just emerged. Among the best of their novels are Vsevolod Ivanov's "Armored Train" and "Colored Winds"; Yakovlev's "October"; Babel's "Red Cavalry" and "Tales"; Seifulina's "Virineya" and "Dung"; Artyom Vesolyi's "The Homeland"; Malishkin's "The Fall of Daira"; Leonid Leonov's "Badgers," and Boris Pilnyak's "Leather Jackets" and "The Naked Year."

The last of these works appeared at a psychological moment. It was the first novel which set itself the task of reflecting Russia's social life in the throes of the civil war. The novel presents the various social strata during the famine period, portraying peasants, city workers, intellectuals, and the Communists—the "people in leather jackets" rebuilding Russia out of chaos. As might be expected from a work of fiction produced by the famine years, the chaotic and the rebellious predominate, while the creative and organizing elements are described in a much weaker manner; the author was not yet able to compose a whole, which at that time was still unclear to him.

The period of the civil war and the days of peace immediately following it also produced Ilya Erenburg's novels, notably "Julio Jurenito," "Trust D. E.," "Nikolay Kurbov" and "Jenny Ney," the last of which was filmed and shown in New York. These works are permeated with scepticism. The author does not seek to penetrate the inner meaning of the events he pictures, contenting himself with being merely paradoxical. This won him a temporary popularity at a time when literary works dealing with the Revolution were a novelty. At present Soviet readers, regardless of their social status, demand more serious achievements from their novelists.

Among the intellectuals of the old regime who personally accepted the new, but whose works could only skim the surface of Revolutionary Russia, is Alexis Tolstoy. His "Aelita," "Engineer Garin's Hyperbole" and "Blue Cities" are well-planned, plastic and entertaining. His more recent works reveal a leaning to the new bourgeoisie created by the NEP (new economic policy, since 1921). A writer of a similar calibre, is

Fedin, whose "Towns and Years," deal with the civil war, and "Transvaal"—with the village under NEP.

Sooner or later Soviet literature was bound to turn from the civil war to the reconstruction period. The best known novel reflecting this transition is Feodor Gladkov's "Cement." The romanticism which marked the proletarian literature of the first period still clings to this book; but this time the problems of the new society are correctly approached and lines are projected pointing to socialist construction. A number of realistic works dealing with the period of peaceful economic growth followed, notably Lyashko's "The Blast Furnace," and Lidin's "The Ships Are Coming."

Soviet writers also began to portray the new types of people evolved by the new society. Excellent portraits are presented in Lebedinsky's "Tomorrow" and "The Commissars"; Tarassov-Rodionov's "Chocolate." Lyashko's novel "The Break" presents the psychology of the Communist worker; while Seifulina's "Virineya" and Gladkov's "Cement" portray types of Soviet women. A number of well-written novels deal with the Soviet youth, notably Malashkin's "The Right Side of the Moon," Panteleymon Romanov's "Without Flowers," and Ognyev's "Diary of a Communist Schoolboy," which has been translated into English.

The peasantry, also, has its place in the new Russian literature. One of the best writers on village life was Neverov, whose "City of Bread," dealing with the famine period in Tashkent, has been translated into English. Fedin's "Transvaal" in a bizarre manner describes the well-to-do peasantry. The transition of the village from the old to the new life is sketched in Karavayev's "The Bears," and "The Chestnut-Colored Skin," and in Akulshin's "Unbound Sheaves" and "Village Whispers." A strange spectacle of village life is presented by Klichkov in "The Sweet German" and other works, which are poems in prose rather than novels. Vsevolod Ivanov in "The Secret of Secrets" has also essayed to portray the present life of the Russian peasant.

The life of city outcasts is described by Leonid Leonov in "The Thief," while petty Soviet officials are portrayed in Katayev's "Embezzlers" and Lidin's "Glotov's Embezzlement."

Novikov-Priboy has written a number of splendid stories of life in the navy, notably "Stories of the Sea" and "The Divers."

In addition to these and numerous other books describing Russian life since 1917, there have appeared a number of imaginative works reevaluating the past in the light of contemporary ideas. Thus the 17th century peasant revolt is the theme of Chapigin's "Stenka Razin"; the 1825 revolt is portrayed in Marich's "The Northern Lights" and in Tynyanov's "Kyukhla"; the revolution of 1905 in Yevdokimov's "Bells"; pre-

revolutionary Moscow in Andrey Byelyi's "The Moscow Crank," and "Moscow Under the Blow"; the period of November, 1917, in Artyom Vesolyi's "Russia Bathed in Blood" and other works. The historical novel is rapidly becoming one of the most favored forms of literature in the U. S. S. R.

The stabilization of Soviet economy in the past few years has matured the new writers considerably. Even their approach to civil war themes reveals a different perspective. Thus Fadeyev's "The Smashup," which relates the story of a group of "partisan" peasants (guerrilla fighters) in Siberia during the civil war, is free of naturalism and romanticism. The novel is ripe and realistic and the images correspond to the contents. Fadeyev also exemplifies the recent trend of Soviet writers to learn technically from the great heritage of the past, more especially from Tolstoy.

Of late the futurist poet Mayakovsky has been experimenting with long epics as in "Lenin," and in personal lyrics like "It." Others have also attempted epics, notably Bagritsky in the "Thoughts About Opanas," and Selvinsky in his constructivist poem "Ulyalyayevshchina." Pasternak, a lyric poet whose "Sister is My Life" made him famous, has published a long psychological poem entitled "Spektorsky" and a historical poem "Lieutenant Schmidt."

The best known of the younger poets are Bezymensky, whose book "The Odor of Life" and other verse collections articulate the attitudes of the Communist youth; and Utkin, Zharov and Svetlov. The futurist group, headed by Mayakovsky and Brick, has produced several talented poets, including Aseyev and Kirsanov; while the lyrical school of which Yessenin was the best representative has found adherents in Oreshin and Nasetkin.

The following works of fiction and poetry by contemporary Russian writers have been translated into English and are available in the United States:

1. FLYING OSSIP. (International Publishers, New York). A collection of short stories, including tales by Boris Pilniak, Vsevolod Ivanov, Seifulina and others.
2. RUSSIAN POETRY. An Anthology, (International Publishers, New York). A collection of poems from Pushkin to the present time, including verses by Mayakovsky, Yessenin, Bezymensky, Marienhof, Ilya Erenburg, Alexander Blok and others.
3. AZURE CITIES. (International Publishers.) A collection of short stories by Alexis Tolstoy, Pilniak, Pantalaimon Romanov, Lyashko, Babel, and others.
4. LITERATURE AND REVOLUTION. Critical essays by Leon Trotsky, (International Publishers).
5. DIARY OF A COMMUNIST SCHOOLBOY, by Ognyev, (Payson and Clark).
6. THE CITY OF BREAD, by Alexander Neverov, (A. A. Knopf).
7. CEMENT, by Feodor Gladkov, (International Publishers). A novel of the reconstruction period.
8. THREE PLAYS, by A. V. Lunacharsky, (E. P. Dutton & Co.). This volume by the Soviet Commissar of Education contains "Faust and the City," "The Magi," and "Vasilisa the Wise."
9. THE NAKED YEAR, by Boris Pilnyak, (Payson & Clark).
10. THE COMMUNIST UNDERGRADUATE, by Ognyev, (Payson & Clark), a continuation of the adventures of Kostja Ryabtzev, the hero of THE DIARY OF A COMMUNIST SCHOOLBOY.
11. THE ROAD TO CALVARY, by Alexis Tolstoy, (Boni & Liveright).

The Pamir Expedition

UNDER the leadership of Mr. N. P. Gorbunov an expedition made up of Soviet and German scientists was sent out last summer to conduct geologic, climatic, ethnographic and other studies of one of the world's largest unexplored regions on the Pamir table-land. In the course of four months the so-called "Blind Spot" of the Pamir—an unexplored area of over 2,500 square kilometers—as well as other little known and rarely visited tracts in the Pamir and Darvaz highlands of Soviet Central Asia were carefully investigated.

During the exploration of this extensive area more than thirty large new glaciers with an aggregate length of over 500 kilometers were discovered. A close study was made of Fedchenko Glacier, the greatest in the world, of which only the first fifteen kilometers of the head end have hitherto been known. This glacier proved to be more than 75 kilometers long, so that it exceeds the Karakorum Glacier, which has previously been considered the longest on the globe.

The expedition also discovered about fifty new mountain peaks ranging from 5,000 to 7,000 meters in elevation above sea-level. Most of them are higher than Mount Elbruz, while all of them overtop Mont Blanc. The passes from the Pamir to the Darvaz were likewise studied and five new ones were discovered, including the Tanyamas and Kamal-Ali Passes, regarding which only legends have been current up to the present time.

In the vicinity of Rang-Kul Lake the expedition explored a legendary cavern, the existence of which has been carefully concealed by the Khirgizes. The entrance was located 4,400 meters above sea-level and 700 meters above the valley. The floor of the cavern was encumbered with huge boulders. Inside there was found an inscription stating that it had been visited in 1898 by the Golovin Expedition, of whose activities there is unfortunately no trace in scientific literature.

Near Murghab the expedition came upon the spot where a large meteorite had fallen a long time ago. A conical pit about 80 meters in diameter and 10 meters deep was still to be seen where it struck.

In the locality of Rang-Kul and Kara-Kul Lakes

a part of the expedition succeeded in carrying out experiments for crossing the wild sheep of the Pamir Plateau with domesticated types. These experiments not only possess great scientific interest, but may also have important practical consequences, opening up new prospects for applied hybridization. The animals used in the experiments have been turned over to the Moscow Zootechnic Institute for further observation.

The expedition took a great many survey photographs of various regions of the Pamir tableland. In addition, much data were collected by the expedition for drawing up geologic maps of the areas visited.

Furthermore, extensive meteorologic observations were taken of solar radiation, which attains its world maximum near Kara-Kul Lake, and the atmospheric dust content was also measured. Numerous hypsometric altitude readings were likewise taken.

On Kara-Kul, Rang-Kul and Shor-Kul Lakes a series of hydrologic observations were carried out, yielding data of the highest scientific value. More than sixteen old water levels were clearly observed in the case of Kara-Kul Lake.

Among the questions of interest to the expedition was that of radio operation at high altitudes. The numerous experiments performed in this connection will render it possible to construct a new type of light radio station for use on high mountains.

The saltpeter deposits discovered by the expedition are of great scientific interest. In one place the expedition found a new kind of yellow ore which is thought to contain uranium and possibly radium. About 240 kilograms of this ore were shipped to the Soviet Academy of Sciences for assay.

A number of geophysical studies were made in the Alai Valley. At the same time large zoologic, botanic and mineralogic collections were prepared. The expedition also did a great deal of additional scientific work, upon which it will not be possible to report until after the material brought back has been elaborated. This will require over a year of expert study.

The expedition conducted its operations under very difficult conditions. Each member had to travel from 1,500 to 3,000 kilometers afoot and on horseback amidst the hardships of a high desert plateau in an entirely uninhabited region and had to live at an altitude of from 3,500 to 5,000 meters for several months.

The achievements of this Soviet-German expedition confirm the desirability and practical expedience of organizing international scientific undertakings, in which rivalry among the scientific workers of different nationalities is advantageously combined with the mutual support derived from their varied scientific experience and technical resources.

The Communist Youth League

THE tenth anniversary of the foundation of the Communist Youth League ("Komsomol") was recently celebrated in the U. S. S. R.. In this connection the following figures showing the development of that organization were published by the Soviet press:

By the end of 1917 Socialist youth associations in Russia totalled 15,000 to 20,000 members. At the first congress of the Communist Youth League called in October, 1918, 22,000 members were represented.

A rapid growth of the Society followed. In September, 1919, the number of members amounted to 96,000, and a year later to 482,000. After a number of "clean-up" campaigns and re-admission proceedings, 247,000 members and 13,000 applicants on probation remained in the League by October, 1922. However, since then the Communist Youth League shows a constant growth. In January, 1923, the League numbered 284,544 members and 19,400 applicants. One year later the figures rose to 406,000 and 94,040, respectively.

By January, 1925, the membership had doubled, numbering over one million (1,020,456 members and 120,250 applicants). By January 1, 1926, the one and a half million mark was passed (1,640,107 members and 129,412 applicants on probation).

In July, 1927, the membership of the Communist Youth League exceeded two millions—2,039,114 members and 117,469 applicants on probation.

Figures given out recently by the Statistical Bureau of the League, as of July 1, 1928, show that the total number of members throughout the Soviet Union amounted to 2,042,245, not including 81,277 applicants on probation. Girls make up 22 per cent of the total. Members (and applicants) of the Communist Party of the U. S. S. R. constitute over 20 per cent of the membership.

With regard to their social position the members (and applicants on probation) of the Communist Youth League are distributed as follows: Industrial workers—35.5 per cent; farm laborers—8.9 per cent; peasants (poor and middle peasants) 44.8 per cent; artisans and persons engaged in home crafts—1.7 per cent; other categories—9.1 per cent.

On July 1, 1928, the "Pioneer" movement (corresponding to the Boy and Girl Scouts in other countries) included 46,505 Pioneer detachments with a membership of 1,727,615. There is also an organization of children of under eight years of age, called "Oktabriata" (October kids) which includes 294,109 children.

Miscellaneous News

Carrying Out of the Manifesto of the Central Executive Committee

Last November the Soviet press published details about the carrying out of the measures announced in 1927 by the Manifesto of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviet Union on occasion of the tenth anniversary of the November Revolution.

In the course of the year following the publication of that Manifesto the seven-hour workday was introduced in twenty-eight enterprises employing about 125,000 persons. In addition to this, official measures were adopted to establish the seven-hour working day during 1929 in 208 other enterprises with an aggregate labor force of over 234,000.

The recommendation in the Manifesto regarding an increase of the Soviet Union budget appropriation for workers' housing construction during the fiscal year 1927-28 from 40,000,000 rubles (\$20,600,000) to 90,000,000 rubles (\$46,350,000) was completely fulfilled. Considerable allotments from this sum were received by Kharkov, Moscow, Leningrad, the Donets Basin and other industrial localities.

During the past fiscal year in accordance with the Manifesto the benefits of social insurance were extended to all war invalids living in the cities and the ranks of the pensioners in the rural districts were considerably enlarged.

Legislation providing for the gradual introduction of old age pensions for peasants was elaborated and was scheduled to be laid before the next Congress of Soviets of the U. S. S. R. to be held in April, 1929.

An agricultural tax law considerably reducing the burden of the poor and middle peasants and entirely relieving the poorest farms of taxation (35 per cent of the farms), was adopted and will be put into effect during the fiscal year 1928-29.

In the course of the elapsed fiscal year two hundred new schools were opened, mostly in the rural districts and in mill and factory towns.

The newspaper reports noted that the program marked out in the Manifesto of the Central Executive Committee on the Tenth Anniversary of the Revolution had been fully carried out during the year.

Tenth Anniversary of Soviet Red Cross

The Red Cross of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic completed the first decade of its existence last November.

During this period the Red Cross Society succeeded in growing into a powerful organization, its membership having passed 286,000 on October

1, 1928. The Society has developed its organizational activity among the masses. At the present time its system embraces 5,335 local units among the general public, over 1,500 of these existing in the rural districts.

The Red Cross has also established more than 8,600 First Aid Clubs, in which 182,000 persons are receiving instruction. It has organized 200 sanitation squads with 7,900 members. In addition it includes associations of larger scope and other bodies devoted to propagating a knowledge of sanitation among the masses. The organization is carrying on extensive work in connection with the struggle against social diseases (tuberculosis, venereal diseases, alcoholism), for which purpose it has 288 special societies at its disposal.

There are also 22 Red Cross divisions for succoring the inhabitants of Soviet territory in the far north and 55 institutions for rendering aid in the event of elemental catastrophes.

To assist the youths' Pioneer* movement the Red Cross Society has created the Young Pioneers' Health Service with 290 units (local stations, children's playgrounds, sanitation camps, etc.).

The Tenth Anniversary of the Russian Red Cross Society was celebrated between November 20 and 27, 1928, this period having been designated as Red Cross Week in order to give publicity to the work of the organization.

Struggle Against Mendicancy

The State Planning Commission of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic recently elaborated a series of measures for the elimination of mendicancy.

Special homes will be established for helpless invalids, and places will be reserved for them in homes for the aged and for invalids, so that all persons of this category may be provided with food and lodging.

Invalids retaining their working capacity will receive increased subsidies in the form of tools and materials, thus restoring them to productive work.

The severest measures will be taken against vicious mendicancy, which includes about 50 per cent of the beggars. These are confirmed parasites. For these it is planned to create work-houses and colonies, where they will be subjected to a labor regime and educational training.

Finally, the particularly vicious mendicants connected with the criminal world will be placed in special isolation colonies, where they will be enabled to work, even as unskilled laborers, and

* Corresponding to the Boy and Girl Scouts in other countries.

where a system of enforced moral treatment will be applied.

All mendicants will be sent provisionally to special distribution points, whence they will be assigned to the various newly established homes and colonies. No beggar will evade this distribution. It will be, so to speak, a sieve through which all mendicants will have to pass.

While the measures projected by the State Planning Commission may not cut off mendicancy at the root, in any event they will prevent its increase.

Japanese Concessions in the Soviet Union

Beginning in 1925, Japan has concluded a series of concession agreements with the Soviet Union for the exploitation of coal, petroleum and timber resources in the Far East.

In its Sakhalin petroleum concession, Japan is at present exploiting the Okho district, which produced 70,000 metric tons of oil in 1927. The concessionaries expected to bring the output of this district up to 150,000 metric tons in 1927-28, which would be equivalent to 50 per cent of the total produced in Japan itself.

During the past two years about five million rubles (over \$2,500,000) have been invested by Japan in equipment for this oil concession. In 1928, work was started on the exploitation of a second district (Nutovo) and prospecting was begun in a third district.

The Japanese coal concession is turning out up to 10,000 metric tons of coking coal a month.

In 1928, operations were commenced on the timber concession, which is expected to yield up to four million cubic feet of wood pulp for use by the Japanese paper industry.

The other Japanese concessions in the Soviet Union have also produced good results.

Production of Electric Power

According to the latest information received from the Soviet Union the total output of electric power turned out during the past fiscal year 1927-28 amounted to 5,000,000,000 kilowatt hours, which is 24 per cent above the output for the preceding fiscal year, 1926-27. Compared with the pre-war period the consumption of electric power shows at present an increase of 257 per cent. On October 1, 1928 the capacity of all electric plants amounted to 1,700,000 kilowatts.

Production of Vodka in the U. S. S. R.

The output of vodka for the past fiscal year, 1927-28 (which ended September 30, 1928) amounted to 43,000,000 vedros (one vedro equals 3.25 gallons), while the corresponding figure for the year 1913 amounted to 87,000,000 vedros, that is, twice as much for the same territory. The total output for the entire Russian Empire for 1913 amounted to 104,700,000 vedros. The domestic

consumption of vodka per capita of the population equalled 0.63 vedros in 1913, and 0.30 vedros in 1927-28.

Membership of the Communist Party of U. S. S. R.

According to the data published by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Party had 1,418,060 members and applicants on probation on July 1, 1928, having increased by 113,589 for the semi-annual period from January 1, to July 1, 1928.

Appointments in Administrative and Diplomatic Service

Mr. N. A. Uglanov was appointed People's Commissar for Labor of the U. S. S. R., a post in which he succeeds Mr. V. V. Schmidt, who recently was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars and of the Council of Labor and Defense.

Mr. V. A. Antonov-Ovseyenko was appointed Plenipotentiary Representative of the Soviet Union in Lithuania, Mr. A. Y. Arosev having been relieved of that post. Prior to this appointment Mr. Antonov-Ovseyenko held the post of Representative of the Soviet Union in Czecho-Slovakia.

Mr. N. G. Tumanov was appointed Trade Delegate of the Soviet Union in France.

A delegation for conducting economic negotiations with Germany was recently appointed by the Council of People's Commissars. The Delegation is headed by Mr. B. S. Stomoniakov, member of the Collegium (Board) of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs.

Russian Art and Handicraft Exposition in New York

A Russian Art and Handicraft Exposition, the most comprehensive ever attempted in this country, will be held in the Grand Central Palace, New York City, February 1 to March 1, under the auspices of the Amtorg Trading Corporation. All the handiwork and art of the Soviet Union will be represented, from the products of the most remote Siberian villagers to the work of the most distinguished artists. The exhibits will include over 250 paintings in oil and water colors and numerous pieces of sculpture, both representing contemporary art in the Soviet Union.

The exhibition will contain hand-woven textiles from all parts of the Soviet Union—rugs, tapestries, laces, linens and shawls; the famous Russian and Ukrainian potteries; a colorful and varied assortment of the peasant wooden-ware from all sections of the country.

Bound Volume VI of the SOVIET UNION REVIEW, 192 pages, containing all the issues published in 1928, as well as a comprehensive index, will be ready for delivery early in January 1929. Price, \$3.00.

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Activities of Trade Unions in the U. S. S. R. Children's Homes in the U. S. S. R. Russian Handicraft Exposition in New York Public Education in the Soviet Union Progress of Soviet White Russia Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
The Trade Unions in the U. S. S. R.:		Russian Handicraft Exhibition in New York:	
Growth of Trade Union Membership	22	Articles on Display	29
Unemployment	22	Palekhi Painting	29
Wages	22	Toys	29
Settlement of Disputes	23	Wall Cabinets	30
Clubs and Circles	23	Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union:	
Public Education in the U. S. S. R.	24	Soviet Proposal to Poland	30
Ten Years of Soviet White Russia	25	Text of Draft Protocol	31
Renascent Armenia	26	Soviet Note to Chairman of Preparatory Disarmament Commission	32
Children's Homes:		Changes in Soviet Diplomatic Service	33
The Maxim Gorky Colony	27	Miscellaneous News	
Children's Town in Odessa	27	Housing Construction	34
The Struggle Against Prostitution	28	Collective Farms	34
		International Agricultural Institute in Moscow.....	34
		Scientific Research in U. S. S. R. During 1928	35
		Cultural Work Among Prisoners in U. S. S. R. ...	35

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The Trade Unions in the U. S. S. R.

THE Eighth Trade Union Congress of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was held in Moscow early in December, 1928. The report on the activities of the affiliated organizations since the Seventh Congress, held in 1926, was presented by Mr. A. Dogadov, of the Central Council of Trade Unions. Some of the passages of his report follow:

"The increase of the industrial working class in the Soviet Union has been accompanied by a rise in the numerical strength of the trade unions. During the past four years the labor force employed by industrial enterprises subject to census reports ("census industry"), i. e., plants with motive power employing not less than 16 workers and plans without motive power employing not less than 30 workers, has augmented as follows: There were 1,626,000 workers of the "census industry" on August 1, 1924; 2,387,000 on August 1, 1926; and 2,802,400 on August 1, 1928. The number of agricultural workers has also increased substantially. Next in order of growth come the structural workers with an accretion of 310,700; the union of the workers of the State trading system with an increase of 170,000; the metal workers union with an increase of 144,000; the railroad workers union with an increase of 114,000; the union of cooks, waiters and domestic workers with an increase of 110,000; and the miners union with an increase of 100,000. Percentage relations indicate more clearly the extent of the growth of the various unions. For example, during the past two years the structural workers union has increased 28.5 per cent, the union of waiters, cooks and domestic workers, 38 per cent, the union of needle workers, 41.4 per cent, and the union of agricultural workers, 24.4 per cent. The unions just mentioned are the ones that have shown the largest numerical expansion for the period in question.

"On August 1, 1928, the total trade union membership of 11,060,000 was distributed as follows among the various Constituent Republics in the Soviet Union: 8,000,000 in the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic; 2,120,000 in the Ukraine; 236,000 in White Russia; 450,000 in Transcaucasia; 48,000 in the Turkoman Republic; and 206,000 in the Uzbek Republic. During the last two years the percentage of all workers included in the trade unions rose from 89 to 91 per cent.

"Simultaneously with the growth of the membership of the trade unions the number of unemployed has likewise increased. From August 1,

1926, to August 1, 1928, the number of unemployed workers has augmented by 653,000. During these two years unemployment has increased 84.2 per cent among members of the union of waiters, cooks and domestic workers, 39 per cent among agricultural workers, and 47 per cent among clerical workers in Soviet institutions. The enormous increase of unemployment among railway workers is due to the extensive practice of temporary jobs on the railroads. These figures indicate that unemployment has affected chiefly those unions which are most accessible to excess rural labor. The Central Trade Union Council of the Soviet Union has devoted special attention to the unemployment problem, although the general causes are well known and are connected with certain phases of Soviet national economy and with the backwardness of agriculture with its continued labor surplus.

"An examination of the distribution of unemployment shows that a large proportion, 28.8 per cent of the members of the food workers' union are jobless. The amount of unemployment is still larger among the membership of the union of waiters, cooks, and domestic workers, reaching 41 per cent. There is extensive unemployment, 38 per cent, among the sugar workers also, due in this case to the seasonal character of production. Unemployment among the members of the union of clerical workers in Soviet trade organizations amounts to 20 per cent; among agricultural workers, 18 per cent; among local transport workers, 17 per cent; and among metal workers, 8.9 per cent. The percentage of unemployment is comparatively small in the industrial unions, but very considerable in those unions covering occupations to which there is a large influx of surplus labor from the rural districts.

"There has been a steady increase in the aggregate membership dues collected by the unions. The total for 1927, was 110,172,000 rubles as compared with 93,405,000 rubles in 1926. The proportion of arrears is not large. Thus, 19 per cent of the members are one month behind in dues payments, 10 per cent are two months behind, and only 2.2 per cent are three months behind.

Wages

"Real wages of workers in large State industries increased 13.4 per cent during the fiscal year 1925-26, as compared with the preceding year; the increase was 12.5 per cent in 1926-27; and 10.8 per cent in 1927-28.

"Money wages have risen uniformly during the

past three years. In large-scale industry the average wage per worker amounted to 70.4 rubles during the fourth quarter of 1927. In the course of two years (fiscal year 1925-26 to fiscal year 1927-28), the average monthly wage went up 23.9 per cent. This increase is unevenly distributed among the various groups of workers. During the two years in question the metal workers received wage increases of 28 per cent; textile workers, 23 per cent; miners, 18.6 per cent; chemical workers, 24 per cent; leather workers, 23 per cent, etc.

"Average wages in the large industries during the fiscal year 1927-28 stood 23 per cent above the pre-war level, and they were 27 per cent above during the closing quarter. The wages of railroad workers have advanced at about the same rate. In May, 1928, the average monthly earnings of the railway worker were 75 rubles, or 19.2 per cent above the pre-war figure.

"In comparison with the preceding fiscal year the gross daily output during 1926-27 amounted to 112 per cent, while the average daily wage amounted to 110 per cent; the corresponding figures for the fiscal year 1927-28 were 114 per cent and 108.5 per cent. Accordingly, for these two years there was a rise of 27.9 per cent in gross daily output and 19.5 per cent in daily wages. This indicates marked progress toward increased labor productivity, a development which is to be explained by the re-equipment of plants and factories and the introduction of efficiency methods now under way, as also, doubtless, by the better utilization of labor, time, and by other improvements.

Settlement of Disputes

"In accordance with the recommendations made by the previous Trade Union Congress, which devoted a great deal of attention to the delays and disputes arising in connection with the renewal of collective agreements, a new departure was taken toward the settlement of conflicts through conciliation boards. During the past year substantial progress was made toward the adjustment of disputes by the more normal method of concluding collective agreements guaranteeing not only the greatest possible justice, but also greater responsibility on the part of both the employing enterprises and the trade union bodies. For example, in 1927, the industrial unions settled 16 per cent of their conflicts through conciliation boards, whereas 24 per cent were so adjusted in 1928. The corresponding percentages for unions outside of the industrial group were 21 and 30, respectively. For all unions they were 19 and 29.

"In conjunction with the settlement of union disputes it is appropriate to say a few words concerning strikes. During 1926 there were 337 strikes in the Soviet Union, during 1927 there were 396, and from January to June of 1928 there were only 90, according to preliminary data. There was thus a sharp decrease in strikes dur-

ing the past year. Furthermore, the figures show that there was also a large decline in the number of workers participating in strikes last year. Strikers in State enterprises numbered 32,900 in 1926, 20,100 in 1927, and 8,900 during the first half of 1928. Strikes are steadily becoming a factor of less importance in State enterprises.

"The following figures show the results of strikes in State enterprises: disputes settled in favor of the workers—34 per cent in 1926 and 36 per cent in 1927; settled partly in favor of workers—33 per cent in 1926 and 32 per cent in 1927; against the workers—32 per cent in 1926 and 31 per cent in 1927. It may be confidently stated that with improved functioning of the trade unions and the consequent better satisfaction of the membership the number of strikes and strikers will diminish year by year.

Salaries of Office Workers

"The wages of clerical workers in the Soviet Union are, of course, closely dependent upon the State budgets. The budget of the Soviet Union has grown from 4,039,000,000 rubles (over \$2,000,000,000) for the fiscal year 1925-26 to 6,088,000,000 rubles (over \$3,000,000,000) for 1927-28. There has been an increase of 50 per cent in the Federal budget and 56 per cent in local budgets. The salaries of clerical workers in Federal departments rose 9 per cent during the fiscal year 1926-27 and 2.7 per cent during the first half of 1927-28.

"School salaries were increased 17 per cent during the fiscal year 1926-27 and 15 per cent during the first half of 1927-28. Hospital workers received salary increases of 15 per cent in 1926-27 and 6.3 per cent during the first half of 1927-28. Taking individual groups of brain workers, we find that elementary school teachers in the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic received salary increases amounting to 38 per cent during the past two fiscal years, high school teachers 55 per cent, agronomists 38 per cent, and hospital personnel 32 per cent. Therefore, notwithstanding the limited resources of central and local budgets, there has been a steady rise in the salaries paid to employees of educational, public welfare and administrative institutions.

Trade Union Clubs and Circles

"The number of clubs attached to the trade unions increased from 3,418 in 1926 to 3,760 in 1928; their membership shows a corresponding increase from 1,020,000 in 1926 to 1,192,000 in 1928.

"The number of trade union circles engaged in various cultural and educational activities shows likewise a considerable increase. The membership of the circles formed in the various clubs advanced from 649,000 in 1926 to 873,000 in 1928. Young people make up 59 per cent of the membership of these circles."

Public Education in the U. S. S. R.

A comparison of the present status of public education in the Soviet Union with the pre-war condition is possible only if due allowance is made for various special circumstances. In the first place, it must be observed that the sphere of public education is much larger than before the Revolution. For example, pre-school training, general civic education and other supplementary features have been added. New items, such as appropriations for student subsidies (scholarships), for the care of homeless children, and for other special purposes have made their appearance in the educational budget.

Furthermore, educational programs have undergone marked change, sometimes being diametrically opposed to the pre-war aims, for instance, with regard to the education of children. Thus, only by taking into account these new conditions and objectives is it possible to compare the present system of public education in the Soviet Union with that of pre-war times.

Subject to these reservations, the accompanying brief statistics may be accepted as illustrative of the relative state of public education in Soviet territory before and after the Revolution. The figures are taken from data compiled by the Central Statistical Board of the Soviet Union.

Primary Education

School Year	Establishments		Pupils	
	Number	Percentage of 1914-15	Number	Percentage of 1914-15
1914-15	104,600	100.0	7,235,000	100.0
1923-24	87,530	83.4	7,075,000	98.0
1924-25	91,090	87.1	8,430,000	116.5
1926-27	109,040	104.2	9,900,000	137.0
1927-28	116,370	111.2	10,500,000	145.2

The preceding table shows that the worst year for primary education was 1923-24, when the adverse effects of the famine and the transfer of education to local budgets before these were well established, made themselves felt. The following year witnessed the beginning of steady progress, which still continues. The number of schools and the enrollment are both increasing.

The development of secondary education is shown by the following table:

Secondary Education

School Year	Establishments		Pupils	
	Number	Percentage of 1914-15	Number	Percentage of 1914-15
1914-15	1,790	100.0	564,000	100.0
1920-21	4,163	232.6	569,300	101.0
1925-26	1,640	91.6	706,800	125.0
1926-27	1,724	96.3	791,500	140.0
1927-28	1,811	107.0	896,500	154.0

The enormous increase (over 130 per cent) in the number of high schools recorded for the scholastic year 1920-21 was due to unrestrained revolutionary enthusiasm, which stimulated the

more or less arbitrary establishment of very many new secondary schools throughout the country. The ephemeral character of this profusion is rendered manifest by the fact that the number of students for the same year rose only 1 per cent. The inevitable reduction of this abnormal growth ensued promptly, being accelerated by the famine, and the process of high school retrenchment continued down through the scholastic year 1925-26. It is significant, however, that the latter year brought a substantial increase of 25 per cent in the enrollment. Since then the number of high schools has augmented as well as the registration.

As illustrated by the next table, vocational education has been distinguished by its unabated growth from the Revolution onward:

Trade and Vocational Education

School Year	Establishments		Students	
	Number	Percentage of 1914-15	Number	Percentage of 1914-15
1914-15	2,877	100.0	267,000	100.0
1920-21	3,727	129.5	293,000	110.0
1926-27	5,424	178.0	594,000	222.4
1927-28	5,992	208.3	639,000	239.3

Figures showing the number of higher educational establishments and their attendance before and after the Revolution, are given in the table below:

Higher Education

School Year	Establishments		Students	
	Number	Percentage of 1914-15	Number	Percentage of 1914-15
1914-15	91	100.0	124,000	100.0
1921-22	278	305.5	206,000	180.0
1926-27	131	144.0	160,000	129.0
1927-28	129	142.0	157,600	126.5

Here again there was excessive expansion during the years immediately after the Revolution. This has been followed by persistent curtailment in accordance with the actual resources and capacities of the country. It is noteworthy that under the stabilized system now attained the number of higher educational institutions in Soviet territory is 42 per cent greater than before the war, while the student registration is 26.5 per cent larger.

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Ten Years of Soviet White Russia

ON January 1, 1929, the White Russian Soviet Socialist Republic celebrated the tenth anniversary of its proclamation. White Russia is one of the six Constituent Republics of the U. S. S. R. and borders on Soviet Russia proper in the east and the north, the Soviet Ukraine in the south, and Poland in the west. It had a population of 4,983,900 under the census of December, 1926, and an area of 126,792 square kilometers. It occupies six former counties of the Minsk province and parts of the old Smolensk, Vitebsk and Gomel provinces.

Under the Tsars White Russia was a pale of settlement of the persecuted Jewish population. It suffered greatly from periodical pogroms and from inter-racial struggles. Between 1914 and 1920 it was a field for military operations, first during the World War and afterwards during the Soviet-Polish War.

The racial composition is: White-Russians 72.2 per cent, Russians proper 14.1 per cent, Jews 10.6 per cent, Poles 2 per cent, other nationalities 1.1 per cent.

The country is agricultural, the soil largely marshy and lacking in fertility. The Soviet Revolution delivered to the White-Russian peasantry over 3,200,000 acres of land formerly held by the landed nobility. The farming area available to the peasants has been increasing year by year, thanks to intensified improvement work, for which the Soviet Government of this young Republic does not stint funds. Some 250,000 acres have been added to the farm lands by drainage, and this will be increased to 5,400,000 acres during the next three years.

The principal industries are: wood-working, linen, matches, leather, confections, oil pressing, glass, paper, foodstuffs. During the past few years the following industries have made large advances: Machine building, knitting, tobacco, optical.

Before the Revolution there were no White-Russian schools at all. Attempts to give instruction in the White-Russian mother tongue exposed the teachers to exile as rebels. Furthermore, in Tsarist times White Russia was a backward land with very few schools of any kind. At present there are on the territory of White Russia four colleges, over thirty technical schools, thirty vocational schools, scores of factory schools, and an immense system of pre-school institutions and educational courses for adults.

The White-Russian University and Agricultural Academy has already graduated more than fifteen hundred fully qualified specialists: physicians, teachers, lawyers, economists, agronomists, and foresters, all of whom are working to raise the

economic and cultural level of the Republic. Children of workers and poor and middle peasants make up sixty per cent of the student body in the higher educational institutions of the White-Russian Soviet Republic.

Last autumn the Institute of White-Russian Culture, which was established several years ago, was converted into the White-Russian Academy of Sciences, thus enriching the country with a great scientific research institution which will have a very wide range of activity, including economics, natural resources, language, literature, music, art and other subjects.

Another important White-Russian institution, the Agricultural and Forestry Institute, founded about two years ago, is gradually becoming the general staff of the struggle to restore the productivity of the land.

White-Russian literature has also made valuable contributions to the country's culture during the past few years, a number of talented young writers and poets having arisen. The White-Russian theater and fine arts are likewise showing development.

The national minorities living in White Russia, Poles, Jews and Great-Russians (Russians proper)—have not fallen behind in progress and they enjoy every opportunity for the development of their own cultures. These nationalities have numerous high schools of their own, training schools for teachers, special departments in the White-Russian University, and sections in the Academy of Sciences.

The Soviet Republic of White-Russia has opened up better prospects for the Jews by making it possible for them to engage in agriculture, thus rescuing them from the misery of the stagnant small urban settlements.

The White-Russian Republic, which has been backward industrially, is now developing rapidly in this regard. Many new factories and mills are being constructed. Among the more important may be mentioned an agricultural machinery factory at Gomel, an aggregation of woodworking plants in Bobruisk, a sewing machine factory in Minsk, and others. In the Osinovsk peat marshes near Orsha, work is being pushed on a regional electric power plant, which will soon render practicable the more rapid development of the principal industrial districts of White Russia: Vitebsk, Orsha, and Moghilev. The pre-war level of industry has long since been surpassed. In the course of the past three years industrial output has increased sixty per cent, while the ranks of labor have been enlarged forty per cent.

The cities of White Russia are undergoing reconstruction. The foremost in this respect is Minsk, the capital of the White-Russian Soviet Republic. The city is growing steadily. Among

the improvements already introduced by the Soviet administration are a sewer system, a new electric plant, magnificent municipal buildings, and blocks of homes for workers. Electric car lines are under construction. A large university town is being built. At the present rate of construction in two or three years Minsk will become one of the best built municipal centers in the Soviet Union.

Economic and Cultural Progress of Soviet Armenia

THE history of the Armenian people is one of heartrending tragedy. Once a nation of thirty million, occupying the whole of Mesopotamia and Syria, with flourishing industries and arts, they have been reduced by bloody wars and massacres to four and a half millions, one million of whom now live in Soviet Armenia, which is part of the Transcaucasian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic.

The focus of Armenia is the Valley of Ararat, which is a level plain stretching for many miles between the peak of the same name and Mount Alagez. This valley with its deep layer of volcanic soil is one of the most fruitful areas in the world and, like the Nile flood plain in Egypt, capable of yielding three bounteous crops a year. For this purpose it is necessary to score the land with a dense network of canals, irrigating hundreds of thousands of hectares with water from mountain streams and lakes.

New Soviet Armenia has already begun this great irrigation work. In fact, irrigation projects have been actively pushed forward for some time past. Thus, the Shirak Canal in Leninakan (formerly Alexandropol) District was festively inaugurated in 1925. This canal irrigates ten thousand hectares of land in the Lori Hills by diverting the waters of the Arpadash River to the fields through a tunnel. Work has been in progress since 1926 at Echmiadzin, the center of the Ararat Valley, on a project for the irrigation of 75,000 hectares of volcanic land. About 13,000 hectares of cotton plantations are already being irrigated at this point, while 3,500 additional hectares are watered by the Zenda River through a diverting canal.

Extensive educational and cultural activity is being carried forward in Armenia along with the great work of economic reconstruction. Before the Revolution there was only one school per hundred square kilometers in this territory. Altogether Armenia had 371 schools with 26,000 pupils before the war. In 1928 there were 748 schools with an enrollment of 67,000 and a splendidly equipped new university at Erivan, the capital of Soviet Armenia.

Before the Revolution there were only 32 phy-

sicians and 150 hospital beds in the whole country. All of these were, of course, in the two large cities of Armenia, Erivan and Alexandropol, and served only the urban population. The cultural renaissance has given the country a number of new hospitals with a total of 1,077 beds. In 1928 there were 259 physicians and 1,311 other medical workers.

The land is rising to life again from its ruins and ashes and it is blossoming anew with orchards and vineyards. The peasants of Echmiadzin District, united in a cotton growers association, have increased their cotton plantings to 15,000 hectares. In the hill pastures, where the farmers formerly did not know how to get rid of milk, there are ten large cheese factories in operation already and hundreds of dairy product cooperatives.

The population of Armenia is increasing at the remarkably rapid rate of 3½ per cent annually, which, if maintained, will double the population of the country in twenty years. This is the best evidence of the improving welfare of new Soviet Armenia.

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Children's Homes

THE Maxim Gorky Colony for Homeless Children, which is located in a former monastery at Rizhovo Station not far from Kharkov, the capital of the Ukraine, has been in existence for eight years.

Within its ancient walls over four hundred homeless orphans, children and youths, find friendly shelter and comfortable lodging and become useful members of society. Former thieves, ruffians, and even bandits and murderers have earned here the honored title of workingmen. Their earnest, painstaking labor has turned the seventy hectares belonging to the institution into a model farm, where sweet "Duchesse" pears and the world-famed "Ukrainka" wheat are produced in abundance, where fragrant roses are grown in winter and magnificent chrysanthemums bloom in autumn, while fat carp are bred in the artificial ponds.

The same hands that formerly wielded the clasp-knife have built barns for the cattle with the stones of ruined monastery walls and have equipped the pride of the colony—a woodworking shop, which is a real factory where hundreds of children fill important orders, such, for instance, as 100,000 wooden cases for the Donetz coal mines.

The children have converted the old church into a club, where extensive educational, cultural and art work is done, as one result of which illiteracy has been entirely eliminated. Over fifty inmates have been sent from the colony school to factory schools, workers' high schools ("rabfacs"), and higher institutions in Kharkov, Odessa, Kiev and other Ukrainian cities. Many children have returned to normal social life from the colony and are successfully working in various factories and enterprises.

The members of the colony are entirely self-sufficient, attending themselves to all their needs. They cook, bake, launder, make their own clothing and shoes, their own wagons and harness, take care of their own electric plant, moving picture and radio apparatus, etc.

The children are divided into brigades, each performing its own specific tasks. For example, the first brigade looks after the electric power plant, the woodworking factory, the blacksmith shop, etc.; the second consists of cooks, bakers, gardeners, stable-boys, etc.

When newcomers arrive, the children established in the colony endeavor to create an atmosphere which will make the recruits feel at home, interested in their work and distract them from any thought of running away. Most of the attempts to run away, do, in fact, occur during the

first days. No effort is made to catch the run-aways, and no one is held in the colony by force. It is always hoped that if some one runs away, he will come back of his own free will. In most instances this is really the way it turns out.

The colony maintains the closest relations with Maxim Gorky, after whom it has been named. The children and teaching staff are in continual correspondence with Gorky, who is keenly interested in the work and gives advice and counsel not only to the youths, but also to their preceptors.

Children's Town in Odessa

Children's Town in Odessa is an experiment in the creation of a great children's commune, the laboratory of a new social order and new laws of living.

The town consists of dainty cottages scattered in gardens and along shady alleys and streets planted with chestnut trees and acacia. It is kept in model order and spotless cleanliness by the youthful inhabitants themselves.

Little street cleaners on regular duty may be seen sweeping the sidewalks and carrying off refuse in cans, while other children are hurrying hither and thither with wheelbarrows, bags and baskets. In the gardens before the cottages groups of children through with their work are lying on the grass, playing, reading books and pottering in the flower beds.

The town counts a population of 2,100 and there are five local schools, including one with a seven-year course and a separate vocational school, as well as five workshops: a tailor shop, a carpentry shop, a locksmith's shop, a shoemaker's shop, and a bindery. The bindery is famous in Odessa for its neat work and is always kept busy with orders. The town's requirements are very well provided by its own bakers, tailors, and locksmiths.

There is an irrigated truck garden of 27 acres, sowed and tilled by the children themselves, and there is also a seed-grain farm with a live-stock breeding division. Two hundred children work steadily from day to day on the 1,200 acre farm under the guidance of an agronomist, develop the production of high-grade seed for the neighboring peasants, and breed pure strain hogs and poultry. The economic enterprises of the town bring in an annual revenue of 20,000 to 25,000 rubles. Farmers come to it from long distances for selected seed.

The Children's Town has an excellently organized system of self-government with an Executive Committee at its head. Numerous subdivisions of this committee are at work on all branches of life inside and outside of the houses. Each cottage has its own council or soviet.

Cultural life in the community goes forward in a healthy and vigorous manner. In addition to

what may be called a central municipal club, there are local clubs and each house has its own "Red Corner" and billboard newspaper.

The garden city is shady and flowery. The plots before the houses are colorful with blossoms and well cultivated by the little town inhabitants.

The town possesses a library of 17,000 volumes, which is assiduously utilized by the inhabitants.

Relations between the children and the adult teaching personnel are splendid. A healthful community discipline prevails. The older people are almost never heard or seen and, nevertheless, there are neither squabbles, nor quarrels, nor din. In this regard "grown-up" cities might profitably take a lesson from Children's Town.

The Struggle Against Prostitution

THE struggle against prostitution is one of the tasks which the Soviet system is vigorously attacking in its steady progress toward a new standard of life. This fight is based upon the vocational education of homeless women and their cultural enlightenment. In many cities of the Soviet Union there are special sanitariums, called "prophylactoria," where women of the street are placed in healthful surroundings conducive to normal work and cultural recreation.

The Bauman "Prophylactorium" in Moscow may be cited as a typical institution of this sort. It was established four years ago and has succeeded in extending its beneficial activity considerably during this short time.

At present in the clean, light rooms of the "prophylactorium" the merry whirr of eighty sewing machines and thirty-nine knitting machines may be heard. One hundred and sixty-eight prostitutes have quit the squares, stations and night lodging houses to take up sewing. They have come here of their own free will without compulsion and without obligation, and they may leave at any moment. But they do not leave. They have forever abandoned the street life with its temptations.

Most of the women in the institution are peasant and working girls. Three-fourths of them are victims of unemployment.

During three years 646 peasant and 109 working girls have been treated in the "prophylactorium." Over half of them are single girls without family between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five.

The workshops connected with the "prophylactoria" do not differ in any way from the ordinary factory as regards strictness and precision of operating standards. During the first six weeks of a woman's stay in the "prophylactorium" some small leeway is allowed with reference to required

output, but as soon as the working routine and the collective group effect have dislodged street habits and capricious whims, the internal rules and regulations assert their inflexible sway.

Each woman earns 41 rubles a month on the average. Living a communal life with prepared meals furnished, she is spared many petty cares. Medical treatment is provided in a fully equipped department in the institution itself. Thus the women may devote their entire leisure time to social activity and self-education. Each inmate participates in several circles. Especially popular is the sewing and cutting circle, which improves the qualifications of the workers and prepares them for future employment in outside factories.

An interesting and spritely billboard newspaper, "On a New Track," is issued regularly.

After a year of life in the "prophylactorium," by which time she has received adequate schooling and good working qualifications, the woman is directed to outside employment through a special commission.

Experience has demonstrated that the women sent to the mills and factories make an excellent showing both in their work and in their social behavior. Many former inmates of these institutions have even worked their way up to elective positions, having become members of factory committees and District Soviets.

Such is the policy pursued by the Soviet Union with regard to the re-education of unfortunate women into active members of the working class.

Russian Handicraft Exposition in New York

THE arts and handicrafts for which the Russian peasant has long been famous throughout Europe will be placed on exhibit for the first time in this country when the Russian Art and Handicraft Exposition opens for one month at the Grand Central Palace, Lexington Avenue and 46th Street, New York, on February 1st. Besides exhibiting an amazing diversity of peasant art products, the exposition includes a number of modern paintings and pieces of sculpture. To make it more complete, Russian antiques are on display, and an assortment of implements wrought of Caucasian metals.

The ingenuity and craftsmanship which go into the making of these expressions of the Russian peasant's inherently artistic nature excite admiration at sight. It is only after learning the extreme handicaps under which the peasant often works that one can fully realize the slow patience and painstaking care that he puts into his work. This quality, however, is readily understandable in one whose life is lived close to the soil; one

whose years of sowing and harvesting and whose observation of the inevitably regular rotation of crops cannot but imbue him with some of the same inexorable patience, the same enduring creativeness.

What the Western mind finds especially difficult to conceive is that a large number of these articles, many of them the product of a highly developed craft—including the finest miniature paintings of modern times—are made by the Russian peasant after the close of a hard day's toil in the fields. Especially in the long winter evenings following the end of the agricultural season, does the Russian peasant turn his attention to his craft.

The exposition represents, in substance, a vivid Handicraft Map of the Soviet Union. Every part of the U. S. S. R., all of its native peoples, is represented.

Design Governed by Locality

Generally—except, as in the instance of mammoth-bone articles, for which the medium can be found only in a specific locality—the same product of peasant handicraft may be found in different parts of the country. Linen, for example, is made in the north, in Central Russia, and in the Ukraine, further south. The same is true of tapestries, rugs, and other fabric materials. As in every native art, the particular form of any article, its coloring, etc., is to a considerable extent governed by the locality of its manufacture and conditioned by the life and needs of the artisan. In the past, the relatively primitive life of the Russian peasant and the consequent necessity of inventing for himself, has made it possible for him to realize his individual conceptions of form and color. Very often the result is not only ornamental and useful but also is in itself an artistic achievement. The result is a highly developed collective art.

An apt illustration of the distinct difference in color, design and motif, depending on the district of its manufacture, is the Russian linen. From the north, where winters are long, come the pure, white, refined linens; from Central Russia come linens with symbolic, supernatural motifs, designs having their origin in mystic legends and religious tales; from the Ukraine, in the warmer south, come the natural designs, such as flowers, set in splashes of vivid color.

Articles on Display

The comprehensiveness of the exposition can be seen by a glance at a partial list of the articles which are on display. These include the famous majolica pottery of the potters of Poltava, in the Ukraine; beautifully decorated chinaware from the environs of Moscow and Leningrad; solid oak carved desk sets from the province of Moscow; the beautiful, characteristically Russian wall

cabinets; rugs and tapestries from Southern Russia and the Caucasian mountains, made in a remarkable variety of design and weave, preserving the old Russian traditions and poetic legends which are woven into them—legends which would otherwise be lost in the dust of centuries; precious and semi-precious stones from the Urals, including topazes, emeralds, beryls and aquamarines; nested and screwed, highly polished and brightly colored educational toys and carved replicas of Russian scenes; cigarette and cigar boxes made of one piece of Karelian birch; laces, linens and shawls, beautifully colored with vegetable dyes and artistically embroidered; the famous Palekhi paintings on papier-mache boxes; brightly colored "Fedoskino" boxes; decorative articles carved out of mammoth bone by the Siberian villagers; rare Caucasian silverware by old Russian masters—curiously wrought implements fashioned by a lost art; and more modern silverware, made near Moscow; decorated wooden lacquer ware, some of which is used by peasants for hot foods.

Added to this variety will be an exhibition of over three hundred modern paintings and pieces of sculpture and over five hundred drawings and etchings.

Palekhi Painting

Of all the peasant products, perhaps the most exquisite are the Palekh boxes. The art of miniature painting on papier-mache boxes is an inheritance of the Russian peasants of Palekh, in Central Russia, it having been handed down from father to son for centuries. At first dealing with religious subjects only, these former holy-ikon painters turned to more immediate themes with the progressively lessening demands for ikons—a demand which is now practically non-existent. For their themes, the handful of acknowledged masters of the art of miniature painting turns to Russian fairy tales and legends, or to the life that is familiar to them, or, more lately, to the symbolic picturization of the life of the New Russia—a life whose inherent vitality was given release for self-expression by the Revolution, after which the Russian peasant began to live a less restricted life.

The Palekhi artists have become known as the best of the miniature painters. What immediately impresses one on first sight is the fineness of line and detail work, reminiscent of the ancient Chinese scroll painters, and the vividness of their colors, which seem to live on the black lacquered lids.

Toys

The white wooden toys which will be displayed are made in the village of Bogorodskoye, in the district of Moscow. The whole village consists of less than 130 houses and all the inhabitants take part in the making of these toys during their idle

months. Children of school age do the simplest carving, while adults achieve a more artistic and sculptural finish. The instruments used are of the simplest type and it can be said they are made entirely by hand. Among these toys can be found dancing bears and men, stringworked peasants sipping tea out of saucers, sleighs drawn by three horses, animals, and many others too numerous to list. The colored and highly polished nested and screwed educational toys, such as eggs, balls, mushrooms, etc., are also made in the district of Moscow, largely in the villages of Podolsk and Zvenigorod. These, requiring a higher finish and more mathematical accuracy, are made by adults only and some machinery, such as the lathe, is necessarily used in their manufacture.

Wall Cabinets

The most characteristically Russian article on exhibit will be the wall cabinets, made in Abramtzevo, in Central Russia. They are made

in such diverse sizes and designs that it is difficult to list the uses they can be put to. Some can be used to store perfume bottles and other toilet articles, a large number are suitable for smoking cabinets, others for books, some can be used as telephone closets, etc. These cabinets, despite often intricate carving and design, leave a charming impression of simplicity. They represent an effort to preserve in all their elemental beauty, untouched by modern city influences, the original Russian designs and motifs which can be traced back to Arabian and Egyptian origin. In one cabinet may be found designs of many different periods, centuries old.

Although similar expositions of Russian arts and crafts have been held in various capitals of Europe, nothing like it has before been attempted in America. The exposition will serve to introduce these products, which combine a rare decorative value with extreme usefulness, into the American art and giftware market.

Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union

ON December 29, 1928, the Soviet Government, through Mr. M. Litvinov, Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, proposed to the Polish Government to make the Kellogg pact immediately effective as between the Soviet Union, Poland and Lithuania. The Soviet note, as delivered to the Polish Minister in Moscow, reads as follows:

"On August 24, 1926, the Soviet Government, through its Plenipotentiary Representative in Warsaw, handed to the Government of the Polish Republic the project of a Non-Aggression Pact. This step of the Soviet Government was a result of the preliminary negotiations which took place between the two States upon the initiative of the Soviet Government. It was also an expression of that line of foreign policy to which the Government of the U. S. S. R. has adhered without variation in its relations with other states, and in accordance with which it came forward with its disarmament proposals, first at the Moscow conference called as far back as 1922 and subsequently in the Preparatory Disarmament Commission of the League of Nations.

"Considering general disarmament as the most real guarantee of the preservation of peace, the Soviet Government at the same time regards non-aggression agreements as an important factor which might contribute to the prevention of military conflicts between states.

"The Soviet Government is forced to state that although negotiations with the Polish Government concerning the conclusion of such an agreement were started several years ago, they have

not made any headway in spite of the most earnest efforts of the Soviet Government to reach an agreement.

"Considering the importance of signing a non-aggression agreement for strengthening and developing Soviet-Polish relations and for the consolidation of general peace, the Soviet Government regrets that its efforts have led to no results, and, on its part, again declares that its desire to sign a non-aggression agreement with the Government of the Polish Republic remains unchanged.

"While the negotiations concerning the conclusion of a non-aggression pact between Poland and the Soviet Union remained without results, the Polish Government, having been invited to participation in the Kellogg Pact, that is, in a multi-lateral agreement concerning the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy, signed that Pact in Paris, jointly with other states on August 27, 1928. This agreement was subsequently adhered to by the Soviet Government.

"After receiving an invitation to adhere to the Paris Agreement (Kellogg Pact), the Soviet Government in a note addressed to the French Government pointed to the absence in the Pact of an obligation concerning disarmament, which is the most essential element for guaranteeing peace; to the insufficiency and indefiniteness of the very formula for the outlawry of war; and to the existence of other circumstances weakening its significance. The Government of the Soviet Union continues to consider that this Pact does not give

those guarantees for the non-violation of peace which are provided for in the pacts of non-aggression and non-participation in hostile combinations that were proposed by it.

"In so far, however, as the Soviet Government has considered that the Paris Agreement (Kellogg Pact) imposes upon its participants certain obligations of a peaceful character, it has without delay adhered to it, and, taking most seriously all its actions in the field of securing peace, it would like to see the agreement enter into force as soon as possible, in particular in the mutual relations of the Soviet Union and its nearest neighboring states.

"Unfortunately the validity of the Paris Pact is conditioned, in accordance with its Article 3, upon the ratification of the Pact by fourteen specified states. In the course of four months which have elapsed since the day the Pact was signed, not one of those fourteen states has effected that ratification, a circumstance which may cause an apprehension that for a long time to come the agreement may remain a document which is not formally binding for anybody. Obviously if the agreement is to be made effective earlier between separate Governments, such Governments must sign a separate, additional document.

"Considering that the securing of peace in Eastern Europe is a matter of first-class importance, and that from among the western states bordering on the Soviet Union the Paris Pact is signed by Poland, the Soviet Government has decided to apply to the Polish Government with a proposal to sign the enclosed Protocol, according to which the Paris Pact for the renunciation of war would enter into force between the Soviet Union and Poland immediately after its ratification by these two states, regardless of the condition provided for in Article 3 of the Pact. By signing the aforesaid Protocol the Polish Government would, of course, assume the moral obligation of speedily effecting, in the regular manner, the simultaneous ratification both of the Paris Pact and of the Protocol itself. As regards the U. S. S. R., its adherence to the Paris Pact has already been ratified by the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviets.

"By directing your attention, Mr. Minister, to Article 4 of the Protocol through which opportunity is given for the signing of the Protocol by any other states that have adhered to the Paris Pact or as soon as they have adhered to it, the Soviet Government expresses the firm conviction that the realization of its proposal, at the present time, within the limits of the mutual relations of the Soviet Union and Poland, will to a considerable extent contribute to the consolidation of peace in Eastern Europe.

"I consider it necessary to point out that by its present proposal the Soviet Government does not withdraw the proposal for a non-aggression pact which it had submitted to the Polish Government

before, and whose conclusion would further contribute to a still greater consolidation of the good-neighborly relations between the U. S. S. R. and the Polish Republic.

"The Soviet Government hopes that its present proposal will be supported by the Polish Government, in view of the fact that the latter having already signed the multi-lateral Paris Pact, in which the U. S. S. R. is also a participant, cannot have any objections to speedily putting the Pact in force between them.

"At the same time the Soviet Government informs the Polish Government that an analogous proposal is being made by it simultaneously to the Lithuanian Government, as the only Baltic country which has already adhered to the Paris Pact. For the time being it does not apply with its proposal to Finland, Esthonia and Latvia, only for the reason that these States have not yet formally adhered to the Paris Pact. The Soviet Government reserves for itself, however, the right to apply to them after they have adhered to the Paris Pact.

"I beg you, Mr. Minister, to bring the above to the cognizance of your Government and accept assurances of my perfect esteem and respect.

"M. LITVINOV."

Text of Protocol Proposed by the U. S. S. R. to Poland

Below follows the protocol attached to the note handed on December 29, 1928, by Mr. M. Litvinov to the Polish Ambassador in Moscow:

DRAFT PROTOCOL

The Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the President of the Polish Republic, animated by the desire to strengthen the good-neighborly relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Poland and to put into effect as soon as possible the treaty for the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy, signed in Paris on August 27th, 1928, have decided to carry out the above intentions by the exchange of the present protocol, for which purpose they appointed:

The Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
and the President of the Polish Republic

Who, upon exchanging credentials which were found to be in good and proper form, agreed upon the following:

I

The treaty for the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy signed in Paris, August 27th, 1928, a copy of which is attached to the present protocol as an inalienable part of it, enters into force between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Poland upon the ratification of the said Paris Treaty of 1928 by the re-

spective legislative bodies of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Poland.

II

The present protocol is subject to the ratification by the respective legislative bodies of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Poland in accordance with their constitutional rules.

The present protocol will enter into effect in the relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Poland on the day of the exchange of decrees ratifying it, which exchange will take place in within one week's period from the day of its ratification by both parties.

III

The bringing into effect of the Paris Treaty of 1928 as between the contracting parties, on the basis of the present protocol, will be carried out in the following manner:

After this protocol, on the basis of its Article II, enters into force, and the legislative organs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and of Poland ratify the Paris Treaty of 1928, each of the two contracting parties, immediately upon such ratification, will notify the other party by diplomatic means.

The time of the bringing into effect of the Paris Treaty of 1928 in the relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Poland will be considered the time of the receipt of the second of the said notifications.

IV

The present protocol is open for the adherence of the governments of all countries. Notification of adherence to it should be addressed to the government of which will inform all the other parties to the present protocol of such adherence. Beginning with the time of the receipt of the said notification of adherence the present protocol will be put into effect in the relations between the adhering State and all the other participants to this protocol.

V

The bringing into effect, on the basis of the present protocol, of the Paris Treaty of 1928 in the relations between the adhering State and all the other parties to the present protocol will be carried out in the following manner:

When, on the basis of Article IV of this protocol, some third country adheres to it, and the legislative bodies of this latter country ratify the Paris Treaty of 1928, the government of the said adhering country shall immediately inform of it in the diplomatic order the government of which shall notify of it all the other parties to the present protocol.

The time of the bringing into effect of the Paris Treaty of 1928, in the relations between the adhering State and all the other parties to

the present protocol will be considered the time of the receipt by the government of of the said notification.

VI

The bringing into effect of the Paris Treaty of 1928, in the relations between the parties to the present protocol, provided by this protocol, will be valid irrespective of the going into effect of the Paris Treaty of 1928, as defined in Article III of the latter.

In certification of which the above named accredited representatives signed this protocol and attached their seals to it.

Done in two copies, on

Soviet Note to Chairman of Preparatory Disarmament Commission

On December 5, 1928, Mr. M. Litvinov, Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Soviet Delegation to the Preparatory Disarmament Commission, addressed the following note to Mr. Loudon, Chairman of this Commission:

"In my letter of August 20, referring to the resolution adopted at the Fifth Session of the Preparatory Disarmament Commission to call another session of the Commission, 'if possible, before the next general assembly,' I took the liberty of asking you what reasons had prevented the calling of the Preparatory Commission within the period specified and, finally, for what date this call was planned.

"In your answer, dated September 5, you briefly informed me that in your opinion the calling of a sixth session of the Preparatory Commission before the General Assembly of the League of Nations would not produce desirable results. With regard to my inquiry about the prospects of calling together the Commission you stated that you were following the events at the General Assembly of the League of Nations, at the conclusion of which you would be in a position to make a decision.

"I do not know whether you were satisfied with the outcome of the events to which you referred in your letter and whether it had facilitated the reaching of a decision for you. I know only that the General Assembly of the League of Nations adopted on the question of disarmament a very indefinite resolution charging the Chairman of the Preparatory Commission with 'the maintenance of contact with interested governments in order to keep informed of the status of their negotiations and to have an opportunity of convening the Commission at the end of the present year or in any case at the beginning of 1929.'

"Thus, the summoning of the next session of the Preparatory Commission was again made to depend upon the outcome of diplomatic negotiations between various nations, negotiations to

which had previously been due the premature termination of the Fifth Session.

"At the last session of the Preparatory Commission the Soviet Delegation emphatically objected to having the Commission itself relinquish the open and public deliberation of disarmament questions and to transferring the center of gravity of these deliberations to the secret diplomatic negotiations of a small group of Powers. At the time the Soviet Delegation expressed doubt concerning the possibility of working out a generally acceptable basis for a disarmament agreement by this method. It was easy to foresee that the Powers participating in such negotiations would strive to draft an agreement which, while effecting little or no limitation in the quantity and caliber of arms of interest to themselves, would impose the utmost reduction upon the armaments of other nations not parties to the negotiations or subsequently invited thereto. Such an agreement might serve any other objects, but not the aims of disarmament. By facilitating in the Preparatory Commission or in the Disarmament Conference the position of the participants in the negotiations, and their resistance to the reduction of one or another form of armament of especial interest to them, such an agreement can only put new difficulties in the way of a general disarmament agreement.

"At the present time I am constrained to observe that these apprehensions of the Soviet Delegation have unfortunately been wholly justified. In so far as may be judged by the official documents recently made public, the *pourparlers* concerning the reduction of armaments carried on between Great Britain and France suffered failure, not only not facilitating the further work of the Preparatory Commission in any way, but rather hindering it. Thus far the only results of such *pourparlers* have been the ineffectualness of the Fifth Session of the Preparatory Commission, the failure to call a sixth session, and the complete inactivity of the Commission through a period of at least nine months.

"Now that the *pourparlers* in question, though fruitless, appear to be ended for the immediate future, there are, it seems, no other events whose issue must be awaited in order to decide the matter of summoning the Preparatory Commission. However unreassuring the prospects of the Commission's work may be and however clouded these prospects may have been by the sharpening of differences on various disarmament questions resulting from the negotiations amongst certain Powers, the Preparatory Commission should, in the opinion of the Soviet Delegation, be convened immediately if only to analyze the causes of the failure of its work, to draw the proper conclusions from the situation that has been created, and to seek new means of solving the problems facing the Preparatory Commission.

"The pitiful results which may now be ascertained to have issued from the disarmament negotiations among various Powers, however, are to be explained, in my opinion, not alone by the circumstance that the *pourparlers* were conducted secretly and limited to a minimum number of participants. The failure of the negotiations was also determined by the principle which the negotiators want to make the basis of the agreement, namely, the principle of the individual establishment of disarmament limits for each country separately without any criterion generally equitable and acceptable to all. Unfortunately, this principle is a consequence of the project for a disarmament convention to which the Preparatory Commission has already devoted several sessions fruitlessly. From the very beginning of its participation in the Preparatory Commission the Soviet Delegation has steadfastly pointed out the necessity of applying such a general standard of armament reduction, in accordance with which it introduced at the Fifth Session its plan of armament reduction based upon a universally obligatory percentage decrease, i.e., a decrease of 50 per cent, with certain modifications for the weaker nations. I am firmly convinced that if the Preparatory Commission does not wish to continue floundering about in the same place or finally admit its complete powerlessness in the matter of stimulating disarmament, it should proceed to the speediest and most earnest consideration of the armament-reduction project presented by the Soviet Delegation. I therefore request you, Mr. Chairman, to be good enough to propose to all the participants in the Preparatory Commission that they should in time obtain the necessary instructions from their Governments with a view to placing this project on the calendar of the forthcoming session of the Commission.

"Accordingly my proposal converges upon the earliest possible calling of the Sixth Session of the Preparatory Commission and the taking of the measures necessary to bring up for consideration at this session the Soviet project of a convention for the reduction of armaments.

"Availing myself of this opportunity to renew the expression of my highest esteem, I have the honor to request you, Mr. Chairman, to bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Preparatory Commission.

"M. LITVINOV."

Changes in the Soviet Diplomatic Service

Mr. Z. N. Dosser was relieved of the post of Trade Delegate of the Soviet Union in Italy, and Mr. I. I. Khodorovsky was appointed in his stead.

Mr. M. S. Mironov was relieved of the post of Soviet Trade Delegate in Sweden and Mr. S. R. Bogatin was appointed in his stead.

Mr. V. V. Ryabikov was appointed Soviet Trade Delegate in Mexico, a post formerly held by Mr. S. S. Pestkovsky.

Miscellaneous News

Housing Construction

Housing construction in the Soviet Union registered a further increase during the fiscal year 1927-28.

The following figures for State housing appropriations show that expenditures for this purpose have increased tenfold in the course of the past five years: 50,000,000 rubles (about \$26,000,000), were appropriated in the fiscal year 1923-24; 156,000,000 rubles in 1924-25; about 287,000,000 rubles in 1925-26; 393,000,000 rubles in 1926-27; and 500,000,000 rubles in 1927-28 (over \$250,000,000).

The half billion rubles expended during the past fiscal year (1927-28) rendered possible the construction of over five million square meters of living space, enough to accommodate more than 600,000 persons.

Private construction is now playing a considerable role in the Soviet Union along with State and cooperative building activity. During the elapsed fiscal year private builders, the majority of whom are workers, spent 120,000,000 rubles on construction, providing housing for 300,000 persons.

A large further increase in State housing construction and in appropriations for this purpose is planned for the current fiscal year.

It is noteworthy that last year it proved possible to check the declining average of useful living space per capita of population.

Housing Cooperatives

Building cooperatives have at present a membership of 246,000 workers and office employees. During the past five years they have constructed 1,812,000 square meters of living space at an expenditure of 81,000,000 rubles (about \$42,000,000). From 1924, when these housing cooperatives were started, until the present time the paid up shares have reached a total of 35,000,000 rubles (about \$18,000,000).

The growth of the housing construction cooperatives has been accompanied by an extensive development of house renting cooperatives, which control the municipalized houses. During the past four years the house renting cooperatives have spent 152,000,000 rubles (\$78,000,000) for repairs. These organizations also do a great deal of cultural and social work for the tenants, such as the organization of day-nurseries, community dining rooms, laundries, and so forth.

Collective Farms

The Soviet Union has at present 45,475 collective farms, with an aggregate sown area of 3,832,000 hectares, embracing over 500,000 individual peasant holdings, or about 2 per cent of all

the farms in the country. The percentage is much larger in certain sections. For example, in some localities of the Kuban region 30 per cent of the farms are collectively operated, while 12 per cent are so conducted in the Don region, some of the villages in this area having 40 to 60 per cent of the peasantry united in agricultural collectives.

The above number of collective farms is distributed as follows according to the six Constituent Republics:

Republic	Number of Collective Farms	Hectares
Soviet Russia Proper	26,137	2,500,000
Ukraine	14,956	1,130,000
White Russia	1,350	47,000
Uzbek Republic	1,452	91,000
Turkoman Republic	180	10,000
Transcaucasia:		
Georgia	700	22,000
Azerbaijan	500	25,000
Armenia	200	7,000
Total for the U. S. S. R.	45,475	3,832,000

The collective farms have made great progress. During the past year the gross value of their crops rose from 103,000,000 rubles (\$53,000,000), to 189,000,000 rubles (over \$96,000,000).

Crop rotation has been introduced in the large majority of the collectives. Sowings of the more valuable crops are being enlarged. Their crop average is almost 20 per cent above that of the individual farms and their labor productivity is also considerably higher.

At a conference of the People's Commissariats for Agriculture of the various Constituent Republics, held in Kharkov last December, the comparatively low technical standard of the collective farms, particularly the insufficiency of tractors, and the inadequate appropriation of funds were stressed as the chief obstacles in the way of the faster development of collective farming. A resolution was passed calling for the enlargement of collective farms, the provision of adequate credits and productive equipment, and the adoption of measures to increase the return on capital investments.

International Agricultural Institute in Moscow

The International Agricultural Institute in Moscow was opened in March, 1926.

This Institute has established an exchange of scientific material and books with three hundred scientific and public organizations and State institutions in foreign countries. At the present time the Institute library possesses over 75,000 volumes and receives 746 magazines and newspapers from various countries. The organization publishes a bi-monthly magazine entitled "Agricul-

tural Problems," which now appears in German as well as in Russian. Prominent foreign savants contribute to this periodical.

The Institute is frequently visited by foreign experts, peasant leaders and delegations. A number of foreign scientists, such as Professor Gerold Robinson of the United States, and Professor Chen of Peking University, have done extended work in the institution.

A "Statistical Year Book on World Agriculture in 1927," has recently been put on the press by the Institute, which also has in preparation a book on "World Agriculture," an atlas of modern agriculture, and a "Year Book of International Agricultural Literature," as well as other works.

Scientific Research in the U. S. S. R. during 1928

Great progress was made last year in the investigation of natural productive resources in various parts of the Soviet Union.

Among the important geographical achievements special mention may be accorded to the Alai Expedition in Central Asia, in which German scientists participated. Mount Lenin, formerly Mount Kaufman, whose altitude of somewhat over 7,200 meters makes it the highest peak in the Soviet Union, was scaled. This expedition collected geological, mineralogical, botanical, zoological, and local linguistic data, as well as other information.

The accomplishments of the "Krassin" and "Malygin" expeditions sent out to rescue the members of the "Italia" polar flight, are known to all.

The Soviet Academy of Sciences organized a series of important expeditions, in which 83 parties with a total membership of 451 were engaged. These expeditions took in the following parts of the Soviet Union: the Kola Peninsula in Northern Russia; Taimyr in Northern Siberia; the Tunguzka region, as well as the Buryat and Yakut Republics in Eastern Siberia; the Bashkir Republic in the Ural and the Chuvash Republic on the Middle Volga; the Daghestan in North Caucasia; the Kazak Republic (salt deposit surveys) and the Kirghiz Republic—both in Soviet Central Asia, as well as the regions of Lake Gokcha and of Mount Alagöz in Armenia, and South Ossetia in the Georgian Republic. The Academy also sent expeditions outside the Soviet Union to Mongolia.

During the past year the Geological Committee sent out numerous expeditions with practical geological aims.

The elapsed year was marked by increased participation of Soviet scientists in international congresses, while foreign savants—especially the Germans—took a large part in Soviet scientific conferences. Among the renowned foreign savants visiting the Soviet Union last year were Langevin, the famous French physicist, and Dr. Schmidt-Ott, whose activity contributed much to the rapprochement of Soviet and German scientists.

A great deal of preparatory work was also done last year for the International Congress of Soil Experts to take place in the Soviet Union in 1930 under the chairmanship of Professor K. K. Gedroitz, who is one of the foremost modern authorities on this subject.

Cultural Work Among Prisoners in U. S. S. R.

The judicial and penal institutions of the Soviet Union carry on extensive educational work among prisoners. Some statistics on this activity were made public at a recent congress of penitentiary workers.

In the Tsarist prisons educational work was entrusted to 153 priests in the employ of the State. At present, 3,500 lecturers and numerous club conductors are at work among the prisoners eliminating illiteracy, giving lectures and guiding self-educational activity.

The basis of prisoners' education in the Soviet Union is work. At the present time 19,000 prisoners are at work in workshops especially organized for them. The same number are employed on 142 State farms, which have over 100 tractors and are excellently equipped in other respects as well.

It is interesting to note that the radio has been widely introduced into the prisons as a cultural pastime for the inmates. In the prisons of the R. S. F. S. R. (Soviet Russia proper), there are altogether 10,000 radio receiving sets with head phones and 300 sets with loud speakers.

The Congress of Penitentiary Workers held in Moscow not long ago elaborated a series of measures for the further extension of this cultural work among prisoners and for the alleviation of their lot.

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Physical Culture and Sports in the U. S. S. R. Ethnic Composition of the Soviet Union Educational Progress in the Soviet Union The Karelian Soviet Republic Soviet-German Adjustment Convention Signing of Soviet Anti-War Protocol

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Physical Culture and Sports in the Soviet Union	38	Miscellaneous News	
Progress in Education	40	Electrification Plan for 1928-29	50
Self-Education of the Working Masses	40	Extension of the Dnieper Super-Power Project	50
Correspondence Courses in the U. S. S. R.	41	Soviet Cigarette Machines	50
Ethnic Composition of the Soviet Union	42	Development of Road and Automobile Construction	50
The Karelian Soviet Republic	43	New Steamship Lines	50
Foreign Relations of the U. S. S. R.:		Survey of the Aviation Season of 1928	50
Soviet Note to Poland	44	Trans-Siberian Air Line	50
Signing of the Protocol Proposed by the Soviet Government	46	Radio in the Soviet Union	50
Soviet-German Adjustment Convention	48	Elimination of Illiteracy	51
Note of the Afghan Ambassador	49	Situation of Labor in the Soviet Union	51
Ratification of Conventions Concluded between the U. S. S. R. and Turkey	49	Expenditures for Social Insurance	51
Soviet-Yemen Treaty	49	Situation of Scientific Workers in U. S. S. R.	51
Changes in Soviet Diplomatic Service	49		

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Physical Culture and Sports in the U. S. S. R.

IN 1923 a Council for Physical Culture was formed under the auspices of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviet Union on the principle of representation of those organizations and departments whose activities in any way touched upon questions of physical culture, such as, for instance, trade unions, the People's Commissariats for Education, Health, Labor, Army and Navy, the Communist Youth League, etc. Schools, trade union clubs, the Red Army, the Communist Youth League, took up physical culture, thus promoting its development in the urban and rural districts in general.

Physical culture is regarded as a concern of the State in the U. S. S. R. Its development goes on hand in hand with the general health and educational work of the State and of the principal public organizations of the workers. Accordingly physical culture has been included in the educational program of the public schools and is compulsory for all pupils. In the Red Army it is an integral part of the whole system of military training. Physical culture is being ever more and more widely applied as a prophylactic, remedial, sanitary and educational method in rest-homes, sanatoriums and health-resorts, and in various medical institutes and other establishments of the People's Commissariat for Health. The vast significance of these establishments for mass propaganda of physical culture becomes apparent when it is realized that hundreds of thousands of workers from the urban and rural districts pass through them every year.

Unlike most other countries, the voluntary physical culture and sport movement in the U. S. S. R. is not organized in the form of independent athletic societies and groups. It exists in the form of circles attached to the other cultural and educational organizations, such as clubs and "Houses of Culture" of the trade unions, etc. The schools, the Red Army clubs, the Reading Cabins in the villages, the "Pioneers" and other organizations have their special physical culture circles.

The great mass of physical culture circles are attached to the cultural and educational organizations of the trade unions. The trade unions, which spend vast sums on educational work for the masses, devote not less than 10 to 15 per cent of these sums to physical culture, which means an expenditure of millions of rubles. The greater part of the enormous and ever increasing equip-

ment for physical culture stadiums, playgrounds, gymnasiums, skiing and water-sport stations, shooting-galleries, etc.—belong at present to the trade union organizations. A Physical Culture Bureau, with a body of instructors numbering about 10,000 has been formed under the auspices of trade union educational organs, and questions of physical culture frequently appear on the agenda of trade union conferences and congresses. The trade unions are paying more and more attention to physical culture and are taking every year a more and more active part in its promotion. Over 640,000 members of trade union circles are engaged in physical culture activities. In addition, great numbers of trade union members are indirectly drawn into physical culture activities through their participation in excursions and similar undertakings. Thus the number of trade union members who are benefiting by physical culture activities may be estimated at several millions.

All physical culture circles, whether organized by the trade unions, the schools or the Red Army, have their own elective managing boards ("Bureaus") for the carrying on of their work. All circles are organically connected with each other through the executive bodies of their cultural-educational clubs.

The Physical Culture Councils are in charge of the general direction of the athletic activities. Technical bodies and "sport sections" for every form of sport are attached to these Physical Culture Councils.

Over two million persons are organized in voluntary physical culture circles. The most popular forms of sport are football, basketball, handball, and "gorodki" (a national variety of skittles). Tennis is becoming more and more popular. Next in public favor come light athletics in summer and skating and skiing in winter. Shooting galleries are much patronized by the younger element. Gymnastics, heavy athletics, swimming and rowing are also widely practiced. Very little attention is paid to fencing. Technically speaking the average among Soviet athletes is very high, and in friendly competitions with athletic organizations of foreign workers the palm is usually borne off by the Soviet workers. About two hundred meetings with worker-athletes from Germany, Austria, France, England, Czechoslovakia, Latvia, Norway, Finland, Sweden and

Uruguay were organized during the last five years.

The Soviet physical culture movement took an active part in the "Spartakiad" of 1928. The "Spartakiad" held in Moscow in the fall of 1928, was a spectacular international holiday, furnishing visual proof of the scope of physical culture and sport in the Soviet Union. It had about eight thousand active competitors, six hundred of whom came from thirty-six foreign countries. There were a thousand referees and the stadiums and other arenas held over a million spectators. The "Spartakiad" lasted nearly two weeks and was marked by pageants, river-carnivals, mass-parades, demonstrations, as well as by competitive games. The exhibition given in the premises of the State Central Physical Culture Institute, attached to the People's Commissariat for Public Health, supplemented the general picture of the development of Soviet Physical Culture.

There are in Moscow and Leningrad several institutes for training highly qualified physical culture instructors. A number of special technical schools in Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad (formerly Tsaritsyn), Kharkov, Sverdlovsk (formerly Ekaterinburg), etc., are engaged in training regular instructors and teaching staffs for the various local organizations.

Soviet Physical Culture is developing on definite scientific lines. Its slogans are usefulness and accessibility to the masses. In accordance with these principles medical and social-pedagogical supervision and observation are integral parts of all physical culture work. No one can take part in matches or trials of strength without medical certification of fitness. Valuable prizes to individuals are practically non-existent in Soviet sport activities. Nevertheless the sport records of the U. S. S. R. are advancing continually. An energetic struggle is carried on against all tendencies towards record-breaking, professionalism and other undesirable features sometimes accompanying sport activities. Only those whose general health is satisfactory are allowed to take part in competitive demonstrations. During the last few years great success has been achieved in the study of the simplest forms of physical culture accessible to the masses.

Very serious work has been carried on in the sphere of scientific research. Great achievements have been attained with regard to medical supervision of physical culture activities and the investigation of the effect of the various forms of sport upon the body. Good work has been done in the study of the effects of physical culture, both as a factor counteracting industrial diseases and as a remedy. Medical supervision is carried on on a mass scale and is compulsory for all taking part in physical culture activities and

for all school children and members of the Red Army.

There are several special publications devoted to physical culture in the U. S. S. R., such as "Physical Culture and Sport" in Moscow, "Physical Culture Now" in Kharkov, "Spartak" in Leningrad, "Physical Culture Theory and Practice," the weekly "Physical Culture" supplement to "Trud" (Labor), the official organ of the Central Council of Trade Unions, and others, with an aggregate circulation of 200,000. A great number of special books on physical culture have likewise been published.

Physical culture equipment is being provided for by appropriations from the municipal budgets.

Favorable conditions for the further development of physical culture are guaranteed by various government decrees.

The achievements of the Soviet Union in this field are striking indeed if the wretched state of physical culture and sport obtaining in Tsarist Russia is borne in mind. Physical culture in the U. S. S. R. has already struck deep and firm roots in the everyday life of the city workers, and is successfully developing in the country, penetrating into the remotest national republics and areas.

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Progress in Education

A NEW army of pupils poured into the primary schools of the Soviet Union during 1928. In the course of the past scholastic year the enrollment throughout the country rose by 600,000 (10,500,000 in 1927-28, as against 9,900,000 in 1926-27), and not less than half a million more were added during the autumn months. The influx of children into the primary schools continues to grow. The activity now in progress in all the republics of the Soviet Union tends to introduce universal compulsory education by 1933-34.

The material situation of the primary school system has improved. In the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic (Soviet Russia proper) the annual expenditure per pupil increased 8.5 per cent the past year. School construction has likewise augmented. The increase in expenditure per pupil on permanent school improvements in the R. S. F. S. R. amounted to 47.1 per cent. Nevertheless, this large growth does not meet the needs, and only 42.1 per cent of the building program required by the universal education plan has been fulfilled.

The number of students in advanced public educational institutions throughout the Soviet Union has risen from 791,465 to 896,543 during the elapsed scholastic year and about one hundred thousand more have entered since autumn.

The enrollment in the schools for peasant youth has nearly doubled in the course of the past year. There was an increase of 45,000 in the number of students in primary and secondary vocational schools throughout the country. The number of students in the workers' universities rose from 5,380 to 15,677, while the enrollment in general educational institutions and courses for adults went up from 102,940 to 133,829. During the year over 1,300,000 illiterate adults received instruction. Only the enrollment in the highest educational institutions showed a decrease, a decline of about 3,000, due to the recent graduation of large classes.

As a result of the campaign to attract more students from the working and peasant masses into the higher educational institutions, 43.2 per cent of the new enrollment in the colleges and universities of the R. S. F. S. R. (Soviet Russia proper) in 1928 consisted of workers and their children as compared with 34.6 per cent in 1927, while peasants and their children made up 25.6 per cent in 1928 as against 24.4 per cent in 1927. The percentage of workers and farm laborers in schools of an advanced character also rose during the scholastic year 1927-28, the increase over the previous fiscal year amounting to 4.3 per cent in the case of the 7-year school courses and as much as 14.7 per cent for secondary schools.

The official program aims to have the expansion of educational activity keep pace with the general economic progress of the country. Statis-

tics show that 845,300,700 rubles were expended for public education through the Federal and local budgets during the fiscal year 1927-28, as compared with 695,300,000 rubles in 1926-27. For the current fiscal year 1928-29, disbursements for education will aggregate about one billion rubles.

The expenditure for education rose from 4.62 rubles per capita of population in 1926-27 to 5.12 rubles in 1927-28. The proportion of total appropriations devoted to education has increased in both Federal and local budgets. A further increase is in view for the fiscal year 1928-29.

New progress has been made in improving the remuneration of the teaching staff. Public school teachers throughout the Soviet Union received salary increases of 17.1 per cent during the elapsed fiscal year, instructors in higher institutions 29.7 per cent, and professors 27 per cent. Further advances are scheduled for 1928-29, although not so large (in the R. S. F. S. R. 8 to 10 per cent for the public schools and 15 to 30 per cent for vocational and higher institutions). In addition to this, the Government of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic has decided to increase the pensions of public school teachers and to establish pensions for teachers in higher educational institutions.

Self-Education of the Masses

THE unprecedented yearning of the workers for knowledge cannot be satisfied by the network of schools and courses at present existing in the Soviet Union. Despite the fact that the number of general educational and technical courses in connection with the various industrial establishments is growing with each year and that they already embrace as many as 25,000 workers, there still remains a considerable number of workers who desire to increase their skill and their technical knowledge but find it impossible by means of schools and courses.

Hence the rapid growth of self-educational work among the broad working masses in the U. S. S. R.

This self-educational work proceeds first of all along the line of the creation of production circles directly connected with the industrial establishments. On January 1, 1926, such circles numbered 1,647; on February 1, 1927—10,369; and in April, 1928, they already totaled 12,950, with over 180,000 workers studying in them.

The intense interest in technical knowledge and in increasing skill is also evident from the rapid growth of correspondence courses of a technical nature. This is a new field in the U. S. S. R., and in reality began to develop only last year, but already by the beginning of 1928 the number of those studying various kinds of technical correspondence courses had exceeded 70,000.

The demand for technical literature has also attained large proportions in the U. S. S. R. Technical literature is bought up rapidly; workers' libraries are often not able to satisfy the requests of the workers for technical books needed by them. A steady stream of letters from workers desiring to obtain information or advice on one or another technical or scientific question pours into the offices of magazines, newspapers and correspondence courses.

Discussions and conferences of worker-readers of technical literature are very animated and are participated in by a large number.

In general, the main channels in the U. S. S. R. for technical self-education of the masses are the following: (1) production circles at the industrial establishments; these are developing successfully and are especially popular among the workers; (2) technical aid (especially for inventors), in workers' clubs, "Red Corners," and at the factories, in libraries, industrial exhibits, etc.; (3) special consultation centers at technical schools, workers' universities, and trade unions; (4) cultural-educational mass work by the trade unions; technical lectures, talks, evenings for questions and answers, radio, excursions, etc., and also such visual aids as industrial exhibits, the cinema, and so on.

Through all the above channels an enormous number of the workers of the U. S. S. R. have been drawn into self-educational work. Of course, all this is still a new field, and all the possibilities, naturally, have not been utilized. But the results already secured prove the great success of self-education activity among the working masses. The yearning for knowledge and especially for technical knowledge on the part of the workers has great significance for the industrialization of the U. S. S. R. and the rationalization of production.

In the next few years this will already undoubtedly bear visible fruit in the whole industrial life of the Soviet Union.

Correspondence Courses in the U. S. S. R.

THE growth of self-education in the Soviet Union has called forth in the country a development of instruction by correspondence entirely unknown in pre-Revolutionary Russia.

This new branch of public education now serves a considerable number of workers. The network of correspondence courses, under the direction of the Central Board of Technical Education, already embraces 31 subjects and about 70,000 students. Among the correspondence courses should be noted such important ones as those given by Lomonosov Institute. These courses were started only a year and a half ago, and already number as many as 4,000 worker-students scattered throughout all the towns of the U. S. S. R. The courses even have a number of students abroad. Other important courses are those given by the Podbielsky Technical Institute for Postal and Telegraph Communication, the chemical-technological courses given by the Mendeleyev Institute, the railroad courses, courses for firemen, courses in cinematography and photography, etc. There are also in the U. S. S. R. correspondence courses on industrial-economic questions, radio technique, and so on.

The social composition of those studying by correspondence is as follows: 65 per cent—workers, 10 per cent—peasants, the remainder clerical workers. Persons not deriving their livelihood from their own labor, form only a fraction of one per cent of those taking correspondence courses. Very good progress has been made by those studying by correspondence. Thus, 25 per cent of the written work turned in by the students has been graded excellent and 60 per cent entirely satisfactory. It is also characteristic that the students are most persevering and the number dropping out is insignificant.

Great interest in instruction by correspondence is taken by the trade unions, through whose initiative many of the courses originated. The trade unions give financial support to the courses and to trade union members engaged in those studies. At the present time the organs of public education are striving to extend the correspondence courses to the rural districts. In this field also considerable success has been attained.

It is very interesting to note that instruction by correspondence has even penetrated the walls of the penitentiaries. Recently the cultural-educational division of the Department of Penitentiaries made agreements with all the institutions in charge of correspondence courses in the Soviet Union, whereby prisoners are granted special privileges as to enrollment in the courses. One hundred free scholarships for prisoners have already been assigned in all sorts of correspondence courses.

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Mention should also be made of the correspondence courses in foreign languages, which recently have spread throughout the Soviet Union. In addition to existing courses, beginning with 1929 there are also being offered one-year courses in foreign languages for engineers and technicians.

The unprecedented rapidity with which instruction by correspondence is developing is a splendid proof of the great desire for education on the part of the workers of the U. S. S. R. Due to the limited facilities of the special educational institutions, correspondence courses are destined to play an important role in the U. S. S. R.

Ethnic Composition of the U.S.S.R.

THE census of December 17, 1926, among other data, included a study of the composition of the population as regards nationality. In contrast to the census of 1897, when data were gathered only according to native language, the data in 1926 were collected according to two criteria: nationality and native language. The information was secured directly from the persons concerned.

The list of nationalities and languages published by the Central Statistical Board comprises 185 nationalities and 145 languages. The data at hand cover in all 146,863,500 persons, i. e., more than 99.9 per cent of the total population of the U. S. S. R.

Russians in the Various Republics of the Soviet Union

	By Nationality		By Language	
	Number	Percentage of Total Population	Number	Percentage of Total Population
R. S. F. S. R.	74,042,000	73.4	77,819,000	77.2
Ukraine	2,696,000	9.2	4,426,000	15.2
White Russia...	384,000	7.7	1,166,000	23.4
Transcaucasia ..	336,000	5.7	397,000	6.8
Uzbek Republic..	247,000	4.7	272,000	5.2
Turkoman Rep. .	74,000	8.2	80,000	8.9
All U. S. S. R. ..	77,779,000	53.0	84,160,000	57.3

Altogether 95.2 per cent of the total number of Russians by origin, and 92.4 per cent of their total number by language live in the R. S. F. S. R. (Soviet Russia proper.)

In all the republics the number of those considering Russian their native tongue is considerably higher than the number of Russians by origin. The percentage of Russians both by nationality and by language is also considerably higher in the cities than in the villages.

The Ukrainians occupy second place numerically among the nationalities of the U. S. S. R. Of the 31,195,000 Ukrainians by origin (21.2 per cent of the total population of the U. S. S. R.) and of the 27,572,000 by language (18.8 per cent), the overwhelming majority live in the Ukraine and

in the R. S. F. S. R. In all the other republics combined there are only a total of 103,000 by origin and 49,000 by language. Not in a single one of them does the total number of Ukrainians, even by origin, amount to more than one per cent. In the cities this percentage is usually somewhat higher than in the villages. The number of Ukrainians living outside of the Ukraine is several times greater than the corresponding number of Russians. More than one-fourth of the Ukrainians live in the other republics of the Union, principally in the R. S. F. S. R.

The next largest nationality is that of the White Russians, of whom there live in the U. S. S. R. 4,740,000 (3.2 per cent) by origin and 3,468,000 (2.3 per cent) by language. The number of White Russians does not exceed one per cent in any of the republics of the Union other than White Russia itself. In White Russia there live 84.8 per cent of all the White Russians by origin and 96.6 per cent by language; in the R. S. F. S. R., 13.5 per cent by origin and 2.6 per cent by language; in the Ukraine 1.6 per cent by origin and 0.5 per cent by language.

After the White Russians come the Kazaks,* who form the Kazak Autonomous Socialist Soviet Republic, which is a part of the R. S. F. S. R. The total number of Kazaks in the U. S. S. R., by origin, is 3,959,000 (2.7 per cent).

Next after the Kazaks in numerical importance are the Uzbeks, of whom there are in the U. S. S. R. 3,904,000 (2.7 per cent) by origin and 4,061,000 (2.8 per cent) by language. Only an insignificant number of them live outside of Uzbekistan (the Uzbek Republic).

The Tartars by origin number 2,900,000 (2.0 per cent) and by language 3,600,000 (2.5 per cent). Only 70,000 live outside of the R. S. F. S. R. They constitute the bulk of the population of the Autonomous Tartar Republic (Middle Volga Region), and of the Crimea.

The next nationality—the Jewish—due to its being widely dispersed, does not have any autonomous national organization of its own. The number of Jews (including the minor groups of Crimean, Mountain, Georgian, and Central-Asiatic Jews, who together number 71,000) is 2,700,000 (1.8 per cent) by origin; by language their number is considerably less—1,900,000 in all (1.3 per cent). Sixty per cent of the total number of Jews live in the Ukraine. However, the number of Jews, in terms of percentage to the total population, is highest in White Russia. The majority of them live in towns.

The Azerbaijan-Turks† live almost exclusively in Transcaucasia, chiefly in Azerbaijan. By origin they number 1,707,000 (1.2 per cent), while 1,752,000 speak the Azerbaijan-Turkic language.

* Not to be confounded with the Cossacks.

† They are sometimes erroneously referred to as Tartars.

The number of Georgians by nationality is 1,821,169 and by language 1,510,000. Only 7 per cent of the Georgians live outside the boundaries of Georgia.

The Armenians are scattered throughout the U. S. S. R. They total 1,568,000 (1.1 per cent) by origin and 1,475,000 (1.0 per cent) by language. Of this number only 744,000 live in Armenia proper; the remainder live in the other republics of Transcaucasia and the U. S. S. R.

Of the Mordvinians, numbering in the U. S. S. R. 1,340,000 (0.9 per cent), only 6,000 live outside of the R. S. F. S. R.

Germans in the U. S. S. R. number 1,328,000 (0.8 per cent) by origin and almost as many by language. They live in all the republics of the Union. Almost two-thirds of the total number of Germans, i.e., 806,000 live in the R. S. F. S. R.—chiefly in the German-Volga Republic. In the Ukraine there live about one-third of their total number.

The Chuvashes in the U. S. S. R. number 1,117,000 (0.8 per cent) both by origin and by language. The bulk of them inhabit the Chuvash Republic in the Middle Volga Region. Only 2,500 of them live outside of the R. S. F. S. R.

The Tadjiks in the U. S. S. R. number 978,000 by origin, by language as many as 1,009,000, or 0.7 per cent of the total population. Outside of Uzbekistan (Uzbek Republic in Soviet Central Asia), they live only in the R. S. F. S. R. In Uzbekistan the Tadjiks form an autonomous republic, in which 617,000 Tadjiks live.

The Poles in the U. S. S. R. number 782,000 (0.5 per cent). The majority of them (476,000) live in the Ukraine; the remainder mainly in the R. S. F. S. R. and White Russia.

The Kirghizes in the U. S. S. R. number 769,000 (0.5 per cent), and they live for the most part in the R. S. F. S. R., constituting one of the autonomous republics within the latter. Likewise the Bashkirs (714,000) almost all live in the R. S. F. S. R., chiefly in the Ural Region.

The Turkomans, in South Transcaspia and Soviet Central Asia, numbering 676,000, form their own republic, in which live 93.5 per cent of all the Turkomans.

The Votyaks, numbering 504,000, all live in the R. S. F. S. R. (chiefly in the Votiak Autonomous Area).

All the rest of the nationalities do not exceed numerically 500,000 each. The most important of them are: Mari (formerly called Cheremissians), Chechens, Moldavians, Ossetes, Karelians, Meshcheryaks (Mishari), Buryats, Komi (Zyrians), Yakuts, Greeks, Avars, Esthonians, Permiaks, Kara-Kalpaks, Letts, Kabardians, Lesghians, Finns, Kalmucks, Bulgarians, Darghis, Abkha-

sians, Ingushes, Circassians, Karachais, Balkarians, Khakases, Altaians, and Kryashens.*

In addition there live in the U. S. S. R. the following foreigners: Koreans, Chinese, Persians, Rumanians, Frenchmen, Italians, and others.

The Karelian Soviet Republic

PRIOR to the Revolution the present territory of Karelia formed part of Archangel Province and of the former Olonetz Province. A poorly developed, remote region, it was a place of exile for political "criminals."

The Tsarist Government attempted compulsory Russification of the region. Russian schools exclusively were built for the Karelians, and any attempt by the Karelians to use the Finnish written language was severely punished. Only the Soviet Revolution put an end to this policy.

Having passed first through a process of disorganization following the Revolution of 1917, Karelia has now entered upon a period of rapid growth and development, both economic and cultural.

The devastating invasions of Karelia by the "White" Finns continued with some interruptions from 1918 to 1922. In addition, 1919 and part of 1920 witnessed the English intervention. Hard-pressed by the Red Army, the "White" Finns devastated and burned to the ground a number of villages and carried off with them into Finland a great part of the working population of the border regions. This barbaric measure paralyzed for a considerable period the restoration of the depopulated regions.

However, Karelia has gradually recovered from the wounds inflicted by counter-revolution and intervention, and it now forms an important economic link in the organic structure of the Soviet Union.

Its timber wealth constitutes the main basis of Karelia's present economy, and the development of the Karelian timber industry is progressing at a sure and rapid pace. Its production forms one-fifth of the total timber export of the Soviet Union, and the local Karelian trust of the timber and wood-working industries—*Karellies*—occupies second place among the timber-exporting trusts of the U. S. S. R. The volume of production of Karelian timber passed the pre-war level three years ago.

In connection with its timber industry Karelia is creating a paper industry. The construction of the Kondopoga hydro-electrical plant has already been completed, and connected therewith there is also being completed a paper factory, which is expected to be in operation early in the summer of 1929.

* Christianized Volga Tartars.

Development of the non-metallic mineral wealth of Karelia has also commenced. Quartz and spar move in a steady stream to the porcelain factories of the Soviet Union, and have crowded out the imported raw material which was used prior to the Revolution. Not only does the supply of spar satisfy the requirements of the home market, but since 1927-28 it began to be exported. Extensive prospecting for non-metallic and metallic minerals is being organized and carried on in Karelia with the aim of further development of the mining industry.

The network of well-constructed dirt roads in

this region which prior to the Revolution was without roads, is expanding year by year, and automobile and autobus traffic is being developed.

Despite considerable difficulties, work in the native language is improving from year to year, particularly in the field of public education and participation of the masses in the local Soviets and in the other Karelian institutions. The two main nationalities—the Karelians and Russians—are equal in importance and numbers, and, owing to the Soviet policy concerning nationalities, no friction of any kind has developed in their mutual relations.

Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union

ON January 11 the following note by Mr. M. Litvinov, Acting Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union, was delivered to Mr. Zelezinski, Polish Chargé d'Affaires in Moscow:

“Mr. Chargé d'Affaires:

“1. Acknowledging receipt of your note No. 80-29 of January 10, containing the preliminary answer of your Government to my note of December 29, 1928, I have the honor to request you to bring the following to the notice of your Government:

“The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics observes with satisfaction the declaration by the Polish Government that it is prepared to accept in principle the proposal to expedite the application of the Paris Anti-War Treaty to the relations between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Poland. The Soviet Government, however, expresses its regrets at the failure of the Polish Government to agree in the said note to the immediate realization of the Soviet Government's proposal, which does not impose upon the two parties any new obligations in addition to those which they have taken upon themselves by virtue of the Paris Treaty. This proposal seemed to the Soviet Government so clear and simple that it felt it had the right to expect an equally clear and simple response.

“2. The Polish Government kindly set forth a number of circumstances which in its opinion prevented Poland from signing the Protocol proposed by the Soviet Government. For the complete clarification of the position maintained by the Soviet Government, I take the liberty of dwelling upon the various points in your note.

“3. The Polish Government expresses surprise that the Soviet Government's note of December 29 briefly mentions the negotiations previously conducted between the Soviet Government and Poland for the conclusion of a non-aggression pact, in which connection the Polish Government found it possible to advert to inaccuracy in the exposition of these negotiations. In this regard it is sufficient for me to recall that at the time in question simultaneous, proportional armament

reduction was proposed by the Soviet Government to the Polish Republic and the Baltic States, but this proposal was rejected by them. The Soviet Government thereupon proposed to the same nations the signature of pacts of non-aggression and non-participation in hostile combinations, without linking this proposal to any conditions or to the settlement of any questions which might interest the Soviet Government. By putting up a series of conditions the Polish Government in effect rejected the proposal of the Soviet Government concerning the unconditional mutual renunciation of aggression. It cannot be disputed by anybody that such is the substance of the above-mentioned pourparlers. There is no need to enter here into the reasons prompting the Polish Government to tie up non-aggression with conditions of one kind or another, which rendered the conclusion of an agreement impossible. I do not consider it superfluous, however, to add that the Polish Government did not attach those conditions to the signing of the Paris Treaty renouncing war.

“4. The latter circumstance, i. e., the fact that the Polish Government subscribed without reservation to the Paris Treaty, to which the Soviet Government also adhered, was precisely what prompted the Soviet Government to address its proposal of December 29 to the Polish Government. It surmised that if Poland found it possible to accept without reservation the obligation to abstain from war in its relations with the Soviet Union, it would hardly interpose any conditions to the earliest bestowal of formal effect upon this obligation. Moreover, Mr. Chargé d'Affaires, the last paragraph of your note may be understood in the sense that the Polish Government makes the signing of the Protocol depend upon the participation of other nations therein. This stipulation is all the more incomprehensible because in the event of ratification by the fifteen signatory nations the Paris Treaty goes into effect automatically between Poland and the Soviet Union, irrespective of the adherence thereto of all the Baltic States. It is difficult to understand

why Poland cannot undertake now, before the ratification of the pact by the other fourteen nations, the same obligation to abstain from war in relation to the Soviet Union.

"5. The Soviet Government is firmly convinced that the signing of the proposed Protocol even by the Soviet Union and Poland alone would not only serve to strengthen the peaceful relations between the two nations, but would also be a most potent factor for peace throughout Eastern Europe. However, if the Polish Government does not entertain the same opinion concerning the significance of a stable peace between the Soviet Union and Poland and considers it desirable for other East-European nations to participate in the Protocol, its objections would be well founded and understandable only in case the Soviet Government interposed any obstacle to the participation of those countries in the proposed Protocol. As a matter of fact, in its note of December 29 the Soviet Government declared with the utmost clarity and without any possibility of controversial interpretation that any nation desiring to do so could adhere to the Protocol. Furthermore, in the same note it expressed its desire for the participation of neighboring nations in the Protocol. In the same note it was pointed out that the Soviet Government had as yet addressed an analogous proposal to Lithuania alone and not to the other Baltic States simply because the latter according to advices at hand had not yet formally signified their adherence to the Paris Treaty. The Polish Government must realize the impossibility of addressing a proposal for expediting the validation of a treaty to countries which had not yet signed that treaty or adhered to it.

"6. In its note of January 10 the Polish Government expresses perplexity at the fact that the Soviet Government addressed its proposal for participation in the Protocol to Lithuania, which by virtue of the Riga Treaty does not border directly upon the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government might with greater justification express astonishment at the demand of the Polish Government to bring into the Protocol Esthonia and Finland, which are territorially more distant from the borders of Poland. The difference, however, resides in the fact that between the Soviet Union and Esthonia and Finland there are no disputed questions which could give grounds for fearing a rupture of peace between them, something which cannot be said about the relations between Poland and Lithuania. Only a comparatively short time ago Polish-Lithuanian relations evoked serious fears for the fate of European peace, and Poland itself petitioned the League of Nations for a cessation of the state of war between itself and Lithuania, in view of which it seemed to the Soviet Government that Poland would rather welcome the Soviet Government's invitation to the Lithuanian Republic to participate in the Protocol.

"7. The Polish Government itself declares in its

note that the Baltic States have in one form or another announced only their readiness to adhere to the Paris Treaty, from which it follows that the adherence itself has not yet taken place. Both prior to dispatching its note of December 29 to the Polish Government and especially subsequent thereto the Soviet Government endeavored through diplomatic channels to clarify the official relation of the Baltic States to the Paris Treaty, but, unfortunately, these efforts were not crowned with success. The Soviet Government presumes that a definite formal procedure exists for adherence to any treaty. When adherence to the Paris Treaty was proposed to the Soviet Government, in response to its inquiry it was advised in what manner the act of adherence should be signed and executed. After its adherence the Soviet Government was informed through the friendly intermediation of the French Government that the Government of the United States of North America had taken cognizance of the act of adherence of the Soviet Government, in witness whereof a copy of the Paris Treaty certified by Mr. Kellogg was sent to the Soviet Government. If such a procedure is obligatory for all adhering nations, it would appear easy to ascertain which of the Baltic States have adhered to the Pact. As yet the Soviet Government is aware only of the official notification by the Lithuanian Government of its adherence to the Treaty. However, the moment that any one of the Baltic States officially announces its adherence to the Pact, the Soviet Government will be prepared to propose immediately that it adhere to the Soviet Government's Protocol for expediting the application of the Treaty. In the meanwhile the Soviet Government is continuing its endeavors to clarify the position of the Baltic States with regard to the Paris Treaty. It is informed that efforts toward the same end are being made by the Lithuanian Government. The Soviet Government will be glad of parallel endeavors by the Polish Government also.

"8. In like manner, if Rumania, with which the Soviet Government does not entertain diplomatic relations, is also among the nations officially recording their adherence to the Paris Treaty, the Soviet Government is prepared to invite its adherence to the proposed Protocol. It is altogether evident that in adhering to the Paris Treaty the Soviet Government took into account the fact that it was undertaking the obligation to abstain from war as a method of settling conflicts with Rumania the moment the latter adhered to the Treaty, although disputed questions in existence were by no means liquidated thereby. The Soviet Government cannot therefore have any objections to the earliest application of this obligation between itself and the Rumanian Government through the adherence of the latter to the Soviet-Polish Protocol, as Article 4 of the Protocol in fact provides. The Soviet Government will be

grateful if the Polish Government will ascertain and communicate to it as soon as possible whether Rumania has officially adhered to the Paris Treaty and is inclined to participate in the Protocol proposed by the Soviet Government. Accordingly, the reference to Rumania cannot be considered as a convincing explanation of the Polish Government's refusal to put the proposal of the Soviet Government into effect immediately.

"9. However, taking into consideration the fact that the object of the proposal of the Soviet Government is the promptest enforcement of the Paris Anti-War Treaty, even if it be between a few governments, the Soviet Government cannot but be concerned that an evasive stand or rejection on the part of one government or another with regard to the signing of the Protocol shall not constitute an obstacle to the realization of the Protocol and, consequently, of the Paris Treaty itself between those governments which have previously subscribed or adhered thereto.

"10. The note of the Polish Government calls attention to another impediment to the realization of the Soviet Government's proposal, by making reference to an obligation of a joint ratification procedure allegedly devolving upon the original participants in the Paris Treaty. The Soviet Government finds no such obligation in the Paris Treaty, for nowhere therein is it stated that ratification by the signatory nations shall be effected simultaneously or according to any fixed procedure. Likewise there are in the Treaty no restrictions upon the parties thereto in the sense that they may not conclude amongst themselves any other treaties or agreements whose provisions are not in contradiction with the Paris Treaty. In the case in question the Soviet Government proposes nothing other than the enforcement of the Paris Treaty itself between two nations or a group of nations. Insofar as the initiators or participants in the Treaty endeavored to consolidate existing peace relations and avert war in international practice, they can scarcely object to any agreements serving the same purpose. The Soviet Government takes it for granted that the interests of both the peoples of the Soviet Union and of Poland, and their aspirations for peace cannot allow other nations to place impediments in the way of the renunciation, by their own governments, of war as an instrument of their national policy. It may be doubted that there be any outside nation which would venture to interpose such obstacles openly.

"11. Confirming the fact that the Paris Treaty has not yet been ratified by a single one of the fifteen signatory nations, the Polish Government expresses the hope that the attitude of these nations toward the Treaty will be defined in the near future. The Soviet Government assumes that this hope, too, should not hinder the Polish Government from accepting the proposal of the Soviet Government. The signing of the pro-

posed Protocol will retain its great significance for Soviet-Polish relations even in the event that the hope of the Polish Government should not prove too optimistic and the Protocol should soon be absorbed by the going into effect of the Paris Treaty between all the participants therein. Its signing will be all the more important for peace in case ratification of the Paris Treaty by all the fifteen nations is extended over a longer period for one reason or another.

"12. Taking the liberty of recommending the considerations above set forth to the attention of your Government, Mr. Chargé d'Affaires, the Soviet Government will await the earliest exposition of the final attitude of the Government of the Polish Republic toward the proposed Protocol and the appropriate advices concerning the readiness of the Polish Government to put this proposal into actual effect.

"Please accept, Mr. Chargé d'Affaires, the assurances of my perfect esteem.

"M. LITVINOV."

Signing of the Protocol

Early in February the Polish Government agreed to sign the Soviet Anti-War Protocol. The Baltic Republics, Latvia and Esthonia, as well as Rumania, having taken the necessary legislative steps in connection with the ratification of the Kellogg Pact, expressed their desire to join.

On February 9, 1929, the Protocol concerning the immediate entry into effect of the Kellogg Pact was signed in Moscow, in the Conference Hall of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, by representatives of five countries, viz. Mr. M. M. Litvinov, in behalf of the U. S. S. R.; Mr. C. Ohls in behalf of Latvia; Mr. S. Patek in behalf of Poland; Mr. J. Seljamaa in behalf of Esthonia, and Mr. Devilla in behalf of Rumania.

The following were present at the signing: Mr. L. M. Karakhan, Assistant People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Messrs. F. A. Rothstein and B. S. Stomoniakov, Members of the Collegium of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, and other officials of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs; members of the Diplomatic Missions of Poland, Latvia and Esthonia, and representatives of the Soviet and foreign press.

At 7:20 P. M. Mr. M. Litvinov opened the solemn session convoked on occasion of the signing of the Protocol, and addressed the following words to the participants:

"It is with great satisfaction that in the name of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics I welcome you, Messrs. Ministers, as representatives of the Esthonian and Latvian Republics, of the Polish Republic and of the Kingdom of Rumania, assembled here upon the invitation of the Soviet Government, for the purpose of signing the Protocol concerning the immediate entry into effect, in the mutual relations between our countries, of the obligations of the Paris Pact

of 1928 for the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy.

"When the idea of the Protocol came up, which occurred practically at the moment when the Soviet Union adhered to the Kellogg Pact, the Soviet Government intended to apply simultaneously to all of its western neighbors with the proposal to sign the Protocol. This would have been possible only in case all the neighbors of the Soviet Union had formally become participants of the Paris Pact. In the expectation of that moment the Soviet Government postponed its action for several months. However, when it became evident that the adherence of the Soviet Union's neighbors to the Kellogg Pact was proceeding somewhat slowly, the Soviet Government found it necessary to apply with the proposal for the immediate signing of the Protocol first to those neighboring countries which have already accepted the Kellogg Pact, with the understanding that subsequently other neighboring, or even non-neighboring countries which wished to do so might adhere to it. I take the liberty of expressing the hope, in my name and in yours, that in the nearest future even those neighboring countries will become participants in the Protocol, which for some reasons or other have not delegated their representatives to the signing of the Protocol which is taking place today. A later adherence to the Protocol gives the same rights and imposes the same obligations as emanate from the Protocol for its original participants.

"The document signed by us is an international act of a particular kind, one might even say one that is without precedent in history. Its participants, by virtue of the very document, do not assume any new obligations, and oblige themselves only to expedite the putting into effect of the obligations resulting from another document. But this circumstance does not at all diminish the significance of the document as an international act.

"The positive elements contained in the Kellogg Pact which was accepted by our countries assume a doubly important significance and meaning as a result of the signing of the Protocol. The renunciation of war is being realized by our countries sooner than by other states, but this is far from exhausting the significance of the Protocol. When countries which have already undertaken the obligation to renounce war under a general international treaty, solemnly declare and affirm through a new international act that, without waiting for these obligations to go into effect between all the nations of the world, they have decided to carry out these obligations immediately with regard to a limited group of countries, they assume a double obligation of peaceful character with regard to those countries. Every one of the participants of the Protocol under-

takes before the whole world the task of safeguarding peace within a definite geographic sector insofar as it is in his power; and the more apprehensions that sector caused formerly, the more important is our action of today.

"As regards the Soviet Government, it may be stated that its proposal for the signing of the Protocol is only a link in a long chain of its efforts towards general peace, and in particular towards peace in Eastern Europe. As the most important guaranty of peace, it considers disarmament which it proposed and is proposing to all nations. Disarmament alone is a real guaranty of the moral and formal obligations for the maintenance of peace under international agreements. On the other hand, every international agreement of this kind has an actual significance insofar as it furthers the speedier realization of the disarmament idea. Prompted by these considerations the Soviet Government has joined the Kellogg Pact although it is fully aware of its insufficiency. The same considerations prompted it to undertake an action directed towards the strengthening of the Kellogg Pact. However, the proposal of the Soviet Government concerning the Protocol must be considered first of all as the manifestation of the Soviet Union's will to peace. The fact that one of the delegates present here who signed the Protocol is the representative of a state with which the Soviet Union does not maintain normal diplomatic relations, old and important questions which have not been settled and are not being settled by the present Protocol being at issue between that state and the Soviet Union, is only an additional evidence of the Soviet Union's desire for peace.

"Permit me to express the hope for a speedy ratification of the Protocol by all its participants, for the sooner the ratification takes place, the greater will be the significance of the act.

"Gentlemen, in proposing that you proceed to sign the Protocol, I take the liberty of voicing the conviction that your Governments and your countries have accepted the proposal of the Soviet Government and will realize it in that genuinely pacific spirit with which it was submitted to you."

The Speech of the Polish Ambassador

After Mr. M. Litvinov had concluded, Mr. S. Patek, Ambassador of the Polish Republic, made the following speech:

"We are signing today that Protocol which represents a new step on the road towards the rapprochement between the countries which we represent.

"At the same time it is a step in advance towards international security which is the aim of the Kellogg Pact.

"In this respect the multilateral act upon which we unanimously agree, has a temporary character, accelerating the immediate practical results of the Paris Treaty.

"However, even when the Kellogg Pact will go into effect in accordance with its Section 3, our Protocol will forever remain a testimonial, a reminiscence, and an evidence of our sincere peaceful intentions and the efforts exerted by us for the realization of international peace. For this reason it will never lose its importance for the development of the best possible relations among the countries of Eastern Europe.

"I welcome the authors of the Kellogg Pact; the initiators of the Protocol which we are signing today; those who are signing it, as well as those who will have the desire to adhere to it.

"We are leaving the doors wide open to those who will wish to adhere to it."

Soviet-German Adjustment Convention

A convention providing for the adjustment of matters between the Soviet Union and Germany was signed in Moscow on January 25, 1929.

The text of the convention follows:

The Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the President of the German State, anxious to promote the development of the friendly relations existing between the two countries, have decided, in pursuance of the contents of the notes exchanged between them on April 24, 1926, to conclude a convention for adjustment procedure, and have appointed for this purpose their representatives, namely:

The Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics—Maxim Maximovich Litvinov, Member of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R. and Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs; and the President of the German State—Dr. Herbert von Dirksen, the German Ambassador in Moscow—

Who upon mutual presentation of their credentials, which were found in good and proper form, agreed upon the following decisions:

Article I.

Controversies of all kinds, especially differences arising in the interpretation of bilateral treaties existing between the two contracting parties, and agreements concluded for the purpose of their interpretation and execution, should, in case their settlement through diplomatic channels meets with difficulties, be subjected to an adjustment procedure in accordance with the following decisions.

Article II.

The adjustment procedure is carried out in the Adjustment Commission.

The Adjustment Commission is not a permanent body but is specially constituted for each session. It meets once a year, towards the mid-year, in regular session, the precise date of which is fixed each time by agreement between the two Governments. Extraordinary sessions take place,

if in the opinion of either of the Governments any urgent individual case gives cause for its convocation.

All the sessions of the Adjustment Commission are held alternately in Berlin and in Moscow. The meeting place for the first session is to be fixed by the drawing of lots.

Sessions must not, as a rule, last more than fourteen days.

Article III.

For each session each of the two Governments appoints two members of the Adjustment Commission.

Each session is presided over by one member of the Commission of the country on the territory of which the session takes place.

Each of the parties has the right, in individual cases, for the elucidation of any one item of the agenda, to appoint experts who have the privilege of taking the floor at the sittings of the Adjustment Commission.

Article IV.

Not later than fourteen days prior to the date of the regular session of the Adjustment Commission each of the parties is to communicate to the other through diplomatic channels the list of questions which it desires to have discussed at the said session.

If a request is made to arrange for a special session, the Government making the request is obliged to specify to the other Government the particular emergency which furnishes the basis for the request. The Commission must meet not later than one month after the request has been submitted.

Article V.

The object of the Adjustment Commission is to propose to both Governments a fair settlement, satisfactory to both parties, of the questions submitted to it, and particularly to prevent in the future possible differences between the two parties on the same questions.

If the Adjustment Commission fails to arrive at a joint proposal on any one of the questions on the agenda in the course of one session, the question may be submitted again to an extraordinary session of the Adjustment Commission, which, however, must take place not later than four months after the first session.

Otherwise the question is to be discussed through diplomatic channels.

The results of each session of the Adjustment Commission are submitted in the form of a report to both Governments for approval.

The publication of the report or of parts of the report may take place only by agreement of the two Governments.

Article VI.

Further details of the procedure are to be determined by the Adjustment Commission itself as need arises.

Article VII.

Both sides undertake the obligation to supply the Commission with all data useful in connection with the case and to facilitate in every respect the execution of its task.

Article VIII.

Both sides undertake the obligation to refrain from any measure which might adversely affect the discussion of any one question in the Adjustment Commission. They declare, in particular, their readiness for this purpose to consider the question of preventive measures.

Article IX.

This convention is subject to ratification. The exchange of ratification documents will take place in Berlin.

This convention enters into force on the day of exchange of ratification documents. It will be operative for three years.

Article X.

This convention is concluded in the Russian and German languages. Both texts are equally valid.

In witness whereof the above named plenipotentiary representatives signed this convention and attached their seals thereto.

Done in the City of Moscow, in two copies, on January 25, 1929.

M. LITVINOV

H. VON DIRKSEN

Note of the Afghan Ambassador

On January 31, 1929, Mr. Gulam Nabi-Khan, Ambassador Extraordinary of Afghanistan in the U. S. S. R., transmitted the following note to Mr. L. M. Karakhan, Assistant People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs:

"In accordance with official advices from my Government, I have been empowered to bring the following to your cognizance:

"On the night of January 14 last, His Majesty, the Padishah of Afghanistan, prompted by sentiments of deep patriotism and a sincere desire for a speedy cessation of the bloodshed going on in the country, voluntarily abdicated in behalf of his elder brother, Prince Inayatullah-Khan, and left Kabul for the City of Kandahar. However, His Majesty's abdication did not pacify the predatory insurgents who, headed by the bandit Habibullah, known under the nickname of "Bacha Sakao" (son of the waterboy), invaded the capital, and under the pretext of creating a new government, began to carry out their predatory aims.

"In the meantime, the news of the abdication of His Majesty Amanullah-Khan and of the anarchy prevailing in Kabul, has aroused the entire country, and numerous delegations and petitions from all parts of Afghanistan were sent to His Majesty in Kandahar, expressing their loyalty to His Majesty Amanullah-Khan, and asking the Padishah in the interest of the people and for the protection of the country against possible anarchy to assume the supreme leadership of the State and to liberate the capital from the bandits who have planted themselves therein.

"Yielding to the will of the overwhelming majority of the Afghan people, which was expressed in such a definite manner, His Majesty Amanullah-Khan rescinded his former abdication and placed himself at the head of the national Government which will actually represent the interests of the whole Afghan nation. In accordance with the above, the supreme power in Afghanistan is from now on vested in His Majesty Padishah Amanullah-Khan, the City of Kandahar being the residence of His Government."

Ratification of Conventions Concluded between the U. S. S. R. and Turkey

The Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R. ratified the following conventions concluded between the Soviet Union and Turkey: About the discussion and settlement of frontier conflicts arising between the U. S. S. R. and Turkey; about a simplified method of crossing the frontier by the inhabitants of the localities situated near the frontier; and about the use of pasture lands of either country by the citizens of the other country.

Soviet-Yemen Treaty

On November 1, 1928, a Treaty of Friendship and Commerce between the Soviet Union and Yemen was signed in Sanaa, the capital of Yemen. For the Soviet Union the Treaty was signed by Mr. Astakhov, Plenipotentiary Representative of the U. S. S. R., while Kadi Muhammed Ragibom signed for Yemen. The Treaty was ratified by the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R. on January 23, 1929.

Changes in Soviet Diplomatic Service

Mr. I. I. Blagov was appointed Trade Delegate of the Soviet Union in Greece, Mr. I. S. Ashkenadze having been relieved of that post.

A new edition of the Constitution of the Soviet Union, containing all amendments adopted since 1923 will be ready this month. Price: 20 cents.

Miscellaneous News

Electrification Plan for 1928-29

The Council of People's Commissars of the Soviet Union and the Council of Labor and Defense ratified the budget appropriations of 186,000,000 rubles (about \$96,000,000) for electrical construction in the fiscal year 1928-29 (beginning October 1, 1928). In the course of the present fiscal year the construction of a number of regional electrical plants will be started, particularly in Stalingrad (formerly Tsaritsyn), Briansk and Osinovsk on the peat marshes of White Russia.

Extension of the Dnieper Super-Power Project

The Presidium of the Supreme Council of National Economy of the U. S. S. R. decided to increase the total capacity of the Dnieper Super-Power Plant to 800,000 horsepower.

Soviet Cigarette Machines

The duplex cigarette making machines, devised by Katsky and Klimovich, the manufacture of which was begun not long ago in the Max Hölz Factory at Leningrad, have won an excellent reputation, not only in the Soviet Union, but also abroad.

The first three machines completed were shipped to Finnish tobacco firms, one of which, the Viborg Tobacco Company, has communicated the following expression of its satisfaction with the high-grade construction of the machine: "In our opinion the Soviet cigarette machines are the best to be found in this line. In this connection we may say that during the first day of operation, seven hours, the Katsky and Klimovich machine produced 128,000 cigarettes." In conclusion the Finnish concern stated that they hope to replace all their present machines with the new Soviet type in the near future.

The Max Hölz Factory has also received numerous inquiries from Poland and Lithuania concerning the possibility of delivering machines.

Development of Road and Automobile Construction

Eighty-five million rubles have been appropriated by the Soviet Government for the extension and improvement of road construction in the U. S. S. R.

The Chief Concessions Committee has been instructed to undertake the necessary steps for the purpose of attracting foreign capital for investment in the extension of road construction and automobile transport.

The import plan for 1928-29 provides for machinery, implements and equipment necessary for road construction.

New Steamship Lines

A new steamship line plying between Murmansk (North Russia), London, Rotterdam, Hamburg, Oslo, and Bergen, has started operations recently. The line is being served by the steamers of the Soviet Merchant Fleet sailing from Murmansk twice weekly.

The following regular Baltic lines will be operated in 1929 by the Soviet Merchant Fleet: Leningrad-Hull-London, Leningrad-Stettin, Leningrad-Stockholm, Leningrad-Havre, Leningrad-Hamburg, as well as a Baltic-Black Sea line.

Survey of the Aviation Season of 1928

The total length of all air lines has reached 11,971 kilometers by the end of 1928, making an increase of 88 per cent as compared with the preceding year. The number of flights effected was 3,152, as against 2,369 in 1927.

The distance covered by all lines in 1928 was 2,383,430 kilometers, as against 1,817,952 kilometers in 1927, an increase of 31 per cent. The number of passengers carried was 8,653 as against 7,079 in 1927, an increase of 22 per cent. Freight carried amounted to 221.7 tons, as against 170.4 tons in 1927.

Not a single accident occurred on the Soviet air lines in the course of 1928.

Trans-Siberian Air Line

A new air line connecting Moscow with Irkutsk over a distance of about 5,000 kilometers is to be started in the spring of 1929. At the same time another line from Irkutsk to Yakutsk and Bodaybo, covering about 3,000 kilometers, is to be established.

These lines are the first step towards the establishment of a trans-Siberian line which is to connect Western Europe with China and Japan. At the present time Berlin has air communication with Moscow through the "Deruluft" air line. The new line will make it possible within 36 hours to carry passengers from Moscow to Irkutsk and even to Yakutsk. An air line connecting Verkhne-Udinsk in Eastern Siberia (Buryat-Mongol Soviet Republic) with Urga in Mongolia is in operation at present.

Radio in the Soviet Union

Since the beginning of the current year broadcasting and radio construction have been placed under the jurisdiction of the People's Commissariat for Posts and Telegraphs.

Information about the events in the U. S. S. R. and in foreign countries is being broadcast in Moscow four times a day. The broadcasting of Gov-

ernment sessions, scientific lectures, debates, etc., has likewise been introduced. A workers radio university as well as technical and agronomical courses have been organized.

On October 1, 1928, there were 326,285 radio receiving sets in the U. S. S. R., which is a 50 per cent increase over 1927.

Radio theaters have been equipped in Moscow and Leningrad.

It is expected that a new radio broadcasting station, which is under construction at present, will be put into operation on August 1, 1929. It will have a capacity of 75 kilowatts at the antennae. The construction of the new radio station will cost 1,800,000 rubles (about \$930,000).

Elimination of Illiteracy

According to the figures of the 1897 census the percentage of illiterates among the male population of Russia amounted to 66.3 and that among women to 88.3. By 1920 these figures had been reduced to 55.4 for men and 74.2 for women. The corresponding figures of the 1926 census show a further reduction to 41.8 and 65.6, respectively.

Illiteracy is still much in evidence in various autonomous areas and republics.

Situation of Labor in the Soviet Union

The situation of the working class in the Soviet Union has shown marked improvement from year to year.

Thanks to the erection of new enterprises and the reequipment of the old in accordance with most modern technology and efficiency, it was possible during the course of the past year alone to raise labor productivity 15 per cent, which had an important bearing upon the 5.1 per cent reduction effected in manufacturing costs.

Industrial achievements have made it feasible to begin the introduction of the seven-hour work day. In the course of the past fiscal year 1927-28 about one hundred establishments had already put the seven-hour day into effect. Since November 7, 1928, the Eleventh Anniversary of the Soviet Revolution, this shorter workday has been introduced in 112 additional plants. It is expected that during the current fiscal year (beginning October 1, 1928), one-fifth of all the workers in the Soviet Union will be enjoying the benefit of the seven-hour day.

Wages are 27 per cent higher than before the war. Expenditures for labor protection increased from 13.72 rubles per worker in 1924-25 to 17.70 rubles in 1926-27. Disbursements for social insurance during the fiscal year 1927-28 amounted to nearly one billion rubles (half a billion dollars) as compared with 310,000,000 rubles in 1924-25. The share of the total national income going to the workers has grown considerably, being 33.6 per cent for 1927-28 in comparison with 26.6 per cent in 1924-25.

The improved material situation of the workers and the measures taken to protect their safety and health have brought down the death rate of the working class (for example, in Moscow) to half of the pre-war figure.

Expenditures for Social Insurance

The budget figures for social insurance, as ratified by the Council of People's Commissars, will amount to 1,125,740,000 rubles (about \$580,000,000) in 1928-29, which is 21 per cent above the figure for the preceding year. The appropriations for disability insurance have increased to 250,874,000 rubles—33 per cent above last year's figure. Appropriations for rest homes and sanitariums have been increased to 36,500,000 rubles.

Situation of the Scientific Workers in the U.S.S.R.

The total number of scientific workers on the territory of the U. S. S. R. amounts to about 26,000. The federal budget appropriations for the higher educational establishments and scientific institutions of the U. S. S. R. were increased from 133,000,000 rubles (over \$68,000,000) in 1926-27 to 212,000,000 rubles (\$109,000,000) in 1928-29. There has been a corresponding increase of the amount expended on salaries which has risen from 55,000,000 rubles to 77,000,000 rubles.

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April, 1929

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The Cinema Industry in the Soviet Union

Anti-Soviet Forgeries

Members of Rural and Urban Soviets

Soviet-British Relations

Workers' Control and the "Light Cavalry"

Red Army Anniversary

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Politics and Forgeries	54	The Cinema Industry in the U. S. S. R.:	
Soviet-British Relations:		Main Cinema Organizations	63
Litvinov on Visit of British Business Dele-		History of Soviet Cinema Industry	63
gation	56	Educational Films	64
Soviet-British Oil Agreement	56	Distribution of Films	65
Turkey's Adherence to Moscow Protocol	57	Miscellaneous News	
Workers' Control and "Light Cavalry"	58	Municipal Concessions	66
Members of Rural and Urban Soviets	60	Turkestan-Siberian Railroad	66
The Red Army	60	Completion of Baku-Batum Pipe-Line	66
Budget of the Soviet Union:		Rubber Industry	66
Federal Budget	62	Organization of State Rice Farms	66
National Defense in the Soviet Budget	62	Membership of Consumers' Cooperatives	66
		Unemployment in the U. S. S. R.	66
		Campaign Against Alcoholism	67
		State Academy of Fine Arts	67
		Population of Leningrad	67

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Politics and Forgeries

REFERRING to the recent arrest of forgers of anti-Soviet documents in Berlin, the Moscow "Izvestia" of March 5th, 1929, published the following editorial:

"Despatches from Berlin tell of the discovery there of a new organization of 'white' émigrés, who specialize in the fabrication and distribution (for a suitable compensation, of course) of forgeries 'convicting' both the government of the U. S. S. R. and the Communist International of a whole series of 'crimes against foreign governments.' The readers will find below a rather detailed description of the 'technique' of the work of this organization which has been directed by Orlov, a former examining magistrate of the Tsarist secret police. They will also find a list (far from complete, obviously) of the 'documents' prepared by this organization. The most sensational part of the despatches is the exposure, based on the evidence of the heads of the organization, Orlov and Sumarokov, of the fact that all the documents which were used in the political campaign which was undertaken against the American Senators Borah and Norris were prepared right in their plant. This campaign, as is well known, created great excitement in political circles in the United States. Both Senators were accused of accepting large sums of money from the government of the U. S. S. R. in exchange for their promise to work for the recognition of the Soviet Union by the United States. It was as a result of this campaign of slander that a special commission was organized by the Senate, headed by Senator Reed, which has been working for about eight months. This commission has examined a great number of 'documents' of which 'Borah's receipt for \$100,000,' 'Rakovsky's letter to Senator Norris,' 'Borah's letter to Rakovsky' and so on, are typical examples. As early as January of this year Senator Reed made the statement that these 'documents' represented '*obvious frauds of the most flagrant nature*' and that from certain facts he deduced that the fabricator of the documents was a Russian émigré.

"In spite of the obviousness and even crudity of the fraud, in spite of categorical repudiations on the part of both of the government of the U. S. S. R. and the Senators themselves on this question—and even in spite of the work of the Senate Commission, the two Senators remained victims of this infamous calumny until the present exposure.

"The fate of this newly discovered organization for forging documents directed against the U. S. S. R. is by no means unique. It will suffice to recall the celebrated Druzhelovsky case. It will suffice to examine the special book about anti-Soviet forgeries published by the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs in order to understand the role and significance of this 'method of struggle' against the Soviet Union.

"The exposure of the Berlin organization of Orlov and Sumarokov practically coincides with the closing of the British parliament which was elected in the autumn of 1924. It is a well known fact that this parliament was elected to the tune of 'the red peril,' of which the 'Zinoviev letter' was the incarnation. *This gross forgery of a 'White' émigré was used by the Conservative Party to organize its own victory at the elections.* This 'letter,' so obviously spurious, was used as the 'convicting evidence' in all the steps taken by the Conservative cabinet in relation to the Soviet Union—steps which led to the breaking off of Anglo-Soviet relations.

"Just as the 'Zinoviev letter' was made use of to disrupt the *existing* relations between the U. S. S. R. and Great Britain, so the 'documents relating to the bribing of Borah and Norris' were intended by their authors to *prevent improvement* of the relations between the U. S. S. R. and the United States. The 'exposure of the bribery,' according to the testimony of Orlov and Sumarokov, was to have been the beginning of anti-Soviet propaganda on a large scale. 'This propaganda was to have been directed against all those American politicians whose attitude gave rise to the fear that they would make use of the change of Presidents to bring about recognition of the U. S. S. R. by the United States.' Thus the aims of the 'Zinoviev letter' and of the 'exposure of the bribery of the American Senators' may be considered identical. The purpose of both documents was to disrupt or prevent normal political and economic relations between the U. S. S. R. and the other countries in question.

"This is entirely in line with the usual methods of the 'White' émigrés. With the help of forgeries in some cases and of revolvers in others, the 'White' émigrés 'correct' the policies toward the U. S. S. R. of the various countries. At one time our press together with the government of the U. S. S. R. repeatedly brought to the attention of Polish public the fact that the rela-

tions between Poland and the U. S. S. R. were determined not by direct reciprocal action between the two countries, but by the criminal activities of the Russian émigrés in Poland. The negotiations between the Polish and Soviet Governments were far more concerned with the assassination of P. L. Voikov, Soviet Plenipotentiary Representative in Poland, the attempt of Traikovitch,* and finally the attack of Wojciechowski on the life of the Soviet Trade Delegate, than with questions touching the mutual interests of the two countries.

"The role of the 'White' émigrés in directly interfering with the consolidation of relations between the U. S. S. R. and other countries must now be clear to the whole world—as, in fact, it should have been long ago. After the publication of the most striking facts in this field, the appraisal of this role is bound to be the same as has always been expressed in the press of the Soviet Union. The 'White' émigré forgers are not only directly injuring the interests of the U. S. S. R., they are also doing the greatest injury to the interests of those countries whose relations with the Soviet Union they are trying to disrupt. In this connection we cannot resist mentioning one very curious circumstance. It goes without saying that only fools believe in the authenticity of the 'White' émigrés' documents. But the use of these documents is not confined to fools. We do not doubt that neither the leaders of the Conservative party—even the most extreme of the 'die-hards'—nor MacDonald, believed that the 'Zinoviev letter' was genuine. And yet this letter was used as a pretext for the extraordinarily stupid act of first violating the agreement with the U. S. S. R., and then breaking off Anglo-Soviet relations. It is just this circumstance which permits the assumption that the anti-Soviet forgers, who are governed by the law of supply and demand like any other merchants, will find enough customers to justify the development and extension of their activities.

"The struggle against the U. S. S. R. offers large rewards to those connected with it (Orlov and Samarokov were able to buy themselves villas and estates) and plenty of governments are ready to make use of the fruits of 'White' émigré ingenuity. It is difficult to say whether greater initiative is shown by the forgers themselves or by their customers. In either case, however, the interests of those countries whose governments make use of the services of the 'White' émigré criminals are sacrificed. These governments, although they can get the true facts about the Soviet Union right at the source, either through their diplomatic representatives in the U. S. S. R. or through their far-flung information service, nevertheless have recourse to the services of acknowledged forgers, who are bound to be exposed

sooner or later. Public opinion in these countries will eventually have to put an end to this humbug, so obviously injurious to both sides.

"The exposure of the authors of the documents relating to the bribery of the American senators, in addition to being just one more proof of the correctness of our estimate of the criminal role played by the 'White' émigrés in disrupting the relations between the U. S. S. R. and other countries, will undoubtedly have another positive effect. The businesslike realism of the political leaders of the United States will undoubtedly induce them, after these revelations, to examine more carefully all anti-Soviet documents, no matter by whom or when they were forged. The truth about the U. S. S. R. cannot be discovered through the 'White' émigrés and their forgeries, but only through information and data received from its original source. Every new forgery and the way in which it is used will now serve as a convincing proof of the methods of those carrying on political machinations against the Soviet Union, who do not want the real truth, but rather avoid it.

"We have a right to express our complete assurance that the German Government and the German Courts will take every measure necessary to disclose completely all the criminal activities of the organization for forging documents, and will throw the authors on the scrap heap of history along with the 'documents' themselves."

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*A White Semigre terrorist in Warsaw.

Soviet-British Relations

IN reply to an inquiry made by the Moscow representative of the Associated Press, Mr. Litvinov, Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U. S. S. R., made the following statement:

"You ask me about the attitude of the Soviet Government with regard to the contemplated visit to Moscow of a delegation of British manufacturers and financiers. I am in a position to confirm that when the idea of sending a delegation was suggested to the Soviet Embassy in Paris by an influential group of British conservatives belonging to the business world, the representatives of the Embassy replied that on the part of the Soviet Government authorities there would be no objections against the visit of the delegation; that it would receive all possible cooperation for the study of the questions of interest to it, and that the proper representatives of the Soviet Government would not refuse to consider any possible proposals of the delegation as to the most effective methods of reviving the trade relations between the two countries, and to examine all questions one way or another connected with that matter. When, subsequently, it turned out that the idea of sending a delegation was taking a more concrete form, the proper economic authorities in Moscow took up the preparation of the material which may be required in the solution of the problems which the delegation has set itself.

"On the basis of the preliminary negotiations between the organizers of the delegation and the representatives of the Soviet Embassy in Paris it is being taken for granted that the delegation is interested chiefly in the problem of such economic collaboration between the British business world and the Soviet Union as would assure the greatest possible export to the U. S. S. R. of British industrial and agricultural machinery and equipment, as well as other forms of participation of British capital in the industrial and agricultural construction of the U. S. S. R. In view of the fact that Soviet economy is being built up according to plan, and in particular, in view of a five-year plan of economic development, our economic institutions were able without difficulty to work out a general plan for a possible agreement which would (1) facilitate the achievement of the main aim of the delegation—increase of British exports to the U. S. S. R.; (2) secure for the U. S. S. R. the possibility of effecting such an increased import, and (3) facilitate the increase of the export possibilities of the U. S. S. R. This plan likewise provides for the settlement of other questions which might interest the British delegation.

"The attitude of the Soviet Government with regard to the arrival of the delegation is in general

determined by the fundamental principles of its foreign policy which require the maintenance of normal relations with all countries. The absence of normal relations between two large countries, such as the U. S. S. R. and Great Britain, and the inevitable decrease of trade between the two countries which is being accentuated from year to year, is an obvious anomaly not justified by anything, a political and economic absurdity. If a group of business men who are wielding quite a considerable influence in their country, are ready to take the initiative for the removal of that anomaly, for the benefit of both countries, this initiative must be welcomed. We do not know yet when the delegation will come, and whether it will succeed in achieving its aims when it comes. We do not even know whether it will come at all,* as apparently the prejudices counteracting the efforts of the organizers of the delegation are still quite strong in England. However, it is noteworthy that a considerable section of the British large scale manufacturers and financiers, are beginning to understand, or maybe have understood already, that the policy of active hostility or of passive, doctrinaire waiting, as a means of settling old or new economic problems, as well as other mutual relations of the two countries, is altogether futile."

The Soviet-British Oil Agreement

In a conversation with a representative of the Moscow "Izvestia" Mr. G. Y. Sokolnikov, Chairman of the Board of the Oil Syndicate, made the following statement, as reported by the Moscow "Izvestia" of March 1, 1929:

"The Board of the Oil Syndicate received today a communication from London to the effect that an agreement has been reached between the Soviet concern for the sale of oil products in England and the Anglo-American Company, which represents the largest English and American oil concerns.

"This agreement is the result of protracted negotiations which were started last autumn. At first the negotiations were not successful, and were interrupted because the largest of the oil concerns operating in England, namely, the Anglo-Dutch Company which is headed by Sir Henri Deterding, demanded the following condition for the conclusion of a business agreement with the Oil Syndicate and 'R. O. P.' (Russian Oil Products Co.), its branch in England: the recognition of the principle of a rebate of five per cent of the price of the Soviet oil products sold in England, to be converted into a fund to satisfy the claims of the former owners of the oil wells, whose properties were nationalized. Naturally the results of negotiations on such a basis could not be satisfactory, and the fierce competition on the English market continued. This competition led to a lowering of

*Since this statement was made the delegation has arrived in Moscow.

prices on the English market considerably below the world price level, as a result of which the English and American companies trading in oil on the English market, incurred great losses.

"It should be noted that the American oil trusts buying Soviet oil products to resell on Eastern and other markets, did not support the demand for the five per cent rebate, since it was obviously of a political nature. Furthermore, the American firms interested in the situation on the English market, affirmed their readiness to help bring about the recognition of the right of the Soviet oil companies to sell their products without interference, and did not support the plan of boycotting Soviet oil products advocated under the slogan that soviet oil was . . . 'stolen oil.' This slogan represented an attempt to deny the legality of Soviet trade and to block Soviet oil export. The oil conflict, as is well known, became the center of the political campaign against the Soviet Union in a number of countries. It has recently become obvious, however, that this whole campaign, as well as the attempt to hinder the development of the Soviet Oil export, has completely failed. It is not surprising that in the beginning of January the negotiations which were broken off last autumn were renewed, but this time on the basis of the withdrawal by the opposing side of its demands for a five per cent rebate in favor of the former owners.

"This is the basis on which the present commercial agreement, which makes possible the normal sale of Soviet products in England, has been reached. The agreement has been signed for a three-year period. It guarantees to us the export of about one million tons of oil products annually for sale on the British market.

"This agreement will be very helpful in establishing normal commercial conditions on the English market. It means in effect that all the largest English and American firms represented by the above mentioned Anglo-American company, which are carrying on trade in oil products on the English market, including even Deterding's company, have agreed to the establishment of regular commercial relations with Soviet economic organizations. The agreement undoubtedly favors the economic interests of the Soviet Union.

"The signing of this three-year agreement signifies, if not a complete cessation of active hostilities against the U. S. S. R. on the part of certain oil organizations, at least an important change in their attitude toward the Soviet Union. It is quite possible that the conclusion of a 'peace pact' in England regarding the sale of Soviet oil, has also some connection with the mood of certain sections of English financial and industrial circles which are beginning to think of the desirability and expediency of improving the present relations between England and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

Turkey Joins Moscow Protocol

THE following is a copy of the note sent on February 26, 1929, by the Plenipotentiary Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Angora to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs:

"Upon instructions received from my Government I have the honor to submit to you herewith the text of the Protocol with regard to carrying into effect the Paris Pact of August 27, 1928, as to the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy, which was signed in Moscow on February 9, 1929, by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Latvia, Poland, Rumania and Esthonia. The aforesaid Protocol was ratified by the Central Executive Committee of the Soviet Union February 13th, 1929.

"I have been instructed by my Government to add to the foregoing that, in view of the geographical position of Turkey which makes its peaceful policy an especially important factor for peace in Eastern Europe, and also in view of the persistent efforts of the Soviet Union and the Turkish Republic toward friendly cooperation in the consolidation of world peace, my Government would welcome most warmly the adherence of Turkey to the aforesaid Protocol, in accordance with Article 5 thereof."

The answer of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated February 27, 1929, to the Plenipotentiary Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Angora, follows:

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the note of February 26th, which you were kind enough to present to me together with the Protocol with regard to carrying into effect the Paris Pact of August 27th, 1928, regarding the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy, which was signed in Moscow on February 9th, 1929, by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Latvia, Poland, Rumania, and Esthonia, containing the proposal of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to Government of the Turkish Republic to adhere to the Protocol.

"The Government of the Turkish Republic which, from the very beginning has been informed through the friendly and kind communication on the part of the Government of the Soviet Union of the initiative taken by Mr. Litvinov in the direction of furthering peace in Eastern Europe, has appraised most favorably this new step forward, has welcomed it, and did not fail to inform the participants in the negotiations regarding the Protocol of its favorable attitude on this matter.

"Inasmuch as this initiative corresponds in all respects to the peaceful policy which Turkey persistently and sincerely pursues, I hasten to inform you that the Government of the Republic, animated by the desire to help in the matter of maintaining general peace, takes the greatest pleasure in adhering to the Moscow Protocol."

Workers' Control and the "Light Cavalry"

CONTRARY to the practice of the old regime which built its power from the top downward, the U. S. S. R. is ruled at present by Soviets which represent the concentrated will of the masses.

The local Soviets are in charge of the administration of the area under their jurisdiction and carry out their decisions through elected and specially appointed persons, a large majority of whom are workers and peasants.

However, eleven years of administrative experience is a very short period, and there are many defects in the activities of a good many Soviet officials who, consciously or unconsciously, frequently make mistakes of considerable significance.

All the provincial and district offices of the People's Commissariat for Workers' and Peasants' Inspection maintain special Bureaus which accept complaints against the mistakes of authorities, injurious either to the interests of individuals or to the State.

Many newspapers come to the aid of the Bureaus of Complaints by running special columns devoted to the denunciation of abuses.

But who is to look over this stream of reports, and who is to find out the truth in each case?

All the branches of the People's Commissariat for Workers' and Peasants' Inspection include sections composed of Soviet members and specially appointed workers from the plants and factories with whose aid the complaints are investigated.

In 1927-28 the Moscow office of the People's Commissariat for Workers' and Peasants' Inspection alone had at its disposal 15,000 persons who were assisting in the investigation of the various complaints. These persons are called "Sectioners."

Upon receipt of the report of the complainant from the Bureau of Complaints, or of the newspaper clipping dealing with the matter, the "sectioner" proceeds to the place under investigation and, to begin with, endeavors to establish contact with the local public organizations, such as the Trade Union Council, and with their assistance investigates the case entrusted to his charge.

The following is a typical case:

An inventor complains that the superintendent of the factory is delaying the realization of his efficiency plan.

The "sectioner," after acquainting the factory committee with the question, confers with the superintendent and learns that the superintendent and the technical experts consider the invention helpful, and that it would be "technically and economically advisable" to make use of it, but . . . it would involve a certain expenditure which the

superintendent is reluctant to make because "there are many other urgent expenses."

The "sectioner" is not so easily appeased. With the aid of the factory committee, he learns, first, that the invention calls for an expenditure of 150 rubles only; second, that it will mean an annual saving of 2,000 rubles; third, that the "urgent" expenditures are fully covered by the funds appropriated for such purposes; and fourth, that the superintendent usually ignores suggestions for greater efficiency of production.

The material collected by the "sectioner" is passed on to the People's Commissariat for Workers' and Peasants' Inspection, and as a result the superintendent is instructed "to put into effect the suggestions of the inventor within a specified period." He is also reprimanded for red tape. The factory committee, the technical experts and workers, and sometimes the general meeting of all the workers of the factory, are consulted on the case, which helps in eliminating any element of personal bias and misunderstanding.

In addition to red tape, the following questions have, in the course of the last two years, given cause for complaints:

	1926-27 Percentage	1927-28 Percentage
Mismanagement and irrational expenditures	14	18.5
Unfair treatment of workers	9	5.1
Housing questions	6.6	10.5
Graft and embezzlement	2.5	1.8
Social insurance	1.3	2.3

It is interesting that frequently the complaints are lodged not only by individuals, but also by government and public organizations—about 26 per cent of the total number of complaints, 22.3 per cent coming from workers, 23.4 per cent from office employees, and the remainder from newspapers.

The complaints directed against Government and economic organizations make up 34 per cent; those against commercial and cooperative organizations, 12.3 per cent; those against housing organizations, 10.8 per cent; those against private enterprises and individuals, 10.4 per cent; against public institutions, 5.8 per cent, etc.

Only a small part, 18 per cent, of the complaints filed are found to be without foundation, a considerable part, 35 per cent, are satisfied immediately, some are settled after preliminary negotiations (18-20 per cent); the remaining are referred to the proper organizations—the courts and the proper Soviet departments.

Frequently the lodging of a complaint is accompanied by incidents like the following:

A certain citizen wants to become a member of a housing cooperative to which he is eligible.

He has sent in his application the day before and today he is applying to the Bureau of Complaints.

"But why do you complain," he is asked, "not having been refused admission?"

"In truth, I do not expect to be rejected, but the mere appearance of one of your representatives at the Managing Board of the housing co-operative will hasten the procedure."

Such cases are very numerous.

Only those workers are eligible for membership of the Section who are elected by the general meetings of the industrial establishments concerned. It is their duty to submit reports to their electorates.

Questions put to the "sectioners" at the special meetings at which the reports are submitted, show that the workers take a great interest in this form of activity.

They are interested not only in the number of investigations and examinations carried on by the "sectioner," but in the results of the work of the whole "section." Frequently special instructions are passed at these meetings for the improvement of the work of the "section."

For the examination and settlement of many special problems plenary meetings of the "section" are called regularly.

The sections regulate the practical work of the various Soviet departments and they continually extend their work of social supervision in accordance with the needs of the electorate.

From April 1927 to October 1928, the Moscow section carried out over 150,000 investigations.

In this enormous work great help was rendered by what is called "the light cavalry."

At the various industrial establishments squads of young workers were organized for voluntary aid to the People's Commissariat for Workers' and Peasants' Inspection.

Whenever anything unusual was observed by the People's Commissariat for Workers' and Peasants' Inspection in the activities of establishments or individuals, the complaints received immediate attention, particularly such as were entered in the book of complaints of the various establishments. They also paid attention to the treatment given to the public in Soviet stores, railway stations, etc. Special attention was paid to establishments catering to the masses. This was the task with which the "Light Cavalry" was entrusted. How the "Cavalrists," who recently have accepted this name, are coping with their task, may be seen from the following example:

Some time ago a bread shortage unexpectedly affected the inhabitants of Moscow; long waiting queues appeared before the stores; the population got very nervous and sought to lay up stocks of bread. According to the official calculations there should have been enough bread to meet the demands; to find the cause of this abnormality the "light cavalry" was sent out to investigate. A plan was prepared for the investigation of the es-

tablishments which were charged with the baking and the distribution of bread. The investigators were to learn how much flour was received, from where, to whom and in what quantities it was distributed. They were allowed to investigate how much was consumed by the bakers and the distributors and how the latter explained the existing difficulties to the buyers. The probe was carried out simultaneously in ten or fifteen bakeries and stores in each district.

Within a few days the "cavalrists" learned that in spite of the prohibition to sell flour, many establishments disposed of it, under the disguise of bread, to speculators. Considerable quantities of higher grades of flour were shipped to grain speculators in the provinces. Certain kinds of fancy breads were baked with higher grades of flour and sold to the speculators. Those guilty will be prosecuted and severely punished, but what is more important, the waiting lines disappeared when, due to the aid of the "light cavalry," the population became convinced that there was enough bread in Moscow to supply everybody abundantly.

Many such instances may be cited. The "light cavalry" of the working youth quickly and resolutely carries out the tasks entrusted to it by the People's Commissariat for Workers' and Peasants' Inspection.

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Members of Rural and Urban Soviets

ACCORDING to the figures of the last pre-election campaign the numerical composition of the persons active in the City and Village Soviets, as well as in the District and Subdistrict Executive Committees, including the employees of these bodies, was as follows:

In 71,899 Village Soviets (these constitute 97.5 per cent of all the Village Soviets in the Soviet Union) there are 1,315,768 members. In addition, at least half of the Village Soviets have secretaries who are not elected members but appointed employees. Of these there are approximately 36,800. Further, there are the members of the Control Commissions of the Village Soviets, on the average three to each Soviet, totaling 221,000. If to these figures are added approximate figures for those Village Soviets for which data were not secured, the total number of active Soviet workers in the rural districts will exceed 1,600,000.

Second in point of numbers are the members of the City Soviets, data for which have been obtained for 861 cities (85.5 per cent of the total number of cities in the Soviet Union). Members of the Soviets in these cities number 110,115, which, together with those not tabulated makes an approximate total of 125,000 to 130,000.

Thus the total number of active Soviet workers in the mass organizations enumerated above is about 1,800,000.

From a socio-economic point of view the Village Soviet personnel presents the following picture (for five constituent republics, excluding the Uzbek Republic in Central Asia): Of the total number of members of the Village Soviets 16.9 per cent are entirely exempt from the payment of the agricultural tax, 17.1 per cent pay up to 1 ruble per "eater" (member of household), 22.8 per cent pay from 1 to 2 rubles per member of household, 23.8 per cent—2 to 5 rubles per member of household, 11.8 per cent—5 to 10 rubles, and 7.6 per cent—over 10 rubles per member of household. From these data it may be seen, first, that the poorer peasants constitute 34 per cent of the village Soviets, and, second, that the middle peasants, the central mass of the village, also form one of the basic groups of active Soviet workers in the village government organs.

The socio-economic groups are approximately the same among the members of the District and Subdistrict Executive Committees, the proportion of members paying the lowest-rate agricultural tax being even somewhat higher than in the Village Soviets.

The social composition of the membership of the City Soviets shows an overwhelming preponderance of those organized in trade unions over those unorganized, and among those organ-

ized in trade unions the greater part of the Soviet personnel are industrial workers (39 per cent out of 47.6 per cent of all the workers).

The Soviet personnel may be classified according to party affiliation as follows: Communists in the Village Soviets—8.7 per cent, in the City Soviets—51 per cent, in the District and Subdistrict Executive Committees—55 per cent.

The Red Army

THE coincidence of the eleventh anniversary of the Red Army with the fifth anniversary of its reorganization effected in 1924, offered Mr. I. S. Unshlikht, Assistant People's Commissar for War of the U. S. S. R., opportunity for a critical survey of the success and of the accomplishments achieved in the way of solving the problems set before the Soviet military administration five years ago:

"At the conclusion of the Civil War, the Red Army found itself in a difficult situation. The continuous change in the personnel, the lack of definiteness and of system in the organization of the military apparatus, the inadequacy in the equipment, and the heterogeneity of the composition of the commanding staff—all demanded that immediate and decisive measures be adopted to strengthen the Red Army and to raise its efficiency as a fighting force.

"The fundamental tasks that the Red Army administration had set before itself for the reorganization of the Army in 1924 can be outlined as follows:

"It was necessary, in the first place, to determine the numerical size of the Red Army in conformity with the material resources which the country could offer in the period of peace-time reconstruction. A maximum of economy and an apt and purposeful utilization of the resources, as well as reduction in the administrative apparatus and a corresponding increase in the fighting ranks—became the requirements arising from the peace-time conditions. The reorganization of the Red Army effected in 1924 solved those problems. The Red Army was reduced to a minimum of 562,000. This enabled the country to increase the expenditures on military technical improvements.

"The reduction in the size of the Red Army was accompanied by a strengthening in its organization. The foundation upon which the Red Army is now being built and developed was laid down five years ago. The cadres of the Red Army being retained as the basis upon which a war-time organization could be rapidly effected, a methodical development of the system of territorial units as a basic form from which a standing fighting force could be evolved was introduced. The coordinated development of the cadres and of the territorial units fully justified itself, for the territorial units are in no way inferior to the regular

army formations with regard to their fighting preparedness.

"Politically the system of territorial units rests upon the confidence and the sympathy of the masses, since it makes it possible to obtain military training without interrupting one's productive occupation.

"The firm organizational structure of the Red Army was to secure a rapid progress in the development of the military preparedness of the troops.

"The past five years have yielded much towards the upbuilding of the firm foundation of the fighting fitness of the Army and towards raising it to levels compatible with requirements of modern warfare. On the eleventh anniversary a further growth in the fighting efficiency of the Red Army is to be noted. With the general increase in the efficiency of the training of the troops, the mutual influence of the infantry and the artillery upon each other, as well as the alertness and general activity of the commanding staffs have improved.

"The composition of the commanding personnel of the cadres exerted a decided influence upon the fighting efficiency of the Red Army. Five years ago the personnel consisted mostly of former officers of the Tsarist Army; the percentage of workers and of peasants among the commanding personnel was insignificant. On the first of December, 1928, workers constituted 25.9 per cent of the commanding personnel; peasants—33.2 per cent. The percentage of former office employees was 21.8. The percentage of those belonging to other categories declined to 19.1. On January first, 1928, 49.7 per cent of the commanding personnel were Communist Party members, and 4.5 per cent members of the Communist Youth League, which means that less than one-half of the personnel did not belong to the Party. An improvement likewise can be recorded from the point of view of military qualifications. Thus the percentage of the commanding personnel having received military instruction in the Red Army has risen from 34.4 per cent in 1923 to 79.8 per cent in December 1, 1927.

"The reduction of the administrative apparatus of the Red Army was intimately connected with an increase of its efficiency. In the course of the five years, a further simplification of the military administrative apparatus, an improvement of its activities and a reduction of its cost of maintenance have been effected.

"One of the principal ideas guiding the Soviet authorities in the reorganization program of 1924 consisted in raising the material and the technical basis of the Red Army, which had been weak during the period of the Civil War. Particular attention was paid to the question of military technique. On the eleventh anniversary considerable success could be recorded in that

direction. Since 1924 The Soviet air forces have grown manifold. The activities for the simplification and modernization of the fighting equipment of the artillery are being continued. Chemical warfare equipment, entirely non-existent during the period of the Civil War, is now at the disposal of the Red Army. The Navy is improving its technical equipment from year to year. Important accomplishments have been achieved in the field of radio-technique.

"The improvement in the military equipment of the Red Army within the past five years has been so effective that no comparison with the equipment the Red Army had at its disposal after the conclusion of the Civil War is possible.

"The budget appropriations assigned to the People's Commissariat for Army and Navy for 1928-29 have increased 14.5 per cent as compared with the past year's appropriations. This has made possible the following percentage increases in itemized expenditures as compared with the preceding year: technical improvement—19.23 per cent; building—24.89 per cent; and education—33.54 per cent.

"The salaries of the commanding personnel (from platoon commander to regiment commander) have been raised by 15 rubles monthly. The salaries are now as follows: platoon commander—100 rubles; company commander—123 rubles, and regiment commander—130 rubles.

"Particular attention has been paid to the construction of barracks for which the Red Army has felt the greatest need.

"The accomplishments of the reorganization program of 1924 are marked by attracting the broad masses of the population to participation in the constructive defense of the country.

"The steady growth of the Society of Friends of Aviation and Chemical Defense serves as proof of the success achieved in this direction. Within five years the organization has acquired a membership of 4,000,000."

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The Budget of the Soviet Union

THE Federal and local budgets, as well as the social insurance budget play quite a considerable part in the general system of redistribution of the national income, both from the organizational point of view and from the point of view of the resources embraced by it. The sum total of resources obtained under the three aforesaid budgets, has reached one third of the national income in the course of the fiscal year 1928-29, which began October 1, 1928.

The dynamics of this joint budget, as compared with the national income, are shown by the following figures:

Joint Budget and National Income in Gold Rubles

Year	Joint Budget	National Income
1924-25	4,050,000,000	15,600,000,000
1925-26	5,550,000,000	20,250,000,000
1926-27	7,200,000,000	23,600,000,000
1927-28	8,250,000,000	25,900,000,000
1928-29	9,900,000,000	28,450,000,000

This table shows that the increase of the joint budget is proceeding at a quicker pace than the increase of the national income. As a result, the share of the resources withdrawn from the national economy under the joint budget is increasing continually, which testifies to the increase of the part played by State regulation in the matter of redistribution of the national income.

If the present expenditures of the joint budget of the Soviet Union are compared with the corresponding expenditures of 1913 (5,520,000,000 gold rubles*), it becomes evident that the total expenditures for the current fiscal year exceed those for 1913 by 4,380,000,000 gold rubles, or by 80 per cent. Simultaneously with this tremendous increase of the budget, the composition of the latter has likewise undergone a radical change. Thus, while in 1913 the expenditures for national economy amounted to 465,000,000 present-day gold rubles, or to 8.4 per cent of the joint budget, the expenditures for 1928-29, under the same head, will amount to 2,990,000,000 gold rubles, which is over 30 per cent of the total figure. Altogether 5,500,000,000 gold rubles, that is over half of the joint budget, will be spent this year for national economy, transport and communications (post, telegraphs, etc.). The expenditures for education and social welfare will amount to 2,400,000,000 rubles, as against 855,000,000 rubles in 1913.

National Defense in the Budget of the U. S. S. R.

According to preliminary figures, last year's expenditures of the People's Commissariat for Army and Navy amounted to 742,400,000 gold

rubles, which is 11.5 per cent of all budget expenditures. For the current fiscal year 1928-29 (beginning October 1, 1928), the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R. ratified the budget figure of 850,700,000 rubles for the Army and Navy Department, which is only 11 per cent of the present year's budget. Thus the relative share of the Army and Navy expenditures is this year smaller than last year. This circumstance is all the more interesting as the military budgets of other countries, as for instance, of France, increased from 18.3 per cent to 21.2 per cent of the total (from 8,876,000,000 francs in 1928 to 11,600,000,000 francs in 1929). Moreover, it must be pointed out that while the budget expenditures of the Soviet Union for 1928-29 increased 19.9 per cent, the budget of the People's Commissariat for Army and Navy increased only 14.5 per cent. Military expenditures per capita of the population amount to 5.50 rubles (\$2.83) in the Soviet Union, as compared with 24.60 rubles (\$12.67) in England, 18.90 rubles (\$9.73) in France, 11.80 rubles (\$6.00) in Italy, etc.

In considering the Soviet budget for the current year it becomes evident that the expenditure items intended for the requirements of national economy show the greatest rate of increase. Thus, for instance, the appropriations for agriculture have doubled, those for industry increased by 49 per cent, those for the construction of new railroads by 87 per cent, etc. While last year the expenditures under the head of "national economy" constituted 22.8 per cent of all expenditures, during the current fiscal year this percentage has increased to 28.5 per cent.

This means that from year to year the Soviet budget shows a proportional increase of the expenditures for national economic requirements, while the expenditures for national defense and administration are decreasing accordingly.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOVIET UNION

A new edition of the Constitution of the Soviet Union, containing all amendments adopted since 1923 will be ready this month.

Price: 20 cents

*This figure represents the purchasing value of pre-war rubles converted into present-day gold rubles.

The Cinema Industry in the U. S. S. R.

THE cinema industry in the Soviet Union is concentrated in the hands of a few organizations, the most important of which are active in Soviet Russia proper, viz: "Sovkino" (Soviet Cinema Joint Stock Company), Mezhrabpom Film (International Labor Defense Film), and "Gosvovkino" (State Army Cinema). In addition, some of the larger Constituent and Autonomous Republics, such as the Ukraine, White Russia, Georgia, Armenia, and the Chuvash Republic, have their own state cinema producing organizations. In the course of the present fiscal year a new cinema joint stock company, the "Vostokkino" (Orient Cinema) was organized. It produces films portraying the life of the minor nationalities.

The largest cinema organizations are the above mentioned "Sovkino" and "Mezhrabpom-Film." "Sovkino" has three large cinema studios, two in Moscow and one in Leningrad, with a total space of 3,233 sq. metres. During the fiscal year 1926-27 it turned out fifty-three art films at an average cost of 10,000 rubles each, in addition to a number of scientific and news films. The program for 1928-29 includes the output of sixty art films, fifty educational films and a systematic production of news films.

The vitality of "Mezhrabpom" is shown by the fact that a fire which in 1926 destroyed its cinema plant with studio, costumes, auxiliary material, etc., did not stop the development of the organization, which regularly releases from twenty to twenty-five art films and a number of educational films a year.

While "Sovkino" may be proud of such productions as "The Cruiser Potemkin," "October," and "The General Line" by Eisenstein, the "Sixth Part of the World" by Dziga Vertov, "The Fall of the Dynasty of the Romanovs" by S. Sashub, "The Harbor of Death" by Room, and "The Shanghai Document" by Bliokh-Shepanov, all of which have gained recognition abroad, "Mezhrabpom-Film" can point to just as well known films, such as "Mother," "The End of St. Petersburg," the "Descendant of Jenghis-Khan" by Pudovkin and "41" by Protazanov. The State Army Cinema has turned out "Katorga" (Penal Servitude) by Reisman.

The Cinema Departments of the Soviet republics of the non-Russian nationalities have likewise produced a number of prominent films. The first place is occupied by the Ukrainian Cinema Department whose outstanding productions are "The Eleventh" by Vertov, as well as "Zveni Gora" and "The Arsenal" by Dolzhenko, the Armenian Cinema Department produced "Namus" by Bek Nazarov, while the Cinema Department of Georgia (Transcaucasia) created "Elisso" by Shengel.

The rapid development of the cinema industry in these Soviet republics is shown by the construction of a new plant in Kiev (Ukraine), which is to produce eleven art and thirty-seven educational films in 1928-29. At present the Ukrainian Cinema Department has two cinema plants, in Odessa and Yalta, and is producing over thirty films per year, having twenty-three producing units.

A new plant is now being erected in Georgia. This organization, known as "Goskinprom," is a joint stock corporation founded by the largest industrial and financial organizations in Transcaucasia. Its plant in Tiflis produces annually up to fifteen films.

The Soviet Cinema Industry has at its disposal a permanent army of cinema workers including 35,000 persons, 2,000 of whom constitute the directing personnel, such as producers and their assistants, operators, artists, etc. Not included in this number are persons who are invited for special productions, such as producers, actors from the stage, etc. The number of cinema workers has increased threefold as compared with the pre-war period.

During the next five years the Soviet cinema industry is expected to develop at a very rapid pace. It is not difficult to calculate that in view of the great number of cinema plants now under construction, as well as the building of new cinema theatres, and the growth of cinema equipment in workers' clubs and peasant theatres, the number of cinema workers will increase twofold. The program for the R. S. F. S. R. (Soviet Russia proper) alone includes 8,000 travelling and 2,000 permanent cinema theatres for the rural districts. If, in addition, the rapid introduction of cinema in schools, and the growth of the manufacture of equipment and films is considered, it is safe to estimate that within the next five years the number of Soviet cinema workers will increase to at least 80,000 and even 100,000 persons.

History of Soviet Cinema Industry

The first post-revolutionary films were naturally devoted to the reproduction of the difficult history of the past for the younger generation. To films of this kind belong "Palace and Fortress" and "Stepan Khalturin," the latter dealing with the beginning of the Russian labor movement in the late seventies and early eighties of the nineteenth century. "The Decembrists" and "The Union of a Great House," dealt with the insurrection of the Decembrists in 1825. "The Wings of a Serf" (Ivan the Terrible) which is well known in the United States, was also among the first post-revolutionary productions.

The revolutionary movement of the last few decades is shown in such pictures as "The Cruiser Potemkin," "The Ninth of January," "The Fall of the Romanov Dynasty," "His Excellency" and others.

The episodes of the revolution and of the civil war, became the subjects of films produced frequently not only under the direction but even with the direct participation of those who had actively taken part in the events. Pictures like "The Red Devils," "Forest Tales" and the recent "Descendant of Jenghis-Khan," belong to this category.

Themes from Russian classical literature were also made use of. The classics enjoyed a wide circulation after the revolution in a number of cheap popular editions. The classics were introduced to the masses through films like "Polikushka," whose plot was taken from a story by Leo Tolstoy; "The Station Master" and the "Captain's Daughter" from Pushkin; "The Cloak" and other Ukrainian films based on Gogol's writings; "Assya" and "Catherine Ismailova," based on the works of Turgeniev and Leskov, respectively; a series of Georgian films based on Lermontov's writings, and, finally, in connection with Tolstoy's centenary, many productions on subjects taken from the works of the great writer. Among the latter, the following may be mentioned: the monumental film "War and Peace," the scenario of which was prepared by A. V. Lunacharsky, People's Commissar for Education, "The Living Corpse," whose chief character Fedia Protassov is played by the producer Vsevolod Pudovkin, "Khadjji Murat" and "The Cossacks." A number of films are also based on the works of Maxim Gorky. The works of some of the younger Soviet writers have, likewise, been filmed, such as "Cement" by F. Gladkov, "41" and "The Wind" by Lavrenev, "The Insurrection" by Furmanov, "The Humming of the Rails" by Kirshon.

Problems of the new social life, economic reconstruction, and the cultural revolution—such are the chief subjects of the current year's program. Eighty-six new pictures of "Sovkino" are to be produced in the course of 1928-29; of these twenty-six deal with the political and economic problems of the present. To this category belongs the film "Growth," depicting the struggle of a group of advanced textile workers for raising the efficiency of production and the introduction of the seven-hour work day. "Bruski" (Blocks) represents the struggle for the organization of a collective farm. "The Prairie Road" shows the construction of a new railroad, "The Daghestan Fires"—the construction of a large glass plant in Daghestan. "The Golden Beauty" deals with the automobilization of the rural districts; "The Miner" with industrial reconstruction and the struggle against sabotage on the part of a group of engineers. Among the main subjects

of the films dealing with the cultural revolution and the new social life, mention should be made of "Cain and Artem" based on a story by Gorky, directed against anti-Semitism; and "Gossip" exposing the vice of gossiping. "Forget the Fire-Place," with a scenario by Mayakovsky, is a satire on the mediocrity of the present social life. "Tourism" advocates travel through the U. S. S. R. Films dealing with general historical subjects or the revolutionary struggles of the past are not very numerous. This category includes chiefly anniversary subjects, such as the picture "Chernyshevsky."

Of the pictures dealing with historical events that took place in other countries, three deserve particular mention: "The Tallow Ball," based on the famous short story by Maupassant, "Herman Returns" in commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the World War, and "Those Who Were Not Tamed," based on a scenario by Henri Barbusse, recording the revolutionary mutiny of the Russian Battalion in the French army during the World War. Films for children are the objects of special attention. A number of films deal with the youth problem, while others represent pictures from village life.

The output of the cinema industry of the Soviet border republics is devoted mainly to subjects dealing with the political and social struggles of the Tsarist epoch, and to the social problems of the various nationalities in the U. S. S. R., struggling to free themselves from the prejudices of the past and to adjust themselves to the new forms of social life. These are films like "Namus," "Zare," "Under the Power of Adat" and others. Among these films first place is held by the excellent film "Elisso" by Shengel, the young producer of the State Cinema Industry of the Georgian Soviet Republic (Transcaucasia).

Educational Films

The production of the educational films is entrusted to a special plant of the "Sovkino." Some cinema organizations cultivate ethnographic films, such as "Svanetia," "The Land of the Chuvash," "Pamir," "To the Shores of the Arctic Ocean." There are also strictly scientific films, such as "The Mechanics of the Brain," which popularizes Prof. Pavlov's work on the conditioned reflexes. "The Problem of Nutrition," "The Mystery of Life," "Fatigue and the Struggle Against It," "Radio." Of great educational value are the industrial films, such as "Oil," "Problems of Labor Efficiency," as well as films dealing with social hygiene, such as "The Truth of Life," "Love in Nature," "Abortion." Finally, there are pictures showing the industrialization and electrification of the country, viz: "The Dnieprostroy," "The Volkhovstroy" and others.

An important place in the cinema production is occupied by the regular news films appearing

twice a week both in Soviet Russia proper and in the Ukraine.

In addition, there are large film productions presenting the reconstruction of the Soviet Union as a whole as well as the progress of the separate republics, such as "The Sixth Part of the World," and the "Eleventh" by Dziga Vertov. There are also films depicting the various stages of development of the Soviet Revolution. They have been made up of material taken from news films of the past years and of the revolutionary period. "The Fall of the Romanov Dynasty" and "The Great Way," by Esther Shub, belong to this category. Among the recent news films, the most noted are "The Shanghai Document" by Blioch-Stepanov and "Russia of Nicolas II and Leo Tolstoy," by S. Sashug, a picture produced on the occasion of the Leo Tolstoi centenary. The production program of "Sovkino" for 1928-29 includes sixty-three educational films.

The cinema in the U. S. S. R. is not considered as a source of income. Its purpose is not merely to entertain the spectator, but to serve as part of the general educational system of the U. S. S. R. Its aim is to raise the working masses to a higher cultural level and to reeducate them.

Each Soviet cinema organization is usually headed by a managing board. One of the members of the board is the director of the cinema plant. His associate is in charge of the technical end of the management. An art council, consisting of qualified specialists and scenario writers, includes also representatives of public organizations, trade unions, authors' associations, etc.

The scenario material is generally worked over by qualified scenario writers. The latter are in close contact with cinema organizations and their plants, even if they are not in their permanent employ. The material regularly sent in from the outside is used to a very slight extent only.

Distribution of Films

The monopoly of distributing films in Soviet Russia proper is held by "Sovkino." In 1928 this right was partly ceded to "Mezhrabpom-Film," chiefly for the distribution of the educational films.

The distribution of films to workers' clubs is carried out on a special basis, a general agreement being in operation between Sovkino and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, according to which workers' clubs procure a program at the average rate of 16 rubles.

The club cinema theatres receive the Soviet pictures two weeks after their release. All imported pictures are likewise supplied to them on the same terms. A distinction is made between the clubs which pursue exclusively educational purposes, and clubs which exploit motion

pictures for commercial purposes. Club cinema theatres of this kind are charged the same rates as commercial cinema theatres.

The control of the cinema industry by the trade unions and public organization is carried out through special organizations, viz: The Association of Revolutionary Cinematography, known as ARC, and the Society of Friends of the Soviet Cinema (ODSK).

The Association of Revolutionary Cinematography has two sections—a producers' section and a distribution section. The producers' section consists of three groups: the producers' group, including producers, actors and operators, the laboratory group—including those working in the laboratory, and the scenario group—including scenario writers, producers and actors.

The distributing section consists of two groups: the cinema theatrical group, which includes managers of cinema theatres, cinema mechanics, and other workers engaged in the distribution, and the musical group which includes musicians, composers, and orchestra conductors.

A scientific methodological bureau has been formed by the representatives of the Association of Revolutionary Cinematography. It is engaged in collecting scientific data on the theory of the cinema and the sociology of the cinema and the spectators.

It is also engaged in the study of the theoretical principles of practical work and in the preparation of material for lectures and reports on the cinema.

Every week special demonstrations of pictures are made for members of the Association of Revolutionary Cinematography. A report on the pictures is passed by the assembly.

The Association constitutes an autonomous section of the "Society of Friends of the Soviet Cinema" which is a mass organization.

The Society of Friends of the Soviet Cinema has at present 50,000 members and has branches not only in cities, but also in small urban settlements and villages.

The chief purpose of the Society of Friends of the Soviet Cinema is to assist in spreading the motion pictures throughout the country, in encouraging the educational film, in recruiting new cinema workers and in exerting public control over the production and distribution of films.

The Index to the sixth volume of the "Soviet Union Review" will be sent free of charge to all readers of the Review.

Miscellaneous News

Municipal Concessions

A plan to give out 91 municipal concessions, amounting to a total of 412,600,000 rubles (\$212,500,000) has just been ratified by the government of the U. S. S. R. Mr. V. N. Ksandrov, the President of the Chief Concessions Committee of the U. S. S. R., in a recent statement in the Moscow Press, announced that negotiations are now being carried on with several large American firms for certain of these concessions, requiring a preliminary investment of \$20,000,000. Mr. Ksandrov stated that in spite of their technical backwardness, most of the municipal enterprises in the U. S. S. R. are profitable. Thus the water system in 132 cities of the U. S. S. R., outside of Moscow and Leningrad, gave a net profit in 1926-27 of 2,707,000 rubles (\$1,395,000), the street-car system of twenty-six cities a profit of 29,275,000 rubles (\$14,642,000), etc. On a concession basis, he said, municipal enterprises would be still more profitable.

The most important of the concessions projected are a subway for Moscow, two electric railways—between Simferopol and Sebastopol, and between Simyez and Gurzuf in the Crimea, and street-car lines in sixteen large cities.

The plan includes concessions for building electric stations in nine cities, including two big plants in Yalta and Kursk, and for gas plants in fifteen cities. In addition concessions will be given for the construction of stockyards and subsidiary enterprises in six cities of the Soviet Union, including Moscow, and also water supply and sewerage systems in twenty-one cities of the Soviet Union.

Turkestan-Siberian Railroad

Over 520 kilometers of the Turkestan-Siberian railroad, connecting Semipalatinsk with Tashkent by way of Alma-Ata, have already been completed. It is proposed to speed up the building of the railroad during the present year so that it may be in use by the autumn of 1929. The sum of 58,000,000 rubles (\$29,870,000), has been assigned for the construction of the road this year.

Baku-Batum Pipe Line

The export of oil from the Soviet Union will be greatly simplified by the completion of the Baku-Batum pipe line, along which crude oil is already being pumped from the oil fields of Baku to the refineries at the port of Batum. The line is 826.5 kilometers in length, and was constructed at a cost of \$23,000,000. Formerly there was only a kerosene pipe line between Baku and Batum. An oil pipe line between Grozny and Tuapse has been in operation several months.

Development of Rubber Industry in U. S. S. R.

A number of experiments in the cultivation of rubber substitutes are in progress in the U. S. S. R. As a result of these experiments it has been found that the Mexican guayule bush can be cultivated in the U. S. S. R., and that the rubber made from it is adaptable to industrial purposes, particularly the manufacture of rubbers.

Experiments have also been carried on with several indigenous plants, and it has been found that rubber may be procured from certain Russian grasses by an entirely new and extraordinarily simple method. Rubber may also be obtained from "hondrill," a plant growing in the sands of Central Asia, in its wild form.

Plantations of a Chinese gum tree, yielding a substance formerly imported, and gutta-percha trees, are now being developed in the Caucasus.

Organization of State Rice Farms

The Economic Council of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic recently decided to proceed with the organization of large State rice farms in the region of the Turkestan-Siberian Railroad.

The execution of this project will render it possible to increase cotton planting in Central Asia by freeing 200,000 hectares of suitable cotton lands now used for rice production. The transfer of three quarters of the area now under rice in this territory to cotton planting would increase the Central Asiatic cotton crop by about 40,000 tons.

In order to solve the problem of doing away with rice culture in the Central Asiatic cotton area, it is necessary to arrange for the irrigation of up to 300,000 hectares in the basin of the Ili and Karatal Rivers. This irrigation work, the purchase of the requisite agricultural implements and supplies, and the erection of needed structures will entail an expenditure of not less than 75,000,000 rubles (about \$38,000,000).

Membership of Consumers' Cooperatives

At the present time the consumers' cooperatives of the Soviet Union comprise 23,299,500 members, 14,000,000 in the rural districts and the remainder in the cities. In the course of the past year the membership of the consumers' cooperatives has shown an increase of 6,337,000.

By the end of 1928 the share capital of the consumers' cooperatives amounted to over 190,000,000 (\$97,000,000).

Unemployment in the U. S. S. R.

According to the data of the People's Commissariat for Labor, the total number of unemployed

all over the territory of the U. S. S. R. amounted to 1,033,617 on October 1, 1928, as against 811,392 on October 1, 1927. The largest number of unemployed is supplied by the unskilled workers—345,600; next come clerical workers with 228,600 unemployed, and industrial workers with 209,200.

In 1927-28 the Government appropriated 135,000,000 rubles (over \$69,000,000) for unemployment relief, as against 85,000,000 rubles in 1926-27. During the current fiscal year 1928-29, 160,000,000 rubles will be spent for unemployment relief.

Campaign Against Alcoholism

The Council of People's Commissars of the U. S. S. R. has recently ratified a law limiting the sale of alcoholic beverages.

According to the new law no new places for the sale of vodka and other alcoholic liquor may be opened in either industrial centers or workers' towns. In addition, the sale of vodka and other liquor is forbidden in these places on holidays and pay days. The sale of liquor is also prohibited in public institutions, theaters, clubs, communal homes, etc. Absolutely no advertising of spirits will be permitted.

In addition to this it is proposed to organize a system of special dispensaries for habitual drunkards, and the number of tea rooms and coffee houses not serving alcohol will be greatly increased to replace the beer saloons.

The State Planning Commission ("Gosplan") has been instructed to work on the problem of finding other sources of income for the budget to make up for that received from the sale of alcohol.

State Academy of Fine Arts

The State Academy of Fine Arts, the highest institution of its kind in the Soviet Union, was established in 1921 and quickly attracted the best artistic forces of the country. In 1926 it was joined by the group of revolutionary painters and the society of modern musicians.

The Academy rapidly succeeded in developing activities of great variety and interest. It has organized a large number of important exhibitions, both within the Soviet Union and abroad. Among the foreign exhibits special mention may be made of the highly successful Soviet section at the Fourteenth International Art Exposition in Venice. At the famous World Exposition of Decorative Arts in Paris during 1925 the Academy presented a Soviet pavilion, to which the French newspapers devoted whole pages. In addition it has arranged expositions of literature since the Revolution of 1917, motion picture posters, printing arts (at Florence), and other divisions of art.

Particularly noteworthy among the exhibitions organized within the Soviet Union by this institution was the Exposition of Nationalities in commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Soviet Revolution. Here were shown many remark-

able products, such as lacquered boxes made in the village of Palekh, bone carvings, ornaments reflecting the primitive religious beliefs of the Chukchi, a tribe inhabiting the remotest section of Northern Siberia, Ukrainian towels richly embroidered with pictures, silk made by the Crimean Tartars, and other work.

Extensive activity in artistic research and development is being carried on by the Academy. Lectures, exhibits, concerts of various nationalities are being given continuously. Everything relating to painting, music, poetry, and motion pictures finds a place in the program of the institution.

The Academy includes a Department of Revolutionary Literature, which is devoted to a careful study of the broad field of contemporary Soviet literature. In this department are collected the works of all proletarian and peasant writers in every corner of the Union.

The Library of the Academy of Fine Arts with 100,000 volumes is deserving of note.

Use of the Latin Alphabet Among the Eastern Peoples

At a recent meeting of the Central Committee for the Introduction of the New Latinized Alphabet in Kazan a report was made by Agamaly-Ogly, president of the Central Executive Committee of Azerbaijan on the progress of the work of the Committee.

He reported that in all of the Turco-Tartar republics of the U. S. S. R. more than a million persons, or 5 per cent of the whole population, are "literate" as regards the Latin alphabet. In certain of the republics of the Caucasus and Central Asia the knowledge of the new alphabet exceeds that of the old. Thus, in Transcaucasia 20 per cent of the population are literate in the new alphabet, 8 per cent in the old; in the North Caucasian Areas and Republic, 14 per cent in the new, and 3.5 per cent in the old, etc.

In many republics the teaching in the schools is carried on according to the new alphabet. Thus in the Kazak Republic all the primary and intermediate schools already use the Latinized alphabet. The new alphabet is used in all institutions throughout Azerbaijan.

The plenary session passed a resolution that the use of the new alphabet should be definitely established within 2 years.

Population of Leningrad

The population of Leningrad, as of December 31, 1928, was 1,775,000, showing an increase of over 75,000 as compared with the preceding year.

New Soviet Representative in Czecho-Slovakia

Mr. A. Y. Arosev was appointed Representative of the Soviet Union in Czecho-Slovakia, Mr. V. A. Antonov-Ovseyenko having been relieved of that post.

Books and Pamphlets About the U. S. S. R. in the English Language

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- Education in Soviet Russia, by Scott Nearing. International Publishers, New York, 1926.
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- Soviet Russia in the Second Decade; Edited by Stuart Chase, Robert Dunn and R. G. Tugwell of the Technical Staff of the First American Trade Union Delegation to the Soviet Union. John Day Company, New York, 1928.
- Anna Louise Strong: How the Communists Rule Russia; Marriage and Morals in Soviet Russia; How Business is Carried on in Soviet Russia; Workers' Life in Soviet Russia; Peasant Life in Soviet Russia. Little Blue Books. Haldeman Julius, Girard, Kansas, 1927.
- Russian Poetry—An Anthology, chosen and translated by Babette Deutsch and Avrahm Yarmolinsky. International Publishers, New York, 1927.
- Memoirs of a Revolutionist, by Vera Figner. International Publishers, New York, 1927.
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Vol. VII, No. 5

The Five-Year Plan **Concessions in the Soviet Union** **Giant Farms** **Ten Years of Autonomy** **Moscow in Figures** **Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
The Five-Year Plan	71	Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union:	
Concessions in the Soviet Union	73	Ratifications of Moscow Protocol	81
Moscow in Figures	74	Statement of British Industrialists	81
Giant Farms	74	Statement of Mr. Piatakov	83
Ten Years of Autonomy	75	East-Prussian Delegation	84
Ten Years at the head of the Soviet Republic	76	Soviet-Swedish Relations	84
Krupskaya	76	Soviet-Persian Customs Convention	84
Workers' Faculties	77	Miscellaneous News:	
Books in Soviet Russia	77	Child Vagrancy Decreases	85
"Our Achievements"	79	Marriage and Divorce	85
Women in Transcaucasia	80	Soviet Flights in 1929	85
		Grain Institute in Moscow	86
		Soviet Scientists to Work Abroad	86
		Interplanetary Communication	86
		Leningrad Public Library	87
		The Russian Theater	87
		Gypsies in the Soviet Union	87
		Changes in Diplomatic Service	87

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The Five-Year Plan

ACCORDING to the five-year plan for the economic development of the Soviet Union, the output of industry in 1932-33 will be one and two-thirds times the output for last year, and agricultural production will increase by approximately one-third in the same period. The five-year plan was considered by representatives of Gosplan (State Planning Commission), and the planning bureaus of the various Soviet Republics and Provinces, at their Fifth Congress, held in Moscow in March.

Gosplan is the body which charts the economic course of the country on the basis of a strict accounting of the possibilities revealed through the previous rate of growth, the present status, and future potentialities. It aims to coordinate all the branches of the nation's economic life, so that no one will develop at the expense of another, but each will fit in as an integral part of a balanced whole. The position and needs of each element are considered in relation to every other, with the aim of eliminating waste and directing new capital investment where it is most needed.

To this end "control figures" are issued each year, giving conclusions for the past year and covering the proposed output of industry and agriculture, production costs, price indices, budgetary assignments, and so on, for the coming year.

In addition, there is a five-year plan. Two such plans—one beginning with the fiscal year October, 1926, and one beginning October, 1927, have been considered and rejected by the higher governmental bodies. The reason for the rejection was that the actual rate of growth in industry turned out to be greater than the plan provided. The plan for the past year, for instance, provided for an increase in industrial production of 16 per cent, whereas the actual growth was 23 per cent.

The new five-year plan now under consideration covers the period from 1928-29 to 1932-33. It has already passed through the most important stages of its development. The Supreme Economic Council first worked out an industrial plan taking into account the development of industry and of the sources of raw materials. This plan was then turned over to the State Planning Commission. The latter then coordinated the industrial plan with the general five-year plan for the development of the whole economic life of the Soviet Union, with the budgeting plan of the

Commissariat of Finance, and finally with the export, import and foreign exchange program of the Commissariat of Trade.

This is the background of the plan as presented to the Congress of the Planning Commission. The Congress was presided over by Mr. G. M. Krjijanovsky, the chairman of the Commission, and the main report was presented by Mr. G. F. Grinko, vice-chairman of Gosplan, who outlined the most important features of the five-year plan.

"In working out the five-year prespective plan," he said, "Gosplan operated on the basis of a minimum and a maximum variant. The reason for this is that many of our economic resources are still untapped—we cannot estimate them with sufficient exactness to be sure of realizing the maximum variant, which is based on the possibility of there being no crop failure for five years, and of more extensive credits being granted. However, both variants are planned in accordance with the same fundamental economic program, and therefore cannot be essentially contradictory, and can differ only in degree."

Mr. Grinko stated that according to the plan the minimum capital investment for the coming five-year period would be 54,000,000,000 rubles (over \$27,000,000,000), and the maximum 65,000,000,000 rubles, as against 25,000,000,000 rubles invested in the past five-year period.

The concrete proposals for each branch of the country's economic life were then outlined by Mr. Grinko.

Electric Power and Fuel

"In our planning work," he said, "we are accustomed to consider electric power as the main barometer of technical progress and improvement in our country. We have estimated that the electric power, which now amounts to 5 billion kilowatt hours, will increase to 17 or 22 billion kilowatt hours. This estimate must, of course, be carefully checked. However, the upward curve of the application of electric power to labor processes is unquestionable. In this respect, however, we are behind all the foremost Western countries, and we must bend all our efforts to catch up with and surpass them.

"The fuel industry is directly connected with the development of electric power, and involves equally stupendous problems. The production of coal must reach from 68 to 75 million tons at the end of the five-year period, in place of 35 to 36

million tons in 1927-28; in other words, the present output must be doubled. The Donetz Basin will play the chief role in the fulfillment of this program, and must produce from 48 to 52 million tons by the end of the five-year period. This means the reconstruction of from 40 to 50 shafts in the Donetz Basin and the sinking of a number of new shafts, with a capital investment of about 800 million rubles (over \$400,000,000). About 250 million rubles will be invested in other basins, particularly the Kuznetz and the Ural basins, and from 40 to 50 million rubles in the lower Moscow basin, which must increase its output from 1 to 4 million tons.

"The oil industry must increase its output from 11 million tons to 19 million tons, or a maximum of 22 million.

Metallurgy

"The third link in the chain is metallurgy. As regards the extent of the work to be done in this field and the amount of capital investment, metallurgy has the most important place in our five-year plan.

"After many lengthy conferences and a tremendous amount of work on the part of the Supreme Economic Council, Gosplan arrived at the figure of from 8 to 10 million tons of pig iron, with an investment of from 3,500,000,000 to 4,000,000,000 rubles (over \$2,000,000,000). How are we to attain this? The experience of Germany since the war has taught us that a much greater output can be obtained from old enterprises than we have achieved. Our first problem, therefore, is to analyze the possibilities of the maximum productivity which can be realized by the reconstruction of existing metal plants. Through the reconstruction of old plants we expect an output of 7 million tons of cast iron by the end of the five-year period. At the same time the industry requires that from 12 to 15 new blast furnaces, with a capacity of 180,000 to 200,000 tons a year, be built in the Ukraine, and about 10 new blast furnaces in the Urals. The old plants will decide the fate of the country's metal supply in the next few years. But after that there will be new giant plants to replace them.

Agriculture

"It is proposed to invest from 22 to 24 billion rubles in agriculture, including the peasants' own investment. The task before us is to guide the course of agricultural production toward socialization. It is obvious, therefore, that the bulk of the investment will go into socialized forms of agriculture. Of the 125,000,000 hectares of seeded area at the end of the five-year period, it is proposed that 26,000,000 shall be worked on a socialized basis—that is, about 5,000,000 by government farms, and about 20,000,000 by peasant collectives (producers' cooperatives). On this basis, socialized enterprises will contribute from 10 to 11 per

cent of the total grain production of the Soviet Union, and 25 per cent of the commercial production. We estimate that the socialized sector of agricultural production will produce double the average yield that has heretofore been considered the norm for agriculture as a whole. We must attract 17,000,000 peasants into more efficient, larger forms of cooperative production, thereby checking the growth of individual peasant farms.

"This growth of large-scale cooperative agriculture can be achieved only with the help of the tractor, modern machinery, and chemical fertilizer. It is our plan to have 25,000 tractors on the government farms, and over 100,000 on the peasant collectives. The plan also involves the organization of a chain of machine repair shops and service bases which will also provide electric power for the surrounding districts. Much as we have to learn from foreign technique, there is no country in the world to which we may look for the kind of experience we need in the building up of these state-operated farms and producers' cooperatives. We must therefore cherish every idea and every lesson that comes out of the depths of our own experience—particularly everything that has to do with the development of tractor and machine bases.

"To a considerable degree the success of the five-year plan in agriculture is dependent on agricultural machinery. We must double our supply, particularly in the more complex types.

"As regards the question of increasing agricultural productivity we are somewhat hesitant about presenting figures to the public, which expects and demands an increase in yield of from 30 to 35 per cent by the end of the five-year period. However, we must bear in mind that the decree of the Tsik (Central Executive Committee) in speaking of the five-year program for agriculture, refers to the period beginning with this year's harvest. Under these conditions our maximum figure corresponds with the requirements of the decree.

Transport

"The question of transport is also a vital one. Of the 5,400,000,000 rubles (over \$2,700,000,000) proposed investment for transport, 4,300,000,000 are to go toward the building of railroads. The most radical lowering of costs will be obtained by concentrating the flow of freight along main trunk lines from Siberia and the Ukraine to Moscow and Leningrad. The carriage of freight along southern lines must be divided for the time being, but toward the end of the five-year period, an allotment is planned of 80,000,000 rubles for the electrification of the Moscow-Kursk line, or for a special line from Moscow to the Donetz basin. In Siberia the preparatory work of constructing a main trunk line has already been started. According to these plans freight costs will be reduced by 25 per cent.

Housing

"During the next five years the present urban housing space of 140,000,000 square meters must be increased to 204 or 213 million. We plan an investment of 5,000,000,000 rubles (over \$2,500,000,000). The present uncultured, Asiatic methods of building must be stopped. A special scientific institute must be established so that our housing may be raised to the level it has attained in other countries.

Hours, Wages and Prices

"In carrying out the plan of socialist reconstruction, in improving our whole economic structure, we are at the same time strengthening the role of the workers in the social organism of the country. Our working day will be three and one-half hours shorter than in pre-war times, real wages will be increased by from 55 per cent to 65 per cent. There will be an absolute decrease of from 20 to 25 per cent in unemployment, and it will be reduced to a minimum in the future.

"The price policy provided for by the plan is based on the necessity of preserving the stimulus for the individual peasant. According to our minimum variant, agricultural prices will be lowered by only 3 per cent in comparison with 1928-29; raw materials, 5 per cent; while industrial prices will be lowered by 19 per cent. According to the maximum figures all agricultural prices will be lowered 10 per cent, and industrial 22 per cent. Production costs will be gradually lowered. The second year of the five-year plan will still be marked by a certain goods hunger. But by the third year, even according to our minimum plan, there will be a lessening of the tension, and even a slight increase of supply over demand.

Technical Help

"In making our plans formerly, we simply worked on the assumption that the people to carry out these plans would be found. That method cannot be continued. It is enough to point out that the number of engineers in industry must be increased from 20,000, the present number, to from 40,000 to 45,000.

"We have passed the stage of planless building. During the coming year our work must rest securely on the basis of carefully worked out and checked plans carried out by the best technical help available. While in no way belittling the ability and distinction of our own engineers and technicians, we must more and more draw on the foremost technicians of other countries to help carry out our program. At the same time we must send our own people abroad for systematic and thorough study of engineering and technical problems—first the most advanced of our workers, and later our most advanced peasants. We cannot any longer keep our technicians in a position where foreign books are not available or their laborator-

ies not adequately equipped. Our expenditures for 'cultural imports' must be greatly increased."

In summing up, Mr. Grinko pointed out that what had already been accomplished in the Soviet Union was merely the first step of the progress that would be made in the development of the five-year plan.

"To carry out this plan," he concluded, "a reconstruction of our whole method is necessary. It is high time to have done with our crude, handicraft methods, which devour time and money, and distort all our plans. In their place we must have standardization, which makes possible the assembling of manufactured parts."

Detailed and exhaustive reports on each section of the plan followed, and general discussion. No important changes were suggested, but the consensus of opinion was that the emphasis should be placed on the maximum variant.

Mr. V. V. Kubisheff, Chairman of the Supreme Economic Council, emphasized the historical importance of the adoption of the five-year plan.

"Heretofore there has been some skepticism regarding the possibility of drawing up a workable five-year plan," he said. "The work of this Congress has established the five-year plan as a fact. Undoubtedly details of the plan will undergo changes from year to year. But its essential features are established, and cannot fail to bring more plan and order into our economic life and eliminate recurrent crises, in so far as that is possible by government regulation."

The plan is now in the hands of the Council of People's Commissars for ratification. The official plan will probably not be made public until June, but the general opinion is that there will be no radical changes made in the plan as presented.

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Concessions in the Soviet Union

ON February 1st, 1929, there were sixty-eight concessions in operation in the Soviet Union. Germany is at the top of the list, with twelve concessions, next comes Japan, with eleven, the United States with eight, England seven, and Poland six. The remainder are divided between ten or twelve countries having from one to three concessions each.

The majority of the concessions, twenty-three, are in the manufacturing field. There are fourteen mining concessions, seven in trade, six for technical service, and so on.

The total capital invested by concessionaries in sixty-eight concessions amounted on the same date to 50,095,000 rubles,* most of which is invested in manufacturing and mining. About 19,000,000 rubles has been invested in manufacturing. An important place among the concessions is occupied by the "Swedish General Electric Company," which produces alternating current electrical machinery, and represents an investment of 5,204,000 rubles; the Swedish Concession "SKF," which manufactures ball bearings, with an investment of 4,210,000 rubles; the Polish concession "Trilling," which manufactures wool and part wool cloth, blankets, and so on, with an investment of 2,711,000 rubles; and the concession to the American firm of "Hammer" for manufacturing office supplies, which represents an investment of 1,711,000 rubles. The capital investment of the remaining concessionaries is considerably lower.

The total sum invested in mining by concessionaries amounts to 28,045,000 rubles. More than half of this sum, over 18,000,000 rubles, is invested in the "Lena-Goldfields," the English concession for the prospecting and mining of gold, copper, iron, etc. Over 4,000,000 rubles has been invested in the "Tetiukhe Mining Corporation," an English concession for mining and working up of silver, zinc, lead, copper and other ores. The Japanese concession "Kita Karafuto Sekiu" for obtaining oil, mineral wax and combustible gases represents an investment of over 3,700,000 rubles, and so on.

The capital investment in other branches of industry is very much less than in the two basic groups mentioned above. About 2,000,000 rubles have been invested in agricultural concessions, a million in lumber concessions, and about 100,000 rubles in building.

The total investment during 1927-28 amounted to 17,031,000 rubles.

On October 1st, 1928, over 20,000 industrial and office workers were employed in concession enterprises, 10,349 in mining, and 9,242 in manufacturing. In mining concessions the greatest number of workers are employed by the "Lena-Goldfields," with 6,649 employees. Next is the "Kita

Karafuto Sekiu," employing 1,580 workers. In the manufacturing industry, the Austrian concession for the manufacture of enameled tinware, "Zhest-Westen," employs 1,432 workers, "Hammer"—888, and "Trilling"—781.

As regards production, figures are at hand only for the manufacturing and mining concessions. The production in these two branches for the year ending October 1st, 1928, amounted to 85,710,000 rubles, of which 20,640,000 was mining and 65,070,000 in manufacturing. The turnover of the "SKF" concession amounts to 8,353,000; of the Swedish General Electric to 7,935,000 and Zhest-Westen—5,587,000. In the mining industry Lena-Goldfields has the largest turnover—17,271,000 rubles, while the Tetiukhe Mining Corporation has a turnover of 1,474,000 rubles.

According to the Moscow press, investment opportunities for foreign capital have been extended.

Among the most important concessions now open in the mining industry are the following: Copper deposits in Zangezur, Armenia, where there is an estimated reserve of 160,000 tons; copper, gold, silver and zinc deposits in the Tanaliko-Baimaksk district of Altai, amounting to from 100,000 to 200,000 tons, and the silver deposits of Nerchinsk, in the Far East. In addition to the "Lena-Goldfields" concession, it is proposed to offer gold mines in the Urals, near Sverdlovsk.

Opportunities will be open for concessions in coal mining in the Donetz and Kuznetsky basins, and oil concessions are offered in the Ural-Emba district, and in islands of the Caspian Sea.

It is also proposed to invite concession capital to build some of the large metallurgical plants contemplated in the five-year plan—namely, the Magnetogorsk and Telbess plants in the Urals, and the Krivoi Rog plant in the Ukraine. Concessions are offered for the construction of large regional electric power plants, including the one on the Svira River near Leningrad. It is also proposed to give concessions for factories for the manufacture of electrical appliances.

The concession plan also includes the construction and development of a tractor factory (in addition to the Stalingrad factory), a tool factory, a drill and thresher factory, a typewriter factory, a railroad car shop, shipyards for the construction of river steamboats, and a number of large plants in the cellulose and paper industry.

In a recent interview in the press, Mr. Ksandrov, chairman of the Chief Concessions Committee, stated that during the first four months of the present fiscal year as many concession agreements had been signed as during the entire past year. During the four months' period one hundred concession proposals had been received. Mr. Ksandrov said that a considerable increase in the interest of American capital in concessions in the Soviet Union could be noted, and a revival of interest among English business circles.

*A ruble is equal to 51.5 cents.

Moscow in Figures

THE territory and the population of the city and province of Moscow exceed Belgium, Holland, Denmark, and almost equal those of Bulgaria. The total population of the province of Moscow is 5,000,000.

As for the city of Moscow, its population has grown over 40 per cent since the revolution. Under the census of 1919 the population of Moscow was 1,616,415. By the census of 1926 it had grown to 2,026,000, and on January 1st of the present year it was 2,285,100. During the past year the population has increased by 6.1 per cent, of which 1 per cent must be laid to the natural increase. Of the 49,860 babies born during the past year, 6,400 died. In 1914, out of 54,300 babies, 16,000 died during their first year.

The social composition of the population of Moscow has naturally undergone very striking changes. Of the total inhabitants, 1,086,622 are registered as "self-supporting." While the census of 1912 showed 19,200 persons to be "living on unearned incomes," this category was reduced to 3,636 in the census of 1926. The number of factory workers has increased by 10,000. The number of office workers has increased, while the number of domestic servants and workers in small shops has greatly decreased. The number of persons receiving government stipends and pensions has increased from 64,500 in 1912, to 103,200 in 1926.

Of the entire trade turnover of the U. S. S. R., 23 per cent falls to the share of the Province of Moscow. The gross output of the industry of Moscow Province, 97.7 per cent of which is socialized, is likewise a high percentage of that of the entire country. The sum of 370,000,000 rubles was expended last year on capital construction of Moscow industry.

In the last two years industrial output increased 51 per cent, labor efficiency by 35 per cent, and the number of workers by 56,000.

Agricultural output for the market increased 14 per cent in the Province of Moscow. Eighty-four per cent of all the sown area of the province is under the system of crop rotation. The number of collective farms went up from 225 to 467 with a crop yield of from twice to three times that of the peasant farms.

For the past two years 185,000,000 rubles were expended in the province for housing construction, of which sum 140,000,000 were spent in Moscow City. The total floor space of the new dwellings equals 880,000 square meters, accommodating 150,000 people.

There are 10,548 large and small stores in Moscow. Half of these are under the control of the People's Commissariat for Trade and of the cooperatives. The small retail trade is almost exclusively in the hands of private traders. In

1928-29 the Moscow cooperatives will have 1,450,000 shareholders.

About 900,000 persons are attending the schools, technical institutions, higher educational establishments and the various courses. The elementary schools are being attended by 95 per cent of all the children of Moscow City and 90 per cent of the children of Moscow Province. Over 200,000 grown up persons have learned how to read and write.

Physical examinations and medical advice are given to about 233,000 workers a year. In the course of the last two years the physicians made 1,500,000 calls at the homes of sick workers.

In 1913 the death rate amounted to 25 out of every thousand. In 1928 the death rate fell to 13 out of every thousand. During the past two years the number of dispensaries increased 19 per cent and that of hospitals 12 per cent.

Prior to the Revolution the trackage of the trolley car lines was 301 kilometers. At present it is 405 kilometers. In 1913 the Moscow trolleys carried 257,000,000 passengers; last year the number of passengers was 600,000,000. At present 163 motor busses are in operation in Moscow; there were none prior to the Revolution.

Prior to the war Moscow had fifty-eight public squares and boulevards. At present their number is 110. Their area has doubled.

In 1929, 25 per cent of all Moscow workers will be placed on a seven-hour working day basis.

Giant Farms

FORTY-FOUR giant farms are already in operation in different parts of the Soviet Union as part of the plan announced last fall to organize a special chain of government farms to produce grain. Last autumn 17,740 hectares were seeded, and this spring 142,468 are being planted, from which a harvest of over 140,000 tons is expected.

So seriously is this new program for large scale, mechanized agriculture being taken, that a special "Committee to Aid the Growth of Large Grain Farms" has been established under the Central Executive Committee of the Soviet Union. This committee met in Moscow recently, under the chairmanship of Kalinin, President of the Soviet Union, to consider plans for carrying out the production program for 1929.

Mr. Kalmanovitch, chairman of the Zernotrust (Grain Trust), the organization developing the chain of government farms, reported that according to the program, 1,700,000 tons of grain would be produced by the new farms at the end of five years. By the end of ten years, it is expected that the government farms will cover from 10 to 12 million hectares. They will be operated on a completely mechanized basis, and not only wheat, rye, barley and oats will be grown, but also rice and other grain and non-grain crops. These farms will also be used as bases for the development of cattle breeding and other branches of agriculture.

By this summer, it is expected that 2,800 tractors will be in use on the farms, and 15,000 at the end of five years. It is planned to have the tractors work in two shifts, and experiments will be carried on of working in three shifts, with a seven-hour day. Special arrangements have been made to supply the workers with the necessary provisions through the cooperatives, and to give them medical service through the Department of Health.

A great deal of attention is being paid to the preparation of the personnel to carry out this work. Special courses have been organized for directors and technical personnel, and students from the technical schools and universities will go to the farms for practical training during the summer months. Industrial farming departments have been organized in six agricultural colleges. Students will be sent to America, and a number of American specialists are being invited for consulting and permanent work. A special experimental farm is being organized in the North Caucasus, which will be used as a model for the others. This farm will be run according to the most up-to-date technique, under the guidance of American specialists.

Ten Years of Autonomy

THE autonomous German Republic on the Volga celebrated the tenth anniversary of its founding this winter with the organization of an exhibit showing the condition of industry, agriculture and cultural life in the Republic. The opening of an irrigation project through which the Burslan river waters 4,600 hectares of land marked the anniversary, and the opening of many new schools and hospitals. The government of the R. S. F. S. R. (Soviet Russia proper) assigned 300,000 rubles (over \$150,000), for the purchase of additional German books for the National library and Pedagogical institute.

On the occasion of the anniversary the press published the following information regarding the development of the economic and cultural life of the Autonomous German Republic:

The budget has multiplied twenty times since 1922, and amounts to 10,000,000 rubles (over \$5,000,000), this year. In 1922 there were only 414,000 head of cattle on the territory of the Republic—there are now 1,200,000. There are 660 tractors in use.

In 1928 local industry surpassed the pre-war level. New branches of industry have been opened up under the Soviet Republic. Bacon and tobacco factories, slaughter houses and power stations have been established, and the manufacture of internal combustion engines has been started.

About a third of the population belong to the consumers' cooperatives, and 11 per cent of the peasants are organized into producing cooperatives.

Before the war there was not a single German school on the present territory of the German Autonomous Republic. At the present time there are 370 primary schools, and 20 high schools.

The Bashkir Republic

This year also marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of the autonomous Bashkir Soviet Republic, which was the first Soviet state with an Oriental, or Moslem, population.

For more than 200 years the land occupied by the Bashkirs was systematically taken from them and given to landlords and military chiefs, while the native population was crowded back into the hills and woods and poor land, and loaded with taxes until they became a dying race. With their establishment as a Soviet Republic in 1919 they began a new life.

In spite of the ruinous results of war and famine, the agriculture of the Bashkirs in some branches has surpassed the pre-war line. During 1927-28 the Bashkirs received four times as much agricultural machinery as in 1913, and 487 tractors are at work on Bashkir territory. A special chain of county agricultural stations has been established through which the peasants receive advice and practical assistance in improved seeds, cattle breeding, and so on. There are 1,712 producers' agricultural cooperatives, with more than 22,000 members, and over 30 per cent of the Bashkir peasants belong to consumers' cooperatives. The land cultivated by government farms has increased 100 per cent during the past years, and two of the new Giant Farms of the Zernotrust (Grain Trust) covering 100,000 hectares, are in the process of organization.

Assistance is given the Bashkirs in establishing their own local industries. Although such industrial enterprises as they had were entirely destroyed during the civil war their production is already ahead of pre-war, and a 34.3 per cent increase is planned this year. The restoration period is over, and they have already begun to build new factories and shops. It is planned to build a large regional electric power station, paper and match factories, a leather factory, and so on.

Formerly the Bashkir tongue was not permitted in the schools or government institutions. The work in the Soviets and other government organizations is now carried on in the native language, and an extensive system of schools has been established both for the Bashkirs and for the various minor nationalities on Bashkir territory. An increasing number of Bashkir young people are entering higher schools. Newspapers in the Bashkir language and a native literature are developing, and a number of Bashkir theaters have been started. The extent of medical aid to the population is double that of pre-war days. The old-time slavery of women is disappearing. Polygamy is dying out, and the women are beginning to take an active part in social and political life.

Ten Years at the Head of the Soviet Republic

ON March 30th, 1929, the Soviet Union celebrated the tenth anniversary of the election of Michael Ivanovich Kalinin as President of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviet Republic.

A peasant by birth, and later a metal worker, remaining always one of the people both in appearance and in manner, Kalinin has understood and championed their needs, and is greatly loved and respected throughout the Soviet Union.

Kalinin was born on November 7th, 1875, in the village of Verkhnyaya-Troitsa, in the Province of Tver. Until the age of 13, he helped his father on the farm, teaching himself to read and write in his spare time. A neighboring landlord sent him to school, and took him to work on his estate. The work was distasteful—but he had access to a large number of books which he read eagerly. At sixteen he went to work at the Putilov factory. From that time on Kalinin was closely connected with the revolutionary movement, and was imprisoned and exiled repeatedly by the Czar's government. He took an active part in the October revolution, and on the death of Sverdlov, in 1919, was elected in his place as President of the Central Executive Committee of the R. S. F. S. R. (Soviet Russia Proper), and became President of the Soviet Union Central Executive Committee in 1923.

Kalinin makes trips every year into the far corners of the country, talking intimately with the people everywhere, acquainting himself with the needs of all the various nationalities. In Moscow his waiting room is always full of picturesque peasants, who travel hundreds of miles to bring their troubles to him, and to whom he is always accessible.

Krupskaya

ON the occasion of the 60th birthday of Nadezhda Constantinovna Krupskaya, the widow of Lenin, the following appreciation of her educational work was written by Prof. Pokrovsky, historian, and member of the Commissariat of Education:

"Everyone knows that Lenin built up the Communist Party, but not everyone knows that he built it up in close collaboration with Krupskaya, who was his constant assistant, and without whom the constructive work of Lenin would have been extremely difficult, if not altogether impossible.

"When the Bolsheviks formed a regular party, after 1903, Krupskaya became the general secretary of the party. The writer of these lines met her then in her official capacity. It was from her that I, 'a legal Marxian' of yesterday, received

my first lessons in revolutionary technique. I never imagined at that time that twenty years later we would sit together in the State Scientific Council and deliberate upon pedagogical problems of a somewhat different nature.

"If Nadezhda Constantinovna Krupskaya was merely one of the founders of our party, one of the close circle which helped Lenin in his colossal task, she was certainly the pioneer—the real founder of Marxian pedagogy. Few people realize that she was the first pedagogical specialist in our party. But without this background, if she had been mobilized for educational work only after the revolution, as was the case with many of the rest of us, she could not possibly have accomplished so much in the Commissariat of Education. Indeed, what many people thought were simply 'revolutionary dreams' turned out to be truly scientific and thoroughly thought out ideas which Krupskaya had expressed in articles published as far back as 1910 and 1911, and which later were embodied in the educational program of the Soviet government. Even in those days she wrote about such things as self-government, co-education, the 'activity' school, the relation of the school to the family, etc. Her fight against punishment began as early as 1909 in the pages of 'Free Education' where she wrote:

"No one who has considered the problem of education carefully can have any doubt that the system of marks, prizes and punishments which prevails in contemporary schools leads to the development of the most unseemly egotism, to the repression of the feeling of solidarity and mutual sympathy among the children, and the sense of the most elementary justice."

"Krupskaya's idea is to have education supervised directly by the people. The Commissariat of Education favors this idea, and it is already beginning to assume tangible forms. Her plan is to form special Councils of Public Education, composed of delegates from all the organizations which elect their representatives to the local Soviets. The Councils would also include representatives of the teachers and students, to the extent of a third of the number of delegates. These councils would meet about once a month, or not less than once in three months. The Commissar of Education would submit his report to this body, which would consider all questions of education. Each delegate would report the results of the deliberations of the Council back to his or her organization.

"Krupskaya has also devoted a great deal of thought to the question of adult workers' education, strongly believing that an understanding of the problems of industry and the ability to manage the industry should be developed in the workers. Krupskaya was the first educational specialist in the world to conceive the idea that education is not only given to the masses, but is created by the masses themselves."

Ten Years of Workers' Faculties

THE "Workers' Faculties," i. e., preparatory schools for workers, have been in existence in the U. S. S. R. for the last ten years. During this period they have become actual proletarian educational institutions turning out intellectuals who had formerly been workers and peasants.

The "Workers' Faculties" originated in the U. S. S. R. as a result of a decree issued by the Soviet Government on August 2, 1918. This decree abolished the old system which enabled only members of certain classes to attend the higher educational establishments, and permitted every citizen to enter any higher educational establishment without having to present a diploma or certificate indicating the previous graduation from a secondary school. Attempts at the carrying out of this decree proved, however, that the workers and peasants were unable to avail themselves of the privilege afforded them under that decree, as they were not always sufficiently prepared to follow the courses in the higher educational establishments. This led in 1918 to the organization of a system of preparatory schools and courses for workers and peasants. However, these preparatory schools and courses likewise proved inadequate for the purpose under consideration. The next step was undertaken by the proletarian students themselves. They proposed that special "workers' faculties" be attached to the higher educational establishments where the inadequately prepared students from among the peasants and workers might be given sufficient preparation to enable them to continue with their studies in the higher educational establishments.

The first "workers' faculty" ("Rabfak") was organized in February 1919. It was attached to the Commercial Institute, now called the Plekhanov Institute. More schools of this type immediately began to spring up throughout the country. At the end of 1919 three "Rabfaks" were in existence in Moscow and Leningrad; in 1920 their number had risen to fourteen, and in 1921 to forty-six.

At present there are in Soviet Russia proper 68 "Workers' Faculties" with an enrollment of 36,000 students, of which 94 per cent are workers and peasants.

The appropriation assigned by the Government towards the maintenance of the "Rabfaks" for the current scholastic year exceeds 15,000,000 rubles. About 6,000 "Rabfak" students annually enter various higher educational establishments to continue with their training. In addition to the day schools there have also been organized night schools of the "Rabfak" type, where workers are being prepared for admission to the higher educational establishments without giving up their regular occupation. Such night schools accommodate at present 10,000 students.

In connection with the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the "Rabfaks," an exhibit of the "workers' faculties" was organized at the State Museum of People's Education. Most complicated physical apparatus, machines remarkable for the precision of their construction, and a series of original researches were exhibited, all of which had been accomplished by workers and peasants who only a short period before had been illiterate, but who had gone through the courses of training offered by the "Rabfaks."

Books in the Soviet Union

THE publication of books in the Soviet Union at the present time far exceeds that of Czarist days. In 1927, 44,000 titles were issued, as against 34,620 in 1912, with an increase in the actual number of copies of from 133,562,000 to 190,000,000.

The five-year plan for the development of books and periodicals calls for an even greater rate of increase. Thus an increase of 54 per cent is proposed by 1932-33 in book publication, and a similar increase in magazines. A special effort will be made to provide textbooks for professional and technical training, scientific workers, and so on. The output of popular scientific literature will be tripled in that period. A very important place in the plan is given to the development of literature in the native language of all the independent republics and national minorities.

The "Gosizdat" (Government Publishing House), is the largest publishing house in the Soviet Union. In 1927, it published over 4,000 titles, in 74,000,000 copies. The types of books published are divided as follows: textbooks—40 per cent, *mass literature—31.3 per cent, and the remainder 28-29 per cent (including belles-lettres and art, 10-11 per cent).

The price of books, particularly textbooks, is practically the same as in pre-revolutionary days. However, many authors not formerly available to the masses of the people, are being published in very inexpensive editions.

In the field of belles-lettres there is a great demand for contemporary writers, both Russian and foreign. The works of Maxim Gorky are particularly popular, and his collected works have reached a circulation of 2,000,000 copies.

Classics Reissued

The reissuance of the classics has grown from 15 titles in 1924 to 143 in 1927. In 1927 a cheap library of the classics was started, most of them in 30,000 editions, including the works of Pushkin, Lermontov, Ostrovsky, Gogol, Dostoyevsky, Turgenyev, Andreyev, Nekrassov, Chekhov, in fact, all of the more important of the Russian classics.

*This category includes such diverse subjects as politics, personal hygiene, child care, home economics, temperance, physical culture and so on.

In connection with the Tolstoy jubilee last year a complete edition of his work in about a hundred volumes was issued, containing much material forbidden by the Czarist censorship, as well as notes and critical articles. Ten or more volumes of Tolstoy have also been included in the cheap library of the classics. In addition to these cheap editions, elaborate monographs and more academic editions of classical literature are being prepared by well known classic students, and also a special "School Library of the Classics." In all cases, special care is being taken in the decoration of the books, and some of the foremost artists in the Soviet Union, who were formerly occupied with "easel" painting, are now concentrating their attention on the decoration and illustration of books.

Of the foreign classics, the works of Goethe, Heine, Schiller, Shakespeare, Flaubert, Byron, Dickens, Verne, Balzac, Maupassant, Cervantes, Hauptmann, Brandes, Hugo, Dante, Zola, Ibsen, France, Molière and others have been published.

The number of scientific books published annually in the Soviet Union far exceeds the output of 1913. The number of titles is two and a half times as great and the number of books four and a half times. The paper and binding have shown a great improvement in the last few years, and now compare favorably with European editions.

Modern Authors

The publishing house which specializes in the publication of contemporary belles-lettres is "Zemlia i Fabrika" (Land and Factory). This concern publishes the works of the young Soviet writers Gladkov, Fadeev, Bakhmetev, Berezovsky, and others. In addition to the regular editions, this company has also published inexpensive editions of these new writers, in editions of from 50,000 to 150,000, selling at a price of from 10 to 30 kopeks (from 5 to 15 cents). The works of Serafimovich, Fadeev, Neverov, Berezovsky, and others, have appeared in such editions.

Another large publishing concern is the "Moskovsky Rabochy" (the Moscow Worker), which has put out the works chiefly of young proletarian writers such as Sholokov, Panferov, Zhiga, and others. This concern also published the popular "Novel Newspaper," containing complete novels by the best authors, and selling at 25 kopeks per copy.

A number of other publishers specialize in belles-lettres, such as "Federation" (the publishing house of the "Federation of Authors' Societies"), "Nedra," "Proletary," and "Molodaya Guardia" (which specializes in literature for young people). In addition to these Soviet and Communist Party publishing houses, there are also private publishers, such as "Mir," the "Authors' Publishers" of Leningrad, "Nikitinski Subotniki," and "Academia."

The total production of belles-lettres, including literary criticism, in 1928, rated 17 per cent of all other publications. The total amount of belles-lettres published in 1928 in the R. S. F. S. R. by Soviet and Communist Party concerns, amounted to 1,754 titles and 78,443,000 copies. Private publishers issued 735 titles and 15,971,000 copies in the same year. Government and party publication of foreign translations in 1928 amounted to 500 titles, and 47,271,000 copies, and private publication of translations amounted to 102 titles with a total of 4,936,000 copies.

Children's Books

Very special attention is being given to the question of books for children. The tendency is to give children a realistic picture of the world—showing the miracle of how things actually grow out of the earth and are made into other things by man, rather than the impossible transformations of fairy tales. Many of the old Russian folk and animal tales, however, are being reissued in gay and colorful editions, along with the more realistic modern ones. A recent bulletin of the Gosizdat describes the aim of the new childrens' books as follows:

"Children's books should deal with what is near and comprehensible to the child. The new books should arouse the collectivist instinct of children, and arouse brave and joyous emotions. They must bring the child near to nature, teaching observation and active investigation, they must introduce the child to the daily work of adults and children.

"We have, therefore, different types of books—about daily life, about industry, about nature, and so on. Children's love of gay, simple humor, must find response in good humorous books. We have been working on this problem of the new books for children for several years, and have accumulated a great deal of valuable experience in this line. Several pedagogical institutions in the center are carrying on this work. The Children's Literature Department of the Gosizdat has also done a great deal of work along this line, and has called in authors, artists, teachers and librarians to cooperate. The authors and artists have spent a lot of time in kindergartens and children's colonies studying the lives and interests of the children.

"Among the children's books we have published, we should like to call attention to the series of V. Mirovitch: 'The Jumping Ball,' 'Come and Play,' 'About Dolls,' 'Our Garden,' 'Our Friends,' 'Our Songs,' 'Our Breakfast,' 'Our Street,' 'Winter,' 'The Falling of the Leaves,' 'A Day in the Country,' and others. As may be seen from the titles, the themes of these books are of things familiar to children. The books are large, written in simple verses, with colorful illustrations.

"Then there are the books of Barto, describing children's lives against the background of nature

and contemporary events; the books of Gurian, full of the atmosphere of collective work and play of the kindergartens; Mesin's animal series, and his poems about chauffeurs, mechanics, lathemen and other workers whom the children love to mimic. Another particularly successful series is that of Ostraukov: 'The Train'—giving a lively picture of a group of children going off to a summer camp; 'The Post,' showing all the things that happen to a letter on its journey to its destination; 'Look Out for the Automobile,' picturing a child's first acquaintance with a motor car; 'Our River'—describing river life, and so on. Lucy Sprague Mitchell's 'Here and Now Tales' have been translated into Russian, as well as some of her separate stories."

"House of Children's Books"

This winter a "House of Children's Books," was opened in Moscow. Its purpose is to cooperate with the children's and young people's libraries by helping them in their organizational problems, choice of books, etc. But its activities are not limited to the readers. It will also try to assist in publishing plans, and to create a mass of books with a large circulation. It is planned to hold conferences of readers, at which questions of subject matter, literary form, and make-up will be considered.

The "House" acquaints the readers with the authors not only through their books but in person. Recently a meeting was held for one the children's authors. Fearing that the children might be bored by the reading, the directors also invited the "Punch and Judy" Theater, but it was the writer and not the actors who held the children's interest. The children kept insisting that he should read more, and begged that evenings of this kind should be repeated.

The unique work of this institution is illustrated by its "consultation department." Hither come librarians, teachers, representatives of the cooperatives, members of the factory and shop culture commissions, and everyone in any way connected with the education of children.

Children's Book Day

The interest of both the children and the general public is further stimulated by the celebration of "Children's Book Day." Special displays of children's books are held on this occasion in book stores and kiosks, and exhibitions are arranged. The children parade through the streets with gay banners, and street pageants are held, portraying familiar scenes from children's literature.

A large number of magazines, especially for children, are published in the Soviet Union, and through the institution of "Detkors," (children's correspondents), the children are encouraged to contribute stories and poems and drawings of their own.

"Our Achievements"

WHEN Maxim Gorky returned to the Soviet Union last year after a long absence, he was overwhelmed by all that had been accomplished. And yet every magazine, every paper he picked up was full of "self-criticism." Defects and mistakes were emphasized to such an extent that they obscured the other side of the picture. The idea came to him of founding a magazine to be devoted to a survey of the attainments in every field. The idea was welcomed, and in February of this year the first issue of "Our Achievements," a bi-monthly magazine, made its appearance.

In the foreword to the first issue, Maxim Gorky writes as follows:

"The magazine 'Our Achievements' will show the growth and the success of our labors, our accomplishments in every field, in creating new values, in building a new state, in combatting all that we have inherited from bourgeois society. The magnificent beginnings that have been made in every field of creative work—in science, culture, and everyday life—will be described in this magazine.

"But that is not the whole task of the magazine. Its pages must unfold like a cinema reel showing our 'unimportant' day to day work—the results of individual initiative—successes in developing inventions, if they ease the conditions of labor, or increase production—our successful efforts to change old ways of life for better ones—in general, all that 'unimportant' work in factory and field through which little by little society is being reconstructed.

"Actually, there is no 'unimportant' work in the state we are building. Everyone's work, every kind of work is important. We have not really understood this fact as yet, but we must understand it in order to see how much has been done and is being done in our country in every field of effort.

"There is room enough for self-criticism, for uncovering our defects and our vices, our mistakes and our offenses, in the general press, in the factory and 'wall' newspapers. But in this magazine we shall speak of our merits, of our services to our class and to our state. . . .

"It is from our positive accomplishments that we shall learn. Only on them can we build our new morality—those rules of conduct which will raise our efforts to a still higher level, give them more meaning, and make it possible for us to realize to the full the joy of creative life."

The Index to the sixth volume of the "Soviet Union Review" will be sent free of charge to all readers of the Review.

Women in Transcaucasia

THE Transcaucasian woman is beginning to participate more and more in public and government work. Twenty thousand women have been elected for Soviet work in all the various Government organs, beginning with the Village Soviets and ending with the Central Executive Committee of the Transcaucasian Federation; 67,000 are employed in industry and agriculture; 4,426 are members of the Communist Party. Even in such remote districts as Akhaltsikh (Georgia) or Geokchai (Azerbaijan) she no longer fears to be a teacher or a midwife nor even to become a member of the militia (police force).

As for the large centers it is needless to speak: in Transcaucasia one encounters girls not only as railroad engineers but also as pilots. The professions, of course, offer much more striking data as to the growing participation of women in the constructive work of the Soviet Union: Azerbaijan, the most backward of all the republics of Transcaucasia, already has 51 women physicians, 101 teachers, 71 midwives, 27 artists, and even one Orientalist, a Turkic woman. In Armenia, and especially in Georgia, there have been, of course, even greater achievements in the field of preparing women for skilled work.

The backwardness of the Eastern woman is especially evident in the field of literacy. But if the statistics of 1887 as to the literacy of the women of Transcaucasia are compared with the statistics of the present day, there can be noted a significant advancement of the Transcaucasian woman even in this regard, as is evident from the following table:

Number of Literate Women per 1,000 Population

	Azerbaijan	Armenia	Georgia
1887	27	18	101
1928	124	142	306

Of course, even this percentage of literate women is exceedingly low; nevertheless improvement in this field is quite evident.

The women of Transcaucasia are in general still much enslaved socially, still victims of ugly customs, slaves of cruel survivals: *Kalyim* (purchase of brides), the veil, compulsory early marriage, religious superstitions which hinder any improvement in the mode of life, "sitting childbirths," i. e., the use of an open-bottomed chair placed over a basin of ashes, fear of water, and so on. All this keeps the Transcaucasian women (the Azerbaijan-Turkic, Adjarian, Abkhasian, and Ossete women) at times in a state of barbaric backwardness. There is still resistance to allowing girls to attend school.

Their antiquated mode of life does not let the woman pass so easily into the new life. From the hampering veil to the dagger-thrust—such are the

weapons of antiquity in the struggle for domination over woman.

But this century-old domination is coming to an end. The anti-veil campaign, which has spread far and wide, agitating even the drowsy corners of the most remote and backward districts of Transcaucasia, is preparing a firm foundation for the future decree forbidding the veil—a sure guarantee that the woman of the Soviet East, and first of all the Transcaucasian woman, will not tarry on the way to her final emancipation.

Four thousand Azerbaijan-Turkic women of Baku have already taken off the veil. The question of the veil continues to be discussed at all women's meetings. It is the unanimous opinion of the women that it is necessary to issue a government decree forbidding the wearing of the veil.

A veritable revolution in their mode of life has been brought about by the family evenings in the clubs, in which both sexes participate. These affairs were introduced in the Baku region this year for the first time. The Azerbaijan-Turkic women, accustomed to sitting in special quarters set aside for them in the clubs, are now participating in the work of the clubs on an equal footing with the male part of the population.

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Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union

ON March 30th the Polish Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Zelezinsky, deposited with the Peoples' Commissariat of Foreign Affairs the ratification of Poland's adherence to the Moscow protocol of February 9th, 1929, on carrying into effect the Paris Pact of August 27th, 1928, regarding the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy.

At the same time the Polish Chargé d'Affaires, on behalf of the Roumanian Government, presented the ratification of Roumania's adherence to the protocol.

The protocol was signed by Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U. S. S. R., Mr. Litvinov, and by the Polish Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Zelezinsky.

Thus the Moscow Protocol comes into effect in the mutual relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Latvia, Poland, Esthonia and Roumania.

The U. S. S. R. was the first to ratify the Moscow Protocol on February 13th, four days after its signing. Latvia ratified the protocol on March 5th, Esthonia on March 16th, and Poland and Roumania, on March 30th.

The Moscow "Izvestia" of March 31st, published an editorial regarding the Moscow Protocol, from which we quote the following:

"With the ratification of the Moscow Protocol by Poland and Roumania—the peaceful act undertaken by the Soviet Union in the note of Mr. Litvinov of December 29th, 1928, may be considered completed.

"The Moscow Protocol has come into effect. Thus its obligations are binding to five of the more than forty governments who signed or adhered to the Kellogg Pact. These obligations entail a renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy. We shall not repeat our opinion as to the efficacy of legal means in preventing war. In so far as this prohibition of war has a certain significance in restraining and undermining aggressive tendencies inevitably leading to war, we can only welcome the coming into effect of such obligations. Through the efforts and initiative of the Soviet Union, the obligations of the Kellogg Pact have become binding for the five adherents of the Moscow Protocol. No amount of effort can eradicate this fact from the history of the peaceful policy of the U. S. S. R. Along with the concrete accomplishment of carrying into effect the terms of the Kellogg Pact ahead of time, Soviet diplomacy has given a most conclusive demonstration of the sincerity of its efforts for peace. This demonstration, along with the positive contents of the Moscow Protocol, and irrespective of the fate of the protocol, is in itself no mean contribution toward international peace.

"The Moscow Protocol represents the formal repudiation by its participants of war as an instrument of national policy. It would, however, be entirely incorrect to interpret this merely as an obligation not to declare war on one another. It goes without saying that this repudiation refers not merely to the declaration of war, *but also to the preparation for war*. It would be sheer hypocrisy and chicanery to interpret the obligations of the protocol otherwise, and limit them merely to the repudiation of war, as such, meanwhile permitting the continuance of all the prerequisites leading to war. In this sense any preparation for war, whether in the form of the strengthening of aggressive tendencies and the provoking of conflicts, or in the form of establishing blocs or alliances for military ends, must inevitably be considered as an infringement of the obligations of the protocol.

"The protocol means that among its individual participants there shall be no separate blocs of any kind formed which would have as their aim the preparation for war against any one of the adherents of the protocol. Thus any bloc or alliance of this kind among the adherents will be inevitably regarded as an infringement of the spirit and purpose of the protocol.

"The protocol will remain open for the adherence of all those who may care to join it in the future, and thereby increase its importance. We particularly welcomed the adherence of Turkey to the Moscow Protocol when it took place. We shall welcome the adherence of any other government which desires to take this means of demonstrating its pacific intentions, and without waiting for the general ratification of the Kellogg Pact, carries into effect the obligations of the Paris Pact in its relations with the other adherents of the Moscow Protocol."

The Protocol was subsequently ratified by the Turkish Government on April 1st. On April 3rd Persia joined the protocol, and the ratification of Lithuania was deposited in Moscow on April 5th.

Statement of British Industrialists

THE Organizing Committee of the British Industrial delegation which visited the Soviet Union in March, made the following statement to the Moscow Press regarding the aims of their visit:

"The delegation left England on March 25th, after surmounting the tremendous difficulties of the doubtful attitude that exists regarding the economic possibilities of the Soviet Union. After that obstacle was eliminated, a large number of industrial and commercial firms of various kinds notified us of their desire to be represented

in the delegation. The present delegation represents at least 500 firms, with a capital of several hundred million pounds sterling.

"In view of the fact that we had very little time at our disposal before leaving London, we were not able to draw up a concrete statement of all that interested our delegation. That is being done rather hastily here.

"Our first impression of the Soviet Union encourages us. We deeply appreciate the heartiness and hospitality with which our delegation has been received. We understand, however, that the difficulties to be overcome are considerable. The majority of the members of the delegation are novices in the question of trade with the U. S. S. R. Many of the firms which formerly carried on business relations with the Soviet Union through the Trade Representative of the U. S. S. R. are not represented in the delegation. They have already established their relations, and are evidently satisfied with the present status of their affairs.

"Our aims are more extensive. Before leaving England, we made sure of the sympathy of certain large English banks, but it is not our purpose to join our efforts with the interests of the large international banking firms. The enormous potential resources of your country, if developed with the necessary cooperation from our industrial and financial circles, can not fail to produce results on a large scale.

"We came here with big plans, and with the hope of solving great problems, and we are inspired by the faith that we will be successful. The firms represented in the delegation are not limiting themselves to simple commercial relations, as is apparently the practice of many of the firms operating through your organizations abroad. We are hoping to work with you in the establishment of a broad economic base for trade. We are entirely aware that Anglo-Soviet trade can be carried on to the extent desirable, only if an economic basis can be found which will open the gates of the English financial market to you.

"From the foundation that has already been laid in the economic and industrial reconstruction of the Soviet Union we can already visualize the huge edifice, in the building of which British industry and finance can play such a useful and advantageous role.

"It was inevitable that you should have had great difficulties. Up until now we have heard only of those difficulties in the world press, but we have come here to see the other side of the picture. If this picture continues to unfold itself as it has during the short time that has elapsed since our arrival, we are convinced that much wider perspectives will become apparent."

A new edition of the Constitution of the Soviet Union, containing all amendments adopted since 1923 will be ready this month. Price: 20 cents

Statement of Piatakov to British Delegation

On April 5th, the delegation of British Industrialists was received by a special government commission headed by Mr. G. L. Piatakov. The members of the British delegation laid before the commission their proposals regarding the supply of articles of British manufacture to the Soviet market. In reply, Mr. Piatakov made the following statement:

"Gentlemen, we have heard with great interest the proposals of the representatives of the various individual and combined British firms. We shall take these statements under consideration later, particularly with reference to the negotiations which these gentlemen have already carried on and will continue to carry on with our economic organizations. We are convinced that there are other firms which are in a position to make similar proposals, each according to their speciality, and equally deserving of our attention. However, there are certain preliminary questions which should be considered.

"First of all, I wish to emphasize the importance of this visit. We welcome this visit of British business men to our country, because the exchange of visits between representatives of business circles of both countries cannot but assist the growth of mutual understanding, and consequently, the improvement and strengthening of our economic relations, especially in view of all the wild tales about the U. S. S. R., which are being broadcasted by the hostile press. This visit bears witness to the fact that all the lies and slanders scattered about so profusely have not been able to drown out the voice of common sense. It is now entirely clear to all that in spite of the difference in the political and social structure of the U. S. S. R., and for instance, England—economic relations between our country and other countries are entirely possible. Our government has regarded the visit of this delegation with due seriousness, in spite of the fact that everything possible has been done recently to belittle its role and significance. The results of this business-like clarification of the possibilities of extending the economic connections between British industry and finance and our industry, agriculture, transport, financial institutions, and so on, will undoubtedly be useful to those who understand the real advantage of the restoration of normal relations between Great Britain and the U. S. S. R.

"The rupture of diplomatic relations between the governments of our countries has simply meant that our country has more and more turned to other countries than Great Britain to satisfy the needs of our import program. Our orders placed with Great Britain have decreased as follows:

Value of goods purchased in pounds sterling

1924-25	23,500,000
1925-26	20,500,000
1926-27	14,100,000
1927-28	5,800,000

"Meanwhile other countries have been taking the place of Great Britain in our growing imports. The entire import of the U. S. S. R. in 1925-26 amounted to 674,000,000 rubles (over \$347,000,000); in 1926-27 to 624,000,000 rubles (over \$321,000,000) and in 1927-28 to 820,000,000 rubles (over \$422,000,000).* The share of the three main countries for these years was as follows:

	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28
	%	%	%
Great Britain.....	18.6	15.5	5.5
Germany	25.5	25.2	29.5
United States.....	17.7	22.9	22.1

"The import of all kinds of machinery into the Soviet Union in 1926-27 amounted to 147,000,000 rubles, and in 1927-28 to 222,000,000 rubles. During that period the import of machinery from England to the U. S. S. R. fell from 16,000,000 rubles to 10,000,000 rubles.

"All these are facts which no business man can ignore. Our State Planning Commission has presented its five-year economic plan to the government and, coincident with your arrival, the Council of People's Commissars has begun to consider its proposals. Our economic commissariats, our syndicates, trusts, import organizations, and other economic bodies are checking and completing their concrete economic proposals. Import and export problems are being worked out in conjunction with these economic plans. This five-year plan, when ratified, will to a large extent define and pre-determine the extent of the economic relations which the U. S. S. R. will develop with other countries in the next few years. The five-year plan will be carried out whether or not there is an improvement in our economic relations with England. However, the nature of our relations with England may affect the five-year plan in the following two ways: (1) The proportion and extent of our importation of products of British manufacture may be changed, within the limits of our five-year plan, and (2) our entire import program may be increased, with a still greater increase in our imports from England.

"An analysis of the perspective economic development of our country shows that the capacity of our internal market is growing at an extraordinary rate. In order to satisfy even in the most modest way the growing needs of our country, we must carry on an enormous amount of constructive work. The growth of our own industry in this process not only does not decrease our import needs, but on the contrary, increases them. The immensity of our constructive program, the

*These figures are for trade over European frontiers only.

extent of which is determined not by our needs—which cannot be completely satisfied even by the realization of the entire program—but by our possibilities, may be judged by the following: Our basic capital, that is, buildings, structures, machinery, railroads, mines, and so on (with the exception of land and sub-soil resources), will increase during the five-year period from 75,000,000,000 rubles (over \$38,600,000,000) to 129,000,000,000 rubles (over \$65,200,000,000), that is to say, in the coming five years we intend to invest 54,000,000,000 rubles, or £5,500,000,000. The turnover capital will increase from 17 to 29 billion rubles, or by 12 billion rubles. This means carrying out a program of capital construction amounting to 66 billion rubles, based on present prices, or of 58 billion rubles, if we take into account the probable decrease in prices.

"Our program of electrification alone amounts to 3,850,000,000 rubles (based on the present price index) as a result of which the amount invested in electric power stations will increase from 1,300,000,000 rubles to 5,100,000,000.

"The basic capital of industry will increase from 11,300,000,000 to 29,000,000,000 rubles as a result of a program of capital construction amounting to 21,700,000,000 rubles (at present prices).

"Our transport program calls for an investment of 12,500,000,000 rubles (at present prices), and the basic capital of transport will increase from 12,600,000,000 rubles to 21,900,000,000 rubles.

"Our investment in building (excluding the building done by peasants) will grow from 3,500,000,000 to 9,300,000,000 rubles.

"It is not surprising, therefore, that the gross receipts from the State Budget (i. e., including the revenue and expenditures of the Commissariat of Transportation, and the Commissariat of Post and Telegraph), will increase from 7,800,000,000 rubles to 13,800,000,000, and the net receipts (i. e., excluding the above-mentioned commissariats) from 5,100,000,000 rubles to 9,300,000,000.

"No realistic business man can fail to consider the implications of a program involving such a vast transformation of the old Russia. It is unnecessary, I suppose, to point out that the above program is closely connected with a definite import program. A careful study of our import program from the point of view of our capacity, leads to the conclusion that it is entirely sound and feasible.

"The question of our ability to pay is answered in our general financial program. The five-year plan includes a careful estimate of all the sources for covering the expenditures required to carry out the program. No serious person can doubt the capacity of our government to pay, since it has been the one government to meet its obligations on time. Considering our import possibilities and the status of our relations with other countries, a study of the five-year plan leads to the following conclusions:

"In the event that our relations with England are not re-established, the imports of the U. S. S. R. from England will be limited to just the barest essentials, amounting to an inconsiderable figure which it is impossible to estimate in advance. We will simply purchase in England from time to time, according to no definite plan, as it seems convenient or advantageous, in view of whatever circumstances may arise.

"If we are able to reach an agreement satisfactory to both sides, and if we are able to work out a mutually acceptable financial program, then we shall without any difficulty be able to place orders in England amounting to £150,000,000, in connection with our industrial program.

"If British capital avails itself of investment opportunities, that is, in concessions or the various kinds of contract work that are open, then the import program may be increased to £200,000,000, or more. I am disregarding here the purchase of stock-market goods (cotton, wool, copper, rubber, etc.), which also could to a large extent be carried on through England.

"All this testifies to the fact that the extension of our work with British industry and finance, to the advantage of both countries, it is not only possible but necessary. All this necessitates the working out of a large financial program. And all this, on the other hand, necessitates a definite and frank recognition of one preliminary condition.

"*Extensive economic collaboration on the part of England with the developing economic life of the U. S. S. R. is possible only on the basis of the renewal of normal diplomatic relations between our governments.* You will readily understand that any serious economic or financial agreements between our countries are impossible without the necessary legal basis. We could not put ourselves in a position where accidental factors outside of the economic field might interfere with or even destroy such agreements. This elementary legal basis is the presence of normal diplomatic relations. In the 1924 agreement between our country and Great Britain, principles were worked out on the basis of which we are firmly convinced the economic relations of the U. S. S. R. and Great Britain could develop in a way satisfactory to the interests of both countries. We are convinced that the fulfillment of this agreement, expanded and supplemented in accordance with the growing possibilities of Anglo-Soviet economic collaboration would have led in the past five years to a satisfactory solution of all those disputed questions which were covered in the agreement.

"As realistic business men directly concerned with practical economic problems, we see no possibility of increasing economic collaboration with England unless the above mentioned question is solved. Our government has commissioned us, however, to hear, and to acquaint ourselves thoroughly with all your desires and proposals, and to

give you all the necessary information, in order to assist in a solution of these problems that will be favorable to both countries."

East-Prussian Delegation

On April 8th a delegation from East Prussia arrived in Moscow. The purpose of the delegation, which is headed jointly by Dr. Zir, President of East Prussia, and Dr. Lomeyer, Mayor of Königsburg, is to make arrangements to strengthen the economic and commercial relations between East Prussia and the U. S. S. R. The delegation includes Dr. Heimann, of the Board of Directors of the East-Prussian Chamber of Agriculture, Councillor Lehmann, Dr. Becker, Director of the Chamber of Agriculture, Dr. Markov, manager of the Königsburg Institute for Economic Relations with Eastern Europe, and Mr. Litten, vice-president of the East Prussian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Five Years of Soviet-Swedish Relations

The fifteenth of March was the fifth anniversary of the restoration of diplomatic and consular relations between the U. S. S. R. and Sweden.

During these five years a consular convention was concluded between the two governments, and a convention defining the legal position of the Trade Delegate of the U. S. S. R. in Sweden.

The trade turnover between the U. S. S. R. and Sweden for 1927-28 amounted to 20,100,000 rubles (over \$10,000,000) as against 18,400,000 rubles in 1926-27, and 14,800,000 rubles in 1924-25. The import from Sweden considerably exceeded the export to Sweden throughout the five-year period.

A number of Swedish firms have concessions in the U. S. S. R., including "ASEA" (Swedish General Electric Company), which is building a large plant for the manufacture of electrical equipment in Yaroslavl, the "SKF" company, which manufactures ball-bearings, and others. A contract was recently concluded with the firm of "Ericson" for technical service in the manufacture of apparatus for automatic telephone stations.

New Soviet Persian Customs Convention

The new Soviet Persian convention signed on the tenth of March in Teheran, confirms the complete customs autonomy of Persia on the basis of existing tariff rates.

This convention annuls the Soviet-Persian customs convention concluded October 1st, 1927 for the period before the introduction into Persia of an autonomous customs tariff. On May 10th, 1928, Persia introduced an autonomous customs tariff.

The new convention deals specifically with certain items in the present Persian tariff in relation to Trade between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Persia.

Miscellaneous News

Child Vagrancy Decreases

The number of homeless children wandering about the Soviet Union, including those taken from the streets during the past year, does not exceed 30,000, according to the findings of the special government commission organized a year ago to take charge of rescuing the homeless children from the streets and looking after their education.

The first efforts of the commission resulted in taking 10,000 of the homeless children from the streets of various cities, and later on 3,200 were removed from the streets of Moscow alone. In the course of the work the number of 100,000 destitute children estimated a year ago proved to be considerably exaggerated.

Most of the homeless children gathered from the streets have been placed in "labor communes" organized under the Commissariat of Labor of the Soviet Union. There are four such communes at the present time—at Rostov-on-the-Don, Orel, Saratov, and in the city of Starri-Cherkassk. There are more than 6,500 children over sixteen years old in these communes at the present time. The children work at trades. The life of the commune is organized on the basis of self-government. This method of training the homeless children accustoms them to regular work, and the fact that they are acquiring skill at a trade keeps them from running away. In the Orel commune, where there are 1,300 children at the present time, they all work in the machine shop belonging to the commune, every department of which is completely equipped with machinery, in some cases of the latest construction. Along with this productive work, cultural life is also developing in the commune. The former homeless children are now publishing their own little newspaper, and there are various study and art groups in the commune.

Thus there are already perceptible results in the homeless children campaign. More than 20,000 children have been rescued from the streets during the past year, and 10,000 are being trained in Labor Communes.

Marriage and Divorce in Soviet Russia

The statistics on marriage and divorce for the European part of the R. S. F. S. R. for 1926 and 1927, show an increase in marriages in the cities from 11.6 per thousand of the population to 12.4 per thousand, and a decrease in marriages among the village population from 10 per thousand in 1926 to 9.5 per thousand in 1927.

Divorces increased in the urban districts from 2.8 per thousand of the population in 1926 to 6.9 per thousand in 1927, and in the villages from

1.2 per thousand to 2.2 per thousand during the same period.

The sudden increase of divorces in 1927 is due to the revised marriage codex of December, 1926, which provides that divorce may be secured on application to the local Registration Bureau by either the husband or wife. In the original law divorce could be obtained through the Registration Office only if both sides agreed. If only one side wished it, it had to be arranged through the court.

Consultation Bureau on International Law

A Consultation Bureau on International Law has been organized in Moscow. The Bureau will give legal aid both to Soviet citizens and organizations having property interests abroad, and to citizens of other countries having property interests or other business in the U. S. S. R. A number of the foremost Soviet jurists have joined the staff of the Bureau.

Two Weeks Savings Campaign

A two weeks savings campaign was held throughout the Soviet Union in February. Statistics published in the press at the time of the campaign showed that at the present time there are 16,400 savings bank branches in the Soviet Union. On February first this year their total deposits amounted to 370,000,000 rubles, (over \$185,000,000) and there were 4,200,000 depositors, as against total deposits of 33,350,000 rubles in 1925, and 817,735 depositors.

Soviet Flights in 1929

During the present year the "Osoaviachim" Society of the U. S. S. R. is planning a number of long flights over various routes by aeroplanes of Soviet construction. In May and June two speed flights will be held—one of 3,000 kilometers, to Transcaucasia, and one of 8,000 kilometers, to Central Asia. The "Ukrvozdukhput" (Ukrainian Airline Co.) is organizing a 10,000 kilometer flight for the new passenger plane "K-4" along the route Kharkov-Moscow-Irkutsk and back. The "Dobrolet" is planning a flight of the new Soviet tri-motor passenger plane, "Ant-9" over the "Deruluft" route in Western Europe. In addition there will be a test of the metal, two-passenger type plane for speed, height and weight over a route of 6,400 kilometers. Two long flights by military planes will take place in August and the multi-motored planes, "ANT-4" and "YUG-1" will make non-stop flights of 2,400 and 1,080 kilometers, respectively, in June.

New Agricultural Daily

A new daily agricultural paper, "Selsko-Hozyaistvennaya Gazetta," published by the Council of People's Commissars of the U. S. S. R.,

made its appearance in Moscow on March 1st. According to its foreword, the paper is to be "the organ of the socialist reconstruction of agriculture." It will discuss methods of raising the level of the individual peasant's farm, increasing the yield, the development of peasant cooperatives and collectives, and the building up of State Farms. The circulation of the paper is 75,000.

New Grain Institute in Moscow

The Soviet Government has decided to organize a Grain Institute in Moscow. The work of the institute will include a study of the different varieties of grain, problems of grain storage, more efficient methods of milling grain, and so on.

Student Section of Cultural Relations Society

A student section has been organized in connection with the Society for Cultural Relations in the U. S. S. R. to further the cultural relations between the students of Soviet Russia and of other countries. The section will assist in the reception of student delegations and excursions to the U. S. S. R., and will aid Soviet students going abroad to study. It will establish an exchange of information and material between the student press of the U. S. S. R. and other lands, prepare reports and exhibitions of students' work, encourage the learning of other languages in the Soviet Union, and of Russian in other countries, and assist in taking advantage of offers of scholarships for Russian students to study in other countries.

New Institutes of the Academy of Science

Meeting in Leningrad in full session after the recent elections, the forty-one new members of the Academy of Science of the Soviet Union decided to reorganize the work of the Academy along lines adapted to the problems of the new economic, cultural and social structure of the U. S. S. R.

It was decided to organize several new institutes, one for the study of the social and economic history of Europe, one for the study of the history of colonial peoples, an institute of economic science, and a chemical institute.

The Academy also established a special institute to plan and carry out scientific expeditions, which has already organized a number of new expeditions to explore the natural riches of the Soviet Union. Early in March an expedition, headed by Prof. Fersman, vice-president of the Academy, and Prof. Sherbatov, the geologist, started for Kara-Kum. The expedition was equipped to study the correct development of the sulphur industry in Kara-Kum, to explore the possibilities of organizing the transportation of sulphur, and to repair the meteorological station connected with the sulphur factory. Part of the journey will be taken in automobiles especially adapted for desert travel.

Soviet Scientists Invited to Work Abroad

The Joffe Physico-Technical Institute in Leningrad has received many invitations to send its young physicists to work abroad. The physicist Semenov has been invited to work in the Berlin Physico-Technical Institute of Prof. Haber, Skobel'sin—the first scientist in the world to discover the nature of alpha rays by physics, has been invited to work for a year in the Curie laboratory in France. This year Rockefeller scholarships have been granted to a number of young Soviet physicists. Mr. P. A. Kapitz, known for his work in obtaining high power magnetic fields, is now working in England, and plans to return to Leningrad on the completion of his experimental work. The physicists Shubnikov and Olga Trapeznikov are working in Holland.

Inter-planetary Communication

A group of engineers and physicists have been organized in Leningrad under the Institute of Ways and Communications, to work on an inter-planetary rocket.

Mr. Perelman, the engineer and author of the book, "Inter-planetary Communication," which appeared in Russia in 1915, spoke at the organization meeting, and pointed out that in 1880 the well-known revolutionist, Kibalchich, who was shot for his share in the organization of the assassination of Alexander II, conceived the idea of an inter-planetary rocket. Later, he said, theoretical analysis of the use of rockets for inter-planetary communication was given by Mr. Tsiolkovsky, the well-known founder of the science of aero-dynamics in Russia. Twenty-five years later European science, in the works of Obert and others, arrived independently at the same analysis.

Bringing Dead Organisms to Life

Scientific circles are following with great interest the experiments of Soviet scientists in bringing dead organisms to life. Particular attention is being attracted by the work of Professors Andreyev, Kulyabkov, and others, who in their experiments operate on the theory that death is not an instantaneous phenomenon, but a slowly developing process. Thus a number of Soviet scientists have begun to work on the resuscitation of separate organs of dead animals and people.

Prof. Kulyabkov was able to revive the action of a human heart several days after death. Dr. Buchanenko recently created international excitement by keeping alive the head of a dog for three hours after its severance from the body. Prof. Andreyev, at a public lecture, demonstrated the heart of a dog functioning many hours after the dog's death. Prof. Andreyev declared that real death occurs only when the cells of the nervous system and the heart die. Therefore, it is possible to revive the organism when death has not

yet caused great changes in its structure. Revival is possible if the circulation can be restored.

The Leningrad Public Library

The State Public Library was counted third in the world before the revolution, when it contained 3,000,000 volumes. But during the past ten years the Leningrad library has been enriched by the libraries of the old Duma, the Ecclesiastical Academy, the Free Economics Society, and other institutions that no longer exist. In addition several of the large nationalized private libraries have been added. This inheritance has increased the number of volumes in the library to 4,640,000. Certain of the departments of the library are recognized as the best in the world. In addition to the main building the library has four branches. Connected with it are an advanced librarian's course, and a bibliographical institute. The staff of the library numbers 300.

An enormous number of books are constantly pouring into the library. During 1927 alone, 163,000 new books were received, not to mention newspapers and magazines. According to a law promulgated in 1809, there must be two copies in the library of every book, brochure, newspaper and magazine published in Russia. The revolution has not only preserved this law, but extended it.

In the course of 1927, 2,015,000 books were given out to 43,000 visitors. Almost half of the books in the library were in circulation.

The Russian Theater in 1928-29

At the present time there are 203 theaters in the R. S. F. S. R. (Soviet Russia Proper), 26 of them being in Moscow, and 15 in Leningrad.

During this season the first Moscow Art Theater is giving two premières — "Blockade," by Vsevolod Ivanov, and "The Race," by Bulgakov. The Second Moscow Art Theater is planning three new productions, including Hugo's "L'Homme qui rit." Noteworthy among other new productions of the Moscow theaters are a new play by Mayakovsky, to be produced at the Meyerhold Theater, and O'Neill's "Emperor Jones," which will be produced by the Kamerny Theater under the name of "The Negro." The Bolshoy Theater has put on a new production of Wagner's "Meistersinger." In all thirty new productions will have been shown in the Moscow theater when the present season is over.

There are fifteen traveling theaters performing in the villages, and in addition, 28,000 village amateur dramatic groups. There are also quite a number of national minority theaters in the R. S. F. S. R., such as the Central Tartar Theater in Kazan, the Jewish Theater in Moscow, the Lettish and Ukrainian theaters in Leningrad.

There are ten dramatic schools in which 1,400 students are training to be actors, directors or

theatrical organizers. It is also planned to establish a special dramatic college.

Gypsies in the Soviet Union

The Soviet Government is doing a great deal to bring culture to the gypsies, and as a result, migratory gypsies are growing fewer and fewer in the U. S. S. R.

In all, there are about 35,000 gypsies in the Soviet Union. A race of wanderers, they are beginning little by little to settle on the land, to organize little villages, to take part in the political life of the country, and to send their children to school. The Russian alphabet has been adapted to the gypsy language, which has made it possible for the gypsies to learn to read and write.

Like all the minor peoples of the Soviet Union, the gypsies have been given the right and the opportunity for free cultural development, and are receiving the help and encouragement of the Soviet Government in the process.

Toward the end of last year the Department of Education began the publication of a magazine called "Tsiganskaya Zarya" (The Dawn of the Gypsies), thus giving the gypsies their first printed organ.

In Moscow there is a gypsy school, where 150 gypsy children are already studying. Dozens of gypsy girls and boys can also be found in the Rabfacs (workers' preparatory schools), whither they have come straight from their gypsy encampments.

Clubs, workshops, and producers' artels (a loose form of cooperative) have been established for the gypsies. Some of the gypsies are at work in factories.

The gypsies have contributed many active members to the Communist Party and the Comsomols (Communist Youth League), and many active social workers and village Soviet members.

Changes in Soviet Diplomatic Service.

Mr. A. S. Lizarev was relieved of the post of Trade Delegate of the U. S. S. R. in Poland, and Mr. N. V. Popov was appointed in his stead.

Mr. A. Y. Arosev has been appointed Plenipotentiary Representative of the Soviet Union in Czech-Slovakia. Mr. Arosev formerly held the post of Soviet Representative in Lithuania, which is now held by Mr. V. A. Antonov-Ovseyenko.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Litvinov on Disarmament	90	Miscellaneous News:	
Soviet Oil on the World Market	96	Courses for Foreign Physicians	106
Resolution of British Industrialists	97	Soviet Press	106
Chukhnovsky's Visit to Europe	98	Reconstruction of Railroads	106
Soviet Elections	99	Tractor Construction	106
Standardization and the Five-Year Plan	100	Handicraft Industry	106
New Industrial Enterprises	102	Concession Applications	107
Soviet Air Lines	103	Industrial Combine	107
What They Read in the U. S. S. R.	103	Museum on Wheels	107
Cinema in National Republics	105	Model Workers' Polyclinic	107
		New Musical Radio Instrument	107
		Scientific Expeditions	107

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DURING the discussions which took place at Geneva on April 17th, regarding the agenda for the Sixth Session of the Preparatory Disarmament Commission, Mr. M. M. Litvinov, Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Soviet Delegation, spoke in part as follows:*

Mr. Litvinov's Speech

"What is being discussed is not the technical question of the order of the points on the agenda, but a fundamental question of principle. In deciding this question, the commission must state whether in the present session it will undertake, or at least approach, a real solution of the problem of disarmament, whether it will take a step forward, or whether its work will be as fruitless as that of the last session. These remarks would be superfluous if I were convinced that the President, in proposing to make the discussion of the Soviet project the first point on the agenda, really intended to make the Soviet project the basis of all the future labors of the commission. However, I should be doing him an injustice in attributing to him any such, from his point of view, probably heretical thought. Such a proposition is contradictory to the repeated insistence of the President on the necessity of continuing the work 'along lines already laid down by the commission,' which according to the terminology accepted in the commission and now generally understood, really means the exclusion of all new draft conventions, including the Soviet project, in favor of the draft convention already worked out by the commission, which has passed through its first reading—or more accurately, the first half of its reading. It is therefore not surprising that in his speech of yesterday the President proposed that the first point to be considered should be the question of whether the Soviet project is covered by the 1927 project (that is, the commission's own project). Continuing this thought, it should be stated that in the event of a negative answer to this question, the President considers that the rejection of the Soviet project en bloc, without considering its main points, is inevitable. Thus I am correct in surmising that the purpose of the proposed agenda is not a consideration of the Soviet project as such, but a purely formal examination of the question as to whether the commission should

bother with it at all or throw it aside at the beginning to make way, according to prearranged plan, for the consideration of the less substantial points of the 1927 project, the second reading of which, according to the President, has not yet taken place. If my surmise were wrong, the President would not have included in the agenda in such positive form, certain other points which are completely covered in the Soviet draft.

"I might mention in passing that practically all the questions enumerated in Bernstorff's memorandum of April 8th may also be decided on the basis of the Soviet project, and in the spirit of the German memorandum. And all the other proposals of the delegations which have been made previously, or may be made in the future, may be included in the Soviet draft, and may be considered along with it, because the Soviet project is in its essence universal disarmament, and in any case has wider implications than the 1927 draft. The 1927 draft and the Soviet project are mutually exclusive and cannot be considered simultaneously. While the Soviet project is based on an absolutely definite principle making it possible to decide at once the question of disarmament and its extent, the other project only affords the possibility of discussing technical questions, and even in the event of its final acceptance, opens no prospect for a solution of the basic problem of disarmament and the extent to which it shall be carried out. The Soviet project eliminates those obstacles which blocked the 1927 draft two years ago—obstacles which still have not been surmounted. The 1927 draft was laid on the table at the third and fourth sessions of the Preparatory Commission because no agreement could be reached. At the fifth session the French delegate declared, and the English delegate confirmed, that there were signs of an agreement being reached outside of the commission. In expectation of this agreement the commission again postponed its work on the draft. Since that time more than a year has passed, but the President of the Preparatory Commission as before has nothing consoling to say regarding the status of the disagreements called forth by the project.

"Insofar as we are permitted to know, these disagreements have not only not been softened, but have become more acute and rendered more complicated by new questions. While Great Britain and France may have reached an agreement satisfactory to their respective interests,

*The quotations from Mr. Litvinov's speeches given here are translated from reports in the Moscow *Izvestia*.

new differences have arisen to take the place of those settled—this time between the Anglo-French compromise and the point of view of the United States and Italy. As far as we are permitted to know, negotiations for the settlement of these differences have not even been started. I pointed out this fact in letters to the President of the Preparatory Commission in August and December, 1928, and was astonished when the President in his answer expressed the opinion that the commission would continue its work with success if it confined itself to the lines already laid down. One can only envy the unprecedented optimism of the President if he considers that the work of the commission has so far been successful. If the commission continues to work with equal 'success,' even the most sanguine optimist will cease to believe that disarmament can be accomplished by the Preparatory Commission and the League of Nations.

"Let us grant that within the next few months such 'fortunate' circumstances may arise as to permit England and France to enter upon negotiations with the United States, and sooner or later to carry them to a successful conclusion. But where is the guarantee that the agreement reached by them will be acceptable to other nations not participating in the negotiations? When at the last session it was announced that negotiations between England and France had been commenced, Italy declared that the Italian government would not be bound in any degree by an agreement in which it had not participated, and that the other governments represented on the commission also had the right to express their opinions on this agreement. Furthermore, it is not a question of disagreement on just one point of the draft—a very important point to be sure—but there are also disagreements on the other points, as evidenced by the parallel variants received after the first reading. If these disagreements are to be solved by the same procedure as the first, then the sessions of the commission will have to be counted in three instead of two numerals. The course mapped out by the commission leads anywhere but to a successful conclusion.

"The reason for the continued failure of the commission lies in the course it has taken and its method of work. Instead of a general coefficient for the reduction of armaments that would be reasonable and binding for all countries, the commission proposes individual fixation of armaments in conformity with each country and its peculiarities, which plan would obviously necessitate international recognition of each government's own estimate of its needs.

"In this connection the results of the 1921-22 questionnaire of the League of Nations regarding the requirements for national security are instructive. At that time practically every country declared that national needs precluded the curtail-

ment of military forces. Every country appeared to be in a special position, and some even pointed to the existence of special obligations, frequently self-imposed. Under these circumstances it is clearly necessary that some criterion be found, independent of subjective factors, which would not be detrimental to any country, and which would not attempt the impossible task of getting general consent to a change in the existing relation of military forces. Such a criterion is to be found only in the Soviet project which proposes proportional reduction of all armaments with concessions only in favor of small nations.

"The acceptance of the Soviet proposals for proportional reduction of all categories of armament would eliminate those differences between the naval powers which now threaten the progress of the work of the Preparatory Commission, and would avert the similar, if not even sharper, dissensions which will inevitably arise when the problems of land and air armaments are more concretely considered.

"As to the lines along which the commission has been working, lines which the President proposes to continue, there is absolutely no evidence that their goal is any curtailment whatever of existing armaments. In this connection the Soviet delegation would consider timely some clarification of the question as to just what the aim of the Preparatory Commission really is. Some doubt has been cast on this both by certain recent declarations of well known statesmen, and by the persistent use by the Preparatory Commission of the doubly ambiguous phrase 'limitation and reduction of armament,' and also the proposal to reserve (i. e., postpone) the determination of concrete figures for disarmament until the Disarmament Conference. The term 'limitation of armament' does not necessitate the fixing of limits below existing armaments. On the contrary, it might be interpreted to mean limits no different from the present ones, or even limits higher than the present ones, leaving room for an increase in army, navy, and military budgets. Such a procedure would mean not reduction, but maintenance or even increase of armaments. It would differ in no way from attempts at agreement made even before 1914, such as the proposed 'naval vacation' between Great Britain and Germany. Such agreements have nothing in common with the problem which the Soviet Delegation would like to have considered by the Preparatory Commission, and do not in any degree answer the yearning of the peoples of the world for the abolition, or at least the lessening of the menace of war. If the authors and defenders of the draft of the commission limit their problem to achieving agreements of this nature, then the opposition which the Soviet project has met is perfectly natural, since contrary to the project of the commission, the Soviet project provides for the immediate determining of a coefficient of reduction of

armaments, that is, actual preparation for a substantial degree of disarmament in the immediate future.

"These considerations impel the Soviet delegation once again to call upon the Commission to revise methods of work which are so obviously defective, and to enter upon the course recommended by the delegation against which the only objections raised in the commission have been on the ground that it is something new. The Soviet delegation, however, did not expect to encounter an attitude so conservative that any new suggestion would be disqualified as not deserving attention. I foresee a reference to the resolution of the Fifth Session with its sacramental phrase about the necessity of following lines already laid down. However, you surely will not deny to any delegation the right of raising the question of revising decisions made at an earlier date by the commission, especially after the passage of a year, and in the light of new facts and circumstances.

"Even at the Fourth Session, a year and a half ago, the course laid out by the commission was characterized as a blind alley. At the Fifth Session, however, some of the delegates caught a glimmer of light, and the commission decided that there was a way out. A year has passed. The glimmer of light has turned out to be a mirage, and the darkness in the alley has grown thicker. It is permissible to ask whether it is necessary to struggle farther without changing our direction. Instead of wasting energy trying to break through impenetrable walls, would it not be wiser and more economical to study the new course we have pointed out, which is at least free of the obstacles which have piled up in the old road during the past two years. You are right in saying that the Soviet delegation is likewise unable to guarantee unobstructed progress along the way it has proposed. The Soviet delegation is itself less inclined to optimism than others on this point. But in the present instance the only possible obstacle could be the general disinclination of the governments to disarm. In such an eventuality any work of the commission would be doomed to failure.

"The Soviet project, however, has the advantage that in proposing the same degree of disarmament to practically every nation, it would render it difficult or even impossible for any government to refuse to disarm on the ground that disarmament would be especially injurious to its national interests.

"In emphasizing the necessity of speeding up the work of the commission, the President of the Preparatory Commission yesterday referred to the growing impatience of labor organizations which are demanding that disarmament be accomplished without delay. If the President of the Commission considers that this movement is a powerful factor in the problem of disarmament, the Soviet delegation will be the first to

agree with him. But this movement will gain in strength if the commission employs methods which will help to disclose the hypocrisy and groundlessness of the appeal of any government to imaginary national interests supposedly preventing their country from disarming to the same extent to which other nations have agreed.

"The demand of the Soviet delegation that the commission should revise its method of work, and begin to consider the real problems of disarmament finds an additional justification in the events of the past year. I have in mind first the increase in the war danger, which we pointed out as early as the Fourth Session. But at that time its outlines did not stand out as sharply and obviously as at the present time. This war danger is by no means the invention of the Soviet delegation. If you desired I could give you innumerable quotations from the speeches of responsible statesmen of non-Soviet countries, members of parliament, and statements from the press giving evidence of the growth of the danger during the past year. This circumstance should itself have been sufficient to arouse our efforts for immediate disarmament. On the other hand, there has occurred during the past year a new combination of circumstances favorable to the strengthening of the so-called securities, to which the League of Nations and the Preparatory Commission have always attributed such exceptional importance. The Kellogg Pact on the repudiation of war as an instrument of national policy, has become a fact. Due to the initiative and special efforts of the Soviet government, the Kellogg Pact has already become effective in the mutual relations of eight states, and in the very section of Europe where the situation is most menacing. To be sure, the Kellogg Pact has not yet come into force among all its participants because one government has not as yet ratified it, but it is probable that this obstacle will disappear or be surmounted in some way in the near future. I am by no means inclined to overestimate the importance of international agreements in general and the Kellogg Pact in particular as guarantees of peace. I am not unaware of the numerous violations of international treaties. But on the other hand, I cannot agree with the repeated attempts on the part of certain statesmen to belittle the significance of the Kellogg Pact in comparison with similar international agreements, especially since these attempts have nothing to do with the maintenance of peace or the trend toward disarmament.

"One may even entertain the fear that these attempts are made with the aim of creating extenuating or mitigating circumstances in the event of a violation of the anti-war pact, or with the aim of weakening the pact as a foundation for the demand for disarmament. In the eyes of the Soviet government the Kellogg Pact is no less binding for all its adherents, and represents no less a guaranty of security than, let us say,

the Locarno treaties, or the so-called security compacts recommended by the League of Nations, or any other international agreement. The Preparatory Commission, which considers a guaranty of security as the pre-requisite of disarmament, should draw the necessary conclusions from this.

"The Soviet delegation has considered and still considers that under present conditions the most effective guaranty of peace is general and complete disarmament. The draft convention on complete disarmament was unfortunately rejected by the Preparatory Commission, and the Soviet Delegation can bring it up again only at the International Disarmament Conference—if it is ever called. Meanwhile, the delegation presents its draft convention on proportional progressive reduction of all armaments which will immediately diminish to a certain extent the menace of war, and may serve as a step toward further disarmament. I recommend this draft to the attention of the Sixth Session of the Preparatory Commission, and ask that it be made the first point on the agenda, not so that it may be rejected on formal considerations, for fear of its novelty, and through devotion to old and faulty methods, but for a detailed study and consideration of its contents. I am firmly convinced that only the acceptance of such a plan will lead the commission out of its difficulties and compensate for the wasted time and effort, and compel recognition of the fact that the Commission has at last actually set to work on the question of disarmament."

Soviet Disarmament Proposal

At the April 17th Session of the Preparatory Commission, the Soviet Disarmament proposals were explained in detail by Alexander Langovoy, military expert of the Soviet delegation.

Mr. Langovoy pointed out that the advantage of the Soviet project over the 1927 project, (i. e., the commission's own project) was its concreteness, since instead of merely listing the questions to be taken up by the disarmament conference, it contains definite proposals and figures regarding the methods of reducing armaments. He stated that the figures of the Soviet project are not to be taken as final, but merely express the efforts of the Soviet delegation to achieve a reduction of armaments that would mean a perceptible decrease in the burden of militarism and the menace of war. The basic principle of the Soviet project is to reduce armaments, and not to legalize them by any "limitations." While reducing proportionally all categories of armaments of every nation, the Soviet project would permit a comparatively smaller decrease in the armaments of smaller nations, as not representing any substantial menace to peace. The reduction provided for by the project chiefly concerns the swift growth of armaments in the large countries most permeated with militarism. Referring to the principal of the Soviet project that mainly aggressive

armaments should be abolished, and only those necessary for defense maintained, Mr. Langovoy declared:

"In this connection we have heard it remarked on several occasions that some particular measure for the curtailment of armaments would make it difficult to carry on war, and is, therefore, not acceptable. We must state categorically that we shall welcome any measure capable in the slightest degree of clearing the increasingly strained atmosphere of the post-war years or of averting any new horrors of war, as a tremendous achievement and a real victory of public opinion of the wide masses. The Soviet delegation stands for the organization of peace and against any methods that will simplify the organization of war."

In a detailed exposition of the Soviet project, Mr. Langovoy explained the plan for a progressive-proportional reduction of armaments based on a division of all countries into three groups. He also emphasized the importance of the curtailment of trained reserve forces, to be affected by various means, including the abolition of organizations engaged in the military training of the population. The Soviet project provides for a reduction both of the total amount of armed land forces, and of their separate categories, i. e., the forces of both the mother country and the colonies, the number of military units, the number of officers, etc. While proposing to maintain the already existent types of military materials, the project limits feverish and disgraceful over-armament and the competition for new military inventions.

According to Mr. Langovoy, the Soviet project attacks the question of cutting down naval armaments much more decisively and directly than any of the other proposals. The Soviet project proposes the immediate scrapping of the most aggressive type of warship—the aircraft carrier, and the gradual replacement of enormous warships by ships of 10,000 tons. This limit was set by the Versailles Treaty for Germany and obviously was recognized by the victorious powers as the size large enough for defense and small enough to restrain their owners from aggressive naval warfare. This limit, in connection with the other proposals in the Soviet project, leaves the way open for the powers to choose the type of ship corresponding to their needs. In limiting the calibre of naval artillery and the tonnage of battleships, in renouncing aircraft carriers and prolonging the life of warships, the Soviet project aims to weaken the destructive force of naval warfare and diminish the budgets of navies.

Mr. Langovoy pointed out the unprecedented growth of air armaments, and the constant increase in the radius of action of airships. In the event of war this threatens not only objects of military importance, but centers of economic and cultural life. In an effort to weaken the menace of the air fleet for the civilian population, the So-

viet project proposes the scrapping of aggressive air forces—bombing planes first of all. In addition the Soviet project proposes the disarming of dirigibles, restricting the capacity of airplane motors, the scrapping of air bombs and other means of destruction intended for use by the air fleet, and also the prohibition of their manufacture. In enumerating other methods proposed for the limitation of air forces, such as curtailment of the personnel and restriction of the manufacture of and traffic in military airplanes, Mr. Langovoy emphasized that all these measures taken together would considerably lighten the burden of military expenditures and would be a great achievement in the direction of creating conditions guaranteeing peace to the peoples of the world.

Following Mr. Langovoy's detailed exposition of the Soviet draft convention, Mr. Litvinov suggested that inasmuch as the Soviet project had been introduced over a year ago, the delegates had undoubtedly received instructions regarding it from their respective governments. He said that the time had not come for a detailed discussion because the basic points on which the fate of the project as a whole depended had not been considered. He therefore suggested an exchange of opinion as to whether an agreement could be reached on the principle of determining a numerical coefficient for the proportional reduction of existing armaments. Most of the delegates showed a reluctance to express their views, only the Japanese, French, Chilean, German and Turkish delegates participating in the discussion, the first three opposing the project, and the other two moderately favoring it.

Mr. Litvinov, in reply, made a further argument for the Soviet proposals, concluding as follows:

"The commission must first of all give its opinion on the main principles of the Soviet project. First, is the commission agreed to make a substantial reduction in existing armaments, second, is it agreed to reduce them on a proportional basis, permitting certain concessions for the least secure smaller nations, and third, is it agreed to establish a coefficient of proportional reduction at once? This is a question of a political and not a military nature. If the commission wishes to take a step forward, it cannot evade giving a clear and positive answer to this question."

Resolution of Soviet Delegation

Following further failure to vote on the Soviet proposals, Mr. Litvinov drafted the foregoing three points in the form of a resolution which he introduced on April 18th. In explaining the meaning and purpose of the resolution of the Soviet delegation, Mr. Litvinov pointed out that in the first point the Soviet delegation wished to spur the commission to a clear-cut and vigorous statement that it was preparing a plan for the disarmament conference providing not merely for

the limitation of the future growth of armaments, but for a reduction of existing ones.

"It is necessary," he said, "that the masses of the people should know just what the Preparatory Commission is doing. The commission must prove that it is at least worthy of its name, which contains the word 'disarmament.' A negative answer to the first point of the resolution should be accompanied by a change of the name of the commission and also of the forthcoming conference. The answer must be *categorical*, so that those who vote against it cannot still say that they nevertheless stand for reduction of armaments. The vote must accurately express the opinion of the governments represented on the commission, since they have had plenty of time to make a definite decision on this question. Certainly, no slight reduction of armament will constitute a justification of the work of the commission and answer the demands of the people for a means of lessening the menace of war and lightening the burden of militarism. The Soviet delegation which proposed last year, and will propose in the future complete and universal disarmament, can be satisfied only by a substantial decrease in armaments which would really be felt by the people and would dispel the gloom of the present international situation."

In explaining the second point of the resolution, regarding the methods of reducing armaments, Mr. Litvinov distinguished between three methods—the first, individual, according to which each government would decide for itself whether it can disarm, and to what extent.

"This method," he said, "would make superfluous the calling of any conference, and hence the work of the Preparatory Commission, because in the last analysis the decision would rest with the separate states irrespective of any general international plan for the reduction of armaments. This plan does not even admit the limitation of armaments."

"According to the second method the Preparatory Commission or the Conference binds each government to an arbitrary level of armed strength . . . I doubt whether any people or governments exist who would believe in the possibility of an international organization sufficiently impartial and just to entrust with the power of determining what is necessary to their security. This method, by the way, is the one that is being used in the naval agreement between Great Britain, France, and the United States, with results of which you are aware, although in this instance there is no question of the curtailment of armaments, but simply of their organization according to different types of vessels. But what may succeed in negotiations between a few countries is absolutely doomed to failure when an agreement must be reached by over fifty governments. This method also leads obviously to the bankruptcy of disarmament."

"The third method is the adoption of an entirely definite criterion, established in advance, impartial, and applicable to all states, maintaining absolutely the present relation of forces, and hence not detrimental to the interests of any one nation. This method, proposed by the Soviet delegation, is the only one which offers a solution for the disarmament problem. Concretely, this method may be expressed in different ways—the Soviet delegation having chosen the way based on the proportional principle. Not wishing, however, to bind the commission to its method of establishing a general criterion, and considering the possibility of new proposals along this line such as the Turkish proposal (i. e., a reduction on the principle of equality of all states. *Ed.*)—the Soviet delegation has phrased this point of the resolution so that anyone may vote for it who sees the necessity of a general criterion, but does not wish to be bound at the present time by the proportional principle proposed by the Soviet delegation . . . The rejection of the second point of the Soviet project would make it impossible to consider the Turkish proposal."

As regards the third point of the resolution, Mr. Litvinov pointed out that it was not enough to determine the method for the reduction of armaments, but it was also necessary to determine the extent of disarmament.

"The Soviet delegation," he said, "proposes to include a coefficient of reduction in the draft convention for the conference. This is the most vital point in the problem of disarmament, and the most controversial. The disputes on this point should be confined to the Preparatory Commission, if we wish the forthcoming conference to come to a final decision—otherwise the sixty nations who will participate in the conference will be unable to reach an agreement.

"The prospect suggested yesterday by Mr. Sato of a whole series of disarmament conferences on the model of the sessions of the Preparatory Commission, implies that the lives of a whole generation shall be devoted to removing the first obstacle in the path of disarmament, particularly since the conferences cannot follow each other in such quick succession as the meetings of the commission. Anyone to whom this prospect is not enticing, and who prefers to see disarmament accomplished in the near future in response to the demands of the masses of the people, will of course vote for the third point of the resolution. The size and structure of any international conference would prevent such a body from handling such questions as the fixing of a general coefficient, unless it had definite proposals which have been worked out in commission. Thus the conference at best will simply create a new Preparatory Commission to study the question and work out proposals. Whoever really has the question of disarmament at heart and really desires to hasten its

accomplishment, will vote that this question be taken up by the present Preparatory Commission. That will mean entering on the course of a real preparation for a solution of the problem of disarmament. Only such an extension of the program of work of the commission will make it possible to carry out the new proposals that have been offered—such as the Turkish and the Chinese, and also proposals which may be offered in the future, and of which we must not be afraid.

"The rejection of our three proposals and the pursuance of the course already entered upon simply means resolving the commission into a technical body engaged in preparing lists of categories of arms and so on, without knowing what these lists are for.

"Sincerely desiring to cooperate with the other members of the commission, I have avoided including in the resolution any new controversial questions, and have cut down the introductory part of the resolution to a minimum. I propose that each question be voted on separately, and not the resolution as a whole, because some delegations may vote for one of the principles advocated by the Soviet delegation, and against the others. The results of the voting will determine the character of the future work of the commission. The vote may be formulated more briefly—'for or against disarmament.'"

The Soviet proposals were subsequently shelved by Mr. Loudon's declaring adopted the Bureau's report which held them to be outside the commission's scope, but recommended that they be considered by the eventual disarmament conference. Mr. Litvinov, having been refused the floor to discuss the situation created by the rejection of the second Soviet project, made a written statement which was given to the delegates on April 20th. In this statement Mr. Litvinov reviewed the history of the attempts to have the question of disarmament considered, and the futility of the work of the commission which he stated was merely being used as a screen by the governments of the world to cover their own unwillingness to disarm.

"It would seem," Mr. Litvinov concluded, "that in the light of these facts the Soviet delegation would refrain from further participation in the Preparatory Commission. If, however, the Soviet delegation decides to remain, then it will be on the same considerations that impelled the Soviet government to send a delegation to the Preparatory Commission in the first place, despite its negative attitude to the League of Nations and its organs. The substance of these considerations was that no one should be given any ground for attributing the failure of either the Preparatory Commission or the Conference itself to the absence of Soviet representatives . . .

"The Soviet delegation remains in the Preparatory Commission in the hope that the govern-

ments, under pressure of the public and mainly of labor organizations, will consider themselves impelled to agree, if not to complete disarmament, at least to a substantial reduction of armaments. Only in that eventuality will the participants in the Preparatory Commission inevitably be forced to turn again to the Soviet proposals, which they have so far rejected in fulfillment of the instructions of their governments."

Resolution on Chemical Warfare

During the discussions of the commission on the question of chemical warfare, the Soviet delegation took the initiative in demanding that this question should not be put off until the acceptance of the convention on the reduction of armaments, as certain of the delegates desired, but that all governments should be required at least to ratify the existing convention on chemical warfare. Mr. Litvinov presented a draft resolution proposing the exclusion of one of the sections in the draft convention of the League of Nations, as merely repeating the Geneva protocol of 1925 on the repudiation of chemical and bacteriological warfare. The Soviet resolution further proposed that in the interests of bringing this protocol into force as quickly as possible, all governments who have not yet ratified the Geneva protocol, should do so within a short period, and that all governments signing the protocol should sign a supplementary protocol containing the following points:

1. All means and appurtenances for chemical attacks and bacteriological warfare in the possession of armies, in storage, or in process of production, to be destroyed within three months of the coming into force of the protocol.

2. The manufacture by industrial enterprises of means of chemical attack and bacteriological warfare to be discontinued within the same period.

3. A permanent workers' control to be organized over all products which might be used in the preparation of means for chemical and bacteriological warfare, in order to limit the possibilities of violating the protocol, this control to be organized by factory and shop committees, and other trade union organizations operating within the given enterprise.

Neither this resolution nor other resolutions regarding the prohibition of export and import of means of chemical warfare, and forbidding the manufacture of chemical and bacteriological materials for military purposes, were accepted. Subsequently, an alternative resolution offered by the Soviet delegation proposing that immediate measures be taken to carry into effect the 1925 protocol on chemical warfare, and its ratification by all the governments who had thus far refrained from so doing, was accepted by affirmative votes of thirteen delegates, the others not voting.

Soviet Oil on the World Market

MR. B. G. ZUCKERMAN, head of the export operations of the "Neft-Syndicate," in a recent interview with the Moscow press, announced the preliminary conclusions regarding the extent of the oil export from the Soviet Union for the first half of 1928-29, as follows:

"For the period from October 1, 1928, to April 1, 1929, 1,500,000 tons of oil products were exported from the U. S. S. R. as compared with 1,127,000 tons exported for the same period in 1927-28. In other words, our oil export has increased by 33 per cent.

"Expressed in terms of value, our oil export during the past half year amounted in round figures to 54,000,000 rubles (almost \$28,000,000) as against 39,000,000 rubles (about \$20,000,000) during the first half of 1927-28, i. e., the value of our oil exports increased by about 45 per cent. The export of our most valuable oil products—gasolene and refined oils—has particularly increased. Thus the export of gasolene has increased from 286,000 tons in the first half of 1927-28 to 412,000 tons in the first half of 1928-29—an increase of 44 per cent. Our export of refined oils has grown to 111,000 tons as against 85,000 tons in the same period of the preceding fiscal year.

"As regards the particular countries to which our oil products are being sent, there has been a considerable increase in our exports to England, Spain, the Near East, and particularly Turkey. Thus during the past half year 285,000 tons of oil products have been exported to England as against 132,000 tons during the first half of last year. That is to say, our oil exports to England have more than doubled. The same is true of Spain whither we exported 137,000 tons of oil products the first six months of this year as against 64,000 tons in the corresponding period of the year preceding. Our oil exports to Turkey amounted in the same period to 87,000 tons as against 50,000 tons in 1927-28—an increase of 75 per cent.

"During the past year the sale of oil products through the medium of organizations of the Neft-syndicate has grown considerably. The sales of our English organization, R. O. P. (Russian Oil Products Co.) have increased from 46,000 tons of gasoline in the first half of 1927-28, to 110,000 tons in 1928-29—an increase of 140 per cent."

The Index to the sixth volume of the "Soviet Union Review" will be sent free of charge to all readers of the Review.

Resolution of British Industrialists

IN a final conference with a commission of the Soviet Government before departing for England, the economic committee of the British Industrial Delegation to the Soviet Union, presented the following resolution:

"The delegates are firmly convinced that no development of economic relations between the two countries is possible without normal diplomatic relations, and binds itself to take measures to impress this fact on British public opinion. The delegates are also convinced that from a business point of view the U. S. S. R., under the present conditions, while lacking sufficient means to satisfy the urgent needs of its population, cannot take upon itself further obligations regarding claims, unless an economic situation is created that will make possible the satisfaction of all these needs.

"Irrespective, however, of political questions, with which the present delegation is not empowered to deal, British financial help on a large scale, in the form of loans and investments, cannot be obtained unless measures are provided for the satisfaction of the claims of British citizens. It is therefore proposed that the economic committee of the delegation take this matter up with the Soviet government at once, and procure from it definite assurance that it is ready to enter into negotiations regarding the satisfaction of these claims.

"The delegation notes that at the present time the development of normal relations is impossible without such an assurance. The members of the present delegation therefore agree to meet in London at the first opportunity, and to support the committee in a joint statement, in order to guarantee that the aims of the delegation's visit to Moscow shall be realized. Taking into consideration the fact that the present delegation is not political, the committee will appeal for support in the interest of British industry, irrespective of the interests of this or that political party, and will avoid everything that might be interpreted as bringing in political prejudices."

Piatakov's Reply

The President of the Government Commission, Mr. G. L. Piatakov, answered the committee which presented the resolution on behalf of the British delegation as follows:

"The very fact that the Soviet government agreed to the visit of the British industrialists to our country, the reception that has been given them, and the fact that they have been given every opportunity to acquaint themselves with all that they wished to know, is a demonstration of the good will with which we regard the extension of the business relations between British and Soviet industry, and of our desire to meet British indus-

try half way as regards the increased sale of British merchandise in the U. S. S. R.

"You have asked me a number of serious question of an economic nature, which can be answered only after a preliminary discussion with accredited representatives of the British government. *We do not, however, see any possibility of entering upon a consideration of these questions until normal diplomatic relations between the two governments have been restored.* The whole question of an Anglo-Soviet agreement and Anglo-Soviet trade rests on the question of the restoration of normal diplomatic relations. That must be the starting point. The restoration of normal diplomatic relations must precede all other negotiations on basic economic questions. At our last session you asked me whether the Soviet government would agree to enter upon negotiations on the question of the commercial and financial relations of our country with a 'committee' approved by the British government, if such a committee should be formed. Our answer is that if normal diplomatic relations exist, our government is agreed to carry on negotiations on questions of mutual interest on the basis of the treaty of 1924 between the government of the U. S. S. R. and the government of Great Britain, with any committee or persons empowered for this purpose by the British government.

"As regards the question of private claims of British subjects, as well as the claims of our citizens, the Soviet government agreed in 1924 that the joint consideration of these claims between representatives of the British and Soviet governments, should be one of the conditions of the successful development of Anglo-Soviet trade. The treaty of 1924 (Section 3, Article 6-11) for which the Soviet Government still stands, provides for a solution of this problem.

"Thus we have said all that can be said in the present situation on the question of an economic agreement, which is of such cardinal importance for both countries. The government of Great Britain now has the floor.

"As regards the individual participants in the delegation, as in the case of other representatives of reliable British firms, we shall not only put no obstacles in the way of their further investigations of the special problems of interest to them, nor interfere with opportunities for their firms to procure orders in the U. S. S. R. in the event of a solution of the general problem, but we shall assist them in every way in so doing.

"In giving this assurance, we realize that in the organization of this important delegation, the Anglo-Russian committee has made a friendly gesture toward our country, which we hope will soon bear results. You may count on our support in your efforts."

Soviet-Finnish Customs Convention

On April 3rd, the work of the Soviet-Finnish conference on questions of customs supervision in the Gulf of Finland was completed with the signing of the customs convention.

The convention establishes a special zone of customs supervision in the Gulf of up to four miles in width, along the shores of the U. S. S. R. and Finland, outside of the territorial waters of both countries. The customs zones of Finland are so placed that they do not intersect the international route through the Gulf of Finland to the shores of the Soviet Union. Within its own customs zones each government has the right to enforce its own laws and regulations against contraband. The convention provides opportunity for cooperation between customs and border officials of both countries, and also for the calling of a special conference for the purpose of strengthening the measures against contraband.

Simultaneously with the signing of the convention, protocols were signed establishing that each government should have control of navigation within its own territorial waters and control of the alcohol traffic, and providing that the customs supervision must in no way interfere with fishing, legal navigation, nor the use by the vessels of one country of the territorial waters of the other.

U. S. S. R. in International Conferences

The Soviet Government has accepted an invitation to participate in an international conference to work out a convention for an international campaign against counterfeit money. The conference has been called by the League of Nations, and will be held in Geneva.

The Soviet Government has also accepted invitations to take part in the London conference to revise the convention of 1914 regarding the safeguarding of human life at sea.

The U. S. S. R. was represented at the International Postal Conference held in London in May.

Changes in Soviet Diplomatic Service

Mr. J. C. Ashkenasy has been relieved of the post of Trade Delegate of the U. S. S. R. in Greece, and Mr. I. I. Blagov has been appointed in his stead.

Mr. I. M. Maisky has been appointed Plenipotentiary Representative of the Soviet Union in Finland, replacing Mr. S. S. Alexandrovsky. Mr. Maisky was formerly councillor to the Soviet embassy in England in 1925, and to the Soviet embassy in Japan in 1927.

Danzig Joins Moscow Protocol

On April 30th the Danzig Senate voted to adhere to the Kellogg Pact and the Moscow Protocol, subsequently introducing a bill for ratification in the Danzig Parliament.

Chukhnovsky's Visit to Europe

ON April 15th the aviator, Boris Grigorievich Chukhnovsky, who participated so gallantly in the rescue of the ill-fated Nobile expedition to the Arctic, and Prof. R. L. Samoilovich, head of the rescue expedition, returned to Moscow from a trip abroad.

Mr. Chukhnovsky stated to representatives of the press that the Soviet witnesses in giving their evidence to the Italian committee of inquiry on the Nobile expedition, confirmed the fact that the Zappi and Mariano group consisted of only two persons at the moment of their discovery, and that both were in a desperate condition.

Mr. Chukhnovsky emphasized the fact that the European press was interested only in the sensational aspect of the Nobile affair, ignoring such important questions as the purpose and meaning of the entire expedition. In the opinion of Chukhnovsky the press itself shares the blame for the tragic outcome of the expedition, in detracting from the seriousness of its aim.

During their visit to Italy, General Umberto Nobile twice visited Prof. Samoilovich and Chukhnovsky, and thanked them for rescuing the members of his expedition. At the present time he is completing a book on the flight.

The Soviet guests received a hearty welcome in Italy. In particular Chukhnovsky was given the opportunity to visit all the Italian aerodromes. He flew in Italian airplanes, and himself piloted the Italian gyroplane "De Sierva," recently purchased by Italy from Spain. Chukhnovsky also went on several flights with the aviator Maddalena, who took part in the Arctic expedition.

During their two and a half months in Europe, Samoilovich and Chukhnovsky made 43 speeches in French and German in Switzerland, France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Latvia and Sweden. The meetings were organized by "Voks" (All Russian Society for Cultural Relations Abroad) and the local societies, "Friends of the New Russia."

Chukhnovsky stated that preparations were under way in Italy, and particularly in Milan, for the organization in 1929 of an expedition to search for the remnants of the dirigible "Italia." A large fund has already been collected for this expedition. It is supposed that the expedition will make its search in the region of Franz Josef Land.

In conclusion, Chukhnovsky reported that intensive preparations for trans-oceanic flights are going on in Europe. Many European aviators commissioned Chukhnovsky to ask the Soviet Government to permit a series of flights from Europe into the U. S. S. R. The aviators of all countries gave a warm reception to the representative of Soviet aviation, and presented him with many gifts.

Soviet Elections

THE elections to the Soviets throughout the U. S. S. R. ended on April 1st. Elections in the Soviet Union do not take place in a single day, but are spread over a number of weeks. The first part of the process consists of detailed reports of the past year's work by the members of the outgoing Soviets, and consideration by meetings of voters of instructions to be given to the new Soviets. Following that the elections take place, the basis of representation being mainly occupational in the cities, with the exception that persons in unorganized units, such as housewives, vote in geographic units. In the agricultural districts, where practically all the voters are peasants, the basis of representation is geographical. The date of the elections varies from village to village and from factory to factory in accordance with local convenience, but must be completed before a certain date.

Each village of 300 or over elects a local Soviet on the basis of one deputy to one hundred inhabitants, the villages of less than 300 uniting, and the deputies in turn select an executive committee which runs the local government. Similarly the various group of workers in the cities elect deputies to the city Soviet, who in turn choose a presidium to carry on the administrative work. The work of the city Soviet is divided into sections, such as Public Utilities, Housing, Finance, Industry, Education, Trade and Cooperatives, Administration, Health, Labor and Social Welfare, Workers' and Peasants' Inspection, Military, and Transport. The village Soviets have similar divisions, with sections concerning village problems in place of those of a specifically urban nature. Every member chooses one section in which to work, and each section elects a small bureau who devote all their available time to the work of the sections, while the remaining members attend the meetings, and help on specific tasks.

The village and town Soviets send delegates to the township Soviet, the townships send delegates to the County Soviet, and the counties in turn send delegates to the Gubernia Soviet. The city Soviets also send representatives to the Gubernia Soviets. The Gubernia Congress sends delegates to the annual Congresses of the respective Republics, and to the All-Union Congress of Soviets which meets at least once in two years. This All-Union Congress is the supreme governmental authority, uniting both legislative and administrative functions. It elects a Union Central Executive Committee, consisting of the Council of the Union, and the Council of Nationalities, which functions between sessions. This Central Executive Committee in turn elects the Sovnarkom (Council of Peoples' Commissars), the executive cabinet, which serves for two years,

and a presidium, which is the supreme legislative, executive, and administrative organ between sessions of the Executive Committee. The presidium consists of 27 members, nine representing the Council of the Union, nine representing the Council of Nationalities, and nine elected by the two councils in joint session.

The preliminary figures for this year's elections to the village and city Soviets, show a decided increase in the activity of the voters as compared with the last elections. An average of 60 per cent of the eligible voters in the villages participated in this year's elections as against 50 per cent in 1927, and in the cities 75 per cent participated as against 55 per cent in 1927.

The increased activity of women in the elections was particularly noticeable, many more women voting than ever before, and 50 per cent more women being elected as members of village Soviets throughout the Soviet Union than in the 1927 elections. Women now constitute 18 per cent of all the members of village Soviets.

Election Results in the R. S. F. S. R.

In the R. S. F. S. R. (Soviet Russia proper), the number of women voting increased from 30.1 per cent in 1927 to 47.1 per cent in 1929. In the elections for the city Soviets, 64.5 per cent of the women voted this year as against 50.6 per cent in 1927, and in the industrial centers 71.6 per cent of the women voted. In the village Soviets for which information is at hand, women constitute 19 per cent of the members as a result of the new elections, an increase of 61 per cent, while the number of women presidents of village Soviets has increased from 1.1 per cent of the entire number, to 7.5 per cent. In the city Soviets the membership of women has increased from 21.8 per cent to 27.7 per cent, and there are fourteen women presidents of city Soviets.

The number of industrial workers elected to the city Soviets and the number of agricultural laborers in the village Soviets, show an increase over the last elections, and there was also a slight increase in the members of the Communist Party elected, party members slightly predominating over non-party members at the present time.

The number of votes cast in the villages of the R. S. F. S. R. totaled 23 million against 19 million in the last elections.

Moscow Elections

The election campaign in Moscow covered a period of two months, during which time the voters showed unprecedented activity in considering the reports of the work of the outgoing Soviet, and in working out instructions for the new Soviet, as well as in the actual process of the

elections. Twice as many voters attended the meetings at which the members of the Moscow Soviet reported on their activities as in the preceding campaign. In all 1,038,000 persons participated in the Moscow elections.

The 2,526 deputies elected to the Moscow Soviet are divided into the following groups: industrial workers—890; administrative workers—506; professional and office workers—588; housewives—157; handicraft workers—51; students—81; unemployed—94; war invalids—53; miscellaneous—106. Of the deputies elected 671 are women, 1,670 are members of the Communist Party and Communist Youth League. Over 77 per cent of the members were elected for the first time.

Elections in the Soviet East

In the Eastern Republics the same increased interest in the elections was evidenced as elsewhere in the Soviet Union. The growth in the activity of women in the elections was particularly remarkable, the women's vote constituting 47 per cent of the whole as against 15 per cent in

the last elections. Many more women were elected to the Soviets than ever before. In Uzbekistan 7,270 women were elected members of village Soviets—an increase from 12 per cent to 25 per cent of the entire membership.

The activity of women in the election campaign was accompanied by a general increase in their social consciousness. Everywhere throughout the Soviet East the women made vigorous demands for the issuance of decrees prohibiting the wearing of veils, for the establishment of new schools, for consultation centers for mothers and babies, and so on.

Among the tasks which the voters commissioned the newly elected Soviets to carry out are the following: The construction of new mills, to free the women from the laborious process of grinding grain by hand, the development of a chain of consumers' cooperatives, land surveying, a larger supply of agricultural machinery, an increase in the number of medical, veterinary and agricultural service stations, and more schools, especially for girls and agricultural laborers.

Standardization and the Five-Year Plan

THE question of standardization occupies an important place in the economic program of the Soviet Union. About 500 standards, connected with the most diverse branches of industry, have been officially adopted. A thousand more are being developed and tested. The achievements of the U. S. S. R. in this field received recognition at the last International Standardization Conference in Prague, where it was decided to elect the U. S. S. R. as one of the nations to direct the work of standardization on an international scale, "in view of outstanding services in the field of standardization."

The Standardization Committee of the Council of Labor and Defense held a plenary session in Moscow in April to discuss the problem of making the question of standardization an integral part of the five-year plan. At the opening session Mr. G. M. Krjijanovsky, chairman of Gosplan (the State Planning Commission), spoke in part as follows:

"In spite of our delay in considering this important section of the five-year plan, we have already achieved considerable results in the field of standardization. We already have 492 accepted standards, about a million tables have been put into wide circulation, and the Committee on Standards has connections with twenty foreign standardization organs. Both the quantity and the quality of our standards compare favorably with those of other countries, and even with those of Germany. If we recall what tremendous obstacles there have been to work along this line, all these successes show clearly that we have par-

ticularly favorable conditions in the U. S. S. R. for the development of standardization, conditions which arise from the fact that our economic system rests on a planned and socialized basis.

"We have reached an exceptionally important stage in our development. Only now, with the completion of our work on the five-year plan, are we entering upon a really planned course. Our five-year plan, in spite of the expectations of our opponents, suffers rather from an excess of caution than from exaggerated optimism. In building this plan we were not day dreaming, but building on the solid foundation of a scientific analysis of existing facts.

"The success of our plans is dependent on standardization. This dependence is particularly apparent now when we are changing the emphasis from quantity to quality.

"Until now standardization has been carried on by an agreement of the interests of the separate producers and consumers. From our point of view, standardization should be a question of law rather than agreement. The law of standards should be a law directed against conservatism, and demanding that individual interests be subordinated to the interests of socialist construction.

"Our work on standardization already differs essentially from the work on standards in Europe and America. Their Bureaus of Standards have not the right to initiate. They are only permitted to work with already existing materials. Our system is different. We have already experimented in this field, and now more than ever, we are obligated to approve new things, and to go

ahead of our economic development, because in the five-year plan we are not conforming to the old, but creating something new.

"Therefore the Committee on Standards should be transformed from an 'arbitration' commission to a legislative organ.

"The five-year economic plan must first of all guarantee the basic characteristic of a socialist system—lack of crises and overlapping. Inasmuch as the deciding factor in this sphere is the relative position of industry and agriculture, then it is obvious that in the coming five years we must concentrate our attention on developments in agriculture. One of the main factors in agricultural development is power. In this field standardization is destined to play a tremendous role. It must provide the proper type of tractor and tractor hitches, work out standards of fuel and all materials and supplies connected with the use of tractors. The development of the chemical industry is also of great importance to agriculture. According to the five-year plan the basic capital for this branch of industry will be quadrupled. Obviously such a tremendous expansion cannot proceed uninterruptedly without a corresponding development of standardization.

"The question of power is the axis of the whole five-year plan, and one of the most important factors in this field is the question of fuel.

"The five-year plan provides for the curtailing of the portion of our budget expended on fuel by 30 per cent. Our fuel industry is greatly in need of rationalization. And in this field standardization will accomplish a revaluation of values. There must be new standards of fuel, new norms permitting the use of local types of fuel . . .

"In the field of mineral fuel standardization will play an important role. It is enough to say that we have up to 420 different types of internal combustion engines. Under these conditions is it possible to develop mass production, without which a lowering of production costs is unthinkable?

"And what tremendous significance standardization will have in building! Indeed, 5 billion rubles is to be invested for workers' houses alone. Needless to say, every economy employed here will result in saving enormous sums.

"Standardization in building will revolutionize daily life, insofar as it is dependent on problems of housing. In general, standardization is of great importance in our cultural and social evolution. In this field we must speak first of the nationalizing and unifying methods of feeding the population. Our five-year plan provides for a five-fold increase in the canning industry. But if we consider that canned foods may be an important factor in the feeding problem, and in liberating women from their kitchen duties, then we must recognize the fact that even that rate of increase is insufficient.

"Standardization must have an important role in the five-year plan . . . as such a general plan is, in fact, unthinkable without it."

Following Mr. Krjijanovsky, Mr. V. V. Kuibishev, chairman of the Supreme Economic Council, spoke.

"At the end of the five-year period," he said, "we shall have 4,000 standards. This figure does not mean that the rate of development we have planned is rapid enough. There are many standards which merely legalize existing situations. Certainly, such standards are necessary. But we are not concerned with them in this discussion. For socialist construction the creation of standards which will really revolutionize production is of particular importance. In this field we must increase our efforts.

"Standardization must proceed at an extraordinary speed, because of the rate at which production will develop. It is enough, for example, to state that the production of fat, which we proposed to increase from 350,000 tons to 7,000,000 tons was increased to 8,000,000 tons after the consideration of the five-year plan by the Sovnarkom (Council of Peoples' Commissars).

"Not only is a rapid rate of development necessary, but standardization must be in advance of industry, and especially building. If our standardization work is not in advance of building, and the organization of new industries, then we cannot avoid a multiplication of mistakes, and useless expenditure of funds.

"These two basic demands—to increase the tempo and to be in advance of industry necessitate new methods of work, and new organizational forms. We must therefore welcome Mr. Krjijanovsky's suggestion that the Committee on Standards become a legislative commission. The Committee on Standards must also be an initiating body. But the right of initiating must be extended to other bodies as well. It must also be obligatory for Scientific Institutes and all economic bodies to participate in this work. Special standardization offices should be connected with every industry, at the expense of the industry itself, and the public should be drawn into the work."

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New Industrial Enterprises in the U. S. S. R.

IN addition to the stupendous work that has been done in restoring and reconstructing the pre-war industries in the Soviet Union, almost a hundred important new industrial undertakings have been put into operation between 1925 and 1928.

Fuel Industry

In the oil industry, the Azerbaijan Oil Trust has built a new oil plant with an annual capacity of 15 to 18 million poods* of fuel oil and a kerosene and gasolene refinery which refines 1,310 tons of oil annually. The Grozny Oil Trust has a new paraffin factory, producing 6,400 tons of paraffin a year, a mineral oil factory with an annual capacity of 500,000 tons, and the new Aldinsky Waterworks with a capacity of 8 million gallons every twenty-four hours. The Donetz Coal Trust is operating new coke ovens with a capacity of 25 million poods.

Metal Industry

In the metal industry there are two new plants producing together 17,500 tons of copper a year, the Toretzky Bolt factory, representing a capital investment of 8,000,000 rubles,** and the Saratov Engineering Works with a capital investment of 4,300,000 rubles. The Zlatoust Scythe Factory has an annual output of 2,500,000 scythes.

Electro-Technical Works

Three new electro-technical plants, representing a joint investment of 19,000,000 rubles, have been put into operation in the last three years.

Chemical Industry

There are six new enterprises in the chemical industry: A phosphorite plant with a capacity of 100 tons a year, a formic acid plant with a production of 900 tons a year, two match factories, each with a capacity of 1,000 boxes per shift, the Voronezh "salomas" (fat) factory, with an annual output of 10,000 tons, and the Konstantinovskiy glass factory, producing 66 million bottles and 440,000 cases of window glass annually.

Lumber and Paper Industries

The lumber industry has twenty new factories and sawmills. The total annual production of the sawmills amounts to 177,003 standards and 2,668,893 cubic feet of lumber. The Vitebsk Veneer factory produces 190,696 cubic feet of veneer annually; there is a new furniture factory manufacturing 31,500 chairs a year; a bobbin factory with a capacity of 3,600,000 gross of bobbins; a

barrel stave factory producing 1,100,000 sets of barrel staves and a cooperage manufacturing annually 200,000 barrels. Several new factories in the paper industry have a combined output of 108,500 tons a year.

Textile Industry

There are more new enterprises in the textile industry than in any other. The big Krasnoye Znamya Knitting Factory represents a capital investment of 5,000,000 rubles. There are four large new spinning factories with a combined annual output of 14,380 tons of thread, and the Vladimir Dyeing and Finishing Factory has a capacity of 40,000,000 metres of cloth annually. The Danilov Trust Worsted Spinning Factory has a capacity of 1,300 tons of yarn a year. There are three new wool spinning factories with an aggregate of 1,200 spindles, and a new wool combing factory.

In Central Asia there are seven new silk mills, producing almost a hundred tons of silk thread annually. In the cotton ginning industry there are 11 cotton ginning factories with a total capacity of 57,200 tons, several oil mills with an annual output of about 10,000 tons, and a machinery shop manufacturing 1,200 tons of special machine parts.

Food Industries

The food industry also has a number of new enterprises, including three sugar factories with a total production of 38,500,000 tons, and two oil mills producing 16,407 tons of oil annually. The canning industry has received a new impetus in the last few years. The fish and vegetable tinning factory at Odessa puts out 3 million tins annually. There are several other vegetable, lobster and fish-tinning factories. There are three new molasses factories. A nicotine extraction factory is in operation at Kiev.

Electric Power Stations

Nine large new electric power stations have been put into operation in the past three years. They are: The Volkhov and "Red October" power stations, at Leningrad; the Zemo-Avchalsk station, at Tiflis; the Shatura and Kashira stations at Moscow; the Balakhna station at Nijni-Novgorod; the Liapin station at Yaroslavl; the Shterovka station in the Donetz Basin, and the Kizel station in the Urals. Their aggregate capacity amounts to 205,000 kilowatts. In addition, the capacity of five other stations was extended to a total amount of 165,000 kilowatts.

Note: A list of the main industrial works now under construction will be printed in the next issue of the Soviet Union Review.

* A pood equals approximately 36 lbs.

** A ruble is equal to 51.5 cents.

Soviet Air Lines

EARLY in May regular passenger airplane service was started by the "Urkvozdukhput" (Ukrainian Air Line), the Joint Stock Company "Dobrolet," and "Deruluft," a mixed Soviet-German Stock Company. It is proposed to continue the service in the winter hereafter. Planes will fly daily between Moscow and Baku, through Kharkov, Rostov, Tikhoretzkaya, Sochi, Sukhum, Kutais, and Tiflis, and further to Pehlevi (Persia). Thus Moscow will be connected by airline with Tiflis and the sea-shore resorts of the Caucasus. In addition air connections will be maintained with the group of resorts around Mineralni Vodi by special planes flying between Rostov and Mineralni Vodi. In the beginning flights will be made during the day, the planes leaving Moscow at three or four o'clock in the morning and arriving in Sochi at three or four o'clock the same day. The next morning the plane will proceed to Baku, arriving the afternoon of the same day. After June or July the flight will be made without stopping overnight. The planes will leave Moscow at six in the evening, arriving at Sochi the next morning, and by evening will be in Baku. Thus the entire trip from Moscow to Baku, almost 2,000 miles, will be made in twenty-four hours.

During the first part of the summer the trip between Moscow and Rostov will be made in Dorn-Comet planes, but from Rostov on Soviet planes of the Kalinin model will be used, and by the second half of the year it is expected to use Soviet planes over the entire route.

The cost of airplane travel established by the "Ukrvozdukhput" is approximately the same as the cost of the trip in what were formerly the International Wagon Lits. Thus the cost of the ticket to Kharkov is 31 rubles (about \$16); to Rostov—40 rubles; to Sochi—50 rubles; to Tiflis—60 rubles; to Baku—65 rubles; to Mineralni Vodi—49 rubles.

The Dobrolet continued its flights to Central Asia even in the winter. The planes of the Dobrolet at the present time fly over the following routes: Tashkent—Samarkand—Termez—Dushambe; Charjui—Khiva—Tashauz; Frunze—Alma Ata—Tashkent—Kabul; Verkhneudinsk—Ulan—Bator (Mongolia) and Irkutsk—Yakutsk. Service on the last named line was continued throughout the winter, in spite of a freezing temperature, excessive fog, and heavy snow storms. On the first of May the Dobrolet opened a new passenger line between Alma Ata and Semipalatinsk, which is closely connected with its other airlines.

In the first part of May the air mail service was reopened between Moscow and Irkutsk by way of Kazan, Sverdlovsk and Omsk. The flight from Moscow to Omsk will take 18 hours, and the entire route from Moscow to Irkutsk, a distance of about

3,000 miles, will be covered in 36 hours. Planes exclusively of Soviet construction will be used on this route. The organization of this postal service is of great significance in shortening the time for the exchange of mail between Western Europe on the one hand and Japan and China on the other.

Daily Deruluft airplane service between Moscow and Berlin, and between Leningrad and Königsberg was also reopened the first part of May. Large tri-motor planes are being used in the Moscow-Berlin route, which will take on Leningrad passengers at Königsberg.

The first tri-motored airplane of Soviet construction was completed the last part of April by the Aero-hydro-dynamic Institute in Moscow. This plane has a capacity of twelve passengers, and will be used during the coming year for flights within the Soviet Union and abroad.

What They Read in the Soviet Union

AN investigation was recently carried on among workers' libraries throughout the U. S. S. R. to determine the type of books for which there is the greatest demand. The investigation revealed a great increase from year to year in the interest in belles-lettres. There is an almost equal demand for Russian and foreign literature. Of the literature translated from other language, the American is by far the most popular. Three American authors having a special appeal to the Russian workers are Jack London, Upton Sinclair, and James Oliver Curwood. According to a number of librarians of workers' libraries, their readers all want books with dynamic action and well constructed plot, and they feel that the American authors deal with the most interesting subjects.

A comparison of the literary taste of the workers with that of the intelligentsia reveals that while the latter are interested in questions of style and psychological analysis, the workers are more concerned with the ideological content of the book. In general, the literary form preferred by the workers is the long novel giving a complete picture of some particular aspect of life.

Among other American writers who have been widely translated and read in the Soviet Union are Sinclair Lewis, Theodore Dreiser, Floyd Dell, Sherwood Anderson, John dos Passos, O'Henry, and Edna Ferber.

Hugo is very widely read, also Zola and Maupassant, although in a more limited circle. The works of Ibanez are also popular.

Maxim Gorky is by all odds the best loved of contemporary Russian writers. The most widely read of his works are "Mother," "Foma Gordyev," and "Childhood."

The workers on the whole prefer subject matter close to their own lives. Thus Gladkov's "Cement" is vastly more popular among factory workers than with any other section of the

population. The same is true to an even greater degree of Serafimovitch's "The Iron Stream," which deals romantically and vividly with the civil war and the revolution, while "Chapaev," dealing with a similar subject is read almost exclusively by the industrial workers. This does not mean, however, that the professional and office workers are not at all interested in memoirs of the revolution, but simply that they prefer books of a more complex form than those usually popular among factory workers. Thus Fedin's "Cities and Years" is in great demand among the intellectual workers, while the factory workers do not read it at all.

The Russian classics are very widely read. Turgeniev is loved both for the perfection of his style and the subject matter of his novels. He is read by both workers and intelligentzia, but much more extensively by the former. Tolstoy occupies the first place everywhere — "Anna Karenina," and "Resurrection" are more in demand than any other books in practically all Russian libraries. Chekhov is also at the top of the list in most of the libraries. He is the author most chosen for reading aloud because of his inimitable style and humor. Dostoyevsky is also much in demand, particularly his "Crime and Punishment."

Poetry is somewhat less in demand. Of the proletarian poets the most widely read are Gerasimov, Utkin, Alexandrovsky, Zharov, and Bezimensky. Bagritsky and, of course, Demyan Byednyi are also popular. The workers also show an interest in classical poetry, and frequently ask for the works of Beranger and Heine.

About 15 per cent of the demand is for scientific literature. A great deal is read on social problems, politics, religion and philosophy. The critical attitude toward religion has given a great impetus to the interest in the natural sciences. There is also a great deal of interest in questions of hygiene and sex. In general the varied subjects in which the workers show an interest evidence their desire to understand all the elements in their environment.

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The Film Industry in the National Republics

EXPEDITIONS are constantly going to the Crimea, the Caucasus, Kazakstan, Siberia, Mongolia—to the farthest reaches of the Soviet Union where the film operator can penetrate, to take ethnographic and scientific pictures, and to film the daily life of the people. Sovkino is, in fact, preparing a "Kino-Atlas" of the U. S. S. R. which will be a living cinema map of the whole Union.

In addition to work of this kind carried on by the Sovkino, practically every independent republic and region has its own cinema organization. At first the national film industries devoted most of their attention to themes of the political and social struggle in the Civil War epoch, or described the family, tribal and national traditions of the past.

The next stage was the description of episodes of the Civil War. The year 1926-27, when themes of Soviet structure and the new life of the present day were thrown upon the screen, gradually crowding out the themes of the past, was the turning point.

This is particularly marked in the case of the biggest of the national film organizations—the Vufku. The headquarters of the Vufku are at Kharkov and it has two studios in Odessa and Yalta, while a large studio in Kiev supplements the Yalta work, and during 1928 released eleven art films and 37 cultural films. A film "polytechnicum" has been opened in Odessa for training cinematograph workers.

Films presenting scenarios of pre-revolutionary literary works by Russian and foreign authors such as Edgar Allan Poe's "Ghost in Europe," Ogarev's "Landowner," Chekhov's "Bog of Aristocracy," Notari's "Candidate for the Presidency," Andreyev's "Three Thieves," "The Seven who were Hung," and a cycle of Gogol films, are now being produced by "Vufku." While themes taken from pre-revolutionary epochs and the civil war have become much rarer, they still serve as material for films such as Stabov's "Two Days," which was so admired abroad and "Taras Shevchenko" and "Taras Tryasilo," produced by Chardinin.

Pictures on contemporary themes, such as the film "From Dark to Light," which deals with the campaign against illiteracy, "Dimovka," dealing with the murder of a "village correspondent," a series of cultural films, such as "Drought," "The Struggle with Pests," "Tuberculosis," etc., have been increasing.

Among the most noteworthy of the new Ukrainian producers are Dovzhenko and Stabovoy. A group of film experts led by Dziga Vertov have already produced such masterpieces as "The Eleventh," a survey of Ukrainian building and

structure, and "The Man with the Camera," a film without captions, actors or staging, a successful experiment in the language of the film without aid from literature or the theatre. Dovzhenko's "Zveni Gora" was a bold attempt to summarize the history of the Ukrainian people with the help of folk-stories and traditions. Dovzhenko's new film "Arsenal" will undoubtedly establish his place among the ranks of the foremost Soviet producers.

During the current year 99 pictures (32 art films and 67 culture films) are to be released by the Vufku.

The Georgian State Film Industry was organized in 1921. In 1923 it produced Perestiani's "Red Devils" in two series. Here for the first time the revolutionary struggle of the oppressed nationalities for their liberation was shown on the screen. This picture enjoyed vast popularity throughout the U. S. S. R. and its authors were awarded the Order of the Red Flag. Other pictures by the Georgian Goskinprom are founded upon folk stories or the works of native and Russian writers.

During the last five years 60 scientific, industrial, agricultural, and topical pictures have been released in Georgia. Among last year's productions were "Eliso," the best picture ever produced by the Georgian Goskinprom, and "First Cornet Streshnev." The scenario of the first was written by Tretiakov and Shengelaya, and the producer has shown great imagination and skill in treating a historical episode in a modern way. The latter film, written by Aravsky, is also very freshly treated by the young producers, Dzhigan and Chiaurelli.

Armenkino was organized in 1925 and began its work with news pictures of Armenian life. Its first art picture "Namus" (honor) was produced in 1926 by Bek Nazarov. The producer, while basing his picture on the material of daily life, exposed most convincingly the prejudices of the past. His next picture "Zare" followed the same plan. His "House on the Volcano" treats of the revolutionary underground movement in the oil fields, shows the war and revolution, the shooting of the 26 Baku commissars and, finally, the structure of the proletarian State and the unity of the nationalities. The construction of studios large enough for the work of four groups makes it possible to proceed to a series of new pictures, such as "Sixteen," an episode of the revolutionary struggle produced by Bahudarov, and "Zamallu," by Perestiani.

Chuvash-Kino, the film organisation of the Chuvash Autonomous Republic is extremely characteristic of the successful development of the national film industries. "Sar-Pigi" showing the pre-revolutionary past, and "Yal," describing the revolution in the Chuvash village, were produced entirely by the native artistic forces of the

Chuvash republic. Tani Yun, the most prominent Chuvash film actress, is extremely popular outside Chuvash as well. The Tenth Anniversary of the Revolution was celebrated by the Chuvash-Kino by a film called "Chuvashia," produced by Korolevitch, summarizing the economic and cultural achievements of the Chuvash Republic.

Belgoskino, the cinema organization of the White Russian Republic, with a studio in Leningrad, is very enterprising. One of the youngest of the national film organizations, Belgoskino has been producing pictures since 1925. Among its productions are: "Forest Life," describing the White-Polish attack on White Russia, "Kastus Kalinovsky," an episode of the 1861 revolutionary movement and "Gersh Likert" (His Origin) from the history of the Jewish revolutionary movement in White Russia. Belgoskino also releases regular monthly White Russian news reels.

Uzbekgoskino, of the Uzbek Republic, which formerly limited itself to the release of two or three films a year, is now developing more extensive activities. Uzbekgoskino from the first days of its existence has aimed at creating a base for the production of national pictures in the heart of Central Asia—Tashkent—and undertook the organization of a film studio and laboratory in the ancient park of the town, within the walls of the picturesque Shaihaintaur.

Uzbekgoskino has released "The Second Wife," "Shakali Ravata," a historical picture from the Basmach epoch, three industrial pictures and 30 news reels.

Azgoskino (Azerbaijan) is a less powerful organization which only began to work in 1927 and produced its first film — "Gilian's Daughter"—staged by Leo Mur, a year later.

A new combine, known as the Vostok-kino (Eastern Film Co.), has been formed to increase the production of national films in districts without sufficient funds for independent production. The instigators of this organization were: the Central Executive Committees of the Bashkir, Daghestan, Buriat-Mongol, Crimean Tatar and Cossack Autonomous Republics, the Executive Committees of the Chetchen, Kalmuck, Ossetian, Karachai, and Kabardine Autonomous Districts, and the People's Commissariat for Education of the R. S. F. S. R. (Soviet Russia proper). Through this organization a number of films have already been produced showing daily life and economic and cultural achievements of the above nationalities.

Bound Volume VI of the SOVIET UNION REVIEW, 192 pages, containing all the issues published in 1928, as well as a comprehensive index, is ready for delivery. Price, \$3.00.

Miscellaneous News

Courses for Foreign Physicians in Moscow

Special courses to acquaint physicians of other countries with Public Health Work in the Soviet Union will be held in Moscow and Leningrad from September 15th to November 1, 1929. The courses are being organized through the Department of Health of the Soviet Union, assisted by "Voks" (Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries).

The purpose of the course is to acquaint foreign physicians with the general public health work in the Soviet Union through lectures and excursions to typical scientific and medical institutions and health resorts. Instruction will be given in German, French, English and Russian, and interpreters will be supplied.

The fee for the course will be \$25. Only physicians will be admitted. Applications for reservations, arrangements for entrance visas, rooms, or further information may be made through the American Society for Cultural Relations with Russia, 22 East 55th Street, New York City, or Voks, Malaya Nikitskaya 6, Moscow, U. S. S. R.

The Soviet Press

In connection with "Press Day," which was celebrated on May fifth, the newspapers published the following information about the press in the Soviet Union:

In the Soviet Union at present 692 newspapers are published, with a total circulation of about 12 million copies, as against 556 newspapers with a circulation of 7,500,000 copies last year. There are 487 newspapers in the R. S. F. S. R., 127 in the Ukraine, 37 in Transcaucasia, 19 in White Russia, and 23 in Central Asia (Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan). Of the total number of newspapers, 441, with a circulation of over 10 million copies, are printed in the Russian language, and 251, with a circulation of about 2 million, are printed in other languages.

Reconstruction of Railroad Transport

The five-year plan for the development of railroad transport in the Soviet Union provides for an expenditure of five billion rubles for the reconstruction of the railroads.

The People's Commissariat of Ways and Communications has worked out a number of reconstruction measures, among them the introduction of automatic brakes and couplings, steam engines of greater power, a more extensive use of oil burners, electric cars, and so on. The number of large freight cars will also be increased. By 1932-33, according to the plan, the freight carried by the railroads will amount to 246,000,000 tons, an increase of 65 per cent over that of 1927-28.

During the five-year period it is planned to construct 19,600 kilometers of new railroad lines, which will mean an expenditure of 2,400,000 rubles. During that same period 14,400 kilometers now in process of construction will be completed. The Briansk-Viazma line and a number of other main lines are being constructed with an aim of relieving the congestion in the central regions. The five-year plan also provides for the building of several new lines from the Ural and Volga regions to the Southern ports, new Siberian lines, and special lines for the carriage of grain and lumber.

Tractor Construction

The five-year plan for tractor construction adopted by the Supreme Economic Council provides for an increase in the output of tractors from 3,000 in 1928-29 to 53,000 by the end of the five-year period. Beginning with 1932-33, 100,000 tractors a year will be built. The expenditure for tractor construction will be increased from 7,800,000 to 150,000,000 rubles in the same period.

At the present time Soviet tractors are being built at the Putilov works in Leningrad. Within five years it is planned to increase the number of tractors constructed in the Putilov works from 3,000 to 10,000 a year. In addition, building operations will be commenced this year on the Stalingrad tractor factory, which will have a capacity of 40,000 tractors a year. Later on it is proposed to build still another tractor factory in the Urals, with the same productive program as the Stalingrad factory. A group of 20 engineers and 25 skilled workers are visiting the United States this summer for a two-year study of American methods of tractor construction.

Handicraft Industry in the U. S. S. R.

According to the latest figures, the production in the handicraft industry for the past year amounted to 4,414,600,000 rubles, or about 28 per cent of the total industrial production for the whole Soviet Union. The number of people employed in handicraft cooperative units in 1927-28 was 920,000—or about 13 per cent of all the workers in the Soviet Union.

During the past year the export of handicraft goods from the R. S. F. S. R. amounted to 2,330,000 rubles. For the present year it is estimated that the export of handicraft work will amount to 15,037,300 rubles, which is practically as high as the pre-war figure. The main articles of export are metal ware, rugs, aspen rivets, linen cloth, Orenburg shawls, lace and embroidered goods. The chief markets for Soviet handicrafts are Germany and England. Recently the demand for Russian art and handicrafts work has greatly increased in America.

Concession Applications

The Chief Concessions Committee reports that since the publication of the plan for concessions in the field of public utilities, many applications for concessions have been received from American, German, French, Swedish, Austrian, Norwegian and other firms. These proposals concern not only public utilities, but housing, health resorts, road building, and so on, and provide for an investment of over \$100,000,000.

Industrial Combine

It is proposed to build a large industrial "Kombinat" in the Dnieper District, which will use the power of the Dnieper Hydro-electric station which is now in process of construction. An aluminum factory, an iron-foundry, metal factories, and a group of chemical plants will be built, with a total investment of 232,000,000 rubles.

An electric power station will be built to supply the Don Basin with power. The first unit, with a capacity of 44,000 kilowatts, will be put into operation in 1932.

Museum on Wheels

At the big Agricultural Exposition in Moscow six years ago there was a model "museum on wheels," since when the idea has been copied in many parts of the Soviet Union as a medium for carrying modern methods of agriculture to the peasants. One of the most successful is the one in Odessa which was organized through the joint efforts of the trade unions, the educational and agricultural departments, and the cooperatives.

"From plow to tractor," was the slogan with which the museum on wheels began its work. It has made eleven trips throughout the villages of Odessa Gubernia. The museum is divided into three departments: agricultural, sanitary, and general education, with most emphasis on the first. The museum makes three trips a year—spring, autumn and winter. During the winter, when the villagers are free of their field work, the museum makes more prolonged stops, giving definite courses. The museum has a staff of two agronomists, a doctor, and a teacher, who give practical advice and assistance. Over 100,000 peasants from every corner of the province of Odessa have visited the museum, and everywhere displayed an intense interest in its work.

Model Workers' Polyclinic in Kharkov

A new model workers' polyclinic has been opened recently in Kharkov. In size, the extent of its work and equipment, the new polyclinic is the foremost medical institution in the Ukraine. It comprises thirty departments and dispensaries. Among its departments are a mothers' and babies' consultation and milk kitchen, a children's consultation center, a consultation center on questions of hygiene (in particular with regard to

marriage problems), a physical-culture consultation center, and a sanitary-educational department with a permanent and traveling exhibition. The polyclinic has branches in the large factories. The total cost of building and equipment was 2,500,000 rubles.

New Musical Radio Instrument

A new musical instrument has been invented somewhat similar to the "Theremenovox," but constructed on different principles. It has been named the "Electrola" by its inventor, Bronstein. It has a low frequency generator, and is capable of the same volume of sound with one tube, as the "Theremenovox" with four. The "Electrola" is a very simple instrument, and has five keys and levers regulating the volume of sound. It has a range of four octaves, and has a rich and agreeable tone quality. It is far easier to play than the "Theremenovox." According to the inventor, who has applied for a patent, the cost of the "Electrola" will not exceed ten rubles.

Scientific Expeditions

According to the plan recently completed by the State Scientific Department of the Soviet Union, there will be eighty different scientific expeditions to different parts of the U. S. S. R. during 1929.

The Hydrological Institute is sending expeditions to the Okhotsk and Japanese Seas to make investigations in accordance with a program worked out by the Institute in cooperation with the Academy of Science. The Murmansk Biological Station will make a study of the North Sea in accordance with an international program. The ship "Nikolai Knipovich," just purchased in Norway, and newly equipped for the purpose, will be sent on this expedition. Expeditions will also go to the White and Bering Seas, and will explore the Murmansk seaboard.

A large expedition is being equipped by the Institute for studying the arid regions of Astrakhan and Stalingrad to investigate the soil conditions and vegetation of these regions with the aim of increasing their productivity.

The Institute of Mineralogy is sending an expedition to Pribaikal and Turkestan to explore the mica and vanadium deposits. In addition, the scientific workers of this Institute will take part in the expedition to Zabaikale organized by the "Rare Element Trust" to study the tungsten deposits.

A whole series of expeditions are also planned to study the Altaians, Zirians, Ossetians, Buryat-Mongols, Ingushians, and other peoples. The Archeological Institutes are sending expeditions to the North Caucasus, to the Olviyu, Sudak and Tamansk peninsulas. The scientific workers of the Geographical Institute will continue their geological explorations of the Eastern Sayan Mountains.

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Lunacharsky on Education Fifth All-Union Soviet Congress Radio in the U. S. S. R. Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union Scientific Institutions The Musical Season in Moscow

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union:		Miscellaneous News:	
Rykov's Speech	110	Moscow-New York Flight	126
Soviet Protest to China	112	New Chairman R. S. F. S. R. Sovnarkom	126
Soviet-Esthonian Trade Treaty	113	Book Jubilee	126
Changes in Soviet Diplomatic Service	113	International Soil Congress	126
American Business Delegation	114	Cultural Relations with Latvia	126
British Trade Delegation	114	New Oil Fields	126
Fifth All-Union Congress of Soviets	115	Grain Trust Increases Program	127
Lunacharsky on Education	116	Congress of Peasant Writers	127
Radio in the Soviet Union	118	Exhibition of AKHR	127
The Musical Season in Moscow	119	Tax Exemptions for Peasants	127
Scientific Institutions in the R. S. F. S. R.	121	Old Age Pensions	127
Population Growth in U. S. S. R.	122	Baku Press Exhibit	127
Industrial Works in Construction	124	Scientific Discoveries	127
		Administrative Appointments	127

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Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union

MR. ALEXEY RYKOV, chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U. S. S. R., opened his report to the Fifth All-Union Congress of Soviets with a review of the policy pursued by the Soviet Government during the past two years.

"Entirely unfounded," he declared, "are the hopes of those politicians and journalists who suppose that after the rejection of the Soviet proposal by the Preparatory Commission of the League of Nations, we shall cease our efforts for peace. We shall continue to strive for peace, and with increasing vigor."

In summing up the foreign policy and the present relations of the U. S. S. R. with other nations, Mr. Rykov spoke in part as follows:

"The carrying out of the five-year plan entails a tremendous development of our export and import program. It will be necessary to import a very large amount of equipment for our industry, agriculture and transport. We are therefore not less but more interested than formerly in the development of our peaceful relations and trade agreements. The fulfillment of our five-year plan requires persistent and systematic work for a period of years. We are therefore striving for stable and enduring relations with the individual governments so that we shall not meet any obstacles in this field to the realization of the vast plans for gigantic work laid down in our five-year program.

"In the field of our international relations, particularly along the lines of commercial connections, we have recently successfully completed negotiations with Germany, and on December 21st, 1928, signed a protocol, which develops and extends on terms advantageous to both countries the plan of commercial-economic relations between the Soviet Union and Germany established by the trade treaty of 1925. Germany was the first country to enter upon commercial relations with us on the basis of financial and credit operations, which greatly facilitated the importation of goods from Germany, and meant many orders for German industry. . . .

"Our position on the question of relations with England is made clear in the recent statement of Piatakov representing the government commission appointed to negotiate with the British Trade Delegation. We consider that it is entirely possible to decide all disputed questions on the basis

of the 1924 treaty with the MacDonald Government.

"Our relations with the United States both in the field of trade and in the field of the technical service which they are so well qualified to furnish in the development of our economic structure, are developing very intensively. Not only is the engineer Col. Cooper acting as consultant in the building of the Dnieper Hydro-Electric Station, to the great advantage of that project, but quite a number of other distinguished and able American engineers are rendering technical service, and making it possible for our engineers and technicians to become acquainted with industry and production methods in the United States. Negotiations are now under way with very important American firms to conclude new agreements for technical service.* Considering the growth of contacts of this kind, the absence of diplomatic relations, even at this stage, creates not only an obstacle, but a peculiarly anomalous situation. The further development of these relations, however, will be hampered by the fact that the conclusion of important economic and commercial transactions without the possibility of diplomatic and legal protection, would be for us not merely an inconvenience, but too great a risk.

"Our relations with France have remained at the point where they were at the time of Rakovsky's departure. Our learned scientist, Bakhmetiev, has discovered a method of preserving living organisms in a state of semi-life—a sort of prolonged sleep, or anabiosis. In such a state, through no fault of ours, are our relations with France. After the proposals which were entrusted to Rakovsky, as a result of the work of the commission to review all problems connected with debts and credits, there have been no signs of life. We have had no answer either to those proposals nor to our proposals regarding a mutual non-aggression compact. . . .

"Relations with Italy have developed entirely normally with the exception of the incident, which

*On June 1st the Amtorg Trading Corporation announced that Technical Assistance Contracts had been concluded with the following American firms: Hugh L. Cooper Co., Stuart, James & Cooke, H. J. Freyn Engineering Company, Radio Corporation of America, Frank D. Chase, Harry D. Gibbs, Nitrogen Engineering Co., International General Electric Co., Taft-Pierce Co., Du Pont de Nemours Co., The McCormick Co., Albert Kahn, Inc., Longacre Engineering & Construction Co., and the Ford Motor Co.

took place in 1927, when Italy ratified the protocol confirming the imaginary right of Roumania to Bessarabia. But that, of course, cannot in any degree alter our position in regard to the violent seizure of that territory.

"As regards the Baltic States, the signing of the Moscow Protocol has undoubtedly meant a considerable improvement in our relations with these contiguous countries. . . . In order that the protocol should not remain an empty declaration, but should be actually carried out, it must be accompanied by the appropriate measures to strengthen and develop the peaceful cooperation of its participants. Such an aim exists—I speak with all seriousness and responsibility—on the part of the government of the U. S. S. R. Unfortunately, the same attitude in relations with the U. S. S. R., is not noticeable on the part of certain other adherents of the Moscow protocol, at least in their actions. . . .

"As regards Poland, we consider it necessary to direct the public opinion of both countries to the exceptional importance of establishing actually, and not merely formally normal relations between Poland and the U. S. S. R., in the interests of both countries and of universal peace. We have persistently declared, and I again confirm, our sincere desire to attain peaceful relations with Poland. We have proposed a non-aggression pact to Poland, we have proposed to take the most serious measures to avoid friction over our boundaries—and they know in Poland that we make these proposals not out of cowardice (everyone knows that if we are attacked and forced to fight, we can and will fight). We have been motivated and are motivated at the present time in our policy toward Poland, by the belief that stable and peaceful relations are advantageous to both peoples, to both governments.

"We have just signed a trade treaty with Esthonia. This treaty must and will play an important role in reviving economic relations between the U. S. S. R. and Esthonia, and in strengthening political relations.

"As regards Finland, it has not yet adhered to the Moscow Protocol, and we have only recently received notification that although Finland has not yet formally joined the protocol, it nevertheless already considers itself bound to a certain degree by the protocol. This means that the last of the neighboring countries will adhere to it in the near future.

"Our relations with Roumania are in a special category. They are bound up with the Bessarabian question. An attempt was made in Roumania to interpret the mutual signing of the Moscow Protocol, which speaks of the repudiation of war as an instrument of national policy, as the repudiation of our claims to Bessarabia, as recognition by us that the outrageous occupation of Bessarabia is correct and justifiable. We answered that in regard to Bessarabia we maintain abso-

lutely our former position. Let the Bessarabians themselves, let those who live in Bessarabia determine by means of a plebiscite, with whom they wish to live—with Roumania or with us. We propose to Roumania nothing other than an honest and impartial plebiscite to determine the will of the Bessarabian people, carried out under conditions precluding any pressure from either side.

"Our relations with Japan continue to develop in an entirely normal manner. During the past year the Soviet-Japanese fishing convention signed in 1928, has for the first time become fully effective. . . . We hope that with the cooperation of the Japanese Government we shall attain further successes in the direction of developing and stabilizing the relations between our countries.

"Our relations with Persia are developing normally. The adherence of Persia to the Moscow Protocol in addition to the already existing Soviet-Persian non-aggression and neutrality treaty, as well as the trade treaty, is a new step strengthening our relations with that country. The declaration by the Persian government of non-interference in Afghan events is evidence of the unanimity of the position of the Soviet and Persian governments in regard to the national independence of Afghanistan.

"Our relations with Turkey are motivated not only by the necessity of strengthening our mutual connections, but by the necessity for consolidating peace in the Near East. . . .

"As regards Afghanistan, I regret exceedingly that the internal crisis of the Afghan people, complicated by inter-racial, inter-tribal, and social antagonisms, still continues. . . . We are continuing our policy of complete non-interference in the internal affairs of the Afghan people. I hope that the progressive forces of the country, created during the ten years of Afghan independence, will be victorious over the reactionary elements and preserve the independence and influence which they have won. . . .

"The political and financial economic apparatus that has been set in motion by the powers hostile to the U. S. S. R. has not produced the hoped for results. The economic pressure against the U. S. S. R. has not checked either the tempo or the extent of our socialist construction. The plan to form an economic bloc against us has failed again.

"Recently we have observed numerous indications that the tendency to develop peaceful economic relations with us has grown stronger.

"From what I have said to you, it can be clearly deduced in the first place that the possibility of attack undoubtedly does exist, but on the other hand our policy to bring about peace, and to prolong the present breathing space has not been entirely vain. Our policy as a whole must in the future consist of striving with all our strength and with all our means for peace, and to develop business relations with all countries. In view

of the hostile elements, and in view of the danger of war and of the cessation of the peaceful breathing space, we cannot forget for one minute, in any case, the necessity for strengthening the defenses of our government and our country."

Soviet Protest to China

ON May 31st, the following note from Mr. L. M. Karakhan, Assistant Commissar for Foreign Affairs, was handed to the Chinese Chargé d'Affaires in Moscow:

"On the 27th of May, at two o'clock in the afternoon, a police squad unexpectedly forced their way into the building occupied by the Consulate General of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Harbin. A search was made, which lasted for about six hours. During this entire time the Consul General of the U. S. S. R., Mr. Melnikov and his associates were held incommunicado. In the case of the Vice-Consul, Mr. Znamensky, physical force was used. In spite of the vigorous protest of the consul, the police seized part of the correspondence of the consulate, and arrested the 39 visitors who were in various rooms of the consulate. All of the arrested were Soviet citizens residing in Manchuria. Among the arrested were many employees of Soviet Government economic institutions, and of the administration of the Chinese-Eastern Railway in Harbin, who were there on business for their respective organizations; a number of Soviet citizens on business regarding passports and visas, and finally, three temporary workers, not on the regular staff of the consulate. The Chinese police, and the Russian white-guards (White émigrés) in their employ, openly seized money and articles belonging to the consulate and its employees.

"On the day following the raid, the police published an extraordinarily flagrant and stupid statement regarding the purported discovery of a meeting of the Third International held in the cellar of the consulate. At the same time the local Chinese and white-guard press publish further provocative inventions designed to justify the unlawful actions of the police, obviously inspired by the police themselves.

"The police attack and search on the Consulate General of the U. S. S. R., which is under the protection of international law, is an outrageous violation of the very basis of international law. The detention of the consul and his co-workers for six hours, the arrest of the visitors, including those in the office of the consul general, the seizure of consular correspondence inviolable according to international law, still further increases the violent and unlawful character of the whole af-

fair, showing the complete disdain of the police officials for the most elementary principles of international law and international intercourse.

"The outright disorderly acts of the police—the seizure of articles and money, physical violence against the consulate employees—these are the natural accompaniments of such arbitrary actions, and are entirely in line with the character of the entire conduct of the police in relation to the Consulate General of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

"The Harbin police have in no way justified their actions by the unfounded and provocative explanations and accusations against the Consulate General which they have made in the press. The report of a meeting of the Third International taking place at the consulate is an obvious and senseless invention, and represents merely a futile attempt of the local officials to evade just responsibility for their atrocious action, which is capable of creating new complications in the mutual relations between the two neighboring countries.

"The Soviet Government is forced to bring to the attention of the government of the Chinese Republic the fact that the lawless attack of the police on the Consulate General of the U. S. S. R., in Harbin, took place after a prolonged preparation in the form of a provocative campaign raised against the Soviet Union and against its consular representatives, and finding its expression not only in irresponsible sallies in the press, but in slanderous statements by officials and semi-official persons and institutions of the Nationalist Government. The Soviet Government states that this police attack on the Consulate General of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Harbin, taken in connection with the above-mentioned campaign, creates a situation whereby the normal work of the consular representatives of the U. S. S. R. on Chinese territory has become extremely difficult, if not entirely impossible. The situation that has been created is the more serious in view of the fact that the recent events were preceded by the attack on the embassy of the U. S. S. R., in Peking, on April 6th, 1927, the white-guard attack on the Soviet consulate in Shanghai on October 25th, 1927, the destruction of the Soviet consulate in Canton in December, 1927, accompanied by the murder of five of its employees, and a series of violent actions directed against the Chinese-Eastern Railway, by the Chinese. All of these acts, for which the responsibility lies with different Chinese officials, have so far remained without compensation, and hamper the restoration of normal Soviet-Chinese relations.

"The Soviet Government in spite of this series of exceptionally provocative acts on the part of

Chinese officialdom, directed against the embassy and the consulates of the U. S. S. R. in China, has, with inexhaustible patience, refrained on its part from any retaliatory measures of any kind, no matter how justified they might have been by the circumstances. The Soviet Government has in particular, continued to render the missions and consulates of the Chinese Government on the territory of the U. S. S. R. every protection to which they are entitled by international law, and which is necessary for their normal functioning. In so doing the Soviet Government has been actuated by the desire to guarantee to Chinese citizens living on Soviet territory the same degree of protection and solicitude on the part of their consular institutions as is enjoyed by the citizens of other nations having diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government, however, is constrained to state that the peaceful and friendly position which it has maintained, has apparently been utilized by influences hostile to the U. S. S. R., as a proof of its readiness to leave unanswered all future provocation in relation to its consular representatives in China.

"Confronted with this fresh provocative and violent act against its consular representative, the Soviet Government is forced to protest vigorously against the atrocious acts of the police enumerated above, and to demand an immediate order for the liberation of the Soviet citizens arrested in the consulate, and for the return of all the correspondence that was taken away, and the stolen goods and money.

"Furthermore, the Soviet Government is forced to declare that inasmuch as the Chinese officials in all their acts give evidence of their unwillingness and inability to adhere to the accepted standards of international law and usage, the Soviet Government will henceforward cease to consider itself bound by those standards as regards the Chinese representative in Moscow and the Chinese consulates on Soviet territory, and that in the future, the right of extra-territoriality with which the embassy and consulates are endowed by international law, will not be recognized.

"The Soviet Government declares that the Soviet Union will, under all circumstances, unceasingly endeavor to preserve and maintain friendly relations with the Chinese people. The Soviet Government is forced, however, to warn the Nanking Government and its organs in the most decisive way against trying any further the patience of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics by provocative actions and the violation of treaties and agreements.

"Accept, Mr. Chargé d'Affaires, assurances of my deepest respect,

"KARAKHAN."

Soviet-Esthonian Trade Treaty

ON May 17th, a trade treaty between Esthonia and the Soviet Union was signed at Reval. In an editorial commenting on the signing of the treaty, the Moscow *Izvestia* of May 18th, makes the following statements:

"The signing of the trade treaty between the U. S. S. R. and Esthonia, which took place yesterday at Reval, is an important event in the relations between the U. S. S. R. and the Baltic States. The Soviet Union, which is desirous of establishing peaceful relations and developing economic connections with all countries, would welcome the conclusion of a commercial treaty with any country. But the commercial treaty with Esthonia has special significance in view of the relations which have developed between the U. S. S. R. and Esthonia during the past year. . . .

"The Soviet Esthonian trade treaty undoubtedly creates a firm foundation for the further strengthening and development of the economic relations between the two countries, and will be an important factor in the revival of trade. Very favorable prospects are opened up for the economic development of both countries, inasmuch as the regulation of our economic relations creates an opportunity for restoring the bonds that have long existed between the Soviet and Esthonian economic structure. Furthermore, a wide field of activities is opened in the realm of mutual work in the utilization of the economic wealth and natural resources of both countries. It is also to be hoped that the Esthonian ports will occupy a fitting place in Soviet transit. Esthonian industry, on the strength of the trade treaty, will receive all the privileges of transit through Soviet territory, which the Soviet Union grants nations with which it has trade relations. . . ."

"After the signing of the Moscow protocol, an act having such a favorable influence on the strengthening of the peaceful relations between the Soviet Union and the Baltic countries, the trade treaty with Esthonia is the next factor which will help toward stabilizing conditions. . . .

"The Soviet public greets with deep satisfaction the news of the signing of the Soviet-Esthonian trade treaty, which we hope will soon come into effect in the relations between the two countries."

Changes in Soviet Diplomatic Service

Mr. D. I. Petrovsky, formerly President of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, has been appointed Trade Representative of the U. S. S. R., in Austria, to replace Mr. G. S. Bitker, who has been relieved of that post.

Mr. V. V. Riabikov has been relieved of the post of Trade Representative of the U. S. S. R., in Mexico.

American Business Delegation to the U. S. S. R.

A DELEGATION of American Business Men, organized under the auspices of the American-Russian Chamber of Commerce, will make a tour of four weeks through the European portion of the U. S. S. R., leaving Berlin August 15. About eighty firms and individuals are represented in the Delegation. The tour is under the business management of the American Express Company.

In addition to visits to Moscow and Leningrad, the Delegation will make a long swing around the circle southward from Moscow. The itinerary includes Nizhni-Novgorod, a tour down the Volga to Kazan, Samara, Saratov, and Stalingrad, a trip to the Grozny oil fields and the Caucasian resorts, Rostov, the Donetz steel and coal regions, the Dnieper River Dam, and Kharkov. A comprehensive view of the principal industrial developments will be obtained and opportunity will be afforded for a first-hand survey of the import needs of the country under the Five-Year Plan. Business conferences will be held with Soviet officials and industrial executives.

The visit of the Delegation is a natural outgrowth of the growing trade between the United States and the U. S. S. R., and the increasing employment of American technicians in the upbuilding of Soviet industry. The Soviet Union ranked fourth last year among countries importing machinery from the United States, and its purchases of industrial equipment here are increasing more rapidly than similar purchases by any other country.

Among the firms represented on the Delegation are the following:

Underwood-Elliott Fisher Co., New York; American Gas and Electric Co., New York; Greenville Steel Car Co., Greenville, Pa.; Sanerman Bros., Chicago; Macdonald Engineering Co., Chicago; Federal Securities Corp., Chicago; International Oxygen Co., Newark, N. J.; Chicago Pneumatic Tool Co.; Remington Rand, Inc., New York; Gillette Safety Razor Co., Boston; Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co., New York; International Business Machines Corp., New York; Washington Irrigation Development Co., New York; Weil Bros., Montgomery, Ala.; Conham Engineering Co., Chicago, Ill.; Pacific Electric Manufacturing Corp., San Francisco, Calif.; Merritt Engineering & Sales Co., Lockport, N. Y.; Animal Trap Co. of America, Lititz, Pa.; Westinghouse International Co., New York; American Trust Co., New York; Fidelity & Columbia Trust Co., Louisville, Ky.; Anderson, Clayton & Co., Houston, Texas; Bristol Patent Leather Co., Philadelphia; Hugh L. Cooper & Co., New York; Stuart, James & Cooke, New York; Equitable Trust Co., New York; Chase National Bank, New York.

British Trade Delegation Fulfills Mission

ACCORDING to a despatch from London, printed in the Moscow Izvestia on May 24th, Mr. Remnant, organizer of the British Trade Delegation to the Soviet Union, announced on his return to London that the delegation had fulfilled its purpose.

"We shall soon demonstrate," declared Mr. Remnant, according to the despatch, "that the U. S. S. R. is the largest market accessible to English goods. We shall clear the road for the creation of an economic foundation for trade between the two countries. Within a day or so after our arrival in Moscow the members of the delegation came into direct contact with Soviet economic institutions. Many members of the delegation told me that orders for the articles of which we were informed the U. S. S. R. is in need, would fully guarantee work to their firms for several years. Piatakov presented us with a list of the requirements of the U. S. S. R., estimated for a period of five years, amounting to 150,000,000 pounds sterling. This figure has been thoughtlessly characterized by some as 'astronomical' and 'fantastic,' although it amounts to not more than four shillings a year for each member of the population of the U. S. S. R. Since 1922, during the period when conditions in Russia were less favorable than they are today, goods amounting to over two hundred million pounds sterling were purchased by the Soviet Union from Great Britain. It was made clear to the delegation that these orders will depend on the granting of long-term loans and credits which, in turn, depend on political recognition and a solution of the question regarding Soviet debts to British citizens. . . .

"A number of large orders were received by the delegation, and the basis has been laid for the development of extensive trade as soon as more stable relations between the two countries have been established. It is frequently asserted that commercial relations are in no way dependent on political recognition. This might be true if by trade were meant merely primitive barter. But every banker will dispute that statement insofar as the investment of capital, long-term credits and mutual contractual obligations are involved. All these things obviously require legal guarantees. Diplomatic recognition is therefore an indispensable pre-requisite for any substantial development of economic relations. But I have always insisted that this recognition is possible only on condition of the compensation of the claims of British subjects referring to the period before 1917, and the cessation of hostile propaganda. We inquired about these points and received assurances which seemed to us satisfactory."

Fifth All-Union Congress of Soviets

THE Fifth All-Union Congress of Soviets was held in Moscow from May 21st to May 28th. There were 1,678 voting delegates and 887 consulting delegates, representing 58 different nationalities. There were 374 women present at the Congress, 258 of them voting delegates, and 116 consulting, more than twice as many as were elected to the preceding Soviet Congress. Of the delegates, 1,199 were members of the Communist Party, and 164 of the Communist Youth League. More than half of the delegates, or 52 per cent, were industrial workers, 23 per cent were peasants, and the remainder intellectual workers. The Congress was also distinguished by its youth—over two-thirds of the delegates were under forty, and less than five per cent over fifty.

The Congress was presided over by M. I. Kalinin, President of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R. The main points on the agenda were the report of the government on the work of the past two years, the report on the Five-Year Plan for the development of industry, and the report on the plan for the improvement of agriculture.

Internal Situation

Following his discussion of the International situation, printed elsewhere in this issue, Mr. Rykov, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, outlined the internal situation. He stated that industrial production has outstripped pre-war by 30 to 40 per cent. Two years ago metallurgy was one of the branches of industry farthest behind, its production at that time being only 70 per cent of pre-war. Now the pre-war level has been attained even here. The production of agricultural machinery has been tripled. Mr. Rykov pointed out that the discrepancy between the tremendous advances in industrialization and technique on the one hand and the goods hunger on the other, is largely due to an increase in demand. The income of the vast majority of families has increased, and even though the increase in each case is slight, the total is huge.

After a thorough discussion of Rykov's speech, and reports on local difficulties and achievements, the delegates passed a resolution fully endorsing the internal and foreign policy of the government.

Mr. V. V. Kuibishev, chairman of the Supreme Economic Council, presented the maximum version of the Five-Year Plan, as ratified by the Council of People's Commissars. He stated that according to the plan, industrial production would reach 29 billion rubles* at the end of the five-year period as against 10-12 billions last year. The basic capital of industry will increase from 8 to 25 billions, while capital invested in industry, in-

cluding electrification, will be 15,500,000,000 rubles as compared with 4 billions invested during the past five years. There will be greater emphasis on industries manufacturing the means of production than on those producing articles for consumption, and 2 billion rubles worth of machinery will be produced annually. Mr. Kuibishev emphasized particularly the measures that would be taken to lower production costs, increase the efficiency of the workers, and train the skilled workers and technicians necessary to carry out the program.

Mr. V. V. Krjijanovsky, chairman of Gosplan, also reported on the Five-Year Plan, dealing particularly with the development of electric power and fuel. He said that at the end of the five years there would be an annual production of 22 billion kilowatt hours of electric power, 75 million tons of hard coal, 22 million tons of oil and 10 million tons of iron.

Agriculture

The agricultural report was submitted by Kalinin. He opened his report by outlining recent progress. The seeded area has now reached 96.6 per cent of the pre-war area, the technical crops 158.5 per cent, grain crops, 90.1 per cent, and livestock, 102.4 per cent. There has also been marked improvement in agricultural methods used during the last few years, particularly with regard to crop rotation, early plowing, and the use of improved and selected seeds. The supply of agricultural machinery is two-and-a-quarter times as great as before the war. Forty thousand tractors are in use. The middle peasant has become the central figure in agriculture. One-third of the peasants are organized in agricultural cooperatives, and the number of agricultural collectives (groups of peasants working the land cooperatively), has increased by 140.6 per cent since last year, there being about 38,000 in all. The government farms have also made progress, their seeded area now covering 1,500,000 hectares.

In spite of these marked advances, Mr. Kalinin pointed out that the development of grain production was far too slow to meet the rapidly growing demand for agricultural products due to the quickened rate of industrialization and the growing needs of the population. He pointed out that the main reason for the backwardness in the development of grain production was that the overwhelming majority of peasants are still operating small and scattered farms, with a low level of agricultural technique. At the same time the population is increasing at the rate of 3,500,000 annually, and an additional 20 to 30 million poods of grain (328,000 to 492,000 metric tons), are necessary each year just to feed the increase.

*A ruble is equal to 51.5 cents.

Mr. Kalinin stated that further progress on the basis of the scattered individual peasant farm was impossible. The systematic and thorough organization of agriculture on a cooperative basis with the aim of creating large-scale socialized agriculture which can be raised to the level of modern technique, the utilization of all the latest achievements of agricultural science—these are the only methods through which the problem can be solved, and the material and cultural well being of the mass of the peasants raised to hitherto undreamed of heights. Kalinin pointed out that while the most energetic measures would be taken to develop large-scale industrial agriculture and peasant collectives, assistance would also be given to the poor and middle peasants in the improvement of their individual farms. Among the specific measures planned for the improvement of agriculture during the coming five years are the freeing of 35 per cent of the peasants from taxation, the strengthening of the government farms, and the operation of ten to twelve million hectares additional by the Grain Trust, the organization of 85 per cent of the peasants in agricultural cooperatives, the distribution of 2,500,000,000 rubles worth of agricultural machinery, the manufacture of 88,000 tractors in the Soviet Union and the importation of a large number from abroad, and numerous other measures to open up new land, improve the general technique and train specialists to carry out the program.

Following the reports there were exhaustive discussions on the matters presented, and unanimous resolutions were passed endorsing the reports, and calling for the utmost efforts of the gov-

ernment and the people to carry out the programs set forth. The acceptance of the Five-Year Plan for the development of industry and agriculture by the All-Union Congress of Soviets, the highest government body, constitutes its final ratification.

The Congress elected the Council of the Union, consisting of 450 members and 239 candidates from the representatives of the six constituent republics of the U. S. S. R., in proportion to their population. The Central Executive Committee is formed from this Council of the Union and the Council of Nationalities. The latter consists of 136 members and 64 candidates elected at the Republican and regional Soviet Congresses on the basis of five delegates from each of the Constituent and Autonomous Republics, and one delegate from each of the autonomous areas. One-third of the members of the Central Executive Committee, or Tsik, as it is called, are non-party members, and fifteen per cent are women. The number of members was increased by one to allow for the election of Maxim Gorky. The Central Executive Committee is the supreme authority in the interval between the All-Union Congresses.

The new Central Executive Committee met on May 30th, and elected a Presidium to serve between the sessions. The Presidium consists of 27 members; nine representing the Council of the Union, nine representing the Council of Nationalities, and nine elected jointly by the two councils.

The Presidium, in turn, re-elected the six chairmen, headed by Kalinin, who have served since the previous Congress. The members of the Council of Peoples' Commissars were re-elected with Alexey Rykov as chairman.

Lunacharsky on Education

ANATOLE LUNACHARSKY, Commissar of Education for the R. S. F. S. R., reported on the educational situation at the Fourteenth All-Russian Congress of Soviets, which preceded the All-Union Congress. After describing the difficulties under which the Department of Education had commenced its work, and emphasizing how far they still were from meeting the growing needs of the country, Mr. Lunacharsky outlined the main educational achievements of the past five years as follows:

"Primary education, which before the revolution was provided for only 50 per cent of the children of school age, now embraces 89 per cent. The number of children in the primary schools has increased by 45 per cent, and the number of literate children has increased by 31 per cent. The number of children receiving an intermediate education has increased by 54 per cent. In the schools for peasant youth which have de-

veloped since the revolution, and are our main type of higher schools for the peasants, we have at the present time almost a million students. For every fourteen children in the elementary schools there is one pupil in the intermediate grades—which is not so bad. True—the minister of education in MacDonald's cabinet pointed out in his report that in England that proportion is one to five. But England is an immeasurably wealthy country with an ancient culture. Furthermore, the entirely new types of institutions which did not exist at all in Czarist times, must be mentioned. The revolution created an entirely new type of educational institution in the day and night Rabfacs (Workers' Faculties). There are 36,000 students in these institutions. This is the main canal through which we guide our workers and peasants to a higher education. The Rabfac is the answer to one of our most pressing problems of training more highly skilled groups of

workers. I shall not dwell on them particularly in my report, since my theme is mass education, but I mention them because the Rabfac stands on the border line between the mass school and the higher educational institutions. There are 47,000 students in the factory trade schools. This is also an entirely new type of institution. In the workers' universities there are about 11,000 workers and peasants; in the courses and higher schools for adults, 76,000; in the Communist party schools, 26,000; in the Communist universities, 7,000. In the R. S. F. S. R., there are 54,258 children in pre-school institutions, and childrens' summer playgrounds take in an additional 100,000.

"Through the campaign against illiteracy and semi-literacy, centers and schools have been developed where there are always a million adults studying. We have about 15,000 village reading rooms.

"I wish to emphasize particularly that in Czarist times, pre-school education existed only for certain privileged families. During the first period of revolutionary enthusiasm and the period of destruction, which threw many little children on the streets, we had a great many children in our institutions. Now the number is much smaller. Nevertheless the field of pre-school education is extremely important, both from the point of view of the emancipation of women, and from that of the proper training of the new generation.

"Still another point: the technical backwardness of our population has always been a cause for rejoicing among our various enemies in Europe, and for reproach from those who have our cultural development at heart. Before the revolution there were 104,000 students in the lower and intermediate trade schools, while we now have about 300,000.

"These are just a few figures and facts about the new forms of training, which indicate the general progress. By no means can it be said that these are the achievements of eleven years. They are the achievements of five years. The darkest moment in our educational life, when we were below Czarist Russia in all respects, was in 1921. All the accomplishments to which we can point today, took place after that period. During the first years of recovery—1922 and 1923, the movement forward was weak and uncertain. Actually, it did not attain real vigor until 1923-24.

"It is of the greatest importance that we have created such a tremendous apparatus for adult education. Recently there has been an extraordinary growth of correspondence courses. The desire for knowledge is so intense, that no sooner have we introduced some new type of correspond-

ence course, than we have tens and hundreds of thousands of subscribers.

"Finally, a great step forward has been taken in the development of the cinema, with regard to which Lenin said that since it was accessible and comprehensible even to the illiterate, or those speaking another language, it could be used for the widest educational purposes. There are still not enough moving pictures in the villages—but the number already exceeds 2,000.

"The radio is at the present time under the control of the Commissariat of Post and Telegraphs—a situation which is partly due, perhaps, to the heedlessness of the Commissariat of Education. They wished to place the radio under our jurisdiction, but we had so many duties that we regarded the proposal with a not entirely justified indifference. In any case, the cultural supervision remains with us, and we hope in the near future to render the Commissariat of Posts and Telegraphs some assistance in this respect. . . ."

In discussing the five-year plan for education, Lunacharsky pointed out that the plan provided that the cultural development of those national minorities and autonomous republics and regions, which had no cultural freedom under the Czar, should proceed more rapidly than that of the Russian and other more highly cultured nationalities in the Soviet Union. A special effort will also be made to bridge the cultural gulf between village and city.

Lunacharsky stated that eight billion rubles (over \$4,000,000,000), would be spent for cultural work, according to the plan. By the end of five years universal elementary education will be established, the present pre-school system doubled, and the number of illiterate among the population reduced by 80 per cent.

With regard to the need for training more highly skilled workers and technicians to answer the needs of the five-year plan, Lunacharsky outlined the program of the Commissariat of Education for developing and strengthening the factory and shop schools, the creation of a system of polytechnical schools closely connected with production, and the organization of more training schools for the handicraft industries. He also said that the Commissariat of Education planned to increase the usefulness of the schools for peasant youth and the agricultural "technicums" by having them do a greater amount of practical and productive agricultural work through the establishment of regular agricultural experiment stations in connection with the schools, to serve an educational purpose for both students and peasants. Another important step will be the introduction of training for specific trades into the regular nine-year schools, at the same time making sure that general education and preparation for higher schools will not suffer.

Radio in the Soviet Union

THE radio is becoming one of the most potent factors in the spread of education and culture in the Soviet Union. The development of radio is comparatively recent, the first broadcasting station having been established in 1924. By October, 1928, there were 326,286 receiving sets in use in the Soviet Union—282,045 of them in the cities, 44,240 in the villages. These figures, however, give only the barest indication of the actual extent of the radio audiences, since the radio is used on a collective rather than an individualist basis, most of the sets being in clubs, auditoriums, parks and street corners. One radio set with a loud speaker in a village will draw hundreds of peasants nightly to the local People's House.

From the single broadcasting station that existed five years ago, the number has grown to 67, of which the most important ones are in Moscow, Leningrad, Tiflis and Baku. The use of the radio is confined to educational, political and cultural purposes. The system of advertising by radio is unknown in the Soviet Union. The stations in the important centers each have their own programs. The stations in remote provinces which are not sufficiently powerful to broadcast their own programs, transmit mostly the programs of the central stations. These programs include lectures on politics, current events, industrial and agricultural development, educational and scientific subjects, health, art and music. The Radio Broadcasting Company plans the programs with special types of audience definitely in mind. Thus the main types of programs mentioned are again subdivided into programs for workers, for peasants, for intellectual and professional workers, for children, and for very young people.

Unique to the Soviet Union is the radio newspaper—not a mere summary of the news of the day—but a complete program containing all the departments of an ordinary newspaper arranged in a vivid and interesting way, with musical numbers in between. These radio newspapers are broadcast from Moscow twice daily. They are also adapted to various audiences. There is a special newspaper for workers, one for peasants, and even a children's newspaper.

Practically all the programs follow a definite plan, and have an educational or cultural purpose. Thus the musical programs for workers and peasants begin with the simple and primitive, passing gradually to more complex and difficult musical works, and are accompanied by lectures on the history of music, the development of the different types of instruments, and so on. In addition to the regular radio programs arrangements have been made with the opera and dramatic theaters, concert and lecture halls for broadcasting their programs. Such programs are supplemented

where necessary by librettos. Much attention has been given to folk music, and to the music of the national minorities. The weird, minor melodies of remote tribes, which have often not been heard beyond their own territory, have been written down for the first time and are now being heard by vast numbers of people.

Another feature is the literary program, opening with a "Book News" number, in which reviews and synopses of current books are given. New plays are also reviewed in this manner. Frequently the literary programs are devoted to some special writer or poet or literary group. If it is a classical writer, a description of his life and social environment will be given, readings from his works, and critical comments. If it is a modern writer some well known critic will give an analysis of his work and that of the group or literary tendency he represents. The author himself will then read from his or her latest works, preferably something as yet unpublished. These programs are supplemented by appropriate musical numbers, and are often followed by group discussions among the radio audience.

Lectures at the different universities are often broadcast, as well as lectures given at the scientific institutes. There is a Workers' and Peasants' Radio University, which broadcasts practical information in a systematic way. The Labor Unions are increasing their radio activities, transmitting regular meetings and entertainments to all their members.

There are special programs for housewives, some of them practical and some entertaining.

The radio is also being used extensively in the schools and colleges, introducing the children to various parts of the world, and giving them a graphic representation of the progress of science.

The development of broadcasting technique and the radio industry is proceeding rapidly. The latter is concentrated entirely in the enterprises of the State Electrical Low Current Trust which represents a combine of all the large factories producing radio apparatus, and which has recently concluded a contract with the Radio Corporation of America for technical cooperation. The amateur sets produced by the various factories satisfy the most exacting requirements of the radio fan and are in no way inferior to the sets used abroad, although there is not the great variety of sets to be found elsewhere.

In Moscow there is a weekly magazine, "Radio News," devoted to more or less technical questions, and two magazines for radio amateurs, called "The Radio Amateur" and "Radio for All."

In the past two years there has been a great increase in the number of individual radio sets purchased by workers who are enabled to buy

radio sets on a deferred payment system entailing an advance of about \$7. There are few apartments in the more important workers' districts which are not wired.

The People's Commissariat for Posts and Telegraphs, under whose jurisdiction the radio system is operated, plans to double the number of radio sets in use during the coming year.

To carry out this radio program it is planned to organize one model "radiofied" county in each of 215 districts. With the help of the local govern-

ment departments, the cooperatives and the public, it is proposed to install radios in 6,000 public centers and 111,000 peasant homes in these districts. Each model county will re-broadcast programs from the center, and will also broadcast programs of local interest—there will be local radio newspapers, talks by local county agricultural agents, doctors, and leaders of Soviet and social organizations. Within two years 400 district and county centers in the U. S. S. R. will be equipped with radio loud speaker sets to receive programs from the center.

The Musical Season in Moscow

THE musical season in Moscow this year has been unusually rich in concerts, operas and other musical events. The outstanding event of the season was the presentation of the original version of "Boris Godounov" by the Stanislavsky Theater. The première of Moussorgsky's great musical drama took place in Russia fifty-four years ago in the form in which it had originally been conceived. It was then played only a few times, and not produced again until the '90's, after Rimski-Korsakoff had carefully revised and shortened it. While Rimski-Korsakoff's work undoubtedly saved Moussorgsky's masterpiece from oblivion by making it lighter and more spectacular and hence more acceptable to the Russian audiences of that period, his thoroughly conventional ideas regarding scenic effect, his deletions, smoothing out and sentimentalizing of the score greatly devitalized the original work.

Fortunately, the original score and manuscript material were preserved in the Leningrad Library, and about eight years ago P. A. Lamm, a Moussorgsky student, undertook the reconstruction of the original Boris. Under his editorship the "Mussektor," the musical department of the State Publishing House, published the entire original score. The full score proved somewhat too long—the first performance lasted from 7:30 p. m. to nearly 1 a. m.—and had to be cut again. The performance at the Stanislavsky Opera Studio as given now is far more vigorous and richer in dramatic content than the version that has hitherto been known to the public, and has been greeted enthusiastically by large and absorbed audiences.

The Moscow State Opera House revived Boris Godounov in 1927, adding one new scene to the familiar version, and this production has remained in the repertoire of the Opera House during the past season, giving an excellent opportunity for comparing the two versions.

Other new pieces shown by the State Opera this season were "Olya of Nordland," by Ippolit-Ivanov, a somewhat old-fashioned work, indifferently received, and Wagner's "Meistersinger,"

also given too much in the old manner to arouse great enthusiasm. Other new operas announced for this season were "The Gadfly" by Ziks, "The Hairdresser" by Shishov, "A Son of the Sun" by Vassilenko, and an opera by Shestakovitch. Otherwise the familiar repertoire of opera and ballet with the colorful old favorites of Rimski-Korsakoff, Borodin, Tchaikowsky, Stravinsky, Prokofiev, and well known German, Italian and French classics has been continued. Among the ballets "The Red Poppy" by Gliere is the only one with a revolutionary theme, and continues to be one of the most popular.

The State Opera is, however, planning to modernize its repertoire further and has ordered new operas and ballets on contemporary themes. So far Oransky's "The Football Player," a ballet, has been accepted, and a musical adaptation of Gorky's "Mother." Fresh material and treatment are promised in an opera based on the Communist Youth League, written by Korchmarev, and in an opera of the civil war period by the dramatist Smolin and the composer Polovinkin.

In addition to the First State Opera, there is a Second State Opera, formerly known as the Experimental Opera, which employs the same troupe, giving somewhat lighter programs, the Stanislavsky Opera Studio, sometimes known as the "Musical Art Theater," where Boris Godounov was given, and the Nemirovitch Danchenko Theater. The latter produced Krenek's "Johnny Spielt Auf" this spring. The critics greeted it enthusiastically from the point of view of its technique and spectacular value, while deploring the fact that the composer and author did not make more of the opportunity for real social satire. The Moscow Central Technicum for Theatrical Art does very interesting things, and their performance of Stravinsky's "Mavra" was considered one of the most brilliant of the season. The district opera, especially for the working class district is a new development. Their first performance was Paschenko's "The Eagle's Revolt," on the theme of the Pugachev uprising. A number of the classics have also been given.

The current season opened with performances of Tchaikowsky by all concert organizations, in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of his death. One of the finest performances was "Manfred Symphony" by the Soviet Philharmonic, with Suk conducting. Many chamber performances of Tchaikowsky were also given.

There are now four large symphony orchestras in Moscow, the Soviet Philharmonic, or "Sophil" as it is called, gives several concerts a week, both in the larger concert halls, and in the workers' clubs on the outskirts of the city, and also arranges concerts in other parts of the country. In addition to a number of guest conductors from other countries, Suk, Steinberg, and Haikin, one of the younger conductors, have conducted concerts of the "Sophil." Golovanov of the State Opera, has been invited to be the permanent conductor of this orchestra. The "Sophil" plays Russian music for the most part—Tchaikowsky, Rimski-Korsakoff, Moussorgsky, Borodin, Stravinsky, Scriabin and others. Of the foreign classics Beethoven and Wagner appear most frequently on their programs. Of contemporary composers the works of Shestakovitch, Gnossin, Shaporin, Mosolov, Korchmarev, Mayaskovsky, and others have been performed. Contemporary Western music is not very popular with Moscow audiences, whose favorite composers are probably Beethoven and Tchaikowsky.

The "Persimphans," or leaderless orchestra, has grown increasingly popular during its six years of existence, and its work maintains a high standard of excellence. They play an extensive repertoire of classical music, both Russian and foreign, with occasional modern numbers. This year they gave a number of concerts devoted to French composers—Debussy, Ravel, and others. Similar leaderless orchestras have been developed in other parts of the Soviet Union.

Regular symphony concerts are also given by the Moscow Conservatory which has an excellent orchestra composed of pupils from the higher classes, conducted by Golovanov, which has given such difficult works as Myaskovsky's Fifth Symphony. The students have also given several very fine performances of opera, including Rimski-Korsakov's "Bride of the Czar" and Moussorgsky's "Hovashina."

One of the best symphony orchestras is that of the Moscow Radio Station, which gives concerts several times a week to large audiences in a specially equipped "Radio Theater." This orchestra is conducted by Scheider. It has performed many new works such as Mondarelli's "September," dedicated to the anniversary of the Bulgarian revolution, Shestakovitch's symphonies. Krein's "Funeral Ode to Lenin," the works of Balakirev and others.

Moscow is particularly rich in chamber music. The best string quartet in the U. S. S. R. is undoubtedly the Glazunov quartet which plays in

Moscow and also makes regular tours of the whole country. Next come the Stradivarius quartet and the Moscow State Conservatory quartet. The first violin of the latter, Tsiganov, the violist Borisovsky, and the cellist Shirinsky, are also excellent solo players, while the second violin, Vassili Shirinsky, is a promising composer. In addition to these there are two other quartets.

Moscow also has numerous string trios—three under the auspices of Ippolit-Ivanov, three attached to Stanislavsky's studio, and the "Moscow Trio." Their concerts which are well attended, especially in working class districts, cover an enormous repertoire ranging from Bach to modern Soviet and foreign composers.

In addition to these orthodox ensembles, there are various quaint and original groups in Moscow, such as Lubimov's Domra Quartet (the domra is a primitive Tartar string instrument), Pavlov's Domra Sextet, Alexeyev's ensemble of Russian national instruments, the Ethnographic String Quartet, playing chiefly on wooden instruments, with an original folk song repertoire. Even the gusli, an ancient Russian instrument, formerly played by blind, wandering musicians, has been revived by a group of enthusiasts, and accordion orchestras have been so successful that the Conservatory of Music and the musical technicians have introduced accordion courses. Much attention is devoted to native talent among the various races composing the Soviet Union. Performers of folk songs and native compositions such as the Ukrainian String Quartet, the "Dumka" Ukrainian Choir, one of the best choirs in the Soviet Union, balalaika orchestras and other groups playing native instruments frequently visit Moscow from the various republics. There are also permanent groups in Moscow specializing in the art of their own nationalities such as the Ensemble of Eastern Songs and Dancing, the Armenian House of Culture Orchestra, the Jewish Vocal quartet, the Ukrainian Musical Studio, the White Russian Choir, and others.

Aside from the natural love of music of the Russian people, the factors contributing to Moscow's rich musical life are the constantly growing opportunities for musical education, and the great number of musical clubs and circles among the industrial and intellectual workers. Some of these workers meet and play for their own amusement, others have developed regular orchestras whose work has achieved a high artistic standard.

In addition to the older musicians and composers who are still living and working in Moscow, there are many young ones coming forward each year with new and vital contributions.

While Moscow is the real musical center of the Soviet Union, Leningrad ranks almost as high and is in some respects superior, and many of the provincial towns and cities have fine opera companies, orchestras, and other musical groups of their own.

Scientific Institutions in the R. S. F. S. R.

THERE were comparatively few scientific institutions in pre-revolutionary Russia. Among the larger ones were the Scientific Institutes of the Academy of Sciences and the Pulkov Astronomical Observatory. There were also several biological stations, a few art research institutes, and so on.

During the first years of the revolution there was a rapid growth in scientific institutions. In 1918 the Science Section of the Commissariat of Education already had twenty large scientific institutions under its supervision. By 1921 there were 34, and by 1923 the number had increased to 79. The growth of scientific societies and local institutions was also rapid. After 1923 the emphasis was more on developing and improving the existing institutions than on organizing new ones. At the present time the system includes 87 large scientific institutions, about 200 scientific societies, and over 1,600 local geographic organizations.*

The Department of Science of the Commissariat of Education is organized to cover every branch of science, beginning with the exact sciences, such as mathematics, and progressing through physics and chemistry to the biological and medical sciences, and so on to the science of man and social science.

A number of the institutes are independent, others are attached to higher institutions of learning. The latter are entirely independent in their scientific work, and their connection with the higher educational institutions gives them an advantage in selecting young scientific workers.

The majority of the larger institutes are concentrated in the capitals and larger cities of the Soviet Union. In its plans for future work the Department of Science is stressing the development of provincial research centers, and the improvement of existing provincial scientific institutions.

The development of the local scientific and geographical societies, which are the organizational forms for attracting the masses of the people into scientific work, has been exceedingly rapid in the last few years. These scientific societies, which are under the supervision of the Department of Science, may be divided into the following groups:

Physico-Mathematical groups, such as the Moscow Mathematical Society, the Russian Physico-Chemical Society, and others; Natural History groups, such as the Leningrad Society of Naturalists, the Moscow Society of Amateur Naturalists, Anthropologists and Ethnographers, the Protistological Society, and so on; the Social Science

group, including the Scientific Society of Marxists, the Historical Society, the Perm Philosophical and Social Science Society, the Pedological Society, and others; the local Geographical Societies.

The work of the scientific institutions is divided into two main branches—systematic laboratory research and scientific expeditions. The latter branch, which includes expeditions to the North Sea, organized annually by the Floating Marine Institute, anthropological expeditions for the study of the various nationalities, geological expeditions which have discovered many new natural resources, and so on, has played a significant part in the development of the Soviet Union in addition to the direct scientific achievements.

Such a complex system of scientific institutions and societies naturally require a large number of scientific workers. In order to provide for the training of an adequate number of scientific workers, the Department of Science grants stipends for a definite number of scientific students each year.

Following is a list of the main scientific institutions in the R. S. F. S. R.:

Name of Institution.	Location.
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Physico-Mathematical

1. Chief Astronomical Observatory, Pulkovo, Leningrad Province
2. Astronomical Institute Leningrad
3. Astro-Physical Institute Moscow
4. Astrono-Geodesical Institute Moscow
5. Chief Geophysical Observatory with Magnetic Observatory in Slutsk Leningrad
6. Scientific Research Geophysical Institute, Moscow, Kuchino
7. Irkutsk Meteorological Observatory Irkutsk
8. Sverdlovsk Magnetic and Meteorological Observatory Sverdlovsk
9. Semenovsk Meteorological Observatory Kursk
10. Kostroma Geophysical Station Kostroma
11. Vladivostok Meteorological Observatory Vladivostok
12. State Optical Institute Leningrad
13. State Physico-Technical Institute Leningrad
14. State Radio Institute Leningrad
15. State Hydrological Institute Leningrad
16. Siberian Physico-Technical Institute Tomsk
17. Institute of Mathematics and Mechanics Moscow
18. Institute of Physics Moscow
19. Institute of Chemistry Moscow
20. Scientific Research Institute of the Uralsk Polytechnical Institute Sverdlovsk

Natural Science, Medical and Biological

21. Psycho-Neurological Academy and Brain Institute Leningrad
22. State X-Ray and Radiological Institute Leningrad
23. Saratov Scientific Research Institute on the Upper Respiratory Organs Saratov
24. Microbiological Institute Moscow
25. Medico-Biological Institute Moscow
26. Institute of Mineralogy and Petrography Moscow
27. Institute of Geology Moscow
28. Institute of Soil Science Moscow
29. Institute of Geography Moscow
30. Institute of Anthropology Moscow

*These figures apply to the R. S. F. S. R. only.

31. Institute of BotanyMoscow
 32. Institute of ZoologyMoscow
 33. Lesgaft InstituteLeningrad
 34. Peterhof Natural Science InstitutePeterhof
 35. Practical Laboratory in Zoo-PsychologyMoscow
 36. State Institute for the Study of Nature and
Economy of Arid and Desert Regions ...Moscow
(Branches in Saratov, Stalingrad, Voronezh, Astrakhan, and Novochoerkassk.)
 37. Biological and Geographical Institute of the
Irkutsk UniversityIrkutsk
 38. Biological Institute of Perm UniversityPerm
 39. Floating Marine InstituteMoscow
 40. State Timiriazev InstituteMoscow
 41. Scientific Research LaboratoryMoscow
 42. Scientific Research Institute at the Voronezh
UniversityVoronezh
 43. State Polytechnical MuseumMoscow
 44. Bolshevo Biological StationBolshevo
 45. Gluboko-Ozersk Biological StationTuchkovo
 46. Kossino Biological StationKossino
 47. Oka Biological StationNizhny-Novgorod
 48. Volga Biological StationSaratov
 49. Karadask Biological StationOtuzy
 50. Murman Biological Station,
Alexandrovsk on the Murman
- Social and Related Sciences*
51. Academy of the History of Material Culture,
Leningrad
(Branch in Moscow)
 52. Institute of HistoryMoscow
(Branch in Leningrad)
 53. Institute of EconomicsMoscow
 54. Institute of Linguistics and History of LiteratureMoscow
 55. Institute of Soviet JurisprudenceMoscow
 56. Institute of Archeology and Art Sciences....Moscow
 57. Institute of Scientific PhilosophyMoscow
 58. Institute of Experimental PsychologyMoscow
 59. Cabinet on the History and Philosophy of
Natural ScienceMoscow
 60. Scientific Research Institute on Land Distribution and EmigrationMoscow
 61. Scientific Research Institute on Agricultural
EconomyMoscow
 62. Scientific Institute on Ethnic and National
Culture of the Peoples of the EastMoscow
63. Scientific Research Institute of History of
Literature and Languages of the West and
the OrientLeningrad
 64. Scientific Research Institute in Geography
and EconomicsLeningrad
 65. Scientific Research Institute in Marxism ..Leningrad
 66. Cabinet for the Study of MarxismKazan
- Scientific Pedagogical Institutions*
67. State Institute of Scientific PedagogyLeningrad
 68. Scientific Pedagogical Institute of School
MethodsMoscow
 69. Scientific Pedagogical Institute of Pre-School
MethodsMoscow
 70. Institute of Scientific Pedagogy of the Second
State Moscow UniversityMoscow
- Local Geographical Institutes*
71. North Caucasus Local Minerology Institute,
Rostov-Don
 72. Viatka Institute of Local Geography at Perm
UniversityViatka
 73. South Volga Gorky Institute of Local Geography at Saratov UniversitySaratov
- Scientific Libraries*
74. The U. S. S. R. Lenin Public Library and Institute for LibrariansMoscow
 75. Library of State Historical MuseumMoscow
 76. Library of State Polytechnical MuseumMoscow
 77. Library of the Nature Study SocietyMoscow
 78. State Library of LiteratureMoscow
 79. State Theatrical LibraryMoscow
 80. State Central Book Deposit LibraryMoscow
 81. State Public Library with Library of World
LiteratureLeningrad
 82. Book FundLeningrad
- State Warrens*
83. Caucasian State WarrenMaikop
 84. Il'minsk State WarrenIzhevsk
 85. Astrakhan State WarrenAstrakhan
 86. Central Volga State WarrenPenza
 87. Ak-Su-Djibagin-Su State Warren...Kazak Republic

In addition to the above there are a number of scientific institutions in which important work is being carried on to assist the industrial development of the country both by solving practical problems and for the discovery of better methods of production.

Population Growth in the U. S. S. R.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA long had a high birth rate which decreased very gradually. For the years 1870 to 1874 the birth rate was 50.8 per thousand of the population. In 1914 it was 43.7 per thousand.

The catastrophe of the world war in 1914-17 tore 15 million men from their homes. The result was naturally a catastrophic drop in the birth rate throughout the country. The civil war and destruction accompanied by fierce epidemics and high mortality, kept down the birth rate for several years. The revolution changed the very method of recording the birth rate, and it was some time before it could be determined accurately in such a vast country, entering upon a new historical epoch.

Not until 1923-24 could the first approximate

figures of the birth rate in the R. S. F. S. R. (Soviet Russia proper) and the Ukraine, be established. And only in recent years, particularly since the census of 1926, has it been possible to get reliable figures. Thus we find that for the entire Soviet Union the birth rate in 1924 was 42.9 per thousand, in 1925—44.2, and in 1926—43.5. These figures show that the birth rate in the Soviet Union has reached the pre-war level.

General Mortality

Russia has always had an unenviable reputation for the extremely high mortality of its population, and particularly of children. And this reputation was deserved. To be sure, there has been a gradual decline in mortality in the course of years, the average deaths per thousand

in European Russia having decreased from 37.4 for the period 1870-74, to 27.9 for 1910-1914.

The entire period preceding the commencement of the new historical epoch—the period of world war, revolution, civil war, destruction and violent epidemics—was accompanied by a tremendous increase in the mortality of the population. There are no complete records of mortality during those years, but the facts for separate districts show beyond question that it was extremely high.

In 1924, 1925 and 1926 much more accurate records were kept for the country as a whole. The following table shows the mortality per thousand of the population in those years:

Year	R. S. F. S. R.	Ukraine	White Russia	Soviet Union
1924	24.2	17.6	15.3	22.0
1925	25.2	19.2	18.9	22.9
1926	21.5	18.1	14.9	19.9

These figures show a considerable decrease in the mortality under the new government as compared with the former situation.

The improvement of the sanitary conditions is reflected especially in the decrease of mortality in the large cities. Thus in 1928 the mortality in Leningrad had dropped to 14.4 per thousand of the population, and in Moscow to 13 per thousand.

In European Russia in 1913 the mortality was comparatively low only in the Western and South-western gubernias of the Ukraine. Everywhere throughout Central, North and Eastern Russia a high mortality prevailed. In the Soviet Union a high mortality persists only in certain of the border regions and among the autonomous peoples, such as the Karelian Autonomous Republic in the Northwest and in the North Eastern section which includes Viatskaya province, and the Mariskaya, Chuvash, and Votskaya regions.

Infant Mortality

In old Russia it was considered a fortunate state of affairs when only 23 or 24 out of every hundred babies died during their first year. But in the 45 years preceding 1911, that "fortunate" state occurred only in five years. Infant mortality never fell below 22.5 per hundred, and that low figure occurred only once—in the year 1907. The highest infant mortality—that is, 30 and over per hundred, occurred five times in the same period. The average infant mortality for 35 out of those 45 years was from 25 to 28 per hundred. From 1896 on infant mortality began a gradual decrease, although in separate years after that there were sharp increases even up to the end of the pre-war period. After 1911 there are no reliable figures available until 1924.

The following table shows the number of infants out of every hundred who died during their first year in the European part of the Soviet Union after the keeping of careful records was again established:

Year	R. S. F. S. R.	Ukraine	White Russia
1924	24.4	12.8	9.9
1925	22.3	14.8	12.5
1926	19.1	14.3	10.2

These figures show that infant mortality in the Soviet Union has sharply decreased in comparison with 1911, and the even more significant fact that the process is continuing.

Growth of the Population

By the natural growth of the population is meant the annual increase per thousand of the population as the result of the preponderance of births over deaths, or conversely the decrease per thousand due to a greater number of deaths than births. Because of its high birth rate, European Russia has always been distinguished by the more or less high natural growth of its population. With slight fluctuations, the natural growth increased from 13.4 per thousand in the period from 1870 to 1874, to 16.2 in 1910-1914. This gradual increase was interrupted by the transition period of war and destruction. However, the sharp decrease in general and child mortality in recent years, in conjunction with restoration of the pre-war birth rate, have resulted in a tremendous natural increase in the population. The following table shows the natural growth per thousand of the population of the Soviet Union in recent years:

Year	R.S.F.S.R.	Ukraine	White Russia	U.S.S.R.
1924	19.4	24.2	24.2	20.9
1925	20.4	22.9	22.9	21.3
1926	22.8	24.0	26.4	23.6

Summing up the facts presented above, the following conclusions may be drawn:

1. After the catastrophe of the war and the subsequent transition period, the pre-war birth rate was restored, and slightly surpassed throughout practically the entire Soviet Union.
2. The general mortality of the population of the Soviet Union has decreased in comparison with that of European Russia in the pre-war era. This is true to a greater or less degree of the whole Soviet Union.
3. Infant mortality has also decreased in comparison with the past.
4. Finally, the natural growth of the population, as a result of the foregoing facts, shows an extraordinary increase, amounting to more than 2 per cent of the population annually.

Granted that the present high birth rate of the population represents a reaction after the years of disaster, that after a few years a certain equilibrium will be established, and that then the normal gradual ascent of the birth rate which is to be observed throughout the world will begin.

There is no doubt, however, that the mortality of the population of the Soviet Union (irrespective of possible temporary upward fluctuations) will continue to decrease for a long time to come.

Industrial Works in Construction

IN the following list we mention only the more important of those plants actually under construction at the present time.

Coal Mining

(1) Thirteen new pits are being opened up by the Donetz Coal Trust, which is also carrying out an extensive water supply scheme.

(2) The Kizel Coal Trust is opening what are known as Pit No. 1 and Pit No. 2; and in addition eight small and medium-sized pits, besides building coke ovens.

(3) The Cheliabinsk Mines Trust is opening up a big pit known as the South Pit.

(4) The Siberian Coal Trust is opening up Pit No. 3, to be specially devoted to the furnishing of coke. In the Leninsk District it is sinking Pit "B" and deepening the Karl Marx Pit. In the Kemerova District it is sinking the Sheglovsk Pit. In the Anzhero-Sujensk District it is sinking Pits No. 7, No. 12, and No. 15, building coke ovens, and the coke ovens known as Battery No. 4; and is also constructing an electric power station.

(5) The Moscow Coal Trust is sinking Pits Nos. 12 and 13 and Nos. 7 and 8 in the Rykov District.

(6) The Central Asia Coal Trust is building an electric power station in Kizil-Ki and is opening up the Kok-Yangak mines.

Oil Industry

(7) Three cracking plants are being built by the Azerbaijan Oil Trust, by the Grozny Oil Trust and by the Emba Oil Trust.

(8) The Azerbaijan Oil Trust is installing the Pinch and Wilkey kerosine refining plants to handle 200,000 tons of kerosine each; also kerosine-gasolene plants to produce 400,000 tons annually, and oil refining works in Batum to handle 2,300,000 tons per year.

(9) The Grozny Oil Trust is putting in a "Graver" installation to handle 2,500 tons daily. It is finishing a "Borman and Pinch" installation handling a total of 2,000 tons daily. In addition it is finishing plants in Tuapse handling a total of 1,000,000 tons annually; also putting in a "Sahanov" cracking plant.

(10) The Emba Oil Trust is putting in oil refining plants on the Borman system to treat 130,000 tons of oil per year.

(11) In regard to the newer industries, the Azerbaijan Oil Trust is setting up an anhydride plant to produce 8,000 tons of sulphuric acid annually; a plant to produce 8,000 tons of vaseline annually; a plant to produce 16,000 tons of high-pressure cylinder oil.

(12) The Grozny Oil Trust is building a plant for the regeneration of sulphuric acid; a plant

for the collecting of gases; a plant for the continuous cleaning of kerosine; a plant for the utilization of waste. In addition it will increase paraffin production, bringing it up to 13,000 tons per year and will organize oil production and increase the production of asphalt. It will also increase vaseline production.

(13) With regard to pipe lines, the Azerbaijan Oil Trust is finishing operations on its pipe line through which will pass 1,500,000 tons of oil per year.

(14) The Grozny Oil Trust in addition to the Grozny-Tuapse line completed last fall, which will pump through 1,000,000 tons of crude oil annually, is re-equipping the pipe line between Grozny and Mahach-Kala with a total pumping capacity of 820,000 tons per years.

(15) Other construction work in the oil industry includes the extension by the Azerbaijan Oil Trust of the "Red Star" electric power station involving the installation of a turbo-generator of 20,000 kilowatts. It is also going to fill in the Bay of Bibi-Eibat in Baku.

(16) The Grozny Oil Trust is finishing the construction of the district electric power station (10,000 kilowatts). It is re-equipping the "Red Hammer" plant. It is carrying the second Oldinsk water supply scheme into effect and enlarging the existing system. It is organizing a telephone service for 1,200 subscribers.

(17) The Oil Syndicate is building 28 oil tanks in Tuapse, Batum, and Tashkent, to carry 1,000 tons each.

(18) Asbestos production will be increased on the completion of Factory No. 2, being built by the Urals Asbestos Trust; Factory No. 3 is also under construction.

(19) The same trust is opening a graphite plant with a crucible department, and is also to open a pegmatite plant.

Electric Construction

(20) At the moment the following stations are being constructed: The Red October, Cheliabinsk, Kizelovsk, Saratov, Stalingrad, Nijni-Novgorod, Ivanovo-Voznesensk, Briansk, Grozny, Shahtinsk, Novorossiisk, Krasnodar, Mineralni-Vodi, Gizel-Don, Chuguevsk (Eshar), Kiev, Shterov, Dniepr, Osinovsk, Baku, Rion, Dzoraget. Plans have just been accepted for a 300,000 kilowatt plant in Bobriki, Tula province.

Metal Production

(21) The production of black metals will be increased by the opening of the Kerchensk works, the Magnitogorsk works in the Urals, the Telbessk works in Siberia, and the Mariupo plant for the production of metal piping.

(22) The "Atbastzvetmet" Trust in Kazakstan will extend copper production by its present plant building operations, as will also the "Bogomolstroy" Trust in the Urals.

(23) The Alagirsk Combine in the Caucasus will increase zinc, lead and sulphuric acid production by its present building operations, as will also the Riderov Combine in the Altai, the Kuznetz Basin and the Nerchinsk mines, both in Siberia, the Turlansk lead plant in Kazakstan, and the Konstantinovsk zinc works in the Donetz Basin. In the south a mercury plant is being set up in Nikitovsk. Antimony production will be supplemented by a plant now under construction in the Urals.

Engineering

(24) In Lugansk a plant is being completed to produce locomotives and another is being reconstructed for the same purpose in Sormovo.

(25) In Stalingrad a special tractor factory is being organized.

(26) In Sverdlovsk engineering works especially catering for the heavier lines of the trade are being built.

(27) In Rostov a plant is being built to turn out agricultural machinery.

(28) Shipbuilding yards are being extended in Sormovo and in Kiev.

Electric and Allied Trades

(29) In Moscow three plants are being built: The Electro works, the Moscow Element works, and the Electro-Medical Fittings works. In Leningrad the Electric Fittings plant is under construction.

Cement and Brick Production

(30) Cement requirements will be met by the new works being built in Novy Shurovsk, Voronezh, Sukhoy Log, Amvrosiev, Kamensk (slag), Kuvasaisk (Uzbek S. S. R.).

(31) In 1928-29 a beginning has been made in the building of new brick works producing a total of 405,000,000 bricks, of which number 310,000,000 are red brick and 95,000,000 silicate.

Lumber Industry

(32) Lumber works and saw mills involving the expenditure of 3,000,000 rubles or over in each case have been built in Archangel (Solombalsk saw mills), in Mezensk, besides which the Bobruisk Combine is under way in White Russia and the Bzybsk works in Transcaucasia.

(33) A woodworking combine is being formed in Shumerli by the Chuvash Timber Trust. In Paratsk on the Middle Volga a veneer and scale board plant is being built and another in Murom.

(34) The "A" woodworking plant in the North-eastern Region is organizing cellulose works.

Chemical Industry

(35) The production of fertilizers will be extended by the formation of the Central Combine, the Bereznikovsk Combine, and the Konstantinovsk works in the Ukraine.

Textiles, Clothing, Cotton

(36) The Melanzh Combine is being formed in Ivanovo-Voznesensk by the Trust of that name with 160,000 spindles and 2,248 looms.

(37) The Vladimir Province Textile Trust is setting up a spinning mill with 100,000 spindles.

(38) In Uzbekistan a spinning mill is being built with 20,000 spindles and 1,248 looms.

(39) A weaving mill is being built in Ashabad (Turkmenistan) which will have 2,650 looms.

(40) In Armenia a weaving mill is being built in the town of Leninokan with 2,500 looms.

(41) In the town of Vladimir a combined dye works and finishing mill handling 7,000 pieces daily is being built.

(42) The State Wool Trust is building a spinning mill with 61,200 spindles.

(43) In Moscow the Kalinin spinning mill with 2,700 spindles is now under construction.

(44) Clothing factories are being built in Tver, Minsk and Vitebsk.

(45) In Central Asia cotton ginning works are being built in Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan and Turkmenistan, which will handle a total of 11,250 tons.

Leather and Paper Industries

(46) The "Tanner" Stock Company is building extract plants in Volsk and Shumerli.

(47) In Berdichev the Leather Syndicate is building a store-house for hides.

(48) Leather works are being built in Stalingrad and Yakutsk.

(49) Boot and shoe works are being constructed in Sarapul and Torjok. In the Ukraine a boot and shoe factory is being built in Kiev. A leather works is being set up in Tashkent.

(50) Combined cellulose and paper mills are being built in Balakhny near Nijni-Novgorod, in Siask, and in Kivach, Karelia.

(51) A pasteboard mill is being built near Balakhny.

Sugar, Food, Etc.

(52) At the present time two new districts are being drawn into the area under sugar-beet, namely, the Kuban and Siberia, while a new sugar works is being built in Lohvitzk in the Ukraine.

(53) Creameries for the production of butter and other dairy products are being built in Volsk, Urupinsk, Nikolo Ussurisk and Orlov.

(54) The canning industry will have fresh factories added by the present building operations in Kerch in the Crimea, Hasavyrt in Daghestan, in the North-Ossetian district of Ardon, in Chechen (near Grozny), in Gori in Georgia, in Erivan in Armenia and in Tashkent.

Miscellaneous News

Moscow-New York Flight

An airplane flight from Moscow to New York, via Siberia, Alaska, and the Pacific Coastline to San Francisco, will be attempted in August by two Soviet airplane pilots, assisted by an aeronavigator and a mechanic, in a twin-motored plane, the "Land of Soviets," built in the Central Aero-Hydrodynamic Institute in Moscow. It is estimated that the flight will take about forty days, and it will be the most ambitious yet undertaken by Soviet aviators. It has been organized under the auspices of "Osoaviachim," a voluntary society for the promotion of civil aviation, which has several million members.

The crew of the airplane consists of the following:

First pilot, Semion Alexandrovitch Shestakov, age 30 years, who flew from Moscow to Tokio and back in 1927, in a single-motored mail plane.

Second pilot, Philip Efimovich Bolotov, age 40 years.

Aero-Navigator, Boris Vassilievich Sterligov, age 28 years.

Mechanic, Dmitri Vissarionovich Fufaov, age 27 years.

New Chairman of R. S. F. S. R. Sovnarkom

At the recent All-Russian Congress of Soviets of the R. S. F. S. R., which closed on May 19th, Sergey Ivanovich Sirtsov was elected chairman of the Sovnarkom (Council of People's Commissars) of the R. S. F. S. R., to relieve Alexey Rykov of the double duty of serving as chairman of the Sovnarkom for both the R. S. F. S. R. and the U. S. S. R.. Sirtsov was born in 1893 in the village of Slavgorod, in the province of Ekaterinoslav. He was graduated from the department of Economics of the Petersburg Polytechnical Institute, where he participated in student revolutionary activities. In 1913 he became a member of the Social Democratic Party, and was imprisoned and exiled by the Czarist government for his political activities. He remained in exile until the February revolution. He held various important posts in the early days of the revolution and civil war. was chairman of the Rostov Soviet and of the Odessa Provincial Executive Committee. Since 1926 he has been Secretary of the Siberian section of the Communist Party, and for several years has been a member of the Central Executive Committee of the R. S. F. S. R. and the U. S. S. R.

Book Jubilee

There were 200,000 visitors at the opening of the annual Book Fair which was held the latter part of May in Moscow. The opening of the fair coincided with the Tenth Anniversary of the Government Publishing House, and a gala occasion

was made of it. The long stretch of the Tverskaya Boulevard between the Pushkin and the Timiriazev monuments was filled with gaily colored kiosks. Forty-two publishing houses were represented at the fair, and in addition there were special booths containing antiquarian books.

One day was assigned to actors and actresses; out-of-door performances were given and the performers took charge of the different booths. Another day was devoted to writers. Special days were assigned to special types of literature. Another feature was "Children's Book Week." Children's books were displayed everywhere, and children's carnivals were held. Following the Moscow Book Fair, similar fairs were held in other parts of the Soviet Union.

International Soil Congress in U. S. S. R.

The next International Soil Congress will be held in Moscow and Leningrad from June 1st to 10th, 1930. The program of the Congress includes not only soil science, but also agronomy, geography, geology, climatology, road-building, technical crops (sugar beets, tobacco, flax, etc.). There will be exhibits covering forestry, soil science, peat, sugar beets, and general agriculture, including large-scale farming. Following the Congress, from June 11th to June 27th, there will be an excursion to the Volga, the Caucasus, and the Ukraine. In addition there will be special excursions for those who are interested to the Crimea, Central Asia, and Siberia.

Dr. A. A. Yarilov is chairman of the Russian arrangements committee. The American Society for Cultural Relations with Russia is cooperating in making the arrangements for a large American delegation.

Cultural Relations With Latvia

On the fourth of June the opening of the Soviet-Latvian Cultural Relations Society was celebrated in Riga. The well known Latvian poet, Rainis, was the chairman of the meeting. President Kalnins of the Latvian Diet, the Latvian Premier Tselminsh, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Balodis, Mr. Lorenz, the plenipotentiary representative of the U. S. S. R. in Latvia, and many other distinguished guests were present.

New Oil Fields in Urals

The Supreme Council of National Economy of the U. S. S. R. attaches great importance to the oil discovered in Chussovskye Gorodki (near Solikamsk) in the Urals.

The preparatory work for obtaining oil, which was temporarily interrupted by the overflow of river Chussovaya is now in full swing. The first oil well has already been sunk in Chussovskye Gorodki; the construction of a second will begin

on July 1st, and the 3rd on August 1st. The construction of a temporary tank with a capacity of 8,000 tons, has been started. A high road leading to the railway station is being built, and a temporary port is in construction. Funds have been assigned for further exploration. A substantial sum has been paid as a premium to Professor Preobrajensky, who discovered the oil fields.

Grain Trust Increases Program

According to the production program of the Zernotrest (Grain Trust), the area operated by the government farms under management of the Zernotrest will be increased to 4,500,000 hectares during the coming year, almost three times as much as is being operated at the present time. At the end of five years the area will be increased to from 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 hectares. In the coming year the Zernotrest will undertake the organization of 66 new government grain farms, in addition to improving the 44 that have been established this year. The program provides for the plowing of 1,845,000 hectares, the seeding of 990,000 hectares, and the harvesting of 803,000 hectares. A building program of 24,000,000 rubles is being carried on by the Zernotrest this season. Six million rubles will be spent during the coming year on the development of electric power stations on the farms which will supply the surrounding peasants, and the establishment of post and telegraph stations at the farms.

Congress of Peasant Writers

The first All-Russian Congress of peasant writers was held in June at the "House of the Peasants" in Moscow. The delegates decided to hold a competition for the best description by a peasant writer of contemporary village life. Maxim Gorky addressed the Congress.

Exhibition of Society of Revolutionary Artists

The Society of Revolutionary Artists, or AKHR, as it is called, held its eleventh exhibition in Moscow in June. Particular interest was shown in the work of Karpov, a talented young artist who died recently, and whose work was given a central place at the exhibition. In addition to painting and sculpture there is an exhibit of textiles designed by artists. One section of the exhibition is devoted to the work of a group of self-taught artists. On the opening day there were 12,000 visitors at the exhibition.

Tax Exemption for Poorer Peasants

The Council of Peoples' Commissars of the Soviet Union has issued an ordinance that the number of peasants to be entirely freed from taxation during 1929-30, shall be 35 per cent in the R. S. F. S. R., the Ukraine and White Russia, 45 per cent in the Transcaucasian Republic, and 40 per cent in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

Old Age Pensions

The Soviet Government has passed a decree establishing old age pensions for men and women workers and office help in the textile, metal and mining industries, and also railroad and water transport workers. The pension, which will amount to fifty per cent of the wages, will be given to men who have worked twenty-five years, and to women who have worked twenty years. Old age pensions have also been established for peasants of 65 and over who have not the means for existence or whose farms do not yield enough to provide for the needs of their families.

Press Exhibit at Baku

On June 6th a press exhibit displaying the periodical publications of 167 countries in 143 different languages was opened at Baku.

Publications of such tiny nationalities as the Zulus and the Papuas were represented. Exhibits were received from the Pacific Islands, from all over Africa, Asia, Greenland, and so on. The publications of the minor nationalities of the Soviet Union, as well as of the East and the West were especially well represented.

New Mongol Tribe Discovered

A Mongol tribe numbering about 2,000 people has recently been discovered on the banks of Lake Issyk-Kul, near the town of Karakol (formerly Przhevalsk), in the province of Semirychensk in Central Asia.

The Mongols belong to the Western branch of the Oirads. Apparently they migrated to the banks of Issyk-Kul not later than the beginning of the 17th Century. Gradually they become intermixed with the Semirychensk Aborigines, the Kaisak-Khirciz race, taking over from them the Moslem religion, but retaining their own language and some of their customs.

The Academy of Sciences of the U. S. S. R. is keenly interested in the discovery of this new tribe and has sent Burdukov, the well known student of the Mongolian race, to Issyk-Kul.

Ancient Manuscript Found

In one of the rooms of the Ekaterinsky palace in the Detskoe Selo (formerly Tsarskoye Selo), an Oriental manuscript on the history of Abyssinia has been found by Professor Krachkovsky. Scientific circles attach great importance to the discovery, and as far as is known this is the only copy in existence.

Administrative Appointments

Mr. V. N. Ksandrov has been relieved of his duties as chairman of the Chief Concessions Committee, and Mr. L. B. Kamenev has been appointed in his place. Mr. Kamenev's former place as head of the Scientific and Technical Department of the Supreme Economic Council has been filled by Mr. N. I. Bukharin.

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Soviet Notes to China **The Five-Year Plan in Progress** **Soviet-British Conversations** **Postal Service in the U. S. S. R.** **Among the Minor Nationalities** **The Seven Hour Day**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Soviet Notes on Chinese Eastern Railway Seizure	130	Miscellaneous News:	
Some Facts About the Chinese Eastern Railway	135	Moscow-New York Flight	142
Soviet-Chinese Trade	135	Agricultural Progress	142
Soviet-British Conversations	136	Continuous Working Week	142
The Five-Year Plan in Progress	137	Homeless Children	142
Postal Service in the Soviet Union	138	Park of Culture and Rest	142
Concessions in House Building	139	Houses of Peasants	142
The Seven-Hour Day	139	Annual Meeting of "Voks"	143
Among the Minor Nationalities	140	Foreign Tourists in the U. S. S. R.	143
Culture for the Samoyeds	140	Musical Festival	143
Introduction of Latin Alphabet	141	New German Paper in Moscow	143
		Red Army Song Ensembles	143

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Soviet Notes on Chinese Eastern Railway Seizure

ON July 13th the following note signed by L. M. Karakhan, Vice Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union, was placed in the hands of Mr. Sia Wei Sun, the Chinese Chargé d'Affaires:

"On behalf of the government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I beg that you will transmit the following to the Mukden Government and the Nationalist Government of the Chinese Republic at Nanking:

"According to information received by the Government of the U. S. S. R., on the morning of July 10th Chinese authorities made an attack on the Chinese Eastern Railway and seized the telegraph throughout the whole length of the railroad, cutting off telegraphic communications with the U. S. S. R., and closed and sealed without explanation the trade mission of the U. S. S. R., and also the offices of Gostorg, the Textile Syndicate, the Neftsyndicate, and Sovtorgflot. Then the Tupan of the road (the President of the Board of Directors) Lin Chun-hwang, ordered Emshanov, the manager of the railway, to turn over the administration of the road to a person appointed by the Tupan. When the manager of the road refused to carry out this unlawful demand, which was a gross violation of the agreement regarding the temporary management of the Chinese Eastern Railway concluded in Peking on May 31st, 1924, and also of the agreement between the Government of the U. S. S. R. and the Government of the Three Autonomous Eastern Provinces of the Chinese Republic, concluded in Mukden September 20th, 1924, he was removed, together with the assistant manager of the road, Eismont. Furthermore they were both replaced by persons appointed by the Tupan. The chiefs of service, traction, traffic and others were removed by order of the same Tupan, and replaced mainly by Russian White guards. Throughout the whole line the trade union and cooperative organizations of the railroad workers were shut down and destroyed. Raids and arrests were made, and more than 200 citizens employed on the railroad were arrested. About 60 Soviet citizens, including Emshanov and Eismont, have already been expelled from China.

"At the same time information was received of the concentration along the Soviet border of Manchurian troops who had been prepared for

action, and moved right up to the border. Information was also received that divisions of Russian White guards, which the Manchurian command intended to send into Soviet territory, had been placed on the border of the U. S. S. R. along with the Manchurian troops.

"The above mentioned actions constitute the clearest and grossest violation of direct and unequivocal clauses of existing agreements between the U. S. S. R. and China, and these violations become no less flagrant because of the fact that the Tupan of the road in his declaration himself refers to the obligation of the representatives of both sides to observe strictly the terms of the treaty, by this reference attempting to mask his clearly unlawful actions.

"As provided by Article I of the agreement regarding the temporary management of the Chinese Eastern Railway of May 31st, 1924, and by the analogous Article I, Paragraph 6 of the Mukden agreement, all questions pertaining to the railway are to be considered and decided by a board of ten, and decisions of the board enter into effect if approved by not less than six of its members, and furthermore the president of the board, a Chinese citizen, and the vice-president, a Soviet citizen, 'jointly administer the affairs of the board, and jointly sign all documents of the board.'

"Thus the very fact of the issue by the Tupan of a one-sided order, signed only by himself and without consultation either with the board, or with the assistant Tupan, a Soviet citizen, gives his act clearly an unlawful character, not to mention the fact that this act basically violates the principle of parity established by the agreement.

"According to Article 3 of the same Peking agreement, and Article 1, Paragraph 8 of the Mukden agreement, 'The administration of the road is in the hands of the manager, a citizen of the U. S. S. R., and two assistant managers, of whom one must be a Soviet citizen, and one a citizen of the Chinese Republic. The latter are officials appointed by the board, and approved by their respective governments.'

"Their rights and duties are determined by the board, which also appoints the chiefs and assistant chiefs of the different departments of the road.

"Thus the removal of the manager of the line

by order of the Tupan and his even temporary replacement by a Chinese citizen, and also the one-sided dismissal of the assistant and a number of other officials of the road, is a violation of the fundamental clauses of the agreement of 1924 and radically alters the system of management of the railway established by agreement between the governments of the U. S. S. R. and China, and fixed by treaties in force between them. This utterly unjustifiable violation is the more atrocious since, as is clear from the articles of the treaties quoted above, the appointment and hence the dismissal of these officials constitute a prerogative of the board of directors as a whole, and cannot be carried out otherwise, particularly not by one-sided orders of the Tupan. The Tupan in his statement referred to an order given by him to the manager, Emshanov, in regard to carrying out a whole series of Chinese demands touching the method of managing the railroad. However, the management of the road is the executive organ of the entire board, and cannot carry out the orders of the Tupan or his assistant if they do not come from the board itself, with the signatures of the president of the board and his assistant, as required by Article 1, Paragraph 6 of the Mukden agreement of 1924. This very reference to the failure of the manager to carry out some one-sided order of the Tupan merely confirms the unlawful character of the latter's action.

"Both by spirit and letter of the Peking and Mukden agreements of 1924, the Chinese Eastern Railway is subject to the joint management of the U. S. S. R. and China, and the railway may pass into Chinese ownership either on the expiration of the period established by the treaties, or prior to the expiration of that period through Chinese redemption, by agreement of both sides. Whereas the aforementioned unlawful action of the Tupan of the railway, sanctioned by the Chinese Government, actually constitutes seizure of the railway and an attempt at a one-sided abrogation of the existing treaties.

"The agreements of 1924 established an entirely specific method of regulating all disputed questions concerning the road. In accordance with Article 6 of the agreement of May 31st, 1924, and Article I, Paragraph 2 of the Mukden agreement, 'all questions on which the board cannot reach an agreement, must be referred to the consideration of the governments of the contracting parties for a just and amicable solution.' Each side has thus the fullest possibility of bringing any question to the attention of the other side in an entirely legal and normal manner and to have its demands carried out. However, the Chinese side in this case as in several preceding instances, as for example in the case of the seizure of the telephone station, has preferred to take the course of unilateral and unlawful actions not only violating but completely aban-

doning the existing agreements between the U. S. S. R. and China.

"The Soviet Government, declaring that the aforementioned acts of the Tupan constitute a gross violation of the existing agreements between the U. S. S. R. and China, enters a most resolute protest against these actions, and draws the attention of the Mukden and the National Governments of the Chinese Republic to the extreme gravity of the situation created by their acts.

"The Soviet Government has given repeated proof of its peacefulness and friendly attitude toward China, and to the struggle which the Chinese people have waged and are still waging for the abolition of unequal treaties and the restoration of the sovereignty of China. The Government of the U. S. S. R. was the first government to conclude a treaty with China on the basis of equality and respect for China's sovereignty. The Soviet Government on its own initiative, as early as 1919, declared to the Chinese people its willingness to renounce all unequal treaties concluded between China and Czarist Russia. In the treaty of 1924 the Soviet Government carried these declarations into effect. The Soviet Government voluntarily renounced in favor of China concessions in Tientsin and Hankow. It voluntarily renounced consular jurisdiction and extra-territoriality for its citizens in China. On its own initiative it gave up its share of the Boxer indemnity, turning it over for the education of the Chinese people. Finally, it voluntarily renounced all privileges which were granted to Russia on the Chinese Eastern Railway, namely the right to have in China its own troops, police and courts, and other military-administrative functions which were formerly the prerogatives of the Russian authorities on the Chinese Eastern Railway and the territory adjoining the railway. This renunciation of all privileges still enjoyed by foreign states with which China has normal relations, was a manifestation of the socialist character of the foreign policy of the Soviet government. The conclusion of the treaty of 1924 between the U. S. S. R. and China was greeted with the greatest sympathy in all parts of China because this was the first treaty based on the principle of the equality of the signatories and the complete sovereignty of China.

"It is clear from the foregoing that if the Chinese authorities had any claims regarding the regime established on the railroad, actions of individual Soviet representatives on the road, or even affecting treaty rights established by agreements, down to reduction of the term of the agreement and the redemption of the Chinese Eastern Railway prior to its expiration, these authorities had full opportunity provided by the agreements, to present any claim to the U. S. S. R. in a lawful manner.

"The Soviet Government declares that in ques-

tions affecting the Chinese Eastern Railway, it has consistently manifested its readiness for friendly regulation of any controversy whatsoever. As recently as February 2nd, in a note handed by the General Consulate of the U. S. S. R. in Mukden to the Central Diplomatic Administration of the three Eastern provinces of China, the Soviet Government declared that it 'considered it highly desirable that all disputed questions, particularly those questions touching the regime of the railroad which have remained unregulated during the past years, and have given rise to misunderstandings and complicated the normal operation of the railroad, should be submitted for consideration and regulation, with the aim of avoiding possible misunderstandings and conflicts.' This proposal, giving evidence of how far the Soviet Government is ready to go in meeting any reasonable desires of the Chinese, provided an opportunity for the Chinese Government to bring up for consideration any question of interest to them. The Chinese, however, did not wish to avail themselves of the opportunity offered by the proposal of the Soviet Government of February 2nd, and the proposal remained unanswered. Neither has an answer been received to the telegram sent on the 11th of this month by the People's Commissar of Ways and Communications to the President of the Board of the Chinese Eastern Railway stating that the Soviet Government was prepared for the immediate consideration of all disputed questions, and that Mr. Serebriakov, a member of the Collegium of the Commissariat of Ways and Communications, had been authorized to carry on negotiations on such questions.

"All these facts give conclusive evidence of the complete absurdity of the above-mentioned statement of the Tupan regarding the alleged fruitless attempts on the part of the Chinese to regulate the disputed questions.

"The present Chinese authorities evidently are inclined to regard the above policy of friendly and peaceful settlement of disputes and respect for the sovereign rights of China, not as a policy deriving from the very nature of Soviet power, but as a manifestation of its weakness. Apparently that is the reason why Chinese authorities have allowed themselves to take a series of grossly violent and provocative actions against the U. S. S. R., abusing its peacefulness. The Soviet Government is therefore compelled to remind the Chinese authorities that it possesses sufficient means to safeguard the lawful rights of its people against any violent infringements.

"Remaining true to its peaceful policy, the Soviet Government, notwithstanding the violent and provocative actions of the Chinese authorities, again declares its readiness to enter into negotiations with China on all questions connected with the Chinese Eastern Railway. Such negotiations are only possible, however, on con-

dition of the immediate release of the arrested Soviet citizens, and the cancellation of all the illegal actions of the Chinese authorities.

"In accordance with the foregoing, the Soviet Government proposes:

"(1) To call a conference immediately to regulate all questions connected with the Chinese Eastern Railway.

"(2) That the Chinese authorities should immediately cancel all arbitrary orders regarding the Chinese Eastern Railway.

"(3) That all arrested Soviet citizens shall be released immediately, and the Chinese authorities cease all persecution of Soviet citizens and Soviet institutions.

"The Soviet Government suggests that the Mukden Government, and the Nationalist Government of the Chinese Republic, should weigh the serious consequences which would result from the rejection of these proposals.

"The Soviet Government declares that it will wait three days for an answer to the above proposals, and warns that in the event of an unsatisfactory answer it will be compelled to resort to other means to defend the lawful rights of the U. S. S. R.

"L. KARAKHAN."

Soviet Note of July 17th

On the 17th of July the following answer to the Chinese note of July 17th from the Foreign Department of the Soviet Union was handed to the Chinese Chargé d'Affaires, Sia Wei Sun:

"In acknowledgment of your note of July 17th containing the answer of the Chinese Government in Nanking to the note of the Soviet Government of July 13th, I have the honor to submit to you the following on behalf of the Government of the U. S. S. R.:

"The Soviet Government considers the answer of the Chinese Government unsatisfactory in content and hypocritical in tone. Desiring to restore the legal basis of the mutual relations between the U. S. S. R. and China, violated by the Chinese authorities, the Soviet Government in its note of July 13th put forward three minimum necessary and entirely moderate proposals:

"(1) The cancellation of the one-sided and entirely lawless actions of the Chinese authorities on the Chinese Eastern Railway, in violation of the existing agreements between the U. S. S. R. and China.

"(2) Cessation of the repressions against Soviet Citizens and Soviet institutions.

"(3) The calling of a conference for the regulation of all questions connected with the Chinese Eastern Railway.

"In its answer to the Soviet Government the Chinese Government substantially rejected these proposals.

"Instead of restoring the Peking and Mukden agreements, arbitrarily set aside by the Chinese

authorities, and thus maintaining a basis for friendly relations, the note of the Chinese Government sanctions the unilateral abrogation of this agreement, thereby destroying the possibility of normal relations between the two governments.

"Instead of annulling the illegal actions of the Tupan of the Chinese Eastern Railway in violently removing officials who had been appointed by the board on the recommendation of the Soviet Government, the note of the Chinese Government sanctions these lawless actions, thereby upholding the seizure of the railway.

"Instead of putting a stop to the illegal repressions against Soviet citizens and institutions, the note of the Chinese Government gives sanction to these repressions and hypocritically attempts to justify them by a spurious reference to alleged mass repressions against Chinese citizens in the U. S. S. R., knowing very well that such repressions are resorted to in the U. S. S. R. only in connection with a negligible group of spies, opium traders, keepers of disorderly houses, smugglers and other criminal elements among the Chinese.

"Instead of directly agreeing to the immediate calling of a conference for the regulation of all controversies, the note of the Chinese Government evades this question, thereby rejecting the proposal of the Soviet Government regarding the conference and eliminating the possibility of regulating the conflict by an amicable settlement.

"The reference in the note of the Chinese Government to propaganda, as the reason for the illegal actions of these Chinese authorities, is false and hypocritical, because the Chinese have sufficient means on their own territory to prevent and put a stop to any such activities if they actually had taken place, without seizing the Chinese Eastern Railway and violating the existing treaty relations between China and the U. S. S. R.

"The actual motive of the violent actions of the Chinese authorities on the railway and the note of the Chinese Government of July 17th, sanctioning these violent actions, becomes particularly clear from the official declaration of the head of the Chinese Government, Chiang Kai-shek, published in the press. In this declaration, Chiang Kai-shek, speaking of the illegal actions of these Chinese authorities on the Chinese Eastern Railway, and defending these actions, says directly: 'There is nothing unusual in the steps we have taken to get the Chinese Eastern Railway into our own hands. . . . We desire first to take over the railway, and then to take up the consideration of the other questions.' These declarations of Chiang Kai-shek leave no doubt as to the actual underlying motive of the note of the Chinese Government of July 17th.

"In view of this fact the Soviet Government declares that all means necessary to reach an

agreement regarding the disputed questions and conflicts on the Chinese Eastern Railway which have been brought about by the Chinese authorities, and intensified by the July 17th note of the Chinese Government, have already been exhausted.

"In view of the foregoing, the Soviet Government is compelled to take the following measures, placing the entire responsibility for the consequences on the Chinese Government:

"(1) To recall all Soviet diplomatic, consular and commercial representatives from Chinese territory.

"(2) To recall all officials of the Chinese Eastern Railway appointed by the Soviet Government.

"(3) To suspend all railway communications between China and the U. S. S. R.

"(4) To propose that the diplomatic and consular representatives of the Chinese Republic in the U. S. S. R. leave the country immediately.

"In addition the Soviet Government declares that it reserves for itself all the rights arising from the Peking and Mukden agreements of 1924.

"L. KARAKHAN."

Soviet Note of August 1st

On August 1st the following note was sent to General Chang Hsueh-liang, President of the Mukden Government, by L. M. Karakhan, Vice Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U. S. S. R.:

"On the 22nd of July, 1929, Mr. Tsai, Manchurian Commissar for Foreign Affairs, was received at his own request by Mr. Melnikov, General Consul of the U. S. S. R. in Harbin. Mr. Tsai informed the latter that he had just arrived from Mukden and had been instructed by the Mukden Government to make the following proposals with the aim of regulating the Soviet-Chinese controversy on the Chinese Eastern Railway:

"(1) The liberation of the arrested Soviet workers and civil servants.

"(2) The appointment by the Government of the U. S. S. R. of the manager of the Chinese Eastern Railway and his assistant.

"(3) The calling of a conference by the representatives of both governments to regulate the conflict on the railway in the shortest possible time.

"(4) The Soviet Government may declare that it does not recognize any post-conflict status of the railroad and that it is not bound by the post-conflict status in any way in the forthcoming negotiations.

"(5) If the Soviet Government agrees with these proposals, Chang Hsueh-liang will ask for the agreement of the Nanking Government to these proposals.

"Mr. Melnikov refused to consider these propositions of Mr. Tsai, pointing out that he had no authority for this, and that the point of view of

the Soviet Government was expressed in its note of July 13th. However, in view of the request of Mr. Tsai that the Union Government be informed of these proposals, Mr. Melnikov transmitted them to the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs.

"The Union Government, guided by its peaceful policy, and not wishing to fail to take advantage of even this opportunity for regulating the conflict by agreement, made the concession of instructing Mr. Melnikov in Harbin to give the following answer to Mr. Tsai for transmission to you as head of the Mukden Government:

"(A) After the violent seizure by the Chinese authorities of the Chinese Eastern Railway, the Union Government can have no confidence in the proposals emanating from the Mukden Government through the Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tsai.

"(B) In the event, however, that the Nanking or the Mukden Government should officially, in the name of General Chang Hsueh-liang, make the following proposals to the Government of the U. S. S. R., namely:

"(1) The liberation of the arrested Soviet workers and civil servants.

"(2) The appointment by the Government of the U. S. S. R. of the manager of the railroad and his assistant.

"(3) The calling of a conference to regulate the conflict on the Chinese Eastern Railway in the shortest possible time.

"And if, in addition to this, point 4 of the proposal of the Mukden Government be changed as follows:

"The negotiating sides recognize that the post-conflict status of the Chinese Eastern Railway shall be changed in accordance with the Peking and Mukden agreements of 1924.

"Then the Union Government will regard these proposals favorably."

"This answer was delivered by Mr. Melnikov to Mr. Tsai at 4 o'clock, July 25th.

"On July 30th, Mr. Tsai arrived at the station Manchuria, and informed Mr. Melnikov, already on Soviet Union territory, of his desire to meet him and transmit the proposals of the Mukden Government.

"On August 1st, Mr. Tsai delivered to Mr. Melnikov your letter addressed to me of July 29th, the contents of which were transmitted to me by telegraph.

"I am compelled to state that the proposals contained in your letter of July 29th differ substantially from the proposals which Mr. Tsai, by your instructions, made to Mr. Melnikov on July 22nd, particularly in the following points:

"In the first place, your letter omits entirely the proposal made in your name by Mr. Tsai on July 22nd regarding the immediate appointment

by the Government of the U. S. S. R. of the manager of the railroad and his assistant.

"In the second place, instead of the formula proposed by the Union Government, that the post-conflict status of the Chinese Eastern Railway be changed in accordance with the Peking and Mukden agreements, your letter proposes the legalization of the present status of the railroad, attained by violent seizure, and which obviously violates the Peking and Mukden agreements.

"I am thus compelled to declare that the Mukden Government, in spite of its own proposal of July 22nd, destroys by its new proposal the possibility of regulating the conflict by mutual agreement, which would be possible only through the acceptance of the proposal made by the Union Government on July 25th. Thus a situation is created fraught with new and serious complications, the entire responsibility for which rests on the Mukden and Nanking Governments.

"L. KARAKHAN."

Statement of L. M. Karakhan

On August 15th the following statement was made by L. M. Karakhan to representatives of the Soviet Press:

"As a result of the violent actions perpetrated by the Chinese authorities against the Chinese Eastern Railway and its Soviet personnel, the condition of the road has become very serious. The mass dismissal of the workers and employees, the filling of responsible posts by incompetent persons, chosen at random, the management of the road by the military authorities who are actually in control both of the rolling stock and the property and income of the road, has led to the complete disruption of the affairs of the railway.

"We have repeatedly warned both the Nanking and the Mukden Governments of the severe consequences which would result from their outrageous violation of the agreement of 1924 between the U. S. S. R. and China, defining the status of the road. Naturally we shall hold the Nanking and Mukden Governments solely and entirely responsible, with all the consequences thereby implied, for the entire material loss resulting from the seizure of the road and the arbitrary taking over of the management thereof by the Chinese authorities and the Russian White guards.

"In addition to this we must also warn all foreign Governments, as well as any persons or institutions who might have any business with the Chinese Eastern Railway, that the Government of the U. S. S. R., after the seizure of the Chinese Eastern Railway by the Chinese authorities, will not recognize any transaction in connection with the road undertaken by the Chinese authorities or anyone appointed by them, nor will it recognize any obligation incurred by them in the name of the railway."

The Chinese Eastern Railway

IN CONNECTION with recent events on the Chinese Eastern Railway, it is of interest to note the following facts.

The contract for the construction of the Chinese Eastern Railway, the final section of the Trans-Siberian line, was concluded in 1896 between the Chinese Government and the Russo-Chinese Company, subsequently the Russo-Asiatic Bank, formed by the Russian Government for the purpose of financing the road.

The building of the Chinese Eastern Railway was commenced in 1897 by the Tsarist Government, and was finished in 1901. The sum expended by the Tsarist Government on the construction of the road amounted to 1,200,000,000 gold rubles, including further expenses for the improvement of the road, to cover the deficit during the first ten years, and so on.

The treaty concluded between the Tsarist Government and China gave the widest possible rights to the Tsarist Government, and very limited rights to China. According to its terms not only the entire road, but the territory through which the road ran and the cities and towns located therein were subject to Russian control.

The treaty of May 31st, 1924, concluded between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and China introduced the principle of parity in the operation of the road. In addition to this, the new treaty shortened the period in which the road would revert free of charge to the Chinese Government, from 80 to 60 years and provided for further shortening of the period by mutual agreement. The treaty also provided that the profits from the road should be divided equally.

Since the time that the railway passed under joint Soviet-Chinese management it has brought in considerable net profit each year, notwithstanding large subsidies paid to local Chinese institutions—amounting to 3,500,000 gold rubles annually. In 1924 the net profits amounted to 7,200,000 gold rubles; in 1925 to 15,500,000 gold rubles; in 1926 to 15,100,000 gold rubles; in 1927 to 9,000,000, and so on. In addition to this, the indebtedness of 13,500,000 gold rubles has been entirely liquidated, and many technical improvements have been introduced.

More than half of all the passengers traveling from Western Europe to China and Japan have made use of the Chinese Eastern Railway, and recently practically all important freight has been shipped by this road. With such a large part of the road out of use, the road as a whole, which covers altogether 1,745 kilometers, becomes a losing instead of a profitable enterprise.

With the cutting off of railroad communication between the U. S. S. R. and China, connections with Vladivostok must be made through Khabarovsk.

Soviet-Chinese Trade

THE closing of the Soviet-Chinese border in connection with events on the Chinese Eastern Railway is the prelude to a series of important political and economic events, the most perceptible of which is the cessation of commercial relations between the U. S. S. R. and China.

As a result of the economic position of the Soviet Far East the balance of Soviet-Chinese trade (as, by the way, was also the case with pre-war Russo-Chinese trade) has always been active in favor of China, as may be seen from the following table:

	<i>Export of U. S. S. R. to China</i>	<i>Import of U. S. S. R. from China</i>
1924-25 -	6,249,000 rubles *	12,326,000 rubles
1925-26 --	10,678,000 "	20,506,000 "
1926-27 --	8,443,000 "	18,180,000 "
1927-28 --	13,709,000 "	31,602,000 "
1928-29 (1st 6 mos.)	7,974,000 "	8,977,000 "

The main articles of export from the Soviet Union to China have been cotton goods and thread, oil, lumber, coal, rubbers, metal articles, toilet articles and so on. A place of considerable importance in the Soviet exports was occupied by Far Eastern products (lumber, coal, fish products, reindeer antlers, etc.)

The chief Soviet import from China is tea. It is sufficient to point out that 27,900,000 of the 31,600,000 rubles spent on imports from China in 1927-28, or 88 per cent of the total amount, was spent for tea. The Soviet Union, as is well known, is a world market for the sale of tea, and the Chinese tea industry was extremely interested in consolidating and extending its sales in the Soviet Union. The severing of relations is thus a heavy blow to the Chinese tea merchants. Recently Soviet trade and economic organizations, in view of the impossible conditions of work created in China, have transferred part of their purchases to other markets. Their tea requirements could be met without difficulty by importing from India, Japan, Java and Holland. In addition the Soviet Government has spent considerable efforts in recent years to develop tea plantations in Georgia, and has already had appreciable results. Due to this fact Soviet purchases of tea in China had already considerably decreased during the first half of 1928-29, amounting to only 7,900,000 rubles for the six-month period. The Soviet Union also purchased in China animal and vegetable fats, hides, tanning matter, and so on, mainly for the Far East.

Under normal conditions Soviet-Chinese trade had all the requirements for rapid and energetic development. The closing of the border will have a serious effect on the interests of the Chinese tea industry and Chinese merchants.

*A ruble is equal to 51.5 cents.

Soviet-British Conversations

ON JULY 23rd a note signed by the Vice Commissar for Foreign Affairs, L. M. Karakhan, was handed to the Norwegian Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Danielson, for transmission to Great Britain.

The note was as follows:

"I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your note of July 17th containing the communication from His Majesty's Government of Great Britain, and on behalf of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics request that you transmit the following to the British Government:

"The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics takes cognizance of the statement of the willingness of the British Government to restore diplomatic relations between Great Britain and the U. S. S. R., which have been severed neither by the fault nor the desire of the Union Government. The Government of the U. S. S. R. greets this statement in the interests of both countries and in the cause of peace. The Soviet Government believes it necessary to establish a durable agreement on controversial questions in the shortest possible period, and is of the opinion that such a durable agreement is possible of achievement only through equal treatment for both sides and by maintenance of mutual dignity and respect.

"The Union Government accepts the rights and obligations of States in diplomatic relations between them, as long as the Government of Great Britain accepts these rights and obligations.

"In the understanding that the note of the British Government merely proposes a preliminary exchange of views solely on the question of procedure of the subsequent discussion of controversial questions, and not their substance, and believing that such negotiations on procedure may be concluded within a very short time, the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics instructs its plenipotentiary representative in France, Mr. Dovgalevsky, to proceed to London for this purpose.

"L. KARAKHAN."

Mr. Dovgalevsky Confers With Mr. Henderson

On the 29th of July, Mr. Dovgalevsky, plenipotentiary representative of the U. S. S. R. in France, having received, as a result of the recent exchange of notes between the British Government and the Soviet Government, an invitation from Foreign Minister Henderson to come to London, held a long conference with Mr. Henderson. In accordance with the note of the Soviet Government of July 23rd, Mr. Dovgalevsky declared that he was authorized by the Soviet Government to enter into negotiations with Mr. Henderson solely with the aim of considering the quickest pro-

cedure for the regulation of all controversial questions between the U. S. S. R. and Great Britain. Mr. Dovgalevsky further declared that in the interests of both countries and particularly in the interests of the maintenance of universal peace, the Soviet Government considered the immediate exchange of diplomatic representatives essential. Furthermore, meeting half way the desire of Great Britain, the Soviet Government agreed that the consideration of all questions at issue should take place in London, and should be commenced immediately following the appointment of diplomatic representatives. In the opinion of the Soviet Government this course would be the most expedient and offers the quickest way of reaching an agreement on all controversial questions.

In answer, Mr. Henderson replied categorically that the immediate restoration of diplomatic relations between Great Britain and the U. S. S. R. was impossible, and proposed that preliminary negotiations on the substance of all controversial questions between Great Britain and the U. S. S. R. should be entered upon not later than August 14th, for which purpose a Soviet delegation should be sent to London.

On July 31st Mr. Dovgalevsky handed to Mr. Henderson the following answer of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs to the proposal of the British Government:

"The Government of the U. S. S. R. has done everything in its power to simplify the rapprochement between the Soviet Union and Great Britain, and for the restoration of normal diplomatic relations between the two countries. However, the statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Great Britain to the plenipotentiary representative of the U. S. S. R., Mr. Dovgalevsky, that it would be impossible for the Government of Great Britain to restore normal relations between the two countries without preliminary regulation of the controversial questions between them, is evidence that the Government of Great Britain does not wish or is unable to enter upon the restoration of these relations. Otherwise the Government of Great Britain would not have proposed, as a preliminary condition for the restoration of normal relations, the regulation of the substance of such complex and controversial questions as mutual claims and counterclaims.

"This new circumstance, not provided for in the July 17th note of the British Government, makes necessary a new and special consideration of the question. The People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs is therefore compelled to turn for instructions to the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the next plenary session of which will consider the new proposals of the British Government."

After the delivery of this note, Mr. Dovgalevsky returned to Paris.

The Five-Year Plan in Progress

THE current economic year is the first year of the five-year plan. The results that are already shaping up of the application of the plan so far are thus of exceptional significance in gauging the soundness and feasibility of the plan as a whole. We have on hand at the present time more or less complete data only for the first nine months of the present year—from October to June, but on the basis of the experience of preceding years, the facts at our disposal may be considered sufficient to form an accurate estimate of the final results for the year.

On the two basic questions of achieving a more rapid rate of industrialization of the country and the reconstruction of agriculture along socialized lines, the provisions of the five-year plan are not only being fulfilled, but in many instances actually surpassed.

Industrial Production

On the basis of the present rate of industrial production leading economists envisage a 28 per cent increase during the coming year instead of 24 per cent as planned.

During the first nine months the wholesale production of industry increased by 20.9 per cent over the corresponding period last year, as against the increase of 20.6 per cent provided in the plan. Preliminary data show an even greater increase over the plan in the period since June. During the first six months certain branches of industry lagged somewhat behind the program, but in the next three months the backward branches, in particular the anthracite and the food industries, caught up to the requirements. There is a steady growth in the role played by the heavy industries, which are the basis of the industrialization program. The manufacture of means of production increased by 23.9 per cent during the nine months, while the increase of the production of articles for direct consumption amounted to 18.4 per cent. This unprecedented growth of industrial production is due to the large capital investment that has been made in industry in recent years, and the direction of capital expenditures along lines of reconstruction and rationalization of production.

In 1924-25 the increase in the basic capital of industry over the preceding year was only 1.2 per cent. Since then it has steadily mounted, until last year the increase was 11.1 per cent over the year before, and figures for this year point to an increase of from 12 to 13 per cent. During the last four years the basic capital of government industry has increased by 28.7 per cent, while industrial production during the same period has doubled.

Growth of Peasant Collectives

Closely connected with the growth of industrial production, and hence with the growing opportunities for the government to give productive help to the poorest groups of peasants, is the profound change that is taking place in agriculture. The extraordinary growth of collective farming is far in advance of anything foreseen in the five-year plan. According to preliminary estimates, the number of collective farms has increased during the current year by from 80 to 100 per cent, whereas the program called for an increase of only 17 per cent. The seeded area of the collectives as a whole has increased by 195 per cent instead of 62.3 per cent as planned, and the average amount of land cultivated by each collective is now 72 hectares instead of 60. The seeded area of the sovkhozes, or government farms, has increased by 23 per cent as against the 14 per cent provided in the plan. An important factor in this rapid growth of collectives and government farms is the increased supply of agricultural machinery. Seven thousand new tractors have been distributed throughout the Soviet Union during the past year, and several thousand more are on the way, in addition to large numbers already being produced in Soviet factories. Agricultural machinery amounting to 200,000,000 rubles (over \$100,000,000) has been supplied to the villages this year—as against 140,000,000 rubles last year.

In addition to the above, figures for the first nine months show the following: A considerable increase in the sowing area of the middle peasants; complete realization of budget estimates, with an increase of about a hundred million rubles in the income expected, and an active balance of 24,700,000 rubles in foreign trade; an increase of 21 per cent in trade turn-over, with a reduction by half of the role played by private trade; a greater increase in freight carriage than provided by the plan, with accompanying receipts of 150,000,000 rubles more than expected; an increase in the grain reserve over last year; and finally a checking of the rise in prices and bringing them to a more normal level.

"Socialist Competition"

Less encouraging are the facts that production costs are still too high, and the quality of goods has not been improved sufficiently.

An important factor in overcoming these defects is the "socialist competition" which is going on between individual workers, between different departments of factories, between separate factories and industries, and between district and district, which has already had important results. Thus the average daily production of

workers in state industries during the third quarter of the present year, after the socialist competition had started, increased by 19.3 per cent over that of the same period last year, while in June the daily production per worker was 23.2 per cent more than in June 1928.

The successful progress in realizing the economic plan for this year, and the possibility of even further growth through socialist competition and the introduction of the continuous working week, justifies not only belief in the feasibility of the five-year plan as it now stands, but also in the possibility of realizing it in an even shorter period. This is being taken into consideration in the preparation of control figures for the coming year.

Postal Service in the Soviet Union

PRIOR to the October revolution the postal service was the most backward and neglected branch of Russia's economic life. Notwithstanding the enormous profits received by the Czarist Government from this source, the postal service was very unsatisfactory, and was far from serving the needs of the 150 million population. It is enough to state that throughout the entire territory of Czarist Russia there were only 11,799 post and telegraph stations, distributed for the most part in the cities. In the villages there were subsidiary stations, frequently only carrying out part of the postal operations.

The great majority of the peasant population had no direct postal service. Postal delivery to the houses, or even to the villages was almost unheard of. The peasants had to travel many miles to the city to get mail, wasting a great deal of time. In 1913 only three per cent of the population centers of the country had direct postal service.

The postal system of the U. S. S. R. presents an entirely different picture. The present postal system has been greatly extended, and on the first of January, 1929, there were 12,669 post offices, with 20,534 village mail carriers.

At the present time direct mail service is enjoyed by 83.2 per cent of the population, 97.5 per cent of the country and township executive committees, and 88.3 per cent of the village soviets. Delivery of mail in country localities takes place on an average of about twice a week throughout the Soviet Union.

Further development of the postal system during the next five years will be along the lines of strengthening the present system, improving the quality of the work, and a comparatively limited extension of the system. By the end of the year 1932-33, the postal system of the U. S. S. R. will serve 88.2 per cent of the population, 100 per cent of the county and township executive committees, and 100 per cent of the village Soviets. By

the end of the five years it is proposed to have four deliveries a week to the addressees in country districts.

Mechanization of the postal system—transporters, conveyors, transmitters, pneumatic tubes and so on—was introduced only in 1926. Until that time all the despatching of mail within the post offices was done by hand.

Postal Transport

The increased postal service to country localities has been accompanied by an increase in the mileage covered. There are two kinds of road transport—wagon and motor. In 1913 the distance covered by wagon transport was 170,897 kilometers—in 1928 it was 209,868 kilometers. Mail is carried by horses, camels, and in the Far North, by reindeer. In some places, as in Central Asia, mail is transferred from an airplane to a camel's hump.

The 504 automobiles doing postal service in 1928, operated over a distance of 10,433 kilometers. According to the five-year plan, it is proposed to extend this to 31,827 kilometers by 1933, an increase of over 300 per cent. The number of machines will be increased from 504 to 1,279.

In 1913 there was no air mail service. In 1929 Soviet air mail service covers 12,802 kilometers. It is proposed to increase this to 34,720 kilometers by 1933.

Notwithstanding the territorial vastness of Czarist Russia, river mail transport covered only 31,193 kilometers in 1913. By 1928 it covered 112,596 kilometers. According to the five-year plan it will reach 119,223 kilometers by 1933.

Railway Postal Service

In 1913 there were 787 postal wagons throughout all the railroad lines of Czarist Russia. Of these a considerable number were destroyed during the imperialist and civil wars, and part turned over to Latvia and Esthonia according to treaty provisions.

According to the railroad census for the R. S. F. S. R. of June 1st, 1921, the total number of all kinds of postal wagons was 647, only 315 of which were in a usable condition. By October 1st, 1928, there were 1,074 postal wagons in use.

Newspaper and Periodical Postal Service

A tremendous amount of organizational and technical work has been done in supplying the population with the periodical press.

In 1913, 358,091,000 copies of periodicals were distributed by the Russian postal service, and 709,909,000 letters and other forms of correspondence.

In 1927 1,101,941,000 copies of periodicals were distributed, and 541,323,000 letters.

There have been particularly striking results in the field of the actual distribution of papers and journals. In pre-war days the taking of sub-

scriptions through the postal system was practically negligible. At the present time the activities of the Peoples' Commissariat of Post and Telegraph in this field have so increased that in some places the distribution of papers and journals has been transferred entirely to the postal apparatus. The Commissariat of Post and Telegraph has created a special apparatus for handling newspapers, which serves not only individual subscribers, but whole collective groups such as factories, shops, institutions, etc.

The amount of money handled for subscriptions through the postal apparatus amounted to 29,000,000 rubles for the fiscal year 1927-28, and will attain 35,000,000 rubles (about \$18,000,000) for 1928-29.

Concessions In House Building

FOREIGN capital is showing an increasing interest in the problem of housing in the Soviet Union. Construction of every kind is proceeding at a very rapid pace, but not rapid enough to keep up with the spectacular growth of the urban population throughout the U. S. S. R. According to the Central Statistical Bureau the city population amounted to over 22,000,000 in 1925, while the census of December 1926 recorded 27,000,000 people living in cities. Thus there was a 14 per cent increase of the population in two years, or 7 per cent a year, whereas before the war the average annual growth of the city population was only 2 or 3 per cent. According to the census of 1923, there were 173 cities in the Soviet Union with a population of over 20,000, and in 1926 there were 223 such cities. Nowhere else in the world has the process of urbanization developed so rapidly.

This explains why, in spite of the enormous amount of building of houses, the norm of housing space per person throughout the Soviet Union is still inadequate. From 1924 to 1928 approximately 1,399,000,000 rubles were spent on new houses. Investigations revealed that to meet the housing needs of the city population on October 1st, 1928, 8 billion rubles more would be necessary. In addition 500,000,000 rubles are necessary annually for amortization and to meet the increase in population.

For the time being the Soviet Government has not at its disposal sufficient resources to do all the building necessary. Under these conditions it is obvious that the participation of foreign capital is highly desirable. With this in view the Soviet Government has passed decrees providing for certain privileges and exemptions to foreigners wishing to invest capital in this field.

The most important of these are the following: (1) The period of the concession contract is established at 80 years for stone and concrete buildings, and 60 years for wooden buildings. (2)

The right to import machinery, tools, fittings, and building materials not available in the U. S. S. R. (3) The right to build all kinds of workshops and subsidiary enterprises for the production of building materials, both for the needs of the concession itself, and for sale on the internal market. (4) The right to invite highly skilled specialists and technicians from abroad. (5) The right to make use of up to one quarter of the space covered by the buildings constructed to rent out for restaurants, offices, theaters, etc., and the right to organize and operate public utilities. (6) For the first three years after the building is completed the concessionary is freed from taxes on the income received from the building, and during the remainder of the contract he is freed from one-half of the income tax. There are also a number of other important exemptions and privileges.

As regards the profitability of housing concessions, accounts show that the net profit of the concessionaries amounts to at least 25 per cent on the capital invested.

The types of building for which concessions may be acquired fall into three categories: (1) large stone or concrete apartment houses, (2) large hotels and communal houses with central laundries, restaurants and so on for serving the tenants, (3) one and two story cottages of wood or stone. In addition to this concessions may also be granted for the development of whole new settlements, including the necessary public utilities.

The Seven-Hour Day

SOME preliminary results of the introduction of the seven-hour working day in certain branches of Soviet industry have been published by the Peoples' Commissariat of Labor of the U. S. S. R.

In 1927-28 the working day of 112,200 workers in the Soviet Union was reduced from eight to seven hours. According to the plan, 270,700 more workers, including 20,700 to be employed in new enterprises, will have their day reduced to seven hours during the present year, which will mean that over 13 per cent of all the workers have a seven-hour day. By next year it is planned to increase the number to 403,000, or 19.8 per cent of all industrial workers. These figures do not include the railroad workers and certain other categories, many of whom will also have their working hours reduced.

The results of the introduction of the seven-hour day have thus far been favorable. In the textile industry, for instance, where one-fourth of the workers are now on a seven-hour day, the positive results are the employment of a large number of new workers, more intensive use of machinery and equipment, more rational use of labor power, and a general increase in production.

Thus the change to a seven-hour day in 20 cot-

ton factories meant giving employment to 20,000 new workers, an increase by almost 20 per cent of the workers employed in this branch of industry. Unemployment has been greatly decreased among the textile workers. Formerly the machinery was actually in use only 92 hours a week, while it is now in use 123 hours.

The chemical industry also reports favorable results from the change. In the chemical factories in which a seven-hour day has been introduced, the number of workers has increased by 3 per cent, and the daily output by 7.3 per cent.

In the metal industry 84,200 workers, or 16.7 per cent of the entire number employed in this industry, have gone over to a seven-hour day during the present year. In the metal plants which have introduced a seven-hour day, the number of workers employed has grown by about 17 per cent, and the daily output has increased considerably.

In general the two years experience of those factories which have introduced the seven-hour day proves that the shortened working day is not only feasible, but extremely desirable for both the workers and the government.

Among the Minor Nationalities

THE North Caucasus is one of the most typical regions in which to observe the workings of the Soviet policy with regard to minor nationalities, as it is inhabited by a hundred and one different ethnic groups. There are seven autonomous areas in this region—the Adigheh, Karachai, Kabardian-Balkar, Circassian, North Ossetian, Ingush and Chechen, with a total population of about a million. There are also five rayons, or districts, with national minority populations—Turcoman, German, Shapsugsk and two Armenian. There are 158 separate national minority Soviets. There are over three million Ukrainians living in the North Caucasus—about 37 per cent of the entire population.

All of these nationalities have received special assistance from the central Government in restoring and improving on their former economic condition, and in developing a cultural freedom that never was theirs before.

In agriculture all these peoples cultivate more land and own more cattle than in pre-revolutionary times. In the Ossetian, Ingush and Kabardian regions almost twice as much land was sown in 1927 as in 1917.

There were never many factories in the region now occupied by these national minorities, but after the re-districting of the North Caucasus on the basis of the economic geography of the region, industry began to develop rapidly. The main industries are the manufacture of starch, spirits, brick and wood working. During the present year it is estimated that industrial output among the national minorities will amount to about fifteen million rubles.

The economic growth of the autonomous national areas is accompanied by ever increasing efforts to satisfy the cultural hunger of the people. During 1927-28 the number of cultural and educational institutions among the national minorities of the North Caucasus grew from 1,172 to 1,382. Each year finds larger numbers of the children in school. During the last three years

the number of trade and technical schools has doubled. In addition, each year larger numbers of the youth of the national minority groups enter the Rabfacs (workers' faculties), Technicums (trade and technical schools), and colleges and universities.

The mountaineers, many of whom have formerly had no written language, are learning to read and write in their own tongue. In 1926 the first primers were published in the native tongues of all the mountain peoples of the North Caucasus, and by 1928 books for the partly literate were published in the native tongues of practically all the different races. The Latin alphabet has been introduced everywhere. The amount allotted for education in the autonomous areas increased from 2,487,800 rubles in 1925-26, to 3,971,700 rubles in 1927-28, or by almost 60 per cent.

Medical service for the populations of the national areas was introduced only with the organization of the Soviet Government in that region—until that time there was no medical service for the mountaineers. At the present time the medical service among the national minorities includes thirty seven hospitals, sixty-eight dispensaries, forty-four first-aid points, eighteen consultation clinics for mothers and babies, dental dispensaries, mothers' and babies' institutions and so on. The budgetary expenditures for medical work increased by twenty-four per cent last year over the year preceding.

The total budget of the national minorities for the present year amounts to twenty-three million rubles.

Culture for the Samoyeds

In the Far North, along the shores of the Arctic Ocean from the Gulf of Mezen to the Ural Mountains, extends a great tundra about a thousand kilometers in length, and varying from 80 to 350 kilometers in width.

The chief inhabitants of the tundra are the Samoyeds, of whom there are about 4,500 in this

particular territory. The past of this little tribe was terribly difficult. The Tsarist Government gave them only the amount of attention necessary to exact from them large tributes of fur. Before the revolution there was not a single school for the Samoyeds, and not a single Samoyed child attended any of the Russian schools. There was no medical assistance.

The Siberian plague thinned out their herds of reindeer year by year. During the seventeen years before the revolution about half a million reindeer were lost in this way—about as many as there are on the tundra now. The Tsarist Government never even thought of organizing any kind of veterinarial assistance for the Samoyeds.

The change in the lives of the Samoyeds began only after the tundra came under Soviet control. In December, 1920, the first Congress of the Samoyeds was held. In 1922 the first Samoyed Cooperative was organized. Now every Samoyed tent on the tundra is enrolled in the cooperative. In 1923 the first Samoyed school was organized. Now there are four of them, and Samoyed students are attending the technical and trade schools of Archangel, and the Rabfac in Lenin-grad.

The children of the tundras who have never lived in houses before, must be entirely re-trained when they go to the city to school. Most of them are very capable. Within two years they speak Russian, and by the fourth year are quite up to the standard of the Russian children. And this in spite of the fact that the school year, because of the semi-nomadic way in which the Samoyeds live, is only five months long.

Now that they have their own soviets, their own cooperative, their own medical service, and their own schools, a cultural nucleus is growing up in the midst of this little, half savage, once almost forgotten people of the tundra.

New Latin Alphabet

The Latin alphabet is rapidly replacing the Arabic script among the Asiatic peoples of the Soviet Union. Thirty different nationalities, numbering over 30 million people, are now using a Latinized alphabet. According to a recent decree of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R. all important Government institutions and enterprises using Turanian languages will use the Latin alphabet in the future, and will publish no more literature in the old Arabian script.

The movement began in 1922 in Baku, at an educational conference, where a committee to draw up a new Latin alphabet was formed. From Azerbaijan the movement for Latinization spread quickly to the Crimea, Uzbekistan, Daghestan, and so on.

At the first All-Union Turcological Congress, which was held in Baku in 1926, the historic decision was made to replace the Arabian alphabet

by the Latin. This led to the formation of an all-Union Central Committee for the New Turanian Alphabet, with headquarters in Baku, and with a special scientific council which has unified the various proposals for the new alphabet, and supervised its introduction in a planned and systematic way. So far the following ethnic groups have accepted the new Latin alphabet:

Turco-Tatar groups: Azerbaijan Turks, Crimean Tatars, Nogai Tatars, Kumyks, Turcomans, Uzbeks, Kirghiz, Kazaks, Bashkirs, Kazan Tatars, Yakuts, Oirats, Uighurs, and Kara Kalpaks.

Japhetic groups: Avars, Darghos, Lakians, Lesgins, Chechenzes, Ingushes, Kabardians, Adighehs and Abkhazians.

Iranian groups: Ossetians, Tadjiks, Bokharan Jews, Mountain Jews and Talishi.

Mongolian groups: Buryat Mongols and Udungaitsi (Chinese).

The task of creating a uniform alphabet which would suit the linguistic requirements of these four divergent groups has been accomplished, with the addition of a few extra letters to indicate sounds peculiar to individual races, and all these peoples with widely different languages now possess a common A B C.

In the two years since its formation the Central Committee has done a tremendous piece of work in introducing the new alphabet. Over two million and a quarter books have been issued in the new alphabet by the committee alone, not to speak of the enormous amount of literature published by the separate republics that have adopted the Latin alphabet. Of the 30 million people affected by the change—people among whom illiteracy was almost universal before the revolution—about a million and a half have already been taught to read and write in the new script. Much work has also been done in training instructors, re-equipping printing shops, preparing new type-writers and systems of stenography. It is also expected that the Latin alphabet will soon be introduced among the backward tribes of the Far North, Siberia, and other remote corners of the Soviet Union, many of them with no written language of their own.

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Miscellaneous News

Moscow-New York Flight

The "Land of the Soviets," the twin-motored all-metal plane which took off from Moscow on August 23rd, en route for New York via Siberia and Alaska, was forced down near Chita on August 8th. On August 23rd Semion Shestakov, chief pilot, took off again from Moscow in a new "Land of the Soviets," a duplicate of the first plane, with the same crew. On September 3rd, after being delayed by fog in Irkutsk, the plane reached Khabarovsk, in Eastern Siberia, a distance of about 5,000 miles from Moscow, thus completing the first stage of its flight. At Khabarovsk pontoons were attached for the Pacific flight.

Agricultural Progress

At a recent meeting of the Council of People's Commissars of the R. S. F. S. R. it was reported by Kviring that according to figures at hand, the spring sowing area this year had increased by more than 6 per cent over the preceding year, and in general the spring agricultural campaign had been very satisfactory. Over 700,000 tons of selected seed were distributed among the peasants in the form of loans through the Commissariat of Agriculture, and an additional 300,000 tons from local sources. This was 14 per cent more than the amount provided by the program. The supply of flax seed to the villages increased threefold over last year. Tractors, plows, harrows, and drills were supplied far in excess of the plan, and there was a great increase in fertilizer. The system of contract work was extended to 16,000,000 hectares as against 3,300,000 last year—covering 26 per cent of the entire sown area. This spring 13,600 new collectives were organized, making a total of 33,000 collectives in the R. S. F. S. R. alone. There are also 85,000 simpler forms of agricultural productive units. The sown area of the collectives increased 300 per cent, and of government farms, 47 per cent.

Continuous Working Week

Many individual factories have already adopted the continuous working week which, according to a recent decree, is soon to be inaugurated in the Soviet Union as a whole. By this method there will be 360 working days in the year instead of 300. The annual number of working hours per worker are not increased, but the actual number of workers employed will be increased. Factories will work on Sundays and all other holidays with the exception of a few revolutionary holidays, such as May 1st and 2nd, November 7th and 8th, etc. Sunday will no longer be the universal day of rest, but each day will be the day of rest for a definite number of workers. The experience in increasing productivity in the factories where

this system has already been introduced leads Soviet economists to believe that it will be possible to speed up the proposed rate of development of the five-year plan by about 20 per cent.

Aid for Homeless Children

A million and a half rubles (over \$750,000) has been voted by the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R. toward the support of the Training Schools for Children, organized under the Commissariat of Labor for the purpose of providing education and technical training for homeless children. A third of this sum will be given immediately, the remainder before the end of the year. This money has been collected through the Lenin fund which was organized at the time of Lenin's death on the plea of Krupskaya that the establishment of such a fund was a fitter memorial to Lenin than monuments.

Park of Culture and Rest

Moscow's great "Park of Culture and Rest," opened this summer, pays special attention to children. About 14,000 children are daily visitors to its "Children's City." For the older children there are special carpenter, radio and aviation shops where they can come and get instruction in their special hobbies. For the children of pre-school age there is a well equipped playground where they can go for a ride on a real train.

There is a "Toy Room," supplied with the latest wonders of toyland from all over the world, and a children's library and reading room. A special pond has been fitted up for children's water sports, with an instructor always on hand, and non-capsizeable boats.

Mothers may bring nursing babies to the park, and know that they will be well cared for in the nursery while they enjoy themselves. The nursery accommodates 200 babies.

Houses of Peasants

At the beginning of 1929 there were four hundred "Houses of Peasants" in the different towns and cities of the Soviet Union. These peasant homes were organized to render assistance to peasants coming in from the country on various missions. The peasants receive legal, agricultural and medical aid free of charge, and educational work is carried on among them.

In the course of last year 50,672 different lectures were held in these houses (not including the Central House of Peasants in Moscow) attended by almost three million peasants. Over twenty thousand entertainments were given, attended by a million and a half peasants. Many thousands of peasants took part in "question and answer" evenings, went on excursions, and visited the museums and the libraries connected with the peasant

houses. Over thirteen million peasants were lodged in these houses during the past year, and over nineteen million ate in their dining rooms.

Annual Meeting of "Voks"

At the annual meeting of "Voks" (All-Union Society for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries), which was held in Moscow in July, the following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Professor Feodor Nikolaevich Petrov; General Secretary, Iury Vladimirovich Maltsev; Member of Administrative Bureau, Leo Matveyevich Baginsky. Professor Petrov, the new President, has been head of the Chief Scientific Section of the Commissariat of Education of the R. S. F. S. R. for the past five years.

In reporting on the work of the Society for the past year Olga Kameneva, the outgoing President, stated that during 1928 "Voks" had organized 34 exhibitions in other countries, which were visited by over four million people, while between January and March of the present year 25 exhibitions had been arranged abroad and three in the Soviet Union. The tourist section of "Voks" received 962 tourists from abroad in 1928—including 782 individuals, and 15 delegations. The Book Exchange Department received from abroad 212,411 books during the past year, and sent 211,457 to other countries. Over 60 international gatherings were held by "Voks" in Moscow during the year, attended altogether by almost 50,000 people.

Foreign Tourists in the U. S. S. R.

According to the "Intourist" (The Soviet Foreign Tourist Society), about 1,000 foreign tourists visited the U. S. S. R. during July, and 1,500 more were expected in August. The overwhelming majority of the tourists—about 95 per cent—are Americans, the other 5 per cent being mostly Germans and South Americans.

Musical Festival

Over 5,000 members of workers' clubs from different parts of the Soviet Union took part in the "Third Musical Festival" held in the huge stadium at Leningrad this summer. There was a chorus of 2,500, a string orchestra of 1,250, a wind orchestra of 1,250, and many smaller ensembles playing the baleleika, the accordion, the gusli, and other national instruments.

Before the Festival took place, the words and music of certain songs were distributed throughout the city, and instructors gave the general public training in community singing over the radio, and the whole audience joined in many of the songs.

New German Paper in Moscow

A new weekly newspaper, "The Moscow Review," published in German, under the editorship of Otto Paul, former Austrian ambassador to the U. S. S. R., is now being printed in Moscow. In

the announcement regarding the launching of the paper it was stated that its aim would be to throw light on the political, economic and cultural life of the U. S. S. R. Particular attention will be given to the international and internal political situation in Russia, legislation, transport, building, concessions, and also to scientific activities, literary and artistic life, the theater, cinema, sport, and so on.

Red Army Song Ensembles

Educational and cultural work receive almost as much emphasis in the Red Army as military training. Detachments of Red soldiers may be seen swinging through the streets of Moscow to the rhythm of some old folk song, and with books under their arms as often as with bayonets over their shoulders. The Central House of the Red Army in Moscow, which is the cultural center of the Soviet Military Society, gives particular attention to the development of music in the Red Army. A most interesting beginning in this direction are the Red Army Song Ensembles, which originated several months ago.

During the period of civil war many songs which vividly reflected that epoch were composed. Many of them were never written down, many of them have been half forgotten. On the other hand, there are many new songs which have grown out of the period of peaceful reconstruction. The Red Army Song Ensembles are collecting these songs, both old and new, and popularizing them not only among the soldiers, but among the civilian population.

There are two ensembles, one composed exclusively of men, one of women. The Women's Ensemble will not confine itself to Red Army songs, but will include in its repertoire folk and revolutionary songs.

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Soviet-Chinese Controversy

Municipal Administration in the U. S. S. R.

Soviet Finances

The Unbroken Working Week

Educational Progress

Students in the Soviet Union

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
The Foreign Policy of the Soviet Union:		Soviet Students.....	159
Soviet Protest to China.....	146	Book Notes.....	161
Proposed Joint Statement.....	147	Miscellaneous News:	
Interview with Mr. Litvinov.....	148	"Land of Soviets" Reaches America.....	162
Soviet Verbal Note.....	149	Tractors Purchased in U. S.....	162
Further Chinese and White Aggression.....	150	Soviet Oil Exports.....	162
Financial Condition of Chinese Eastern		Nijni-Novgorod Fair.....	162
Railway.....	151	Harvest Festival at Sovhoz "Giant".....	162
Receipt of Kellogg Pact.....	152	Egyptian Cotton.....	162
Soviet Esthonian Trade Treaty.....	152	Medical Service.....	162
Changes in Soviet Foreign Service.....	152	Women Soviet Members.....	163
Municipal Administration in the U. S. S. R.....	152	Soviet "Talkies".....	163
Soviet Finances.....	154	Cinema in the Village.....	163
The Unbroken Working Week.....	155	Education in Siberia.....	163
Recent Educational Progress.....	157	National Minorities Publishing House.....	163

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Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union

IN connection with the increased frequency of attacks on the territory of the U. S. S. R. by White guard detachments organized on Chinese territory, and the publication by the Chinese press of reports of alleged attacks of Soviet troops on Chinese soldiers, the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs on August 19th delivered the following declaration to the German embassy, with the request that it be transmitted to the Nanking and Mukden Governments:

"1. In its note of July 13th with regard to the seizure by the Chinese authorities of the Chinese Eastern Railway, the Union Government called attention to the fact that Manchurian troops were being mobilized and despatched to the border of the U. S. S. R., and that White guard detachments were also being concentrated on the border.

"2. The aforesaid note, containing a decisive and timely warning to the Chinese authorities to desist from further abuse of the peacefulness of the Union Government, declared:

"'At the same time information was received of the concentration along the Soviet border of Manchurian troops who had been prepared for action, and moved right up to the frontier. Information was also received that divisions of Russian White guards, which the Manchurian command intended to send into Soviet territory, had been placed on the border of the U. S. S. R. along with the Manchurian troops.'

"3. This warning was ignored by the Chinese authorities. The formation and arming of White guard units with the aim of organizing raids against the border detachments and attacks on the peaceful population of the U. S. S. R. continued with even greater intensity. Immediately after the breaking off of relations between the U. S. S. R. and China, these units began to intensify their activities, firing on Soviet territory and making direct attacks.

"4. The border detachments refrained for a long time from retaliatory measures, and as a result the raids and attacks on the territory of the U. S. S. R. grew more frequent, leading to the killing and wounding of Soviet civilians and soldiers.

"5. Below are cited a series of instances of firing on Soviet territory and attacks by White guard detachments and Chinese troops:

"On July 18th and 19th, 5 kilometers north of the village Turi Rog, the Soviet border patrol was fired on by Chinese soldiers who crossed the border by the river Belenkhi and in the vicinity of the village of Iman.

"On July 24th, in the vicinity of the village Zarubino, the Soviet merchant ship 'Bryanta' was fired on by armed Chinese. The Soviet gunboat, which accompanied the merchant ship, did not return the fire.

"On July 24th, at 20 minutes after 2, the gunboat 'Bednota,' which was at that time at the mouth of the Sungari river, underwent Chinese machine gun and rifle fire.

"On August 9th, at six o'clock, on Soviet territory, three kilometers from section 'C' of the border, in the vicinity of the village Slavyanka, 45 miles to the southwest of Vladivostok, there was an attack on the Soviet border patrol by a detachment of Chinese, and the chief of the Soviet border forces was killed.

"On August 10th, at three o'clock, a division of the border guard at the village of Chernayeva were fired on from the Chinese side by a group of armed Russian White guards. A detachment of the border patrol drove the attacking band back to Chinese territory, where they were supported by Chinese troops. As a result of this encounter there were five killed and six wounded on the Soviet side.

"On August 12th, at three o'clock, in the vicinity of 'Vosem Balaganov' (fifty kilometers below Ekaterino-Nikolsk), a detachment of White guards crossed from Chinese into Soviet territory, attacking the border detachment and the civilian population.

"On August 12th, at half-past four, a Soviet warship was fired on from Chinese territory, forty-five kilometers west of the mouth of the Sungari river. As a result of the return fire and the action of troops landed from the warship, the White guard detachment retreated far into Chinese territory.

"On the night of August 18th there was a case not merely of White guard detachments, but regular Chinese troops, marching on Soviet territory. An entire Chinese regiment—the 18th Rifle Brigade, quartered in the city of San-cha-ko, crossed the Soviet-Chinese border in the vicinity of the village of Poltavsk (40 kilometers to the southeast of Pogranichnaya Station) and entered Soviet territory right after the White guard detachment, and surrounding our soldiers stationed three kilometers from the border (in the direction of Nikolsk-Ussurisk), opened rifle and machine gun fire. In repulsing the attack, the Red army division drove them back to Chinese territory.

"6. Separate instances of the crossing of the Chinese border by Red army troops have taken place as a result of attacks on Soviet territory by White guard detachments and Chinese troops.

"7. The attack on Soviet territory by White guard detachments and Chinese troops, and in particular the utilization by the Chinese authorities of White guard organizations which have their own aims to pursue as well, creates a threatening situation on the border, and is an indication of the danger of the situation which has been created by the actions of the Chinese authorities.

"The Soviet Government is taking all necessary measures to prevent the crossing of the border by Soviet troops even in separate instances, and considers that the Chinese Government should disarm the White guard detachments and prevent any attack whatsoever on Soviet territory on the part of the Chinese troops. If this is not done, the responsibility for any further complications arising from new attacks on Soviet territory will lie wholly with the Nanking and Mukden Governments."

Joint Statement Proposed by Chinese

On August 28th the German ambassador in Moscow, Dr. von Dirksen, requested an audience with the acting Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Litvinov, and on behalf of the Chinese Mission in Berlin, stated that the Chinese Government was ready to appoint a representative to sign the following joint statement:

"(1) Both parties agree that they will settle all pending questions between them in conformity with the agreement of 1924, and in particular agree upon conditions for the redemption of the Chinese Eastern Railway in accordance with Article 9 of the Peking agreement.

"Both parties will appoint immediately properly accredited representatives to a conference to settle all pending questions mentioned in the previous clause.

"(2) Both parties believe the position of the Chinese Eastern Railway that developed after the dispute must be altered in accordance with the Peking and Mukden agreements of 1924, on the understanding that all such alterations shall be settled by the conference provided for by the previous clause.

"(3) The Soviet Government will recommend a new manager and a new assistant manager of the Chinese Eastern Railway, who will be appointed by the directorate of that line.

"The Soviet Government will instruct employees of the Chinese Eastern Railway who are Soviet citizens strictly to observe the conditions contained in Article 6 of the 1924 agreement.

"(4) Both parties will release immediately all those arrested in connection with the present incident, or subsequent to May 1st, 1929."

Soviet Draft of Joint Statement

On August 29th, at six o'clock, the acting Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Litvinov, informed Dr. Von Dirksen of the readiness of the Union Government to sign the joint declaration proposed by the Chinese Government, in the following form:

"(1) Both parties agree that they will settle all pending questions between them in conformity with the agreement of 1924, and in particular agree upon conditions for the redemption of the Chinese Eastern Railway in accordance with Article 9 of the Peking agreement.

"Both parties will appoint immediately properly accredited representatives to the conference to settle all pending questions mentioned in the previous clause.

"(2) Both parties believe that the position of the Chinese Eastern Railway that developed after the dispute must be altered in accordance with the Peking and Mukden agreements of 1924, on the understanding that all such alterations shall be settled by the conference provided for by the previous clause.

"(3) The Soviet Government will recommend a manager and assistant manager of the Chinese Eastern Railway, who will be appointed immediately by the directorate of that line.

"The Soviet Government will instruct employees of the Chinese Eastern Railway who are citizens of the U. S. S. R., and the Chinese Government will instruct its local authorities and their organs, strictly to observe the conditions contained in Article 6 of the 1924 agreement.

"(4) Both parties will release immediately all those arrested in connection with the present incident, or subsequent to May 1st, 1929."

Coincident with the delivery of the Soviet draft of the declaration, Mr. M. M. Litvinov stated to Dr. von Dirksen that the Union Government saw no basis for the appointment of a new manager and assistant manager in place of the manager and assistant manager who had been in their time legally appointed and had fulfilled their functions in strict accordance with the agreements.

In addition, Mr. Litvinov declared that in the event the Chinese Government should appoint a new chairman of the board in place of the present chairman, who was directly responsible for the violation of the regime on the Chinese Eastern Railway established by the agreement, the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, in conformity with the unchanging peaceful policy of the U. S. S. R. and meeting half way the desires of the Chinese Government, would then put before the Soviet Government the question of appointing a new manager and assistant manager. Furthermore, Mr. Litvinov declared, it was understood that the appointment of the manager and his assistant should take place simultaneously with the signing of the joint declaration.

Interview With Mr. Litvinov on Soviet-Chinese Situation

On September 6th *Izvestia* published the following interview with Mr. Litvinov, Acting Commissar for Foreign Affairs:

"The answer of the Soviet Government to the proposal made to us by the Nanking Government through the German Government, regarding the signing of a joint statement, is a new proof of the readiness of the Soviet Government to take advantage of every opportunity to regulate the Soviet-Chinese conflict by mutual agreement, in spite of new and monstrously provocative acts of the Chinese authorities which took place after the lawless seizure of the Chinese Eastern Railway, and which are still continuing. The peaceful policy of the Soviet Government is particularly clearly exemplified in this conflict, which would long since have developed into actual warfare if China had had any other government than the Soviet Union as its opponent.

"While taking all necessary measures for the defense of the workers' and peasants' government, and the security of our borders, and to protect the peaceful activities of the frontier population from the continued attacks of the White bandits, who are supported by the Chinese authorities, the Soviet Government has at the same time left the door open for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. The Soviet Government has done this in the hope that eventually the voice of reason will prompt even the most lawless elements of the Chinese military caste to a realization of the utter idiocy of such a policy of violence, and the disastrous effects on the national interests of China of such lawless and deliberate trampling under foot of agreements voluntarily concluded on the basis of complete equality.

"True to its unchanging policy of peace, the Soviet Government has expressed its willingness to sign the joint declaration proposed by the Nanking Government, on condition that certain changes are made in the interests of correctness and exactitude, without which further negotiations would be fruitless.

"The Soviet Government cannot fail to note the complete baselessness of the entirely unjustified demands of the Nanking Government regarding the appointment of a new manager and assistant manager of the Chinese Eastern Railway, inasmuch as there has not been and can not be adduced a single actual instance of the violation by the aforesaid persons, in the course of their work, of any of the obligations arising from the Peking and Mukden agreements; and inasmuch as the accusations of Communist propaganda which, after the seizure of the road, were raised against them and other employees, are from beginning to end a deliberate and scurrilous fabrication based on illiterate forged documents ordered from White guard organizations to justify

the seizure of the Chinese Eastern Railway.* The Commissariat for Foreign Affairs nevertheless considered that in the event the Nanking Government agreed to appoint a new President of the Directorate in place of the present incumbent, who is directly responsible for the violation of the treaty and for the seizure of the road, it would then be possible to meet the desires of the Nanking Government on this point also, and declares its readiness to put the question of the appointment of a new manager and assistant manager before the Soviet Government.

"It goes without saying that the appointment of the manager and his assistant would take place not later than the signing of the joint declaration, since otherwise the necessary conditions for negotiations would be lacking.

"As regards Paragraph 6 of the Peking agreement, in so far as we insist on the exact observance of the entire agreement, there can be no disagreement with regard to separate obligations which, according to the agreement, rest on both sides.

"Unfortunately, we have not yet received the answer of the Nanking Government regarding its readiness to sign the draft joint declaration immediately, which gives ground to the belief that either the Nanking Government itself does not wish to regulate the conflict by mutual agreement, or that some outside power hostile to the U. S. S. R. is hindering such an agreement.

"In this connection we cannot ignore the statement made in Mukden by the American adviser who has a controlling influence in the railroad affairs of the Nanking Government. The statement made by Mr. Mantell to the representative of the United Press, contained false and baseless accusations against the Soviet side of the administration of the Chinese Eastern Railway, when, as is well known, the Soviet administration greatly improved the economic condition of the road, which has again become almost completely disorganized since the seizure.

"It is sufficient to recall the fact that during the five years of joint administration of the Chinese Eastern Railway, China received as its share up to 48,500,000 gold rubles. At the same time the Chinese Eastern Railway is the only road in China where the eight-hour working day and measures for the protection of labor have been introduced and carried out, where houses have

* In this connection it is interesting to note that a pamphlet in English entitled "Documents with Reference to the Sino-Russian Dispute, 1929," issued by "Far Eastern Information Bureau, Nanking, China," is now being circulated in the United States. The pamphlet gives translations of certain of these "documents" and photostats of the originals. The photostats reveal that the authors used the old-style Russian orthography which has not been used in the Soviet Union for nearly twelve years. Only among the émigrés do the old spellings persist. (Editor Review).

been built for the workers, and schools, hospitals, and so on, developed.

"The captious insinuations of Mr. Mantell are a manifestation of the obvious desire of interested imperialist circles to destroy the possibility of a peaceful regulation of the Soviet-Chinese conflict, and to bring about a further sharpening of our relations with China.

"The same purpose apparently motivates the slanderous statement of the President of the Chinese delegation in Geneva, attempting to justify the unheard of activities of the Chinese soldiery and hurling absurd and baseless accusations against the Soviet Union which has given an example of exceptional patience and peacefulness.

"Doubt is cast on the sincerity of the proposal made by the Nanking Government by the increasing brutality and violent attacks by the Chinese soldiers against Soviet citizens living in Manchuria, and even against the peaceful border inhabitants of Soviet territory, toward whom they have acted with unspeakably inhuman cruelty.

"The answer of the Chinese authorities to the readiness of the Soviet Government to meet the Chinese proposals half way, has been to intensify their outrageous repressions. Over 2,000 Soviet citizens are confined in concentration camps, where they are undergoing unbearable conditions. According to our information, dozens of people have been beheaded without trial or investigation by the brutal Chinese authorities.

"At the same time, firing against our border troops and attempts to cross over to our territory continue as before. Such facts as these completely expose the hypocritical character of the pacifism of the head of the Chinese delegation in Geneva.

"While maintaining the greatest possible restraint and calmness in the face of these new provocative anti-Soviet statements, the Soviet Government will not permit itself to be deluded by the diplomatic maneuverings and trickery of the Nanking generals or the false pacifism of the oratory of their representatives in Geneva, and will as before, take and intensify all the necessary measures for the protection of the interests of the workers' and peasants' government, and for the restoration of its violated rights."

Soviet Verbal Note to China

On September 6th, the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs delivered to the German embassy a verbal note with the following contents:

"Since the time of the rupture of relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and China, Soviet citizens in China have been subjected to unheard of persecution and violence on the part of the Chinese authorities. The Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs has already had occasion repeatedly to direct the attention of the German embassy in Moscow to the extra-

ordinarily difficult situation of Soviet citizens in China, and has requested the German Government to take measures to ease the lot of these persons.

"However, the repression against the Soviet citizens has recently not only failed to lessen, but on the contrary has grown persistently stronger. Thousands of citizens of the U. S. S. R. have been arrested, over two thousand have been forcibly distributed in concentration camps, although there is not the slightest justification for such a measure in the present circumstances. The prisoners are being kept in the most crowded and absolutely unsanitary conditions, which has already resulted in the breaking out of epidemics, and a considerable number of deaths. The prisoners are beaten and tortured; frequently all their possessions are taken from them, the wages owing to them and also to the persons dismissed or leaving their jobs on the Chinese Eastern Railway are not paid, and neither are they permitted to withdraw pensions due them, which had accumulated with the treasury of the road. The prisoners are forbidden any communication with the outside world—they are not even permitted to get in touch with the German Consul General at Harbin. The prisoners are led through the streets of the cities and towns bound hand and foot. Those held in jail are put in chains, and subjected to inhuman conditions. The families of those arrested are thrown out of their quarters and either interned or left out under the open sky to the mercy of fate, without money or belongings of any kind.

"Furthermore, the Union Government has exact information regarding the execution of dozens of citizens of the U. S. S. R. without trial or investigation, in the most barbarous fashion. The names of a number of persons who have disappeared without a trace are known to the Union Government. In addition, we have information regarding cases of the discovery of headless corpses, undoubtedly of Soviet citizens executed in this manner, whose mutilated bodies have either been left at the spot where the murder took place or thrown into the Sungari River.

"From the aforementioned facts, it is unfortunately necessary to draw the conclusion that the measures of protection taken until now by the German consuls in China, and in particular by the Consul General in Harbin, have not led to any appreciable results. It is particularly to be regretted that we have no information from the German consulate regarding all these violent and brutal acts.

"In bringing these facts to the attention of the German embassy, the Peoples' Commissariat is convinced that the German Government will not delay to take all the necessary measures, including instructions to the German consular representatives in China, that these inhuman acts, to which the Chinese Government and the Chinese

authorities have had such frequent recourse, be discontinued as soon as possible. The Peoples' Commissariat is convinced that the good will of the German Government, and its energetic representations to the Nanking Government, will result in an improvement of the extremely difficult conditions to which Soviet citizens in China are being subjected.

"In addition, the Union Government declares that it is forced by the circumstances enumerated above, to undertake repressive measures against certain categories of Chinese citizens living on the territory of the Soviet Union, whose condition can in no way be compared with that of Soviet citizens in China."

Further Chinese and White Aggression

In connection with the repeated attacks on Soviet territory by Chinese troops and White guard bands, and their continued firing on the border troops and peaceful population, the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, on September 9th gave the following statement to the German embassy, with the request that it be transmitted to the Nanking and Mukden Governments:

"On the nineteenth of August, the Union Government had the honor to hand to the German embassy for transmission to the Nanking and Mukden Governments, a statement regarding the continued attacks on the territory of the U. S. S. R. by White guard detachments and Chinese troops, pointing out the danger of the situation created by the actions of the Chinese authorities.

"Unfortunately, this statement apparently did not have the desired effect on the Chinese authorities, and the attacks on Soviet territory as well as firing on our border troops and peaceful population have not been discontinued.

"Below are cited a number of new instances of firing on the territory of the U. S. S. R., and attacks by White guard detachments and Chinese troops.

"The attacks and firing took on a particularly stubborn and systematic character beginning with August 28th, and continuing up to the present time.

"On August 19th, the Chinese troops opened machine gun and artillery fire on our border troops in the region of Crossing 86 (15 kilometers east of Manchuria Station). The shooting was directed by a Chinese airplane flying over our territory.

"On August 23rd, the Chinese opened machine gun fire on our cutter on the river Ussuri in the district of Iman.

"On August 25th, in the region of Ipatevsky (20 kilometers east of Blagovyeshchensk) our steamboat 'Karl Liebknecht' was fired on. The captain of the ship and a number of passengers were severely wounded.

"On August 28th, in the region of Bilgir (six kilometers to the northwest of Ermakovo, and fifty kilometers below Chernayeva along the Amur River) Chinese soldiers fired on our border troops.

"On August 28th, in the region of the settlement of Muchinassi on the river Arguni (200 kilometers from Nerchinsk), Chinese soldiers sailed over to our shore in boats and opened machine gun and rifle fire on the Soviet posts and the border population. One peasant was killed and three wounded.

"On August 30th, Chinese soldiers fired on the Soviet ship 'Karpenko' (12 kilometers below Blagovyeshchensk).

"On August 30th, a White guard detachment in company with Chinese soldiers crossed into our territory and fired on the village of Svobodny Luzhki in Blagovyeshchensk Okrug (on the shore of the Amur River). As a result of this attack, there were killed and wounded among the peaceful population.

"On August 30th, in the region of the settlement of Chuprovo and Kuturma (60 kilometers southwest of Nerchinsk), a rather large White guard cavalry detachment crossed into Soviet territory.

"Another White guard detachment invaded our territory in the region of the village of Voskresenokva, Blagovyeshchensk Okrug. Both bands attacked and plundered the peaceful population and were driven back to Chinese territory after an encounter with our troops.

"On August 31st, Chinese soldiers fired on our border cutter 'R. 18,' 20 kilometers northwest of Viazemskaya Station.

"On September 2nd, in the district of Novovoskresensk, 20 kilometers northwest of Blagovyeshchensk, Chinese soldiers fired on our ferry boat and wounded two local civilians.

"On September 4th, Chinese soldiers fired repeatedly on our border cutter, two kilometers to the west of Blagovyeshchensk.

"On September 5th, Chinese soldiers fired on our cutter in the district of Kukshevo (100 kilometers south of Khabarovsk).

"On September 7th, Chinese troops stationed north of Chjalainora, opened artillery fire on our guards.

"On September 7th, attempts of White guard detachments to cross over to our territory in the district of Dunpin, were discovered and repulsed.

"Beginning with September 2nd, Chinese soldiers and White guards stationed in the city of Tiutiupai (45 kilometers above Khabarovsk on the river Ussuri), fired for many hours daily on our peaceful population, fishermen and border cutter. As a result, there were killed and wounded both among the border population and among the fishermen. Due solely to the decisive counter-attacks made by our border troops, on September 7th, with the help of the cruiser 'Sverdlov,' they

were able to put a stop to the firing of the Chinese soldiers.

"On September 8th a Chinese detachment numbering about 200 infantry, killed our guard, and crossed the border in the vicinity of section 22 (20 kilometers southwest of the village Atamanovka), and fired on our border troops, who were two kilometers from the border. Under attack from our border troops the Chinese detachment retired to their own territory shortly after midnight.

"At 12:45 a. m., on September 8th, Chinese troops at Pogranichnaya Station, unexpectedly opened a fusillade of rifle and machine gun fire, supported by artillery fire, an armored car and bombs, on our troops stationed in the district of 'Rassipnaya Rad.'

"On September 8th, in the early morning, our troops took energetic retaliatory measures, opening fire on the trenches and artillery of the Chinese troops, and silencing them.

"At half past ten on September 9th, the Chinese troops stationed in trenches six kilometers to the northwest of Manchuria Station, opened machine gun and artillery fire on our border troops. The firing of the Chinese was stopped by our retaliatory measures.

"In accordance with its statement of August 19th, the Union Government considers the Nanking and Mukden Governments entirely responsible for all the aforementioned instances of attacks on Soviet territory and firing on our border troops and peaceful population.

"These clearly provocative attacks by the Chinese troops and armed White guards are forcing our soldiers in self-defense to take decisive retaliatory measures, with the aim of protecting the border of the Soviet Union and the peaceful population of the border region.

"The Union Government considers it necessary again to call the most serious attention of the Nanking and Mukden Governments to the grave consequences which might arise in the event of new provocative acts on the part of the Chinese troops and the Russian White guards supporting them.

"The Union Government considers as before that the only means of averting new serious complications is the immediate dispersal of all White guard detachments, and the immediate undertaking of effective measures to bring to an end the attacks on Soviet territory by Chinese troops and White guard bands, and the prevention of any new attacks."

Financial Condition of the Chinese Eastern Railway

In connection with the opinion regarding the financial condition of the Chinese Eastern Railway expressed by Mr. Mantell, American adviser of the Nanking Government on railway affairs, the following statement was made by Mr. Chirkin, assistant chairman of the road:

"The calculations of Mr. Mantell are the result of a deliberately unscrupulous manipulation of the figures, because the model system of accounting established under the Soviet administration of the Chinese Eastern Railway (if the Chinese authorities have not succeeded in destroying even the system of accounting) would be decipherable to any even barely literate person.

"1. The gross profits of the road for 1928 amounted to 64,874,982 gold rubles. The operating expenses of the road for the same year amounted to 40,500,000 rubles. Of the remaining 24,000,000 rubles, about 7 millions (6,965,000) were spent by the administration of the road on new work for the improvement of the road; 4,245,000 rubles were spent on the support of Chinese Government institutions having not the slightest relation to the road; about 4,500,000 rubles were spent on the so-called 'special accounts' (for Chinese schools and railway police) and finally, the road was over 8 million rubles in arrears for local transport. The road was forced by the categorical demand of the Chinese administration, to collect tariff not in full-value silver dollars, as is the case on all exclusively Chinese roads, but in local paper currency at a fixed rate, involving a loss of from 30 to 40 per cent on the exchange.

"2. During the five-year period of Soviet management of the road the Chinese partner has become indebted to the road in the above manner by over 20,000,000 rubles, which has been advanced to Chinese Government institutions. It has also received about 15 million rubles for the support of its police and schools, a million and a half rubles on its stock for the installation of an inter-city telephone, and in March and August, 1928, received 12 million rubles as an advance against future profits. In addition to this, 20 million rubles actually went toward local support as a result of fixing the exchange rate for local transport.

"Thus the \$138,000 mentioned by Mantell as the entire sum turned over to the Chinese authorities, grows on closer scrutiny into many millions.

"3. In 1924, when the Soviet administration took over the road, it was 13 million rubles in debt, its equipment was in an extremely neglected condition, its credit shaky. During its five years of administration, the Soviet management has increased the profits of the road from 37 million rubles in 1924, to 65 million rubles in 1928, has liquidated the entire indebtedness of the road during that period, and given to the Chinese authori-

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ties 48,500,000 rubles for different purposes, exclusive of the 20 million ruble loss on exchange. At the same time over 36 million rubles have been spent on new work for the improvement of the road alone.

"4. The budget for 1929 had been prepared, and would undoubtedly have been carried out by the Soviet administration with a gross profit of about 70 million rubles, with expenditures for the operation of the road amounting to about 34 million rubles in all.

"Even if the abnormal and unnecessary expenditures for the support of Chinese institutions had been continued, as well as the losses on local transport, the net profits would still have amounted to about 20 million rubles. Is it necessary to point out that the seizure of the road will result—has already resulted—in a catastrophic reduction of its income?"

Copy of Kellogg Pact Received

On August 21st, the French Ambassador to the Soviet Union, M. Herbette, on behalf of the United States Government, delivered to Mr. Litvinov the official copy of the Kellogg Pact, ratified by all the signatory and adhering countries.

Soviet-Esthonian Trade Treaty

On September 4th, ratified copies of the Soviet-Esthonian Trade Treaty, signed on May 17th at Reval, were exchanged by Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Litvinov, and the Esthonian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Mr. Seljamaa. The Trade Treaty went into effect on September 18th.

Changes in Soviet Foreign Service

Mr. K. A. Veselov has been relieved of the post of Trade Delegate of the U. S. S. R. to the Tuva Republic, and Mr. D. A. Uglev has been appointed in his place.

Mr. I. B. Shevtsov has been relieved of the duties of Trade Delegate of the U. S. S. R. in Latvia, and Mr. L. P. Nemchenko has been appointed to replace him.

Mr. V. V. Sacharov has been appointed Trade Delegate of the U. S. S. R. to Czecho-Slovakia, to replace Mr. I. V. Lensky, who has been relieved of that post.

Mr. I. L. Lorenz has been relieved of the post of Diplomatic Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Latvia, and Mr. A. I. Svidersky has been appointed to the post in his stead.

Municipal Administration in the U. S. S. R.

THERE have been three main phases in the development of municipal administration in the Soviet Union. The first was the period from the October revolution to the summer of 1918, when independent cities and republics, having almost no contact with the center, were organized. The second period was that of the civil war when the lack of material resources, the breakdown of industry and transportation through intervention and blockade, forced the centralization of all production and distribution. Local government departments were made independent of local Soviets, and were attached directly to the center—agents were sent out armed with strict mandates to carry out the instructions of the central government. This, of course, could not last, and at the Congress of Soviets in 1919 the delegates protested against such iron centralism, and the 8th Congress of Soviets in 1920 worked out the system of "modified centralism" which marks the third period, and is now in effect.

Under the present system the local Soviet, operating between sessions through its Ispolkom (Executive Committee) is the supreme government authority in every community. All local departments are departments of the local Ispolkom. That is to say, the local departments of health, education, labor, and so on, are directly under the control of the local Ispolkom, and not

of the corresponding central government departments as they were formerly. The heads of the local departments are not appointed by the center but elected by the Ispolkom, and all representatives of central government institutions are responsible to the local Ispolkom. The central bodies thus carry on all their business through the local Soviets and their departments, eliminating entirely separate government departments not controlled by the Soviet. Decrees of the local Soviet Congresses can be set aside only by the higher Soviets, their executive committees, or by the All-Union Soviet Congress or its presidium, and not by separate government commissariats.

How the Soviets Function

As regards the actual functioning of city administration, there was during the first period no definitely worked out plan for local administration—it took different forms in different places. The original constitution of 1918 did not limit the departments or define the organization of the city Soviets. Originally centers of political agitation rather than economic organs, they did not begin to concern themselves with economic problems until 1919. At that time there was no payment for public utilities. Everything was given free of charge, people clambered all over the roofs of street cars without payment or regulation, no re-

pairs were made, plumbing was out of order, there were perpetual housing, food and fuel crises, everything was in a state of disorganization. In 1920 the decree was issued providing for the organization of the public utilities under the city Soviets. In 1921, with the inauguration of the New Economic Policy, payment for public services was reintroduced. From then on the restoration of public utilities proceeded rapidly along with the general reconstruction, the introduction of stable currency, and so on. In the meantime the sudden and tremendous growth of the city population—Moscow, for instance, had increased her population by about 40 per cent—burdened the municipalities with new and serious questions. The need for economy and the cutting down of government apparatus led to a temporary centralization during 1922, '23 and '24, when city Ispolkoms and public utilities were fused vertically with the higher departments. It was not until 1925 that the decree specifically defining the functions of the city Soviets was issued. This decree provided for Soviets in all cities and towns as the highest local organs of the government, uniting all the working population for participation in the local and state administration. The city Soviets are now elected for one year, in cities of 1,000 on the basis of one deputy for 15 voters, in cities of 3,000, one deputy per 20 voters, and in the largest cities, such as Moscow and Leningrad, on the basis of one deputy for every 400 voters. The plenary session of the Soviet, which must be attended by at least half of its members, meets at least once a month, and elects an executive committee, a presidium, and a president.

When the city is the capital of a province, the city and provincial governments necessarily overlap to a certain extent, and the chairman of the city Soviet is also the chairman of the provincial Soviet. The Provincial Congress of Soviets elects an Ispolkom of 50 members, which meets twice a month. The Ispolkom elects a presidium of fifteen, which meets as frequently as necessary, two-thirds of whose members are from the city. In cases of this kind the city Soviet usually elects a presidium only, dispensing with an additional executive committee.

Every city Soviet is divided into sections, and each deputy must choose a definite section to work in. A typical city Soviet has the following departments: Public Utilities, Housing, Finance, Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, Administrative Law, Health, Labor and Social Welfare, Education and Culture, Workers' and Peasants' Inspection, Military, Transport, and Minor Nationalities. There are more or less of these departments in accordance with local needs.

Membership in these different sections is not confined to members of the Soviets. As a general rule each member of the presidium heads a certain section. Representatives of the Unions, Department of Education, or other social organizations

are automatically members of the corresponding Soviet sections with full rights. Thousands of workers not members of Soviets are drawn into the work of the various sections. Workers in various factories elect representatives to be "attached" to the sections, women delegates are elected to do practical work, the Communist Youth organization sends delegates, and special commissions are organized in state and cooperative enterprises to cooperate with the city Soviet in improving conditions. Each section studies carefully the work of the particular city institutions with which it is concerned, considers programs and plans, hears reports. The decisions of the sections are submitted to the presidium, which carries them out, or in case of disagreement, or matters of special importance, the matter is considered in plenary session of the Soviet. Members are required to attend the meetings of their sections, and if they occur during working hours they must be freed from their jobs and paid for their time by the factory or institution where they work.

Municipal finance has gone through the same cycle described above. In the beginning, when the central government tried to finance everything, the cities lived largely on doles from the center. After the New Economic Policy and the need for a balanced budget, local finances were separated. At first, all receipts from public utilities went to the local branch of the Commissariat of Finance, which paid out money as it was needed, irrespective of the income from the various enterprises. By 1925, however, the public utilities were organized on a trust basis, just like any other industry. They are called the "communal trusts" and have thus become definite economic units with their own bookkeeping, giving their net profits to the local budget after deductions for reserve capital, expansion, and so on. Sometimes a single enterprise will constitute a trust, sometimes a whole chain of public utilities will be organized into a trust.

Public Utilities

Stupendous work has been done in getting the public utilities into shape. The lack of modern improvements in Tsarist Russia is well known. Many of the public utilities were in foreign hands. Of 97 electrical enterprises, for instance, in 1911, 58 were in the hands of nine Belgian trusts. There was a great deal of bribery and corruption, much cheap material was used, and charges for electricity were out of all proportion to the costs. Due to this heritage, and the destruction and disorganization of the civil war period, 18 per cent of all the municipal enterprises in the country suspended operation entirely, and the rest were on a very shaky basis. Their restoration did not really begin until 1923 after the reestablishment of the local budget. Extensive federal credits were required, and between 1923 and 1927 a quarter of a billion dollars were spent in reestab-

lishing and developing public utilities, and correspondingly large sums have been spent during the past two years.

In addition to restoring the water-supply system in all the cities where it had ceased to operate, new systems have been installed in 30 cities, while systems are being constructed in many others. The area occupied by parks and squares has doubled since the revolution—new parks and squares having been established mainly in the workers' districts where they were unknown before. The system of public lighting was very poor, over 15 per cent of the cities had no public lighting at all. Only ten per cent of the cities had electric light, while in the others kerosene and in some cases gas were used. At the present time 90 per cent of the cities have electric lighting systems. Trolley systems were in existence in 37 cities before the revolution. These have all been extended, largely in the direction of workers' districts, and new trolley car systems have been installed in five cities. Motor busses and taxicabs are now operating in about 30 cities. Formerly the fire departments used chiefly horses. Now most of the cities have a motor transport system, and have acquired up to date mechanical equipment. The telephone systems have been improved and extended in all the cities, sidewalks and roads have been repaired, new public baths constructed. Recently concessions have been concluded with a number of foreign firms in the field of public utilities in order to hasten the modernization of the cities of the Soviet Union. The agreements are all for a restricted length of time, requiring the use of the best possible materials and technique, the training of Soviet workers, and the provision of service at low rates.

City Planning

Prior to the revolution very little had been done in the way of city planning. At the present time over 100 cities in the Soviet Union have worked out city plans, and are carrying on their new construction on a definite planned basis. A preliminary project for city planning throughout the U. S. S. R. has been worked out by Gosplan (State Planning Commission). The project includes instructions for complete surveys of all existing cities with a view to their improvement and plans for the building of new ones. It also requires that wherever there is close contact with the surrounding country, the city be a part of a larger regional plan. Steps toward the regional planning of the whole country have already been taken. The Moscow Soviet has perhaps gone the farthest along the lines of city planning. It has made it obligatory for all building to be done according to a definite plan and rules, and issued detailed specifications for the building of new cities and villages in Moscow gubernia as well as plans for improving those already in existence. A special commission has worked out a plan for Moscow,

providing for a gradual widening of the streets as old buildings are taken down, while preserving all buildings and places of historic and intrinsic interest and beauty. While plans for increased public utilities will increase the amount of mechanization, provision is also made for the enlargement of public squares, and extension of parks and boulevards. The city is to be zoned, keeping the center for business and administrative institutions and hotels, the next section for district institutions and medical, scientific and cultural buildings. Since Moscow's outskirts—like those of practically every city and town in the Soviet Union, melt out imperceptibly into a typical Russian village, and there are no large buildings there, this part will lend itself most easily to directed planning. It is proposed to transform this into the most model section of the city, all industrial enterprises to be still further beyond.

Gosplan has also issued instructions for the building of the new workers' communities that are springing up by the hundreds all over the country—calling for careful preliminary surveys, and providing always for a maximum amount of green space, places for sport, and so on. These new communities are to be found in every stage of development, but always an immeasurable improvement over what the workers had before. Their growth has been greatly hastened by the establishment of the Housing Cooperatives.

These communities are important not only in helping to solve the housing crisis, but because of the social developments that go with them—the community dining rooms and laundries, day nurseries and kindergartens, playgrounds, lecture halls and theaters.

Soviet Finances

BUDGET figures for the first nine months of 1928-29 indicate that the revenue for the present fiscal year will easily reach the estimated sum of 7,627,000,000 rubles* an increase of 13 per cent over last year's budgetary receipts.

Receipts from transport have been especially high, reaching over a billion and a half rubles, or four-fifths of the income estimated for the entire year, in the nine months' period, which will probably mean an increase of at least 150,000,000 rubles over the revenue expected from this source. During the same period 626,600,000 rubles have been received in internal loans, 78 per cent of the amount counted on for the whole year. A larger percentage of the tax receipts have come in than during the corresponding period last year.

Expenditures for the nine months' period amount to 5,725,000,000 rubles, over a million rubles more than were spent during the same period last year.

*A ruble is equal to 51.5 cents.

Budget for 1929-30

The budget now being worked out by the Narkomfin (Peoples' Commissariat of Finance), for the coming fiscal year amounts to 9,500,000,000 rubles, an increase of 22.5 per cent over this year's budget. This is also an increase of 322,000,000 over the amount set for 1929-30 in the five-year plan, an addition justified by recent industrial developments due to the introduction of the unbroken working week and other favorable conditions.

The main source of revenue in the budget for 1929-30 will be from the State industries, and is estimated at 1,100,000,000 rubles, an increase of 155 per cent over last year. The amount received from direct taxation will be 24 per cent of the entire budget, 34.2 per cent more than received last year. The absolute amount received from indirect taxation, particularly from customs revenue, will grow, but will maintain its present proportion to the rest of the budget. The receipts of the lumber industry will increase from 285,000,000 rubles to 350,000,000 rubles. Receipts from internal loans are estimated at 920,000,000, and from transport at 2,060,000,000, an increase of 20.8 per cent over the amount originally estimated for the current year.

It is proposed to expend 2,776,000,000 rubles for financing industry, agriculture and trade, 34 per cent more than was spent during the current year. This includes the building of new railroads, but does not include capital expenditures for transport in general. Of this amount 1,180,000,000 rubles will go to State industry (large amounts not included in the budget will also be invested from within the industries themselves);

590,000,000 will go to agriculture, an increase of 60 per cent over 1928-29. The amount spent for government farms will be tripled. Repayments of loans will amount to 450,000,000 rubles. Expenditures for social and cultural purposes will grow by more than 20 per cent.

It is interesting to note in connection with the increase in the budget as a whole that administrative expenditures will be increased by only 11 per cent, and expenditures for defense by only 8.7 per cent. The share of the first in the budget will be decreased from 18.5 per cent to 16.8 per cent, and of the second from 12 per cent to 10.6 per cent, while expenditures on economic development will amount to 57 per cent of the whole.

Currency in Circulation

During the first half of the present fiscal year, from October, 1928, to April, 1929, the amount of money in circulation in the Soviet Union increased by only 1.4 per cent. During the third quarter—from April to July, however, it increased by over 200,000,000 rubles, or over 10 per cent. This increase continued during July, so that since October 1, 1928, the amount of money has increased by over 16 per cent. The increase has been mainly in Government bank notes, which have increased from 1,063,400,000 rubles to 1,238,100,000 rubles.

With the increased issue of bank notes, there has also been an increase in the gold reserve and equivalent "hard" cover, which by the first of August, had reached 329,900,000 rubles, an increase of 18 per cent since the beginning of the fiscal year, as a result of which the gold and precious metal backing now amounts to 26 per cent.

The Unbroken Working Week

HUNDREDS of Soviet factories and institutions have already adopted the unbroken working week proposed by the Fifth Congress of Soviets in May, and promulgated as the official policy for all industry by decree of the Council of Peoples' Commissars on August 26th. Glass, brick, paper, match, textile and agricultural machinery factories, metal plants, electric power stations, and many other industrial enterprises are now operating seven days of the week without interruption. In order to insure the smooth working of the new system the Council of Peoples' Commissars, the Supreme Economic Council and numerous other government and social institutions are also working continuously.

In spite of the difficulties attendant upon reorganization, the results have everywhere been highly satisfactory. Without additional capital investment, production has been raised and costs lowered. The number of workers has been in-

creased, while the number of working hours per individual worker remains the same.

To cite just a few instances of the results achieved in the factories and plants that have already made the change: the Babayeva Glass Works in Leningrad have increased production by 12 per cent, and costs by 4 per cent; the Svirstroy Power Station, in Leningrad district, one of the first enterprises to establish uninterrupted work, has already made such progress that it will fulfill the program proposed for five years in four; the "First of May" factory of the State Porcelain Trust increased production by 21 per cent in the first month of the new system; the Samara paper and match factories and oil mills have exceeded the production assigned them in the plan by 22 per cent; the Lunacharsky Glass Factory at Berezaika has increased production by 14 per cent and lowered costs by 3 per cent; three lumber mills in Archangelsk have increased their out-

put by 18 per cent; the Meschersky glue factory reports a growth of 19.8 per cent in production, and of 20 per cent in profits.

Economists of the Gosplan (State Planning Commission) staff figure conservatively, on the basis of reports like the above received from different branches of industry in every part of the Soviet Union, that the continuous use of plant and machinery will mean increased production amounting to 15 billion rubles, over the original sum fixed in the five-year plan. They estimate a five per cent increase during 1929-30, or additional production amounting to 600,000,000 rubles. In the five-year period upwards of a million new workers will be employed.

The decree of August 26th provides for the introduction of the unbroken working week in all enterprises and institutions during the economic year 1929-30, with strict observance of the interests of the workers employed, maintaining the present number of rest days, and with no increase in the number of working hours per year. To accomplish this, Gosplan is commissioned to work out a definite plan for the systematic reorganization of the entire economic structure on this basis, in cooperation with the various Peoples' Commissariats, the governments of the separate republics, and trade union and cooperative organizations. According to the decree, the transition to the new system must be made first in the following branches of industry:

(1) Industries producing fuel, minerals, and building materials; electric power plants; building of all kinds (for state, cooperative and social purposes), and in particular, the construction of new railroads, waterways and high roads. (2) All manufacturing enterprises which can be guaranteed additional raw materials and fuels through the increased production of the industries mentioned in group 1, as a result of the introduction of the unbroken working week. (3) Other separate enterprises or departments in industries whose output it is particularly desirable to increase. (4) Loading and unloading and commercial operations connected with transport. (5) Lumbering. (6) Wholesale and retail trade carried on by state and cooperative enterprises in the cities and workers' towns.

Since the more even distribution of rest days throughout the year under the new plan means greater possibilities for the use of leisure to satisfy the cultural and recreational needs of the working population, the decree requests the governments of the Union Republics, the Peoples' Commissariat of Labor of the U. S. S. R., and the Central Trade Union Council to draw up their proposals for the reorganization of the future work of all institutions serving the cultural and social needs of the workers wherever the unbroken week has been adopted.

The detailed plans for uninterrupted production were worked out by the Soviet economist

Larin. According to his program, the main points of which are being followed wherever the new program has gone into effect, all enterprises will work continuously 360 out of 365 days of the year, closing down entirely only on five revolutionary holidays—May 1st and 2nd, November 7th, and 8th, and one other day to be decided on later. While the calendar will probably not be changed, the worker will actually have a six-day week. The taking on of additional workers, the arrangement of shifts and so on, is to be so handled that there will be no increase in costs per unit of production, no decrease in wages, and no increase in number of hours per worker. Several variations of the actual working week are being considered. The most favored plan is for a universal seven-hour working day, with every sixth day a day of rest. This plan means an increase of 20 per cent in the number of workers employed, and a proportionate increase in production. Another plan proposes five eight-hour working days, with either two full days of rest or a longer vacation period. In all of the variations, however, it is provided that a definite number of workers will be resting every day.

One of the most essential factors in the success of the plan is the provision of the additional specialists and skilled workers, of whom there is a shortage even without the unbroken week. Larin proposes first that the unskilled workers necessary—60 per cent—be drawn from the unemployed members of families of workers employed in a given industry. This will simplify the organization of taking on new workers, and prevent housing difficulties arising from new workers coming in from other places. The skilled workers, he proposes, shall be provided by choosing the more able and experienced workers already on the job, giving them what extra instruction is necessary, and promoting them one category at a time to more highly skilled work. The shorter working day and the more regular days of rest will make it possible for workers to receive the additional training necessary to qualify for a more highly skilled job and higher wages, in a comparatively short time. Furthermore, the trade and technical schools, as well as all other educational institutions, will also adopt the continuous working schedule, which will enable them to train a larger number of students.

The question of repairs will be taken care of in the free hours where there are two shifts, or where there are three shifts of workers, by keeping reserve equipment to replace any that is out of order.

Larin points out that the introduction of the unbroken week will hasten the universal adoption of a seven-hour day in place of the eight-hour day since the reduced costs will more than make up for increased expenditures for wages resulting from the shorter day. Wages will also rise as a result of increased profits of industry.

The advantages of the seven-hour day and the evenly distributed days of rest are obvious. With seventeen hours of the twenty-four at their own disposal, the workers can make much more effective use of their leisure. Social opportunities are infinitely greater, and there is time for really effective educational and cultural work. A day of rest can be spent far more satisfactorily when everything around is functioning normally than on a Sunday, when everyone else is trying to rest too, when there are too few street cars and trains, and museums, parks and public places are so crowded there is little pleasure in going to them. For Larin's plan provides not only for continuous operation of industries, government institutions and so on, but of restaurants, day nurseries, public baths and grocery stores, all branches of community service—everything in fact that makes up the pattern of social life.

All this means a tremendous amount of reorganization. Everyone is discussing it, working out plans. The workers themselves are everywhere showing the greatest enthusiasm. Many local groups are passing resolutions urging im-

mediate adoption of the change in their own factories. The Department of Health is reorganizing its staff to give uninterrupted service, so that first aid points, clinics and dispensaries will be open every day, for every shift of workers. The Department of Health is also assisting in arrangement of shifts from the point of view of hygiene, particularly with a view of making night shifts as short as feasible, and eliminating them entirely where possible. The Department of Education is working out plans for the schools, and for extending and developing museums, the cinema, the theater, and cultural institutions of all kinds. Far from trying to break up family life, there are many plans afoot to increase the amount of time families can spend in each other's company. Krupskaya, Lenin's widow, advocates arranging noon hours so that parents and children can be together, by stretching out the school day, so as to allow more free time in the middle of the day, while Larin's plan provides that members of one family working in different places may arrange with the management to have their days of rest coincide.

Recent Educational Progress

THE realization of the five-year plan depends not only upon the training of large numbers of highly skilled workers, technicians and specialists in every field, but also involves preparing every member of the population to play an effective part in this vast undertaking. This means redoubled efforts to educate the adult population of the Soviet Union, thirty per cent of whom, between the ages of 16 and 35, are still partly or wholly illiterate.

According to the "Glavpolitprosviet," the organization in charge of adult education, almost two million illiterate adults learned how to read and write during the past year, double the number that were taught in the year preceding. This was mainly due to the increased public interest created by special anti-illiteracy campaigns.

The plan for this year provides for the teaching of at least four million illiterate or semi-literate adults. This four million includes the following groups: 800,000 organized workers (including 270,000 organized land and forest workers); 200,000 unorganized land and forest workers; 437,000 members of agricultural collectives; 589,580 members of minor non-Russian speaking nationalities; 200,000 Red Army candidates, and so on. For this a sum of 28 million rubles is required.

In order to expedite the teaching of the organized workers, an agreement has been drawn up and signed by the All Union Central Trade Union Committee and the adult education section of the Commissariat of Education of the R. S. F. S. R., providing that all illiterate industrial workers

shall be taught within one year, and all workers on government farms and seasonal agricultural workers, within two years. Both sides have agreed to take all the necessary measures to realize this program by the establishment of a chain of grammar schools and one-year schools for adults. They have also agreed to so organize the work as to secure the widest cooperation from the public, and to draw in the factory committees, the educational sections of the Soviets, the branches of the "Down with Illiteracy" Society, the Women's and Youth organizations, and clubs and schools of all types, and also to develop the work of all their own clubs and libraries to insure maximum efforts along this line. Literate members of the Unions, students, educational workers—all members of the Soviet "intelligentsia" will be called on for volunteer work.

In order to carry out this ambitious program, the Central Trade Union Committee on the one hand, and the Department of Education on the other, have each agreed to do certain specific things.

The local organizations of the Department of Education have agreed to undertake the teaching of all union members in the period established by the agreement, which means that during the first year all the industrial workers, 50 per cent of the Government Farm workers, and 40 per cent of the community restaurant workers will be taught. To accomplish this the Department of Education will provide whatever additional funds are necessary by special agreement with the local trade union

organization from a special appropriation set aside for this purpose by the Central Department of Education. The Department of Education has further agreed to provide well-trained teachers, the necessary school supplies, and so on. The trade unions, on their side, will provide eleven million rubles for education of their members throughout the whole Soviet Union, six million of this for the R. S. F. S. R. They will organize groups of students from the unions according to a definite plan and see that they attend regularly, and appoint certain union members to keep a check on the work, and set aside certain sums to be used as premiums for the best schools, the best teachers, the best students, and so on. Wherever possible the classes will be held at the place of work.

The "Down With Illiteracy" Society and the Communist Youth organization have also undertaken large programs. The former aims to enroll 250,000 organizers and social workers to assist in the campaign, and the latter expects to increase the literacy of 100,000 of its members. Teachers' courses are under way in many cities. Returned Red Army soldiers whose education has been completed in the army schools are especially active in this work.

Universal Primary Education

One of the main concerns of the Department of Education is the introduction of the universal compulsory primary education, which it is estimated can be accomplished by 1933-34. Last year about ten million children were attending the primary schools, an increase of half a million over the year preceding. In many of the larger centers, universal compulsory primary education has already been introduced. Most of the larger cities of the Ukraine, for instance, were able to adopt it last year, and Leningrad has achieved it this year. Throughout the Soviet Union universal primary education will be established in the cities much earlier than in the villages. According to the plan, the number of children in the primary schools will increase during the present five-year period by more than fifty per cent, and will reach over fifteen million by 1933-34, by which time all the children of school age will be accommodated.

One of the main difficulties in the country districts is that children attend school for only a year or two and are then taken out by their parents to help in the work of the farm. The peasants frequently keep their children out of school until later in the season or withdraw them early in the spring in order to help with the work in the fields. In the cities, too, the children do not always finish the four primary years. Special efforts will be made to keep the children in school for a longer period.

The plan that has been worked out to improve the schools and bring about universal primary education will require 3,200,000,000 rubles for the

current five year period—one-third of the entire educational budget. This sum will be spent to increase the wages of the teachers, improve existing school plants and equipment, build new schools, provide school supplies, and for the establishment of a special fund to help the children of the poorer peasants and workers.

Education in Moscow

Over 226,000 children are enrolled in the primary schools of Moscow this year, according to a report presented by Mr. Alexinsky of the Department of Education to the plenary session of the Moscow Soviet. School accommodations have been extended and 23,000 more children will attend school this year than last year.

Five new schools were built during the past year, and the largest schools adopted the system of a continuous school week, which increased the capacity of the schools by about four thousand pupils. A great deal of repairing was done, and the supply of school materials and equipment was on the whole adequate.

This increase in the number of schools and students opens the way for compulsory primary education. In the opinion of Mr. Alexinsky this can not be realized for another year, when eleven more schools now under construction will be completed. Some districts, as for instance, the Zamoskvarechye, have already introduced compulsory primary education this year.

A similar growth has taken place in the trade and technical and workers' schools. This year there are 6,000 more students enrolled in the "Tehnicums" than last year, and 11,000 more in the workers' schools. This is still not enough, however, to meet the requirements of industry for skilled workers.

The number of pre-school institutions has also increased this year. The "Pre-School Campaign" now going on in Moscow is helping greatly in this respect. With the additional funds being subscribed by the public for this purpose it is expected that the pre-school institutions this year will be able to accommodate twelve per cent of the children of pre-school age—double the number that were taken care of last year.

The Presidium of the Moscow Soviet voted to take measures to extend and improve the technical and trade schools in order to better satisfy the requirements of industry and agriculture for highly qualified workers. They also voted to set aside a special fund during 1929-30 to help individual workers who might find it difficult to send their children to school.

Following this meeting, the plenary session of the Moscow Provincial Executive Committee voted to introduce compulsory primary education in Moscow province by the year 1932-33. It was also voted to complete the campaign against illiteracy among the adult population of Moscow province within three years.

Soviet Students

HIGHER education in Russia before the revolution was the exclusive possession of the privileged classes. Only a very small proportion of the most prosperous of the workers and peasants had access to higher education at all. The students, coming mainly from the well-to-do classes, lived under comparatively comfortable material conditions, receiving funds for their maintenance from their relatives, only a small part of them finding it necessary to work for additional sources of income.

The situation is quite different now. The majority of present day students are workers and peasants who earned their own livelihood before their admission to the universities. Hence there arises the question of material aid to this group of students.

In 1925 the Government established 32,998 State scholarships in the R. S. F. S. R. (Soviet Russia proper) and appropriated 7,041,000 rubles for this purpose. In 1929 the number of State scholarships had reached 80,286, and the appropriation increased to 32,565,000 rubles. For the 1929-1930 academic year the People's Commissariat of Education of R. S. F. S. R. is planning to establish 115,850 scholarships, or about 35,000 more than in the previous year, and the appropriation will amount to 61,457,124 rubles, an increase of about 29 million rubles over the year before. These appropriations are for scholarships only. They do not include the funds for medical aid of all kinds during the whole year, railroad transportation or room-rent. State aid to the students is not, however, limited to scholarships.

Housing is one of the most urgent questions for the students. Before the Revolution, a student who was admitted to a higher institution of learning was not furnished with lodgings. Each one found a room for himself or herself. Now every university has its dormitories specially designated for the students, but the yearly increase in the number of new students makes it impossible to accommodate all of them.

In the R. S. F. S. R. students pay for lodging in the dormitories up to 3 rubles and a half a month, but in the other republics (Ukraine, White Russia, Transcaucasia) the students are given their lodging free of charge. In all cases, in R. S. F. S. R. as well as in the other republics of the Union, a student in the dormitory is provided with all the necessary furniture and various communal services. A recent congress of students passed a resolution requesting the Government to furnish free lodging to the students in the R. S. F. S. R., which will probably be granted.

The Government appropriates certain sums annually for repairs and maintenance. In addi-

tion a million rubles was appropriated in 1928 for new buildings, with which a student's house was erected for the 2nd Moscow State University, accommodating 1,000 people. In its five-year plan of construction, the Government has provided for the building of new dormitories for eight or nine of the largest educational institutions, accommodating at least a thousand students each. This year the plan is being carried out in three institutions—the Timiriazev Agricultural Academy, the Moscow Higher Technical School and the Moscow Institute of Transportation Engineers. In 1929, 2 million rubles were appropriated for that purpose.

The appropriations for the treatment of students in sanatoria and health resorts are increased every year by the People's Commissariat of Health. The Ukrainian students have one sanatorium bed to every 60 people, not counting the rest homes. However, the students are not contented with that and are looking for other means to furnish the necessary treatment and rest to the greatest possible number of students. For example, the large educational institutions have their own rest homes in the Crimea, the Caucasus and other resorts.

The Moscow Higher Technical School received 123 places at the health resorts assigned by the Government, and the School Board and the Students' Bureau sent 650 students to their own Rest Home in the Crimea. The 1st Moscow State University, the Plekhanov Institute of National Economy, the Timiriazev Agricultural Academy and a number of educational institutions in Leningrad and other cities, also send from 450 to 700 students to their own rest homes during the summer.

In addition to lodging and medical aid, the students who receive scholarships are entitled to free railroad tickets twice a year to any place in the Soviet Union.

Not only do the students get free medical treatment, but members of their families as well, and according to the decision of the Social Insurance Council of April 6, 1929, women students have the right to an allowance upon the birth of a child, and for feeding the child nine months, as in the case of a mother who works in a factory or office.

In the larger educational institutions, there are nurseries under the supervision of a proper pedagogical and medical staff, especially to care for student's children. There are such nurseries at the Moscow Higher Technical School, the Second Moscow State University, the Timiriazev Agricultural Academy, Leningrad, and other cities.

In addition there are commissions for the improvement of the living conditions of students in cities where there are higher institutions of learning. Such commissions are functioning in Leningrad, Nizhni-Novgorod, Saratov, Rostov-on-the-Don and in other cities.

The Leningrad Commission for the improvement of the living conditions of students established a sanatorium in the Crimea, where they sent 650 students. They organized a credit system with a fund of 75,000 rubles. In 1928-1929 the commission paid out as follows: for scholarships and allowances, 13,000 rubles; subsidies to Students' Mutual Aid Funds and to children's nurseries, 77,000 rubles; medical aid (purchase of places at health resorts), 75,000 rubles; text books for students, 5,000 rubles.

The Northern Caucasus Commission paid out the following sums in 1928-29: 261,840 rubles for food, 40,400 rubles for scholarship, 30,000 rubles for health resorts and so on.

Besides the various forms of State aid, there are mutual aid funds organized by the students' trade union committees, of which non-union students may also become members.

While the material support is still far from adequate, over 60 per cent of the students receive scholarships, and by the Government decree of June, 1928, the economic organizations were given the right to grant scholarships out of their own funds to students taking courses in those branches of applied sciences in which a given organization is particularly interested, and this system has already assumed large proportions. The trade unions also grant scholarships, issue regular allowances to students who have families and give special stipends in addition to State scholarships.

A certain proportion of the students are still, however, compelled to earn their living. The student organizations have succeeded in getting the Government to give the students temporary jobs through the labor exchanges, for which purpose special student departments have been established, through which the students are given temporary jobs. During the past year 21,732 students were sent to such jobs in Moscow alone.

The problem of cheap and wholesome food plays an important part in the life of the students and the students have taken up with the consumers' cooperatives the question of organizing student dining-rooms. Permission was obtained from the Government to use the premises for student dining-rooms free of charge. The cooperatives agreed to reduce the price of dinners for students, while serving the same meals as in the public dining-rooms. The cooperatives give dinners to students at the price of 32 kopeks for two courses, which is 13 kopeks cheaper than in the general public dining-rooms.

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Book Notes

"SOVIET UNION YEAR BOOK," 1929. Compiled and edited by A. A. Santalov and Louis Segal. George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., London. Obtainable through Amtorg Book Dept., 136 Liberty St., New York. Price \$2.00, postage prepaid.

The 1929 edition of the "Soviet Union Year Book," is a comprehensive 600 page annual, containing maps, diagrams, extensive statistics and explanatory material on practically every phase of Soviet internal affairs and foreign relations. Among other new departments this edition contains a "Who's Who" of the leading men and women in every field, and a complete list of periodical publications. It is an extremely valuable reference book.

"CIVIC TRAINING IN SOVIET RUSSIA," by Samuel N. Harper. University of Chicago Press. Chicago, 1929.

Professor Harper's volume on civic training is both scholarly and objective. The author has made a study of original sources on the spot. His knowledge of old Russia, as well as his study of new Soviet conditions, has given him background. He not only deals exhaustively with specific questions of civic training and political education, but with general education and cultural development. He describes the educational role of the cooperatives, the trade unions, the press, the stage, art, literature, radio, cinema, and music. His book is of special value to the student.

"THE CURIOUS LOTTERY," by Walter Duranty. Coward McCann. New York, 1929.

"The Curious Lottery" is a collection of tales of a dozen Soviet trials witnessed by Mr. Duranty, each of which might be expanded into a Dostoyevsky novel. They are excellently told—although occasionally Mr. Duranty adds a needless theatrical touch to situations where the stark outlines are so intensely dramatic that they cannot be improved. The book is perhaps more valuable for the light it throws on the tortured and devious inter-play of various Russian types, the product of the old regime, trying to adjust themselves to a new way of life, than for a clear picture of the workings of Soviet justice, although it does bring out that the main concern of Soviet law is the safeguarding of the community as a whole, rather than person and property.

"VAGABONDING AT FIFTY," by Helen Calista Wilson and Elsie Reed Mitchell. Coward McCann. New York, 1929.

The two spirited authors of "Vagabonding at Fifty" have seen far more of the Soviet Union, and in a far more intimate and exciting way than most—perhaps any—other travellers of recent years. From the Kuzbas Colony where they were workers, they set forth to travel by foot, horse and hard railway carriage among nomads and mountain folk, and down into the heart of Asia. They describe the people and land and the workings of contemporary problems against an ancient background, with gusto. And they give many homely details such as what should go into the knapsacks of anyone contemplating such a trip.

"SOVIET RULE IN RUSSIA," by Walter Russell Batsell. MacMillan, 1929.

Had "Soviet Rule in Russia" been prepared by a scholar and a writer possessed of the virtue of objectivity, it would have been of great value as a historical source book, for it purports to be primarily a study of new governmental and civic forms under the Soviet power. Unfortunately, the author jettisoned sober fact in favor of melodrama and farce comedy and the result is waste paper. The author adopts the premise that Soviet rule was established as the result of an anti-Russian conspiracy, started by Masonic orders, financed by the former German Kaiser, and carried out by a band of Jewish plug-uglies later reinforced by a sinister band of Mongols under Lenin and Georgian banditti under Stalin. The result has been a general looting of the country and increasing chaos. The proof is found in various Tsarist propaganda publications and forged documents.

The author has included translations of a number of Soviet legal documents and decrees, mostly of a trivial and insignificant character. Parts of these translations are wholly unintelligible. The author explains this by stating that Soviet legislation was prepared in great part by persons unfamiliar with legal terminology. The student who takes the trouble to compare the translations with the Russian originals will find another explanation in the apparent unfamiliarity of the translator with either Russian or English.

It gives one pause to realize that the preparation of this historical curiosity was subsidized by the Bureau of International Research of Harvard University and Radcliffe College.

Miscellaneous News

The "Land of Soviets" Reaches America

The "Land of Soviets," the Soviet plane flying from Moscow to New York, made its first landing on American soil on September 21st, when it arrived at the island of Attu, the Westernmost of the Aleutian Islands, after crossing the Bering Strait from Siberia. At Attu they were held up by rain and fog until the 24th, when they flew over the uncharted air route, above wild and rocky parts of the Aleutian Islands and landed at Dutch Harbor, Unalaska, where they encountered very rough weather. From there their route takes them to Seward, Sitka and Seattle, where the pontoons will be replaced by wheels for the final lap of the flight to New York. The whole flight will cover 20,000 kilometers.

More Tractors Purchased in U. S.

During the fiscal year 1929-30, three and a half times as many tractors will be purchased from abroad by the Soviet Union as during the present year. Up to the present time the agricultural machinery importing company "Selhozimport," has placed orders for the coming year for 14,080 tractors, of which 1,890 have already been delivered and distributed for use in the fall plowing. The remainder will be shipped from America to the port of Novorossisk between October and January.

Soviet Oil Export

According to the Naptha Syndicate, the U. S. S. R. exported 2,775,000 tons of different oil products during the first ten months of the current year, as against 2,177,000 during the same period last year. It is estimated that counting the amount exported during August and September, the total oil exports for the year will amount to 3,500,000 tons, an increase of 30 per cent over last year. England bought more oil from the Soviet Union than any other country, her purchases amounting to 497,000 tons for the first nine months of the year, 76.5 per cent more than last year. Then come Germany, Spain, Turkey, and others. Soviet oil products appeared on the South American and South African markets for the first time this year.

Nijni Novgorod Fair

The annual fair at Nijni Novgorod closed on September 7th. The turnover for the last day amounted to 8,660,000 rubles, and for the whole fair, 84,503,000. Altogether 1,128 firms participated in the fair. Of these 275 were foreign firms, mainly Persian.

Production Meetings of Workers

In order to increase the technical qualifications of labor, to raise the standards of labor discipline, and interest the workers more fully in problems of rationalization, the organization bureau of the All Union Central Trade Union Council will organize during the coming year an extensive chain of production circles, and Sunday technical universities and courses. All Soviet scientific and technical institutes, universities, societies and museums will be called on for assistance in raising the technical qualifications of the workers. "Sovkino" is preparing a series of short technical films to be used in this work. Three or four factories will be chosen for special experimental and demonstration work along these lines.

Harvest Festival at Sovhoz "Giant"

On September 1st, on the occasion of the completion of the harvest and the beginning of the fall seeding, a harvest festival was held at the Sovhoz (state farm) "Giant," the largest of the new grain farms organized by the Zernotrest (State Grain Trust). The festival was attended by hundreds of peasants from the surrounding villages, and workers from Rostov and other towns. Maxim Gorky was among the guests.

The manager of the Sovhoz, Mr. Litvinenko, reported that the yield per acre on the fields of the Sovhoz was twice as high as that of the peasants of the district. Sixty thousand tons of grain were harvested, and the net profit for the year is a million and a half rubles. A hundred thousand hectares will be seeded for next year's harvest.

Egyptian Cotton

Successful experiments have been made in growing Egyptian cotton in Turkmenistan, where from June to September the temperature is higher than in Egypt, although the temperature during the early spring months is less favorable. By the use of hot beds and green houses, however, this difficulty has been overcome, and it is proposed to turn over the entire area now sown to American cotton to Egyptian cotton, which will help solve the problem of supplying Soviet industry with its own cotton.

Growth of Medical Service in U. S. S. R.

During 1927-28, 618,500,000 rubles was spent in medical help for the population. Of this 80,200,000 was furnished by the state budget, 231,500,000 from the local budget, 268,500,000 from social insurance funds, 38,300,000 from special funds. In terms of pre-war rubles this represents an increase of 288 per cent over the amount spent in 1913. The amount spent on pub-

lic health has still further increased this year, and from available information, will amount to about 700,000,000 rubles.

Women Soviet Members

A circular has been issued by the Tsik (Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R.), to the Central Committees of all the Constituent Republics, instructing them to take special measures to insure that the women members who have been elected to serve on the Soviets should take an active and definite part in the governing of the country. To carry this out, village and city Soviets are to be instructed regularly regarding methods of drawing the women into more active work in the various sections, and by organizing conferences and courses to train the women for active participation in administrative work. In August a special two-week course was held under the Tsik to train women Soviet presidents in the performance of their duties.

Soviet "Talkies"

A number of "Talkies" are now being produced in the Soviet Union. Pudovkin, the director of Gorky's "Mother," "A Descendant of Jenghis Khan," and "The End of St. Petersburg," all of which have been shown in America, is at work on the first Soviet sound picture, "Good Living," depicting an episode of the civil war. The "Mejrabpom" Film Company is also at work on several sound pictures, among them one representing an attempt to utilize the talking picture as an educational medium in the anti-illiteracy work. The sound pictures are being taken by means of an apparatus invented by the Soviet engineer Tager.

Cinema in the Soviet Villages

Four years ago in all the villages of the R. S. F. S. R., there were only a few dozen permanent moving picture houses, and a hundred or so traveling movies. On October 1, 1925, there were only 68 regular moving pictures, and now there are 863 in the villages of the R. S. F. S. R., while the travelling moving pictures number 3,477. The development of moving pictures in the villages and towns is being greatly assisted by the long-term credits, which may be obtained through the local communal banks for the purposes of building moving picture halls.

Cultural Activity Among the Peasants

In addition to the cultural work carried on among the peasants by means of the radio and the moving picture, the peasants are carrying on a vast amount of work on their own initiative.

There are over 30,000 "circles" in the villages, numbering over a million members, which are concerned with dramatics, art, literature, or some other cultural activity. The audiences attending their plays and entertainments number over 60 million a year. These groups are organized around the "Isba Tchetalnaya," or village reading room, and usually the members of the local Communist Youth organization are the leading spirits. The village school teachers always give a great deal of time to these cultural groups, helping them with their programs, teaching them, and coaching and acting in their plays.

Education Among Minor Peoples in Siberia

In view of the extraordinary backwardness that has always prevailed among the various ethnic groups inhabiting Siberia, the development of educational work is of special importance. The amount spent on education by Soviet agencies has increased from 11,832,000 rubles in 1925-26, to 24,373,000 last year. In addition to this the local populations themselves have made voluntary contributions amounting to six million rubles, particularly for educational purposes. As a result of these efforts literacy has increased far more from 1920 to 1926 than in the twenty-three years preceding the revolution. This is particularly noticeable among the women, as may be seen from the following table:

		Percentage of Literacy					
		1897		1920		1926	
		City-Village		City-Village		City-Village	
Men	47	15	61	26	67	40
Women	28	3	46	9	52	14

Publishing House for National Minorities

Five years ago, by decree of the Soviet Government, a special publishing house was organized to publish books, magazines and newspapers in the language of the national minorities who had never been able to develop their native culture before, and for many of whom a written language had to be created.

The "Centroizdat" (Central Publishing House for Soviet Nationalities) issues publications in fifty or more different languages.

Since its inception Centroizdat has published tens of thousands of books and journals in the Bashkir, Ingush, Karachai, Kabardian, Chechen, Circassian, Kirghiz, Gypsy, and other languages, on questions of politics, literature and science, as well as many school books. There has been more demand for agricultural literature than any other kind. The Centroizdat publishes twenty newspapers and magazines in eleven different languages, including papers for peasants of Tatar, Jewish, Chuvash, Bulgarian, German, Mordvian and other nationalities.

Books and Pamphlets About the U. S. S. R. in the English Language

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Soviet State Begins Thirteenth Year
Anglo-Soviet Relations Resumed
"Land of Soviets" Completes Flight
Agriculture in the Twelfth Year
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Houses For Workers

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Soviet State Begins Thirteenth Year	166	Book Notes	185
Agriculture in the Twelfth Year	169	Miscellaneous News:	
"Land of Soviets" Completes Flight	171	Soviet Scientists at International Con-	
Houses for Workers	172	gresses	186
Soviet Oil Trade	174	New Gold Deposits in U. S. S. R.	186
Children in the Soviet Union	175	Return of "Sedov" Expedition	186
Tadjikistan Becomes Federal Republic	176	Archeological Discoveries	186
Eisenstein's New Film	177	American Expedition in U. S. S. R.	187
Anglo-Soviet Relations Resumed	178	In the Moscow Theaters	187
Soviet-Chinese Controversy	180	Legalization of Documents	187
		Administrative Appointments	187

Soviet State Begins Thirteenth Year

THE Soviet Union entered upon its thirteenth year on November 7, after twelve months of substantial progress.

The twelfth year was one of important decisions, especially in economic matters. The carefully designed five-year plan for industrial and agricultural development was finally adopted after several revisions upward. It had been in tentative operation from October 1, 1928, the beginning of the Soviet fiscal year. During the year an excellent beginning was made under the plan in extending the area of the collective farms and inaugurating a system of highly mechanized large scale grain farms. Both in sown area and in productivity this "socialized sector" in agriculture exceeded expectations. In industry, likewise, the output for the fiscal year exceeded the planned output. Under the plan the increase over the previous year was fixed at 21.5 per cent. The actual increase was about 24 per cent.

In connection with the five-year plan, a decision of great importance was reached before the end of the year. This was the governmental decree authorizing the adoption of a continuous working week. Under this scheme, as explained in previous issues of this publication, factories will operate every day, while the rest days of the workers will be arranged on a stagger system. Thus in a seven-day week each worker would have a day and a half of rest, but production would continue. In addition there would be five national holidays during the year, on which tools would be downed generally. An alternative plan for a continuous working week, sponsored by the Academy of Sciences and approved by the labor organiza-

tions and by the Commissariat for Labor, involves a revision of the calendar. Under this plan each month would consist of six five-day weeks. In each week under the stagger arrangement each worker would have one rest day, and the five national holidays during the year would be extra-calendar days. Under either arrangement it is estimated that production would be increased from 15 to 20 per cent.

The successes achieved during 1928-29, led to an ambitious upward revision of the plan for 1929-30, both in industry and agriculture. In industry an increase in production of no less than 31.5 per cent is projected. In agriculture, the plan for the expansion of collective and State farms has been greatly broadened. The higher productivity of the collectives during the past year has converted scores of thousands of peasants, who were hitherto wedded to the old methods of individual small-scale operations.

While it is still too early to give comprehensive figures for the crops of 1929, the indications late in September were that the grain crop would be over 76,000,000 metric tons, the largest since the bumper harvest of 1926, and the so-called technical crops promised good yields. The total sown area of 117,960,000 hectares was nearly 5,000,000 hectares over that of the previous year. The area sown to grain, 95,790,000 hectares, was 3,670,000 hectares over the previous year. The sown area of the collective farms was 4,260,000 hectares and that of the State farms 1,820,000 hectares, both together making up about 6.5 per cent of the total area sown in grain.

During the past two years the grain exports



TRACTOR BATTERY ON GOVERNMENT FARM

have been negligible. Under normal circumstances it will still be several years before grain exports in quantity are restored. The success of the collective and State farms during the past year and the plans for their rapid extension give a foundation for the future. Soviet agricultural authorities are confident of building up a steadily growing export surplus in grain during the next few years.

In industry gains were particularly marked during the year in machine building of virtually all kinds and in branches of the chemical industry. With a gain of 24 per cent for the year in the total industrial output, the pre-war figures were left far behind. Industrial production for the fiscal year is estimated at about 160 per cent of that of 1913. Expenditures for capital improvements (not including electrification) for 1928-29, were \$855,440,750, as compared with \$650,700,000 in 1927-28. The productivity of labor increased 16 per cent, as compared with the previous year, and nominal wages increased from 7 to 8 per cent. By the close of the fiscal year the seven-hour day had been extended to include about 13 per cent of the industrial workers.

Production in some of the key industries was as follows (in metric tons):

	1927-28	1928-29	Increase Per Cent
Coal	35,400,000	41,300,000	16.7
Oil	11,502,000	13,700,000	19.1
Iron Ore	5,997,000	7,100,000	18.4
Pig Iron	3,281,000	4,200,000	28.0
Steel	4,156,000	4,800,000	15.5
Rolled Iron	3,277,000	3,700,000	12.9
Cement	1,836,900	2,210,000	20.3
Cotton Cloth (million meters)	2,695,000	2,952,200	9.5

An important development during the year was the signing of many technical assistance contracts

with foreign firms for consultative or supervisory work in connection with the development of industry. By the close of the fiscal year about seventy-five such contracts were in operation, thirty of them with American firms. Under the various contracts several hundred American engineers and technicians were engaged in the upbuilding of Soviet industry, in harnessing the rivers and otherwise helping to develop the natural resources of the country.

Railway freight operations for the year showed an increase of 17 per cent, considerably above the plan. The output of electrical power during the fiscal year was six and a half billion kilowatt hours, as compared with five billion in 1927-28. This was over three times the pre-war output. The ambitious plans for electrical develop-



VLADIMIR ILYICH ULIANOV (LENIN)

ment, now under way, which were criticized as impossible a few years ago, are being achieved according to schedule. They include the huge Dnieprostroy hydroelectric development, involving construction on a scale not hitherto attempted in Europe, which will have a capacity of 800,000 horsepower. Work on this project is well advanced and the plant should be in operation by the close of 1932. An indication of the increasing tempo of power development is the fact that the production of electrical energy during the current fiscal year will be upwards of eight and a half billion kilowatt hours, an increase of 100 per cent in three years.

Financially, the year was marked by a number of favorable features. A favorable foreign trade balance was achieved, despite the lack of grain exports. The increase in exports over the previous fiscal year was 15 per cent. The receipts for the fiscal year in the Federal budget were approximately 8,000 million rubles, as compared with an estimate in the plan of 7,231 million rubles. On September 1, the fund of gold and foreign currency in the State Bank showed an increase of 94,154,000 rubles over the same date of 1928. On October 11th, the Soviet Commissariat for Finance announced that subscriptions to the Third Industrial Loan (of 750 million rubles) had reached a total of 731,000,000 rubles.

During the fiscal year there was a considerable extension of trade between the United States and the Soviet Union, despite the grave handicaps that still attach to such commerce. The Soviet trading organizations in the United States reported purchases for the year of \$109,000,000 for shipment to the Soviet Union, and sales of Soviet products here of \$40,000,000. For the previous fiscal year the figures were respectively \$91,230,000 and \$22,000,000. It is interesting to recall that in 1913, the total of Russian-American trade was \$48,000,000. According to the reports of the United States Department of Commerce, the U. S. S. R. is one of the fastest growing markets for American industrial machinery.

In 1928 it stood fourth on the export list for American machinery, next after Canada, the United Kingdom and Mexico. The Soviet Union was second among foreign purchasers of construction and conveying equipment. During the year some 400 Soviet business representatives visited the United States, and about half that number of Americans visited the Soviet Union on business missions.

During the year, upwards of 11,500,000 children were in Soviet schools, 50 per cent more than before the war. The larger cities for the most part now have adequate, modern school systems and educational facilities are rapidly being extended in remote country districts. During the year approximately \$500,000,000 was expended on public education, the appropriations having increased 60 per cent in the past two years.

The rapid industrialization of the country under the five-year plan has raised urgent educational problems in connection with the training of technical men and of skilled workers capable of tending the new and complicated machinery. At present there are only about 20,000 skilled technicians in the country. This number must be increased to 60,000 by the end of the five-year period. During the same period the limited number of highly skilled workers in the country must be in-

creased by a minimum of 1,300,000. These tasks involve a rapid expansion of the facilities for technical education and vocational training.

The five-year plan includes provisions for the training of this new skilled personnel. The new Commissar for Education of the R. S. F. S. R., Andrey Bubnov, is already facing this problem with vigor, and he has the active cooperation of the labor organizations with their 12,000,000 members. Mr. Bubnov was formerly in charge of educational activities in the Red Army. Under his energetic system, the two-years' period of service became a training period for turning out skilled citizens. His methods of transforming



JOSEPH STALIN
General Secretary of Communist Party

educational raw material will now be applied on a much larger scale.

During the year the Soviet Government continued its policy of establishing a modus vivendi of peaceful cooperation with other countries. Having been one of the first Governments to sign and ratify the Kellogg Pact (August 18, 1928), the Soviet Government at the beginning of 1929, invited its neighbors to a conference for the purpose of making the pact immediately effective among them. A protocol to this effect was signed in Moscow February 9, by representatives of the Governments of Esthonia, Latvia, Poland, Rumania and the U. S. S. R., and was subsequently ratified by all five Governments. This protocol was also adhered to later by Turkey (February 27), Persia (April 3), and Lithuania (April 5).

On October 3, 1929, Mr. Dovgalevsky, representing the Soviet Government, signed a protocol with the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs providing for the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries, which had been broken off by the Baldwin Government in May, 1927.

A disturbing feature of foreign relations during the year was the action of the Chinese authorities, at the beginning of the summer, in seizing the Chinese Eastern Railway and forcibly removing the Soviet officials and personnel, in direct violation of the treaty of 1924, providing for joint Sino-Soviet control of the road and equitable division of the profits. No adequate explanation of this act of banditry has yet been forthcoming. Shortly before the seizure the Soviet Consulate at Harbin was raided and its records stolen. Some time later the Nanking authorities apparently hit upon the idea of attempting to justify the seizure of the railway by stating that documents seized

in the raid on the consulate revealed a plot against the Nanking Government. Facsimiles of these "documents" are now being circulated in the United States. They reveal the "documents" to be forgeries of the clumsiest sort, both in form (they are in the old Tsarist spelling which has not been in use in the Soviet Union for twelve years) and in content. The railroad, which had been built up as a profitable enterprise during the past five years, has rapidly disintegrated since the seizure. Soviet attempts to settle the issue have thus far failed.

The twelfth year of Soviet power will be notable for the establishment of the most comprehensive project in economic planning ever attempted. The five-year plan has been called audacious, but it was shaped with painstaking care from a conservative calculation of all the resources of the country. It is a schedule of development in which every citizen feels himself a participant, and as such it has aroused general interest and enthusiasm.



NEW STATE INDUSTRIES BUILDING, KHARKOV

Agriculture in the Twelfth Year

THIS year's harvest, in spite of none too favorable weather conditions in some parts of the country, is the best the Soviet Union has had during the past three years. Preliminary figures give the total 1929 grain crop as 76,250,000 metric tons as against 72,670,000 tons harvested in 1928. The seeded area this spring amounted to 117,960,000 hectares, an increase of about five per cent over the preceding year. The increased harvest was largely due to the application of new machinery and methods. Before the revolution there were less than five hundred tractors in all of Russia. There are now 45,000, and increasing quantities of other types of modern machinery, some imported and some of home manufacture,

are being distributed throughout the Soviet Union. The plan for the coming year calls for the importation from abroad of over 22,000 tractors, and the construction in Soviet factories of 10,600.

The most spectacular development in the agricultural situation during the past year has been the extraordinary growth of peasant collectives, which now embrace over a million peasant households. Groups of peasants, whole villages, and even groups of villages are pooling land and equipment and cooperating in the cultivation of the land, and to a lesser degree in the minor agricultural processes. The number of collectives has almost doubled during the past year. On October

first, there were 61,220 collectives listed, while the seeded area has tripled, now amounting to 5,000,000 hectares. According to the five-year plan, this will be increased to 15,000,000 hectares during the coming year. The average yield of the collectives was 13 per cent higher than that of the individual peasant farms, while in separate cases, notably in the Volga region, it was from fifty to sixty per cent higher. The total production of the collectives amounted to 2,910,000 metric tons. They furnished 12 per cent of the commercial grain during the past year.

Fifty-five large Government "grain factories" equipped with modern buildings and machinery and applying scientific agricultural methods have begun operation during the past year, and 65 more will be added during the current year, by which time they will cultivate one million hectares. This year there were 2,797 tractors on these farms, and by next spring there will be about 6,000. Two years ago there was only one combine in operation in the whole Soviet Union, this year forty-five were used in the harvest. In addition, 1,550 have been purchased this fall and up to seventy per cent of the harvesting on the grain farms will be done with combines next year.

To supplement the work of the agricultural schools and colleges practical training courses are being given on these farms for directors, engineers, mechanics, tractorists and cooks. One farm in the North Caucasus has been set aside particularly as a demonstration and training farm. Several American specialists are helping in its organization, and it is proposed to invite one American to help in the organization of each of the new farms.

In addition to these new Government farms which are devoted entirely to grain production, attention has been given to increasing the mechanization of the 6,000 sovhozes (Government farms), devoted to large scale diversified agriculture, already in existence. The total production of Government farms this year amounted to 1,280,000 metric tons.

The "Machine and Tractor Stations" developed this year for the first time, are another interesting method of increasing production. They are central stations organized by the Government and equipped with tractors and machinery which is rented out to the peasants. These squadrons of machinery cultivate the land of a group of peasants as one large piece, doing away with boundaries, and the product is divided according to the amount of each peasant's land. The peasants themselves are taught to operate the machinery, for which they are paid regular wages. This method very often results in the peasants who make use of the machinery organizing themselves into collectives. For example, through the tractor station at the sovhoz "Shevshenko," sixty

peasant settlements organized themselves into collectives, and have done away with boundaries forever. This vast undertaking includes 5,500 peasant farms, covering 50,000 hectares, all within a radius of 15 kilometers from the main base. The average productivity of this district was increased about 55 per cent this year. During the coming year it is proposed to organize 102 such stations throughout the Soviet Union, covering five million hectares.

Finally, great impetus has been given to agricultural production by the development of "contractation," whereby the Government contracts with a group of peasants for a definite amount of grain or some other crop, and gives advances, credits on machinery, and other forms of assistance. The area under contract crops last spring amounted to 34,500,000 hectares. This method has been especially valuable in developing crops fairly new to the Soviet Union such as soy beans, castor-oil beans, kenafa and so on, as well as grain and technical crops. A large amount of selected seed is being produced in this way.

Grain collections for the first quarter after this harvest showed an increase of 175 per cent over the same period last year, and amounted to 43 per cent of the total amount to be collected during the year, as against 21 per cent last year.



BASHKIR GIRL TRACTORIST

“Land of Soviets” Completes Flight

WITH its arrival in New York on November 1, the plane “Land of Soviets,” successfully completed its 20,000 kilometer flight started from Moscow on August 23rd. The four flyers, Simeon Shestakov, Philip Bolotov, Boris Sterligov and Dmitri Fufayev encountered many difficulties and delays in their flight over the vast stretches of Siberia and the stormy Northern Pacific. The flight was not made to establish any records, but for experimental purposes, and to bring a message of friendliness to the American people. The plane arrived at Seattle on October 3rd, and on its way across the United States stopped at San Francisco, Salt Lake City, North Platt, Chicago, and Detroit. Everywhere they were enthusiastically welcomed. Banquets, parades and mass meetings were given in their honor by city officials, chambers of commerce, aviation and other societies. Henry Ford entertained them at Dearborn. In New York a dinner was arranged in their honor jointly by the American-Russian Chamber of Commerce and the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce. The

American Society for Cultural Relations with the Soviet Union also arranged entertainment for the flyers in New York and in Chicago. Several tractors were presented to the flyers for the new Soviet farms by groups of Russian-born workers in the United States.

Various branches of the United States Government have given cordial cooperation to the flight. The Navy Department supplied regular weather information by radio, and naval radio stations kept in touch with the plane during the entire flight across the Pacific and down the coast. Naval vessels and planes were dispatched to search for the flyers when they were reported missing off the Alaskan Coast. The Customs Bureau of the Treasury Department facilitated the landing of Soviet gas and oil at the remote island of Attu, and a revenue cutter gave assistance in a difficult

landing at Unalaska. Other departments helped in the arrangement of technical details which greatly facilitated the flight.

The press throughout the country has followed the flight with great interest and enthusiasm.

On October fifteenth, The New York Times published an editorial describing the general development of Russian aviation, which said of the flyers:

“Seldom, if ever, have aviators faced such hazards as Simeon Shestakov and his companions triumphed over before coming down at Seattle... Theirs has been a great achievement, and New York should give them a hospitable welcome.”

The New York World, on the same date, said, in an editorial entitled “Four Gallant Russians”:

“These men have come many weary miles over much dreary and dangerous country, and in peril of sullen seas, giving an impressive example of what the airplane can do in actual travel under difficulties.”

The Washington News, after commenting on the assistance given by the Coast Guard, and the enthusiasm with which the arrival of the plane in Seattle was greeted, said:

“The welcome was for brave men. The recognition was for great achievement.”

“America’s welcome to the Soviet flyers is as spontaneous and generous as the welcome and cooperation given by Russia to the foreign flyers who have crossed that country.”

The flight of the “Land of Soviets” was sponsored by the “Osoaviakhim” (Society for Promotion of Aviation and Chemistry), an organization which has a membership of 3,500,000, and which has organized all the important Soviet flights in recent years.

Simeon Shestakov, chief pilot, one of the best known Soviet aviators, established a record with his Moscow-Tokio and return flight in 1925. The other three flyers, Bolotov, Sterligov, and Fufayev, have distinguished records in the development of Soviet aviation.



SIMEON SHESTAKOV
Chief Pilot of “Land of Soviets”

Houses for Workers

IN considering the present housing situation in the Soviet Union the tendency is to be over-strict in criticizing its defects—the over-crowding, the high cost of building, the poor quality of building materials, the absence of standards, and to forget how terrible housing conditions were in the old days, how short a time there has been to replace the evil shacks and barracks of the past with decent modern dwellings, to build whole towns and cities where none were before.

Even the opening scene of Gorky's "Lower Depths" is an understatement of the way most of the workers in old Russia had to live, since it fails to reproduce the unbearable atmosphere—and those *miserables* at least lived in a house. In the South of Russia many of the workers were forced to live in mud hovels, dug out of the earth

refugees from the front crowding into already glutted quarters. The October revolution, releasing many large houses for the use of the workers, brought temporary relief. But the destruction of the civil war period, the lack of repairs, brought on a new crisis, although the mortality of that period, and the flight of many city people to the country districts, resulted in an increase of the average housing space per person in the cities.

From 1922 on, the cities revived rapidly. The workers flooded back into the industrial centers. In 1920, the city population of the Soviet Union was under twenty millions. In the next two years it increased by two million, and the 1926 census recorded 27 million people living in the cities.

One of the first results of the revolution was to equalize the distribution of housing space. For-



OIL WORKERS' HOUSES IN GROZNY — OLD STYLE

with their own hands, the air of which, census takers reported, was unendurable for more than two or three minutes. Many of the workers in the Moscow district had no separate sleeping quarters, and slept on the tables and benches in the factories where they worked. Rarely was a worker able to hire a room for himself. Usually they merely rented a corner for sleeping space. In Moscow, at the time of the 1912 census, there were over 300,000 of these "corner lodgers," living on an average of eleven people, men, women, and children, to a room. There were frequently two or more people to a bed, it often happened that entire strangers were bedfellows, and the single beds were usually occupied by one person during the day and another at night.

At the beginning of the World War living conditions were beyond description, with all building stopped, rents rising daily, and thousands of

merly the difference varied from 150 square meters per person in wealthy urban districts, to from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ or at the very most, 3 square meters per person in the poor districts. In 1923, the average norm, while still below the minimum established by the Commissariat of Health, was 6.8 square meters per person. It was estimated that in order to provide the necessary minimum space per person, it would be necessary to expend five billion rubles* for housing, an amount that could not be dreamed of in that period. In addition, the increase of the city population at the rate of a million a year meant a still further decrease in the space per person. Beginning with 1923, however, the amount of money expended for building new houses in the cities has been increasing from year to year. In 1920, it was 70 million rubles*, and by 1928, it had reached 580

*A ruble equals 51.5 cents.

million rubles. Thus it is evident that as the general economic condition improves the amount of money spent for housing increases, and at the present rate, housing facilities have almost reached the point where the minimum norm can be provided and the increased population cared for as well.

The most intensive building is going on in the industrial centers, where the population is expanding at a more rapid rate than elsewhere, in some cases as much as ten and twenty per cent a year. On the outskirts of all the industrial centers, whole forests of new houses are rising. And not only is the amount of building that is being done important, but the quality has changed greatly for the better. Special commissions are working out new types of houses, the designs of the model houses of Vienna are being studied and adapted, groups of artists and architects from

they built were light and airy enough, equipped with closets, gas stoves, toilets and central heating, but many things were lacking. There were no baths, no ice boxes, no porches. The walls were thin, letting through the slightest noise. Little was done to make the land around the houses more attractive. Since then, however, each new house has been an improvement over the first ones, until by 1928, all the defects of the original houses were eliminated, and in so far as possible, the first ones remodeled. A number of central social and cultural buildings have been added, and trees and shrubbery have been planted around all the houses and in the open spaces. The Moscow Soviet and the district Soviet have given particular attention to the improvement of the whole district, and this section which not many years ago was entirely neglected, now has wide, clean streets, good stores, schools, libraries, cinema and so on. A similar development has



NEW WORKERS' APARTMENTS IN GROZNY

the cities are offering new designs, women's organizations are insisting on improvements to lighten housekeeping. As a result the new houses are lighter and cleaner, more convenient and more attractive than those built in the first feverish days of reconstruction.

For the most part the new houses are being built in the vicinity of the factories, so that the workers are not forced to expend their energy walking many miles to work. Not only is the quality of the separate houses that are being built improving from year to year, but increased attention is being given to the planned development of whole communities, to streets and parks and public places, and the improvement of community service. Take for example, the Cooperative Housing Society, "Krasnye Severyanin," in Moscow, an organization of seven thousand members, mainly railroad workers, which commenced building houses in 1924. The first three-story houses

taken place wherever building has been in progress over a number of years. Where building operations are just beginning the earlier mistakes are being avoided entirely. Moscow, Leningrad, Sverdlovsk, Stalingrad, Rostov-Don—all these cities and many others are being surrounded by new and attractive workers' communities, with new street car lines and electric railways connecting them with the factories and the center of the city. The outskirts of the oily, dusty, bleak Baku of old have been transformed into a series of garden cities. The same is true of the other great oil center, Grozny. Ivanovo-Voznesensk, formerly the ugliest place in the world, with muddy, filthy streets, and nothing but rickety huts and hideous barracks to house the thousands of textile workers, has been changed beyond recognition with its large many-windowed apartment houses, and attractive groups of individual and several-family houses, young trees and plants struggling

bravely through the mud, street lights, and tramways and sewage systems.

New external surroundings have had their reflection in increased cleanliness and order within the workers' homes, and hence in the general health of the working population, and the mortality of the general population in Moscow and other large centers is only half of what it was in pre-war days, and if the working class population alone is considered, the mortality is less than half of what it used to be.

In order to extend the building activities and insure the more active participation of the workers themselves, the "Housing Cooperatives" were formed by official decree in 1924. The purpose of this form of cooperative is not only to increase the amount of building, to work out cheaper and more rational methods, but also to educate the working population to higher standards of living than those to which they have been accustomed. Beginning the first year of their existence with new construction amounting to 9,700,000 rubles, it is estimated that the amount spent by housing cooperatives during 1928-29, was about one hundred millions. Between 1924 and 1928, the housing cooperatives erected more than 1,800,000 square meters of housing space, furnishing quarters for over 75,000 workers and their families. On January 1, 1929, the membership of the housing cooperatives was 250,000 and their capital stock amounted to 35 million rubles. Through the cooperatives the initiative of the workers has been aroused so that many of them have helped in the building themselves in their free hours, and particularly in laying out parks and gardens.

The housing cooperatives received long term loans through special municipal banks, at a very low rate of interest, for up to 90 per cent of the amount they need. This makes it possible to charge merely nominal rents to the members. A great deal of building is being done directly by the municipalities, by the industries and the trade unions as well.

There is a growing demand on the part of the women for collective institutions, handling many domestic tasks more efficiently than can be done by individuals, and giving them more time to take part in social and cultural activities. Thus central dining rooms, cooperative kitchens, day nurseries and kindergartens, community laundries, are being organized by the thousand.

In 1928, building costs were lowered by 8 per cent, and a similar decrease is estimated for the present year. The "Scientific and Technical Institute" of the Supreme Economical Council, Gosplan, and a number of other organizations are carrying on experiments with new types of building material, making careful studies of the experience of Western Europe, and adapting it to Rus-

sian conditions. Standards are being established. Several basic types of workers' houses have been worked out for different districts. At the same time an effort is being made to keep the houses attractive, and sufficiently varied in design to avoid the deadly effect of the modern suburbia of the Western world.

Soviet Oil

WHILE exact figures regarding the sale of Soviet oil on home and foreign markets for the past fiscal year have not yet been published, approximate results for the year can be established. For the first eleven months of the year 3,120,000 metric tons of oil products were sold abroad, and judging by the situation in September it is estimated that the total oil exports for the year will exceed 3,500,000 tons. This represents an increase of 30 per cent over last year, and an almost four-fold increase over the amount of oil exported in 1913. The proportion of the various oil products exported has changed greatly. Kerosene was the main oil export before the war, while at the present time gasoline, the most valuable oil product, occupies first place, the quantity now exported being seven times greater than in 1913.

The sale of oil products on the home market increased by 15.5 per cent over the preceding year, as against an increase of 11.8 per cent proposed in the plan. Mass consumption of kerosene for light and cooking purposes, increased by 27 per cent, as against an increase of 14.4 per cent in the preceding year.

This increase in the general use of kerosene for household purposes is an evidence of the growth of the cultural level of the people, and their general well being. On the other hand, the increased use of tractors in agriculture has resulted in an increase from 140,000 tons to 206,000 tons in the amount of kerosene used for tractors. The development of auto transport, the mechanization of agriculture, and the increase by 24 per cent of industrial production, have meant an increase of 37 per cent in the sale of gasoline, and of 35 per cent in the sale of lubricating oils.

The capital expenditures of the Neftsyndicate (Naphtha Syndicate) during the past year, have amounted to about twenty-two million rubles. Recently the construction in Tuapse of oil warehouses with a capacity of 150,000 tons has been completed, and work has been commenced on a new warehouse in Batum. The maritime fleet of the Neftsyndicate, which transports oil products from the Black Sea ports and Vladivostok, has been enriched by two new tankers of 10,000 tons each, one of them constructed in France, and one in the Soviet shipyards in Nikolayev.

Children in the Soviet Union



AT THE MOSCOW CHILDREN'S THEATER

EVEN the children of Soviet Russia have their "pyatiletka," or five-year plan. At the recent Pioneer congress in Moscow the speaker whose words were followed with the most bright eyed interest was Krjijanovsky, telling them of the marvels to be accomplished in the five-year plan. No tale of Jules Verne could have filled the children with greater excitement than his story of digging coal and iron from the earth, transforming it into fuel and machinery, of harnessing the waters to make light and power, of miracles to be performed not by the waving of wands, but by the mind and muscle of human beings.

The children themselves demanded that all the details of the vast plan be explained to them. As a result the children voted to work out their own five-year plan, requiring first a study of the general plan, then a program of the part the children would play in it.

This amazing response of the children to the activities of the adult world is the natural result of the new method of teaching which relates all their studies directly to life, and uses the life around them for school material. This approach is not only true of the school system, but of all things that are done for children in the Soviet Union. Children's books, children's theaters, children's movies are being developed in the Soviet Union to a remarkable extent, and always with the emphasis on the real world rather than the world of phantasy. There is nothing solemn about the way things are presented to children. Far from it. Children's books are a riot of gay color and illustration in which the journey of a letter around the world, the history of a match from the cutting of the great tree in the forest until it lights the fire to bake bread, are told with humor and zest. "Gosizdat," (the Government Publishing Company), has a special Children's Book Depart-

ment, the writers' societies have sections devoted to children's literature, some of the best artists are called upon to illustrate and decorate the books. At the same time, the best of the old folk tales are being selected and re-issued, and children's classics of other lands are translated. Children's conferences are called to discuss what kind of books they want. Children's book festivals are held. There are a number of special children's magazines and newspapers to which the children themselves contribute.

There are special children's theaters in Moscow, Kiev, Kharkov, Tiflis, Krasnodar, Perm, and elsewhere. Here plays of the modern world written especially for children are presented, as well as such robust favorites as Robin Hood, Tom Sawyer, the Jungle Tales, Pinocchio—nor, for all the stress on realism, are Soviet children cheated of the glamorous Arabian Night tales. In addition to the special children's theatres, separate performances of plays suitable for children such as Maeterlinck's "Blue Bird," are frequently given by the established theaters. The dramatic activity of children themselves is encouraged in every way. There are hundreds of "children's dramatic circles." In the schools they act history instead of reading it. They take part in the great public pageants and demonstrations, they write and act in their own plays and operas and ballets.

Special moving pictures for children are also produced. Less progress has been made in this line, and now great efforts are being made to develop types of pictures suitable to children. A



PIONEERS AT CAMP OFF FOR MORNING SWIM

unique "kino-laboratory" in Moscow sends out psychologists to observe and test the effects of various types of pictures on children. When it was found that such pictures as the "Perils of Pauline" and other European and American favorites had an over-stimulating and unhealthy effect, and when it was discovered that an alarming number of future Soviet citizens had no other ambition than to be movie stars, the situation was approached in an intelligent way. Groups of children were taken to the moving picture studios, where they saw that the hair-raising leaps from high buildings were really jumps of a few feet, and most of the breathless escapades mere camera tricks. Interest in how these things were done soon replaced the interest in the thing itself, and the technical end became more fascinating than

the faked adventure. "Movie circles" of children were organized, in which they study the technique, and work out and produce pictures of their own.

This cultural work is only a small part of what is being done for the children of Soviet Russia. The greatest emphasis, perhaps, has been on giving them health and strength. The Department of Health pays special attention to child welfare, and has a great chain of childrens' sanatoria as well as institutions for preventive work. The best guarantee of their health, however, is the great emphasis on physical culture and sport, both during the school year and in the summer when thousands of the children scatter to camps in woods and fields and seashore, where they live in the wind and sun, and grow brown and sturdy.

Tadjikistan Becomes a Federal Republic

TADJIKISTAN, formerly an autonomous Republic within Uzbekistan, became a Constituent Republic of the U. S. S. R. on October 20th, increasing the number of Federal States in the Soviet Union from six to seven. In connection with the change of status the name of the capital has been changed from Dushambey to Stalinabad.

Although the area of Tadjikistan is only about a hundred thousand square miles, and its population less than a million, it is a country of almost unlimited possibilities and untold natural resources. It was only two or three years ago that it settled down to a peaceful existence, having until then been overrun with all kinds of bandits and subject to frequent raids across the Afghan border. Not until two and a half years ago was the Soviet system introduced, and since then its economic and cultural advance has been almost meteoric. During the past four years the Soviet Government has done everything possible to help in the development of Tadjikistan, and has spent a total of 90,000,000 rubles (about \$45,000,000) not including the present year. The country's



A TADJIK VILLAGE SOVIET PRESIDENT USING HIS NEW TELEPHONE

budget has increased from 3,500,000 rubles in 1926 to 40,000,000 rubles this year. The seeded area has attained the pre-war level, and the area under cotton is double the pre-war area, having reached 61,000 hectares last spring.

Up until very recently wheels were unknown among the Tadjiks. They did not even use the *arba* (a primitive cart used by many nomad tribes of the East), but travelled in sleighs even in the summer time. During the last three years 2,500 kilometers of roads have been built, and work has begun on 140 miles of railroad linking Stalinabad with rail and steam lines.

Three years ago there was not a single industrial enterprise in Tadjikistan. Now there are eight cotton mills, three oil mills, and an electric power station. A textile factory is under construction. All this development has meant a great

increase in the general well being of the population, who live under incredibly primitive conditions. The amount of manufactured goods imported into Tadjikistan during the last three years has increased four-fold. Meantime the

number of schools has been growing, and there is an increasing amount of printed material in the native tongue, which is the Farsit language, also used in North India, Afghanistan and Eastern Persia. Twelve hospitals and sixty dispensaries have been established. Many Tadjiks who left the country during the revolutionary years, are returning.

The country is well timbered, and a large lumber industry is envisaged. The mineral wealth of the country includes gold, coal, iron, zinc, and pigeon blood rubies.

Amnesty for the peasants, chiefs and religious leaders imprisoned in the years from 1918, to 1926, was one of the first acts of the new Government, which is 93 per cent native Tadjik. The Government has promised a redistribution of land on a more rational basis, and assistance in cultivating it collectively, through credits for machinery, and the provision of trained instructors.

"Old and New"

EISENSTEIN, director of "Potemkin" and "Ten Days that Shook the World" has produced a new moving picture which critics are hailing as the finest film that has been made in Soviet Russia. The picture, originally announced as "General Line," is now called "Old and New," and is about the village—the old village, with all its ignorance and despair, and the new, being transformed by machinery and collective labor.

The critic Volkov, reviewing the picture in *Izvestia*, writes:

"Anyone who has seen the ordinary moving picture dealing with the village knows what a dangerous and evil thing the tractor can sometimes be for our moving picture directors. In their hands it becomes merely a dull and clumsy adjunct to some sugary story, or crude piece of propaganda. But put a tractor, a cream separator,



—and as he is today

a thoroughbred bull, into the hands of such a master as Eisenstein, and the ploughing of the land, the churning of butter, and the improvement of livestock are transformed into a magnificent poem. . . .

"The story of how a dairy collective obtains a purebred bull and a cream separator is told with an epic grandeur. In one scene a dark cloud gathers above the field, over which the herd is being driven. It covers the whole sky, leaving only a tiny strip of light on the horizon. And in the cloud, a powerful incarnation of strength and fecundity, appears the form of a colossal bull.

"The variety of the methods used by Eisenstein is endless. The story of the bull and the separator is told in solemn, moving tones, while the episode of the tractor is treated as a merry comedy. The acquisition of the tractor itself is handled satirically. The peasant delegates sent to purchase the tractor and their worker-patrons encounter the trenches of the bureaucrats. The situation is banal enough. But Eisenstein handles it with originality. On the screen appear the levers, screws, and wheels of some prodigious machine, working at extraordinary speed. It turns out to be a typewriter, many times magnified. . . .

"The final episode shows the tractor finally secured, delivered, put into operation, and then suddenly refusing to budge. A very small boy struts along the field, stops, takes off his enormous cap, looks with unconcealed contempt at the motionless tractor, and spits. At the same time the chauffeur, his airs and his spotless new uniform already forgotten, strains every muscle to start up the machine. And when he has no rags for cleaning it, the peasant girl, Marfa Lapkina, sacrifices her skirt. . . .

"The simplicity and classical perfection of this Eisenstein picture are the result of the application of the most complicated methods and principles. Eisenstein is more than a mere moving picture director. He is an inventor, the creator of a new 'cinema language.' "



STILLS FROM "OLD AND NEW"
The ploughman as he used to be—

Resumption of Anglo-Soviet Relations

ON September 23rd, Mr. Dovgalevsky, plenipotentiary representative of the U. S. S. R., on the invitation of the British Government, arrived in London to confer with Mr. Henderson on questions of procedure of the negotiations to take place after the restoration of normal diplomatic relations between Great Britain and the U. S. S. R.

The conferences terminated successfully on October 3rd, when Mr. Henderson and Mr. Dovgalevsky, in confirmation of the Anglo-Soviet agreement regarding the resumption of diplomatic relations, signed the following protocol:

Text of the Anglo-Soviet Protocol

Protocol relative to the procedure for the settlement of the questions outstanding between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, such procedure to become operative immediately on the resumption of full diplomatic relations between the two states, including the exchange of ambassadors.

The undersigned, the Right Honorable Arthur Henderson, M. P., his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Valerian Dovgalevsky, Ambassador of the U. S. S. R. to the French Republic, having on instructions from their respective Governments, entered into an exchange of views on questions connected with the above-mentioned subject, have reached the following agreement:

I

The following questions shall be settled by negotiations between the two Governments:

1. Definition of the attitude of both Governments toward the treaties of 1924.
2. Commercial treaty and allied questions.
3. Claims and counter-claims inter-governmental and private; debts and claims arising out of intervention and otherwise, and financial questions connected with such claims and counter-claims.
4. Fisheries.
5. Application of previous treaties and conventions.

II

Negotiations between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of the U. S. S. R. with a view to settlement of the above-mentioned questions shall take place immediately on the resumption of full diplomatic relations, including the exchange of Ambassadors.

III

The aforesaid negotiations shall be conducted on behalf of the Government of the U. S. S. R., by the Soviet Ambassador in London, and on behalf of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, by His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

IV

The plenipotentiaries of the two Governments shall if necessary be assisted by Joint Committees the members of which shall be appointed in equal number by each Government from among their nationals, whether officials or not, especially acquainted with the matters under discussion.

V

These experts shall report to each of the plenipotentiaries on the results of their joint examination of the respective questions and on the solution thereof which they suggest.

VI

All agreements resulting from the negotiations between the plenipotentiaries shall take the form of a treaty or treaties between the two Governments.

VII

Immediately on the actual exchange of Ambassadors, and not later than the same day as that on which the respective Ambassadors present their credentials, both Governments will reciprocally confirm the pledge with regard to propaganda contained in Article 16 of the treaty signed on August 8th, 1924, between Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the U. S. S. R.

VIII

Simultaneously with the approval by both Governments of the procedure laid down in paragraphs 1-7, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom will take the decision to resume normal diplomatic relations with the U. S. S. R., including the exchange of Ambassadors.

IX

The steps to be taken, as set out in the preceding paragraphs, including the decision concerning reestablishment of diplomatic relations, will be brought for approval before Parliament early at the very beginning of the next session. Immediately after this question shall have been discussed in Parliament, each of the two Governments will take the usual steps for the appointment of their respective Ambassadors.

London, October 3rd, 1929,

V. Dovgalevsky, Arthur Henderson.

Statement by Mr. Litvinov

In connection with the announcement of the resumption of Anglo-Soviet relations, Mr. Litvinov, Acting Commissar of Foreign Affairs for the U. S. S. R., expressed his entire satisfaction with the agreement, and made the following statement:

"The Soviet Government has consistently held and still holds the viewpoint that the absolutely indispensable prerequisite for the regulation of any disputed questions whatsoever between the Soviet Union and other Governments, is the preliminary restoration of normal diplomatic relations between them. The Soviet Union has had no basis for renouncing this viewpoint in the present situation. The Union Government enters upon the consideration of such questions actuated by its firm desire for peace and the establishment of normal diplomatic and economic relations with other countries. For such a solution of the questions at stake, however, complete equality of the negotiating parties is essential, and such equality cannot exist where one side attempts to bind the other to preliminary conditions or proposes that the negotiations be carried on in an atmosphere of abnormal or even hostile relations.

"Consistently maintaining this viewpoint, the Union Government, beginning with 1924, attained *de jure* recognition on the part of a considerable number of both large and small countries, including England, France, and Germany, and furthermore, all of these Governments agreed to consider all questions at issue after the restoration of normal relations.

"The sudden rupture of relations between Great Britain and the Soviet Union was not called forth by and cannot be justified by any actions of the Soviet Government and its organs. This rupture, and the circumstances which accompanied it, created claims for the U. S. S. R., and not for the country on whose initiative the rupture took place.

"The Union Government considered itself justified in expecting that the new Government of Great Britain, which came into power in June, and publicly declared its intention to restore relations with the U. S. S. R., broken off in 1927 by the Conservative Government, would carry out this intention by a single act, without any preliminary negotiations between the two Governments. Nonetheless, the Union Government, meeting half way the desires of the British Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Henderson, accepted the invitation of the latter extended in his note of July 17th, to send a representative to London to agree upon the procedure for the negotiations on disputed questions which would take place after the restoration of normal relations. In its answer of July 23rd, the Union Government

emphasized that in the preliminary conversations only questions of procedure and not the substance of the questions at issue could be taken up.

"When Mr. Dovgalevsky met Mr. Henderson in London for the first time he was unfortunately unexpectedly confronted with proposals which were in no way provided for in the above-mentioned exchange of notes, and which moreover, had previously been rejected by the note of the Union Government. The acceptance of these proposals would have been contrary to the position which has been maintained by the Soviet Government over a number of years. The Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs could not of course agree even to the consideration of these proposals and declared that it could not change the position of principle of the Union Government, a position repeatedly ratified by the All Union Congress of Soviets, and that it would be compelled to refer the entire question of the restoration of relations with Great Britain to the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R. The Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs did not for a moment doubt that the Tsik would confirm the former position of the Union Government, and decisively reject any consideration of the substance of the questions prior to the restoration of normal diplomatic relations.

"When, however, Mr. Henderson declared in his interview in Geneva, and subsequently repeated in his official invitation to the Union Government, that he wished to meet again with our representative to discuss questions of procedure, we then accepted the invitation, pointing out again, however, that the agreement on procedure could not under any circumstances be transformed into a consideration of the substance of the questions. Mr. Dovgalevsky was given instructions to this effect, to which he strictly adhered throughout his negotiations in London with Mr. Henderson. The protocol drawn up and signed in London is an exposition of the procedure which both sides will be obliged to follow in the consideration of the questions of dispute which will follow the complete restoration of normal relations and the exchange of Ambassadors.

"The list of questions enumerated for future consideration does not represent anything new, because these same questions were considered by both Governments in 1924, and found a certain solution in the treaty signed then by Mr. MacDonald, a treaty which was, however, subsequently repudiated by the Conservative Government, which replaced the MacDonald cabinet. We considered it expedient to propose that we begin with the consideration of all questions by ascertaining the attitude of both Governments to the treaty of 1924, as a whole, or to its separate clauses,

and have therefore placed this question first on the list.

"In accordance with the protocol, Mr. Henderson has agreed to introduce the proposal of the English Government regarding the immediate restoration of diplomatic relations and the exchange of Ambassadors at the very beginning of the session of Parliament which opens on the 29th of this month. We have gone as far as possible to meet the proposals of the British Government in

so far as they have not affected the position we hold in principle. It now only remains for us to await quietly further steps of the British Government in the spirit of its frequent public declarations, and in accordance with the protocol just signed by the representatives of the U. S. S. R., and England."

The protocol was ratified by the British Cabinet on October 8, and by the Council of People's Commissars of the Soviet Union on October 11.

Soviet-Chinese Controversy

On September 13th, the following verbal note from the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs was delivered to the German Embassy in Moscow:

"In answer to the verbal note of the German Embassy of September 9th, the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs has the honor to communicate the following:

"The Peoples' Commissariat cannot agree with the statement contained in the note of the German Embassy to the effect that the verbal note of the Peoples' Commissariat of September 6th, contained an attack on the activities of the German consuls in China, with regard to their protection of the rights of Soviet citizens. The aforesaid note was intended to direct the attention of the German Government to the exceptionally difficult situation of Soviet citizens in Manchuria, who are being subjected to unheard of persecution and violence by the Chinese authorities. In addition the Peoples' Commissariat considered it necessary to direct the attention of the German Embassy to the insufficiently effective results of the activities of the German Consul General in Harbin in the protection of the elementary interests of Soviet citizens. Similarly, the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs could not fail to note the lack of sufficiently official and authentic information regarding the situation of Soviet citizens received from the German consuls, through the German Ministry for Foreign Affairs. It is self-evident that in view of the justifiably tense attention with which the Soviet public is following the successive stages of the Soviet-Chinese conflict in general, and the situation of Soviet citizens in China in particular, it is naturally the duty of the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs to make public immediately all measures taken by the Government of the U. S. S. R. for the protection of Soviet citizens.

"Passing to the question of the condition of Soviet citizens in China, the Peoples' Commissariat must deny the assertion in the verbal note of the German Consulate alleging that the infor-

mation contained in the September 6th note of the Peoples' Commissariat regarding the condition of Soviet citizens in China, was based 'on the most general and absolutely unverified statements.' The Peoples' Commissariat is compelled to remind you of the fact that a list of separate instances of brutality and violence against Soviet citizens, giving names, dates and places where these happenings occurred, was appended to the aforementioned note to the German Ambassador. This list, together with additional information received regarding new cases of brutality and violence, is appended herewith. The Peoples' Commissariat must also note the fact that in view of the scantiness of the official information received, it cannot ignore other sources, even though unofficial, through which the public opinion of the U. S. S. R. is receiving disquieting information regarding the situation of Soviet citizens. This viewpoint is still further justified in the information communicated in the German verbal note confirming previous information regarding the fact of the detention of upwards of a thousand absolutely innocent Soviet citizens in a concentration camp in Harbin, and the conditions under which they are held, particularly in the case of 38 women. This fact alone cannot but arouse the most serious alarm and particularly alert attention to all other information regarding the situation of Soviet citizens in China.

"The Peoples' Commissariat cannot refrain from expressing its surprise at the entirely unfounded statement of the German Consul General in Harbin discrediting the official Tass agency. The German Consul General accused the Tass correspondent, who, incidentally, is not stationed in Harbin, of disseminating false information, without backing up the accusation by anything except the one-sided and unverified statements of local Chinese authorities. In addition, it should be pointed out that Soviet citizens who have fled to the U. S. S. R. from Manchuria have again informed us of the finding of the bodies of Soviet citizens, of which there are photographs in Harbin.

"In conclusion, the People's Commissariat has the honor to point out that the statement contained in its verbal note of September 6th, regarding repressions in the case of a definite category of Chinese citizens, was given to the German Embassy as a matter of information, and was based on a decision of the Government of the U. S. S. R., already made and being carried into effect.

"On its part, the Peoples' Commissariat would be very grateful to the German Embassy for any information received through its kind mediation, regarding the reasons for the arrest and persecution of thousands of Soviet citizens by the Chinese authorities."

Supplement No. 1 to Soviet Note of September 13

"July 21. At Pogranichnaya Station, Kravchuk, an employee of the Soviet Consulate, was severely beaten by the police without any reason.

"August 13th. The Harbin correspondent of the 'Daily Mail' reports that he 'saw yesterday a group of Bolsheviks going along the street, with their hands and feet in chains, and their faces covered with blood. During the past two days it is estimated that 2,000 Soviet citizens have been arrested, sentenced to prison, and deported.'

"August 13th. The Japanese press reports that all property has been taken from Soviet citizens deported to the U. S. S. R. Persons escaping to the U. S. S. R. from China confirm this.

"August 23rd. It is reported from Tokio that the entire apparatus of the Chinese Eastern Railway is taken up with the transport of arrested Soviet citizens. Concentration camps are being prepared with a capacity of several thousand prisoners.

"Soviet citizens held in jail are put into chains. They have declared a hunger strike in protest, demanding that they be informed of the charges against them.

"Soviet citizens arriving from Manchuria report that at Manchuria Station several dozen Soviet citizens were arrested and severely beaten without any reason, including some young people from 14 to 17 years of age.

"At Djalainora Station Soviet citizens Dannikov and Kudinkov were arrested. The Chinese authorities accused them of 'damaging the telephone wires.' Both of the arrested have disappeared without trace. It may be supposed that they have been executed.

"August 24th. Soviet citizens Ushakov and Nikonov were arrested at the same place. The reason for their arrest is unknown. Both of the arrested have disappeared.

"The Soviet citizen Kalinikov was severely beaten by Chinese soldiers, when he begged them to stop stealing his property at Manchuria Station.

"It is reported from Tokio that six corpses from which the heads had been severed were found in the River Sungari, and at Bukhedo Station. Some of them were identified and found to be Soviet citizens.

"August 24th. According to information received from the Japanese agency 'Dempo Tsutsin,' four Soviet citizens were executed in Khailar.

"August 28th. An order was issued for the evacuation within seven days of the quarters occupied by Soviet citizens voluntarily leaving the service of the Chinese Eastern Railway. The discharged workers were deprived of the right of withdrawing their own deposits from the pension fund.

"Mass arrests of Soviet citizens in Harbin, and all along the Chinese Eastern Railway continue. The arrested are bound and sent to concentration camps.

"August 29th. Information received from Soviet citizens fleeing into Soviet territory that dozens of decapitated bodies of Soviet citizens have been found in different places in the Harbin District, and along the Chinese Eastern Railway. Instances of the disappearance of Soviet citizens without trace continue to take place."

Supplement No. 2 to Soviet Note of September 13

"The following information was received from the Soviet Consul in Dairen:

"1. About 2,000 Soviet citizens, including eighty women and twenty children have been arrested in Harbin and along the Chinese Eastern Railway.

"The arrested are held in a concentration camp in Sumbay. Infectious diseases such as dysentery, typhus and others have broken out among the arrested, and there are cases of prisoners bitten by mad dogs, receiving no medical assistance.

"Among the arrested there are a considerable number of pregnant women. Permission to send the sick to hospitals is refused.

"The arrested are not permitted to receive food from outside and are given only bread and water.

"2. At the General Staff headquarters in Harbin, whither all Soviet citizens accused of 'malfeasance' are sent, the prisoners are frequently subjected to torture, flogging and beating. These facts are confirmed in writing.

"3. In Bukhedo a woman telegraph operator, a Soviet citizen, was arrested for sending a telegram to the German consul regarding the beating of Soviet citizens arrested by the Chinese.

"4. Dr. Alexeyev, a Soviet citizen, was beaten for rendering medical assistance to arrested Soviet citizens at Bukhedo.

"5. In connection with an attack on Shishkin, a member of the Chinese police, all the blondes among the young Soviet citizens are being ar-

rested and tortured on the basis of Shishkin's testimony that he was shot at by a blonde.

"6. Fan Tsi-guan, temporarily placed at the head of the Chinese Eastern Railway by the Chinese authorities, issued orders that all Soviet citizens discharged from the Chinese Eastern Railway and their families, should be immediately dispossessed, and also forbade the return of pension money to Soviet citizens discharged from the employ of the road.

"7. Beheaded corpses of Soviet citizens are found almost daily in the district of Harbin and along the Chinese Eastern Railway.

"There are photographs of these bodies in Harbin."

Soviet Notes to China

On September 17th, the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs delivered to the German Embassy the following verbal note for transmission to the Nanking Government:

"1. The Union Government, actuated by its unchanging desire for peace, readily accepted the proposal of the Chinese Government regarding the signing of a joint declaration.

"2. The Union Government inserted in the draft declaration proposed by the Nanking Government, only the absolutely necessary minimum amendments and changes in the interests of exactitude, arising from Paragraph 2 of the Nanking draft (recognition of the Mukden and Peking agreements). The Union Government considered from the very beginning of the conflict, and still considers, that the carrying out of the conditions laid down in these amendments is the elementary prerequisite of the work of the conference.

"3. In its note of September 9th, the Nanking Government rejects the minimum amendments designated, thereby annulling its own statement of its agreement to the appointment of a Soviet manager.

"This agreement, given in Paragraph 3 of the Nanking draft declaration would have significance and meaning only in the event of the *immediate* appointment of a Soviet manager and assistant manager. In now declaring itself against the immediate appointment of these persons, the Nanking Government takes back its own proposals and disrupts the settlement of the conflict by mutual agreement.

"4. A repudiation of its own proposals is likewise contained in the additional proposal of the Nanking Government transmitted to the Union Government on September 13th through the German Ambassador, wherein the Nanking Government substitutes for the question of the appointment of a Soviet manager and assistant manager of the road, the appointment of merely an assistant manager, in clear contradiction both of the

Peking and Mukden agreements, and of paragraph 3 of its own draft joint declaration.

"5. In view of the rejection by the Nanking Government of the basic condition for signing the statement and for conducting negotiations, the question regarding the place for the negotiations becomes superfluous, and the responsibility for the further development of the conflict rests wholly on the Nanking Government."

On September 25, the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs handed the following statement to the German Embassy, with the request that it be transmitted to the Nanking and Mukden Governments:

"The Union Government has more than once drawn the attention of the Nanking and Mukden Governments to the systematic provocative attacks on the territory of the U. S. S. R., by armed White guard detachments and Chinese troops, and to the fact that these detachments and troops have fired on Soviet border troops and civilians.

"The Union Government, in its statements of August 19th, and September 9th, pointed out the danger of the situation created by the actions of the Chinese authorities, and the urgent necessity for the dispersal of all White guard detachments, and for effectual and immediate measures to bring these attacks to an end and prevent new attacks on Soviet territory by Chinese soldiers and White guard bands, as the only means of averting new and serious complications. The Union Government pointed out that the provocative attacks from the Chinese side forced the Soviet soldiers in self-defense to take decisive retaliatory measures for the protection of the border of the Union and the peaceful population of the border region.

"The Nanking Government has not disproved and cannot disprove a single one of the facts enumerated in the statements of the Union Government of August 19th and September 9th.

"None the less, neither the Nanking nor the Mukden Governments have taken or are taking any measures in the direction of putting an end to the activities of the White guard detachments formed by the Chinese authorities and supported in their attacks against the U. S. S. R. by Chinese troops.

"Instead, the Nanking Government has recourse to giving out distorted information regarding the actual state of affairs on the border, and without the slightest basis decides to protest against alleged aggressive actions by the Soviet troops.

"As regards encounters which took place on the border prior to September 9th, including those in the district of Pogranichnaya and Manchuria, all these facts were exhaustively discussed in the August 19th and September 9th statements of the Union Government.

"The Union Government is forced again to direct the most serious attention of the Nanking

and Mukden Governments to new instances of attacks and firing on Soviet border troops by Chinese and White guard detachments, and to the increasingly frequent forays on Soviet territory by large bands of White guards, who plunder the peaceful population.

"On September 10th, in the district of Poyarkovo (100 kilometers to the Northeast of Blagoveshchensk), a Soviet border cutter was fired on from the Chinese shore.

"On September 11th, in the district to the South of Crossing 86, Chinese troops at Djalainora opened artillery, rifle, and machine gun fire on the Soviet guards. Two Red Army soldiers and one civilian were killed. Three Red Army soldiers and two civilians were wounded.

"On September 11th, in the district of Crossing 86, eight kilometers to the Northwest of Manchuria Station, the Soviet border patrol was fired on by Chinese soldiers with artillery and rifles.

"On September 11th, at 6:30, in the district of Grodekovo Station, the defense guards of the Soviet troops were fired on by rifles and machine guns. The firing continued for thirty minutes. One Red Army soldier was killed, two were wounded.

"On September 11th, the Chinese sent bands of White guards numbering about 300, into the territory of the U. S. S. R. These bands carried on their activities for the most part in the border district of Primorya. As ascertained from the testimony of the White guards taken prisoner September 17th, these bands were formed in Manchuria by General Sacharov on instructions from the Chinese authorities. The bands were composed mainly of former White officers, and were instructed by the Chinese command to carry on guerilla warfare on the territory of the U. S. S. R.

"On September 12th, at four p. m., a group of Chinese soldiers crossed the border and attempted to break through the lines of the Soviet defense guards in the district of Pogranichnaya, but were repulsed by fire from the Soviet troops.

"On September 12th, at 12:30 o'clock, in the vicinity of Manchuria station, the Soviet border troops were fired on by volleys and single shots from the Chinese soldiers.

"On September 12th, in the vicinity of the village of Lounbe (150 kilometers to the Northeast of the Nerchinsk Works), Chinese soldiers fired on Soviet border troops.

"On September 13th, (8 kilometers Northwest of the village of Chernayeva), Chinese soldiers opened rifle fire on some fishermen, Soviet citizens.

"September 14th, at four o'clock, seven kilometers to the Northeast of Pogranichnaya Station, a group of Chinese soldiers crossed into the territory of the U. S. S. R. After exchange fire

with the Soviet border guards, the Chinese troops retired to their own territory.

"On September 14th the border guards of the Soviet troops were subjected to rifle and machine gun firing by Chinese soldiers in territory four kilometers to the Northeast of Pogranichnaya Station. The shooting was continued for a prolonged period. One civilian was killed, two wounded.

"On September 14th, three kilometers to the Southeast of Pogranichnaya, Chinese soldiers unexpectedly opened rifle fire and machine gun fire on Soviet border troops.

"On September 14th, Chinese soldiers fired on Soviet border detachments in the vicinity of the settlement of Spasskoye.

"On September 14th, a Chinese cavalry detachment of fifty horsemen opened machine gun and a volley of rifle fire on the settlement of Staro-Churukhatuevsky (80 to 90 kilometers to the Northeast of Manchuria Station).

"On September 15th, 80 Chinese soldiers crossed over into Soviet territory in the region of the village of Volynka (22 kilometers Northwest of Grodekovo Station), and opened heavy rifle and machine gun fire on Soviet border troops.

"On September 15th, in the vicinity of the settlement Olgino, (280 kilometers to the Northwest of Blagoveshensk), a band of 100 Chinese bandits were discovered. This band attacked and plundered the peaceful population. In the band were Chinese regulars.

"On September 16th, at eleven o'clock, in a region seven kilometers to the West of Manchuria Station, Chinese soldiers consisting of a company of infantry and a platoon of cavalry advanced to the border of the U. S. S. R. and from there opened heavy rifle and machine fire against the Soviet patrol, attempting simultaneously to surround the latter and take them prisoners. The Chinese detachment was driven back to the border by the arrival of Soviet troops.

"On the morning of September 18th, Chinese soldiers fired on Soviet auto transport near Crossing 86, and the village of Abagatuevsky. The firing by the Chinese stopped only after return fire from the Soviet soldiers.

"On September 18th, at seven o'clock, seven kilometers to the Southeast of Crossing 86, Chinese soldiers fired on the border guard of the Soviet troops.

"On September 18th, at 1:45 p. m., in the vicinity of Pogranichnaya Station, Chinese soldiers opened rifle and machine gun fire on Soviet border troops, who forced them to stop by counter fire.

"On September 20th, in the district of Padi Bugutur (10 kilometers to the Northeast of Crossing 86), Soviet border troops underwent rifle and

machine gun fire from the Chinese soldiers, which was silenced by return fire from the Soviet side.

"September 20th, in the region of the Muchinsk post (85 kilometers South of Amazar Station), there was frequent firing from the Chinese shore of the River Arguni, against the Soviet border post. One Red Army soldier was wounded.

"September 20th, a Chinese detachment, crossing from the region of Pogranichnaya Station, attacked Soviet border troops. The Chinese attack was repulsed. At the same time Chinese troops stationed in the Sanchangow region opened rifle and machine gun fire, which was silenced by return firing.

"On September 20th, in the district of the settlement of Domosova (35 kilometers Northeast of the Nerchinsk Works), a band of White guards invaded Soviet territory. As a result of measures taken by the Soviet military command, the White band was severely repulsed. During the firing one Red soldier was wounded.

"On September 21st, in the vicinity of Crossing 86, the Soviet border detachment received a volley of rifle and machine gun fire from the Chinese side.

"On September 23rd, near Crossing 86, Chinese soldiers opened rifle and machine gun fire on the Soviet soldiers stationed there. After return fire from the Soviet side the attack was stopped.

"On September 23rd, from the side of the City of Iliga (40 kilometers Southwest of Khabarovsk), the Chinese soldiers fired on Soviet ships and boats on the Amur River, with rifles and machine guns. After return fire from the Soviet side, the Chinese ceased firing.

"Recently the Chinese command has been sending groups of bandits, having Chinese soldiers and officers among them, into the territory of the U. S. S. R., where they have attacked and plundered the civilian population. Such bands, varying in numbers, were discovered between the 10th and 24th of September in the district of Blagoveshensk, at the settlement of Innokentevskaya, and at the mouth of the Sungari River.

"As is apparent from the facts cited above, the Nanking Government, and equally the Mukden Government, do not wish, and do not consider it necessary to take the measures required to bring to an end the criminal activities of their local authorities, and of the Chinese soldiers and White guard detachments acting at the behest of these authorities.

"In this connection it remains only for the Union Government to emphasize that the entire responsibility for the resultant situation and for possible future consequences as well as for the losses sustained in Soviet border territory, lies absolutely and wholly with the Nanking and Muk-

den Governments, and that the Union military command will be forced in the future to take all necessary measures for combatting happenings like those cited above, and to prevent their repetition in the future."

Soviet Protests Chinese Executions

On September 28th, the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs delivered the following verbal note to the German Embassy:

"In the foregoing verbal notes of September 6th and 13th, the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs had the honor to direct the attention of the German Government to the unheard of persecution and violence to which Soviet citizens in China were being subjected by the Chinese authorities, pointing out in particular a number of concrete instances of the punishment and execution of Soviet citizens by these authorities without trial.

"According to the statement of the German Consul General, the Chinese Governor categorically denied that any executions of Soviet citizens had taken place. Whereas these executions and murders not only did take place in the past, as stated in the above-mentioned note from the Commissariat of Foreign Affairs, but are continuing at the present time.

"On September 24th, an official announcement was published of the shooting in Tsitsikare 'by court martial sentence,' of three Soviet railroad workers, alleged to have been guilty of 'malfeasance,' the concrete nature of which was not stated in the announcement. It is quite evident that the execution of three Soviet citizens, against whom the necessary court procedure was not taken, and whose crime remains until now known to no one, represents a monstrous punishment by Chinese military authorities of entirely innocent people. It is to be feared that the Chinese authorities will continue to carry out executions under cover of 'sentences' of this kind, the practice of which means that Soviet citizens in China are actually outside the law.

"The Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs has the honor to request the German Government, through the German representatives in China, to take the most decisive and immediate measures to ascertain all the circumstances accompanying the murders and executions without trial which have taken place up to this time, and to prevent new occurrences of the same kind.

"In view of the exceptional seriousness of the situation that has been created, the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs has the honor to request the German Government immediately to place before the Nanking and Mukden Governments the most decisive and energetic protest against their toleration of these brutal executions

without trial and murders of Soviet citizens. Furthermore, the Union Government indignantly rejects the attempt to give a legal basis to these murders in the form of simultaneous or post-facto decisions of the so-called court martial.

"The Union Government places the entire responsibility for these acts on the Nanking and Mukden Governments, and declares that it has no intention of becoming reconciled to the resulting situation, and will not hesitate to take the necessary measures and reprisals to protect the lives of the Soviet citizens remaining on Chinese territory."

On October 12th, the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs requested the German Embassy to transmit the following statement to the Nanking and Mukden Governments:

"In spite of the repeated warnings and protests of the Union Government, set forth in its communications of the 19th of August and the 9th and 25th of September, with regard to the continued firing and attacks on Soviet territory by Chinese troops and White guard bands organized by the Chinese authorities, the attacks and firing are continuing, and are particularly severe and systematic in the region of the Amur River and at the mouth of the Sungari River. Chinese soldiers stationed at the mouth of the Sungari River and along the shores of the Amur River have since the beginning of October opened fire several times daily on the peaceful inhabitants and the fishermen on the Soviet side of the Amur River, and also on passing merchant ships, thus disorganizing normal traffic on the Amur River.

"During the same period instances of White guards crossing over to our territory with the direct cooperation of Chinese soldiers and river boats have grown more frequent. Soviet cutters have already more than once discovered floating mines near the Soviet shores, placed there by Chinese soldiers, apparently from the region of the mouth of the Sungari River. These mines had to be either taken out of the water or destroyed. On the tenth of October, a Chinese floating mine was discovered in the district of Michailovsko-Semenovsk, at the spot where the patrol boats were anchored, and only the vigilance of the sailors averted a catastrophe and made it possible to destroy the mine in time. On October 11th, the Soviet patrol boat and military guard were fired on from the Chinese trenches near the mouth of the Sungari River. Finally, on October 12th, before dawn, a fleet of Soviet merchant ships on the Amur River, while passing the Sungari River, were subjected to heavy machine gun and artillery fire from the Chinese shore. As a result several of the ships were damaged, and some of the crew were killed and wounded.

"The Soviet military flotilla conveying the merchant ships was forced to open counter fire against the Chinese trenches and warships. The firing from the Chinese side stopped, however, only after our troops and ships took more decisive measures compelling the Chinese and White guard troops to cease firing on Soviet ships and attacking the peaceful border population.

"The Union Government protests vehemently against the continuing provocative attacks and firing by the Chinese troops and the White guard bands organized and supported by them.

"The Union Government declares that it will continue to take all necessary measures to maintain peace on the Soviet-Chinese border, and to guarantee to the population of Soviet border districts that they may work unmolested."

Book Notes

"THE SOVIET UNION LOOKS AHEAD. THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION," Horace Liveright. New York, 1929. Price \$2.50.

This volume is a translation of the description of the five-year plan prepared by the Presidium of the State Planning Commission. In its nearly 300 pages all the ramifications of this huge enterprise in ordered economic development are fully outlined and explained. The thoughtful reader will get a comprehensive view of the complicated tasks of research and collation, of estimate and scientific apportionment, of which the plan is the fruit. For the practical-minded American reader the volume is the more interesting because the plan is a living thing, now in practical operation, and the results for the first year have exceeded even the ambitious prescription. The book is illustrated by maps, graphs and charts. Its several appendices contain much statistical material and a study of the growth of American-Soviet commercial relations. The translation is excellent.

"THE SOVIET UNION AND PEACE." With an introduction by Henri Barbussee. International Publishers. New York, 1929. \$2.25.

This is a compilation of the most important documents and declarations concerning peace and disarmament issued by the Soviet Government from its establishment in 1917 until 1929. It is divided into five parts entitled: 1. The November Revolution and Peace; 2. Soviet Russia at Peace Conferences; 3. The U. S. S. R. and Disarmament; 4. The U. S. S. R. and the Kellogg Pact; 5. The U. S. S. R. and Pacts of Neutrality and Non-Aggression. The collection of documents is thoroughly comprehensive and the book makes a contribution of peculiar value to post-war history. As source material it will be indispensable to the student of Soviet foreign policy.

Miscellaneous News

Soviet Scientists at International Congresses

Delegations have been sent by scientific organizations of the U. S. S. R., to the International Engineers' Congress held in October in Tokio, the first Slavic Philological Congress in Prague, also in October, and the International Congress on Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture, held in Seville.

Courses for Foreign Physicians

On September 15th, courses for foreign doctors on problems of Soviet Hygiene were opened in Moscow. About forty doctors from Germany, France, the United States, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Poland and Lithuania were present at the opening of the course, and others were expected. The program includes visits to medical institutions of Moscow and the provinces, trips to sanatoria and health resorts, a detailed study of the work of the dispensaries in the registration, periodical medical examinations and treatment of the working population, the measures for labor protection, and so on.

New Gold Deposits in the U. S. S. R.

Several large new gold fields have been discovered in the Soviet Union during the past year. One of the largest is the Kollar deposit in Yakutia, situated on the Vitim and Olekma watershed. In the course of the past year this wild and unpopulated region has attracted over a thousand workers, and over 1,500 kilograms of gold more than the program called for were extracted.

Recently Obruchev's geological researches in the central stream of the Kolym River, in the region of the Chersk mountain chain, have disclosed extensive gold deposits. This new gold field covers an area of 140,000 square kilometers and is crisscrossed by thousands of rivulets and streams, which will undoubtedly attract large numbers of prospectors. Large gold deposits have also been found on the shores of Lake Baikal, and in the surrounding region.

The Pamir geological expedition, headed by Krylenko, discovered two wide stretches of ancient metamorphic rock containing gold.

There have been several other important discoveries, such as the Baleisk gold deposit in the Far East, the deep gold sand stretch along the Volekhta River of the Lena Taiga, and others. Information has recently arrived regarding the discovery of gold for manufacturing purposes in several other districts of the U. S. S. R., and even in the Caucasus Mountains.

Results of the "Sedov" Expedition

The "Sedov" expedition which raised the Soviet Flag on Franz Josef Land, returned to Moscow late in September. In an interview with the press, Schmidt, leader of the expedition, stated that although they had landed on many islands of the Franz Josef Archipelago, it is still insufficiently explored. Even on the map the islands are indicated with only approximate correctness. The expedition closely explored the sea in that region, and barely escaped serious damage by running aground.

The Soviet radio and meteorological station erected on Franz Josef Land, which is the Northernmost station of this kind in the world, will undoubtedly develop into an important scientific institution. It sends out weekly meteorological reports both to the Soviet Union and Europe. The personnel of the station will be changed annually, and ice-breakers reaching that point will use it as a base to explore regions further North beyond the archipelago.

On its return journey the expedition travelled through the absolutely unexplored region where the Kara and Barents Seas join the Central Polar Basin, but was compelled to return by the loss of a screw blade, and a large leak.

Next year's expedition will make a three day's journey further North, and explore the Northern shore of Northern Land, a large island North of Siberia of which only the Southeastern extremity is known.

This year's expeditions have proved the efficacy of the ice-breaker for Polar exploration. The Soviet Union, which possesses a considerable number of ice-breakers, is in a particularly favorable position to carry on explorations of the North Polar region by this method. An ice-breaker, with the help of an aeroplane to reconnoiter for the best route among the icefields, can easily reach a point from 500 to 600 kilometers from the Pole, whence a small group with sleds and dogs, should be able to reach the Pole on skis.

The ice-cutter "Lidtko" was able this summer to reach the Soviet colony on Wrangel Island, cut off for three years from the outside world, and supply it with medicines and food.

Archeological Discoveries

Excavations were carried on during the summer in the Aphrosiab Mountains, the original site of Samarkand, which was destroyed in 1220 by Jenghis Khan. Several homes in fairly good condition have been dug up, and eight rooms have

been uncovered in which household utensils, coins, lamps and so on, have been found. Clay vessels resembling Roman vases, indicating connections between ancient Samarkand and Rome were found in deeper layers. Various artistic panels and other decorations were unearthed and placed in the Samarkand museum. The excavations, which will be resumed in the spring, show beyond doubt that Samarkand existed as a center of civilization as early as the second century.

The remains of the ancient city of Arbindjan have been discovered 80 kilometers from Samarkand. Up until the twelfth century Arbindjan was a great center of Central Asian civilization. In 1168, during the Turkish invasion, it was destroyed and has never been restored since. Even its location was never before established.

An expedition of the Academy of Sciences, headed by Professor Scherbatzsky, has been investigating the ancient book depositories of the Buriat-Mongolian Republic. In the Ahin district the expedition found a rare collection of 7,500 ancient Tibetan books and manuscripts, some of them xylographic. No European library in the world has such a wealth of ancient Tibetan literature.

American Expedition in the U. S. S. R.

The expedition from the New York Museum of Natural History headed by Professor Morden, is now in Central Asia, where they expect to secure a stuffed Amur tiger and a saiga, (a species of steppe antelope). From Tashkent, where they planned to stay about six weeks, the expedition will go to Khabarovsk and Vladivostok, where they will be joined by George Graves. In Siberia the expedition will collect animals and fowls. While in Leningrad, Professor Morden made preliminary arrangements on behalf of the Museum of Natural History for an archaeological expedition into Soviet Turkestan to be headed by Roy Chapman Andrews.

In the Moscow Theaters

There will be fifty premiers in the Moscow theaters this season. The Grand Opera House will present Oranski's modern Soviet ballet, "The Football Player" and Prokofiev's "Steel Leap" for the first time. The new repertoire includes also the opera "Judith," "Coq d'Or," "Die Walküre," and "Tosca" will be revived. The Little Theater will produce Schiller's "Don Carlos" and several Soviet plays.

The First Moscow Art Theater has announced for this season Tolstoy's "Resurrection," staged by Raskolnikov, Dostoyevski's "Uncle's Dream," Shakespeare's "Othello," and several new Soviet plays.

The Meyerhold Theater will give three new plays, "The Shot," by Bezymensky, a contemporary poet, "I Want A Child," by Tretiakov, one of the foremost Soviet playwrights, and "The Commander," by Selvuisky. There will be only three Western plays presented this year. These are "Roxy," a satirical comedy about America, "Revolt in the Foundling's Home," by Lampel, and "Three Cents," a tragic farce by Brecht and Weil.

There will be two new plays dealing with the village. "Violence," in the Moscow Trades Union Theater, depicts the process of Socialist reconstruction in the village. The Second Moscow Art Theater is presenting a play called "The Farm." A number of satires on Soviet manners and morals will be given.

"Solovki," a picture shown recently in Moscow for the first time, pictures the regime in the Solovetsky detention camp on the White Sea, where all the inmates either work in the various enterprises of the camp or perform administrative work. The products of the Solovetsky enterprises are sold on the continent.

Legalization of Documents

According to the revised consular regulations of the Soviet Union, documents emanating from countries which do not maintain diplomatic relations with the U. S. S. R. may be legalized by the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs. Legalization by the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs serves instead of consular legalization.

In cases where the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs declines to legalize foreign documents or acts submitted to them for the purpose, the Commissariat has the right to affix to the documents a special notation to the effect that the absence of legalization shall not prevent the proper institutions of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as well as of the various constituent republics, from accepting for consideration the given document when submitted to them. In this event the right to recognize the validity of documents and acts of this kind, on the merits of the case, rests entirely with the institutions accepting them.

Administrative Appointments

Andrey Sergeyevich Bubnov was appointed Commissar of Education of the R. S. F. S. R., on September 13th, to replace Anatole Lunacharsky, who was relieved of the post of his own request.

Anatole Lunacharsky has been appointed President of the Committee on Scientific Institutions attached to the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R.

M. M. Romanov has been appointed to the post of Peoples' Commissar of Labor for the R. S. F. S. R.

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Training Soviet Specialists
City Planning
Socialist Competition
Prison Reform
Museums in the U. S. S. R.
Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Training Soviet Specialists	190	Miscellaneous News:	
Socialist Competition	192	Literacy in the U. S. S. R.	205
City Planning	194	Seven-Hour Day	205
Tourists to the U. S. S. R.	196	Third Industrialization Loan	205
Soviet Museums	197	Chiatura Manganese	205
Foreign Relations of Soviet Union:		Soviet Rubber Substitutes	206
Sokolnikov Appointed Envoy to Britain.....	201	New Radio Developments	206
Soviet-Afghan Relations	202	Sun-Power Station	206
Soviet-Chinese Controversy	202	Minor Nationalities	206
Health of Mr. Tchitcherin	203	Far Eastern Development	206
Book Notes	204	Azerbaijan Scientific Institute	207
		Concession Applications	207
		Purchase of U. S. Ships	207

Training Soviet Specialists

ONE of the most important problems of the five-year plan is that of training the manpower on whom in the final analysis the success of the plan depends, from the most lowly worker to the most highly skilled engineer. The first estimates of the needs of the five-year plan modestly put the number of technicians and engineers needed to carry it out at 35,000. Later estimates revised the number upward to 50,000—to 85,000—to 100,000. The latest estimate calls for over 175,000 engineers and technicians, in addition to those already working.

Many difficulties are involved in preparing such a large number of specialists. Lack of facilities to accommodate so many, lack of sufficient teachers, the hangover of the old Russian "spets" psychology which considered the specialist a man apart from life, who could reel off high sounding Latin names, and quote intricate formulas, but was of little use in practical problems. In this great need for new specialists to cope with the everyday problems the training of younger men has frequently been too hasty to prepare them adequately, so the problem of teacher training and re-training is as urgent as the training of students.

The basic reorganization of the whole Russian educational system, cutting away the dead wood of the past, bringing the entire educational process close to life, and the organization of a whole new system of trade and professional schools and colleges has created the necessary foundation for this vast task of training new engineers and technicians.

The first step is the universal primary education, which it is expected to introduce by 1932. In

the earliest school years the children are acquainted with processes of production and after the first seven years this training takes a definite direction. Factory trade schools have been organized in every industry. These are attended by young people who have had some preliminary education. They continue their studies in the factory schools while they are learning a definite trade, spending part of the time in the classroom, part of the time in the shop, for which they are paid a definite wage. These schools are also attended by older workers wishing to increase their skill and be promoted to higher positions in the factory. Corresponding with these are the "Schools of Peasant Youth" in the villages attended by young peasants, who wish to continue their studies and at the same time engage in practical agricultural work, learning the modern scientific processes of which their fathers were ignorant.

Then there is a whole system of "technicums," high schools for every branch of technical, professional, and artistic training, which prepare the students for definite jobs, or to go on to the higher schools and universities, where all courses are highly specialized. There are also the Rabfacs (workers' faculties), where workers and peasants may take day or night courses in intensive preparation for the universities. These, too, offer definitely specialized courses.

The highly practical work of the technical schools and colleges is evidenced by the fact that diplomas are given not on the basis of passing examinations on the completion of a course, but on the results of the application of what has been

learned to some practical problem, which the student is given six months to execute.

In addition to all the institutions mentioned there are innumerable special courses under the auspices of the Trade Unions, the Army and other organizations, and a vast system of adult education for the general population.

In spite of all this seething educational effort the number of specialists is still far short of the requirements. Soviet papers are full of "self-criticism" pointing out the defects in the system. Hardly an issue of any paper or magazine published is without an article on this subject. "Economic Life" prints a regular special supplement devoted to the question. During the summer, in connection with the discussion of methods for carrying out the five-year-plan, many new measures were passed for improving the type of training, and increasing the facilities. One of the most important of these was a decree by the Sovnarkom (Council of People's Commissars) on "the unification of the system of industrial-technical education," which outlined plans for adapting each step of technical training to a definite need of the given branch of industry, and another one on "continuous productive work," providing for all students to do systematic practical work in their specialty in connection with their classroom work. On the basis of these decrees, the supervision of a number of technical schools and colleges has been turned over to the Supreme Council of National Economy, which organizes the schools in direct connection with the industries concerned and an entirely new educational program has had to be worked out.

The Donetsk Mining Institute is an excellent example of the type of institution projected for practically every industry. Situated in the center of the mining district it has established the closest possible union between theoretical and practical work, giving the students a chance to alternate work in the mining industry with their classroom work, and also creating an opportunity to re-train engineers and specialists already on the job. Similar institutes are being established in the oil fields, in the grain, cotton, and forest regions, and in connection with the chemical, the textile, the building and other industries.

Although this system of "continuous productive work," has only been in operation since last year, over 40,000 students in the industrial, agricultural, economics, pedagogical and medical institutions are now included in the program and are doing regular practical work in connection with their classroom work. In some cases the practical and theoretical work are alternated in a single day, in some cases in anywhere from five-day to two-month periods, depending on conditions in the given industry.

Where the connection between the school and

industry is not close enough to permit the alternation of practical and theoretical work on such a short term plan, the students are sent for certain months of the year to do practical work in their chosen branch of industry or agriculture. To increase the organic connection between industry and education the laboratories of industries and colleges are frequently combined.

Thus in some cases productive work is being brought into the schools and colleges, and in some cases classrooms are placed in the factories and farms. In either case the students are getting a type of knowledge and training which fits them for practical achievement in a definite part of the five-year plan.

In order to double the present number of engineers, and triple the number of technicians, as the program requires, a large number of new institutions must be opened. The Bureau of Higher Technical Education of the Supreme Economic Council, which is known as "Glavtuz," has already made some progress in this direction. It has established a School of Mining-Chemistry in connection with the Stalingrad Mining Institute, a School of Non-Ferrous Metallurgy and of Peat in connection with the Moscow Mining Academy, a School of Grain and Flour Technology in connection with the Mendeleev Institute, a School of Textiles at the Leningrad Institute of Technology, and a School of Artificial Fibre under the Moscow Institute of Technology. Three new types of higher educational institutions opened this year are a College of Building, an evening Machine Construction School, and the Grozny Oil Institute.

At the present time Glavtuz is making plans for the organization of machine construction institutes in Stalingrad and Briansk, and a cotton institute in Tashkent, to be opened within the next two years. Plans are also under way for the establishment of an oil institute and an institute of aero-mechanics in Moscow.

The program for the present year included the opening of 40 new technical schools, of which twenty have already commenced to function, and the remaining twenty are expected to be in operation before January. In seventeen of these new technical schools evening courses for workers will be held. Where workers on the job take evening courses, their working day is shortened by two hours, with no decrease in wages. These technical schools will have an intensive four-month academic year, taking three sets of students a year who will go directly into productive work on the completion of their course, coming back another year if greater skill is desired.

During the whole five-year period it is proposed to open at least 13 new higher technical schools, 27 new technical colleges in connection with already existing universities, and seven new depart-

ments in existing institutions. These plans have been worked out on a basis of a strict accounting of the needs of the various branches of industry, and the institutions will all be established at strategic places in close contact with the given branch of industry. The material and organizational basis for the institutions projected for this year is guaranteed. The Government appropriated a sum of 156,500,000* rubles for this purpose, more than twice the sum allotted to higher technical training last year.

In the field of intermediate technical education a similar extension is projected. Half a billion rubles will be required to carry out the program for building new institutions, of which 100,900,000 has been appropriated for the present year. The plan calls for 110 new technicums, and 76 new departments in existing technicums.

In addition to all these methods which are part of the regular educational system, numerous other methods of increasing the number of specialists are being worked out. Through a careful census of all the engineers and technicians now in the Soviet Union, it has been found that almost a third of the entire number are engaged in the "apparatus" of industry rather than in directly productive work, far too great a proportion in the light of the great need for specialists on the job. A detailed survey is now being made of the work each is doing, and large numbers are being transferred to more practical work.

Another method is the training of workers directly on the job. Those showing greater skill and ingenuity are singled out, given special instruction, and gradually promoted to more and more highly skilled work, as unskilled workers are taken on to fill the need for more workers which has been created by the introduction of the continuous working week and the extension of the seven-hour day.

A number of students are being sent abroad for training, and special attention is given to the study of American methods. Many Soviet engineers and specialists have come to America to make special studies of American technique, and many Americans have been invited to the Soviet Union to render technical assistance. Most of the concessions that have been concluded with foreign firms contain provisions for the training of Soviet workers in the modern methods used in the undertaking.

The tremendous growth of collective agriculture during the past year has created a great need for skilled workers, technicians, organizers, and engineers in every branch of agricultural work, and requires a corresponding expansion of facilities for agricultural education.

The Sovnarkom of the R. S. F. S. R. has recently passed a decree providing for the introduction of elementary agricultural training in the village schools. It is proposed to carry out this decree by establishing contact with the Sovhozes (government farms), machine, and tractor stations, and collectives. Through excursions, and the actual use of tools and equipment, the children will study the methods of organization and production. For this purpose special two-month agricultural courses are being organized for the village school teachers, through which it is planned to equip 75,000 teachers during the five-year period to conduct elementary agricultural courses.

This year has marked a turning point in higher agricultural education, with the opening of two new higher agricultural education institutions, 22 colleges and 57 departments in existing institutions. Most of these have been organized for the definite purpose of training specialists in large scale collective agriculture. There are 50 per cent more agricultural students this year than last. Arrangements are being made to give special agricultural training to thousands of young men who are training in the Red Army so that after their period of service they will be ready to take positions at once as directors of collectives, agricultural mechanics, tractorists, and so on. A number of the government farms are being turned into practical schools of agriculture, where directors and administrative personnel for other Sovhozes are trained, and courses for all types of agricultural work are held. In addition all the government farms are required to take a certain number of agricultural students and put them to practical work during the summer. Courses for tractorists and mechanics are also held in connection with the machine and tractor stations. Lecturers and instructors on practical problems are constantly going the rounds of the villages, correspondence courses are held, the radio and moving picture are used extensively, travelling exhibitions go from village to village, county fairs are made the occasion of spreading knowledge and all other means possible are being mobilized to spread the gospel of modern methods of agriculture.

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*A ruble is equal to 51.5 cents.

Socialist Competition

"SOCIALIST COMPETITION" is becoming the national game of the Soviet Union. At noon hours, or after work, groups of workers gather around the bulletin boards and watch excitedly as the scores are chalked up, showing actual increases in production and decreases in cost, as compared with the amount specified in the five-year plan, and as compared with achievements of other factories.

The idea started last winter, in connection with the plans for fulfilling the provisions of the first year's program of the five-year plan. Individual factories, shops, and mines began to challenge each other to contests to see which could achieve the greatest cut in production costs and the highest increase in labor productivity. Agreements were signed between these factories whereby they undertook to accomplish a certain stint within a definite period. Here, for instance, is an extract from a typical agreement:

"For five months we have been working badly, and instead of lowering the cost of production by 7 per cent, we have increased it in the spinning department by 2.14 per cent, and lowered it by only 3.3 per cent in the weaving department. We undertake during the second half of the year to increase the productivity of labor by 14 per cent in the spinning department, and by 12.8 per cent in the weaving department, and thus make up for the deficiencies of the first part of the year; we guarantee better care of the machines, raw materials and tools, and declare war on all idleness, sloppiness, inefficiency and negligence."

(From agreement between Bolshoy Dmitrievsk Factory and the Anisimov Textile Factory in Leningrad.)

There were immediate results, and the movement spread. Agreements were signed between different departments in the same factory, and between individual workers. Gradually the state trusts, government institutions, colleges and schools, Red Army units, and every imaginable type of Soviet organization were drawn into contests to improve the quality of whatever type of work they were doing. Groups of students in the Leningrad, Dnieprpetrovsk and Stalin Mining Institutes have signed an agreement for 100 per cent promotion of all the students from the first to the second-year class. The professors of these institutes have signed similar agreements, guaranteeing improved methods of teaching. In one college the students pledged an improvement in reports on laboratory experiments which immediately resulted in a 50 per cent increase both in the work done and the value of the records kept. The agreements between students contain plans for mutual help so that the quicker students help the more backward ones.

According to preliminary data these contests have had very favorable results. Reports have been received of increases of labor productivity up to 50 per cent as a result of the stimulus provided by the competition. Considerable decreases in production costs and improved labor discipline are everywhere evident. The workers have created special "udarniki," or voluntary brigades, in the factories whose function is to take the initiative in improving the quality and quantity of their work, and inducing other workers to follow their example. In some factories these "udarniki" have been instrumental in forming groups to increase the technical knowledge of the workers in order to insure better care and more effective use of the machinery.

The villages have also entered the movement and contests are being held all over the Soviet Union between individual peasants, collectives, state farms, and even between whole districts, to increase the amount of land sown, the amount of harvest gathered, to plow and seed a certain area in nine days instead of ten, or to introduce new crops.

Recently hot contests have been going on in the grain buying campaign, which has already exceeded the level set for the year. A few names at random from the lists show that Barbinsky Okrug in Siberia has fulfilled its program by 125 per cent, Meletopolsky by 113 per cent, White Russia by 106 per cent, and Odessa Province by 157 per cent, while the places lagging behind the program are very few.

The method of socialist competition is also being applied to improve the functioning of the government apparatus and administrative bodies. Agreements are drawn up between the various government offices providing for greater simplification and efficiency, fewer reports and more accomplishment, cutting down overhead expenses and other methods to decrease bureaucracy.

In the new agreements for socialist contests now being concluded, the workers are everywhere insisting on the execution of the five-year plan in four years. The first to proclaim this slogan were the metal workers and miners of the Dugansk District in the Ukraine. These workers not only produced in three months the 40 locomotives provided for by the program, but also one extra locomotive and forty cars. A short time ago a train consisting of this extra locomotive and 40 cars carrying 800 tons of high grade anthracite which were produced by the miners in excess of their program, was despatched to Moscow as a present to the Moscow workers from the Lugansk workers, with the challenge to the Moscow workers to fulfill their part of the five-year program in four years.

City Planning

THE new communities growing up around the giant power plants and other new industrial enterprises that are developing so rapidly in the Soviet Union are creating an opportunity to build up new towns and cities, which from the start will be adapted to the needs of a reorganized society.

In connection with the Dnieprostroy power plant there will be a number of factories using the power at its source, which means thousands of workers flooding into this district. Bolshoye Zaporozhye, the new industrial city that is developing in this region, increased its population by 20 per cent last year, and it is estimated that within ten years it will be a city of almost quarter of a million inhabitants.

A plan has been made for the construction of this city, which is being adhered to in all the new building that is being carried on. According to this plan the city will be divided into definite quarters organized with a view of providing for the cultural and social as well as the purely domestic needs. Thus each quarter will contain from one to six thousand inhabitants, according to local conditions, and each will be provided with gardens, play grounds and sport fields. Each quarter will contain a large central kitchen which will provide for at least half of the population, and central dining rooms to accommodate a fourth of the population. This proportion has been figured out on the basis that there will be a certain number of families preferring to have their own kitchens, and others who will prefer to have their prepared food sent in to their homes, to eating in a central dining room. Each district will have a large club house with an auditorium capable of accommodating one half of the population at a time. The plans also include central laundries, day nurseries and kindergartens, schools, garages, stores and so on.

At the same time the old Russian cities are being gradually transformed to meet new needs. It is estimated, for instance, that the population of Moscow will reach three millions within the period of the five-year plan, which means a great increase and improvement in the present housing facilities and in public utilities.

Over 100,000,000 rubles must be expended on the extension of the Moscow street car system alone. It is planned to increase the present number of auto busses (166) to 800. It is also proposed to start the construction of a subway towards the end of the five-year period. Water and gas facilities will be greatly increased. City cleaning will be organized after the best systems in use in Western Europe. Within the next four years the city lighting system must be greatly extended. Special attention is being directed to "green spaces," which now cover 3,200 hectares,

and which it is planned to increase to 5,000. A second large crematory will be built. The Zoological Gardens will be enlarged by a third, and eleven million rubles will be spent on the improvement of the Park of Culture and Rest.

As the old houses and buildings in Moscow crumble into ruins or are torn down when no longer livable, large new modern apartment houses are going up in their stead. One of the most interesting of these is the new apartment house on Havsky street. This apartment house is built around three sides of a large rectangular courtyard, the second half of the buildings on the long side of the rectangle are set back from the first, allowing more light and air, and widening the courtyard. These arms of the building are five stories, whereas the rest is six stories. On the first floor in the central building, is a large dining room, and on the floor above a huge auditorium with a balcony, surrounded by smaller rooms to be used for club and study purposes, a library, and rest rooms. On the floor above that is a gymnasium. The roof of the main building has been turned into a huge sun parlor, with special rooms for showers and sun baths. It is equipped for moving picture shows in the summer, and part of it may be used for a skating rink in the winter.

In the wings of the first floor are rooms equipped for the most modern type of day nursery and kindergarten, with play rooms, sleeping rooms, kitchen, bath rooms, special rooms for the personnel, and a large veranda.

The rooms have been specially designed to achieve harmony of line and color, and practically every room is flooded with light. The German artist Shepper is responsible for the interior design and the whole impression is one of lightness and airiness and simplicity.

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Prison Reform

THERE has recently been a great deal of discussion in the Soviet press on the question of getting rid of prisons. As a matter of fact such attributes of prisons as bars, high walls, strong locks and cells have never been an essential part of the Soviet penal system. They have been used only within the limits of absolute necessity.

If institutions of a closed type with many of these old attributes have predominated up to the present time among Soviet penal and corrective institutions, it is due to the persistence of the old penal policy which considers imprisonment the most expedient method of social protection, and the fact that the existing prisons had to be used until new methods could be worked out.

During the past year, however, there has been a decided change in the attitude on this question. A decree of the government of the R. S. F. S. R., on March 27th, 1928, provided that wherever possible other methods of social protection should be substituted for imprisonment, where workers were concerned. In the course of the year congresses on prison reform and general problems of Soviet justice have passed resolutions against imprisonment even for short periods, except in cases of persons especially dangerous to the Soviet Republic.

Thus the ground is being prepared for a bold transition from the prison system inherited from Tsarist times, to a system of labor colonies of various types. Prisons and detention homes will become more and more rare. The majority of offenders, who are workers and peasants, will be sent to the labor colonies. Only habitual criminals and persons guilty of crimes threatening the safety of the state will be sent to prison. This point of view is being expressed with growing frequency in the Soviet press, and especially in publications dealing with problems of Soviet justice. It is therefore probable that it will take definite form in legislation before long.

One of the main concerns of the Soviet penal system is to prevent law-breakers from returning to their former mode of life. To this end cultural and educational work among prisoners is developed to a high degree, as well as training in some branch of productive labor.

One of the best examples of institutions for the re-education of criminals is the "Lefortovsky Isolator" in Moscow. In pre-revolutionary times this was a military jail, where the prisoners were held in solitary confinement with no chance of seeing or talking to other human beings. Even when attending the prison church the prisoners sat in closed-in cells with peep-holes through which they could see only the priest and the altar. At the present time the gravest offenders against the law are held there—murderers, bandits, pro-

fessional thieves and others. But there are few traces of the former evil institution left. A grocery store, a clothing shop, a barber shop, a club and a dispensary have been added. Every prisoner is allowed a free shave twice a week. There is a permanent staff of doctors and psychiatrists, and specialists are called in when needed. There is a prison hospital, and also a department for prisoners under special medical observation, who must receive special diet and care, though not actually confined to their beds.

The former prison church has been transformed into a club, in which a theater is now being constructed. Extensive cultural work is being carried on. There are a number of organized "circles," which meet regularly, including dramatic, choral, musical, and chess circles, as well as classes for technical training and the study of foreign languages. Practically every prisoner is engaged in one or more of these circles. The prisoners' cells are stocked with books, and their walls are hung with pictures—practically every cell contains portraits of Tolstoy and Chekhov. There is a radio, set up by the prisoners themselves, and every cell has a loud speaker.

The "isolator" has a factory of its own with spinning and weaving and other departments, the products of which compare favorably with the output of regular factories. The prisoners receive 40 rubles a month, one-third of which they spend as they wish, the remainder being held for them until they are released, or sent to their families. The different departments of the factory are constantly holding competitions among themselves to see which can turn out work of the best quality.

The time of the prisoners is distributed as follows: eight hours for work, eight hours for sleep, an hour and a half for recreation, two and a half hours for study, four hours in their cells. This regime is typical of many of the prisons in the Soviet Union.

Continuous Working Week

THE introduction of the continuous working week in the factories of the Soviet Union is proceeding so rapidly that according to the calculations of the Supreme Economic Council up to 75 per cent of the workers will be working under the non-stop production system by the end of this year.

The economic effects of the change have exceeded all expectations. According to official data output has increased from 15 to 33 per cent, and the number of workers employed has increased by from 15 to 25 per cent. Individual productivity has also increased.

The distribution of work and rest periods, to take the Petrovsky metal works in Dnieprpetrovsk, which employs 23,000 workers, as an example, is carried out as follows: the average number of men resting is 4,600, each group having definite rest days. Thus the first group of 4,600 workmen, who rested on the first of the month, will have their other rest days on the 6th, 11th, 16th, 21st, and 26th; those who began to rest on the second, will rest on the 7th, 12th, 17th, 22nd, 27th, and so on.

The workers are allowed to choose their own initial rest day so that it is possible for all the members of a family to rest on the same day if they wish. The new scheme meets with universal approval among industrial and office workers. Although it completely transforms the old organization of life, the new system is being adopted without the least trouble. The system of 42 hours of rest following 28 hours of work (four working days of seven hours each) enables each worker to make a more rational use of his free time.

Prior to the introduction of the continuous working week the clubs, museums, theaters, and cinema houses were unable to provide for all those in search of entertainment on the only free day of the week, and were packed to the breaking point. Now all these places of entertainment, as well as parks and picnic grounds have a "balanced load," distributed evenly throughout the week. The adoption of the new system has made a reform of the calendar necessary, and this problem is being considered by scientific institutions and the press.

Practically all government institutions, schools and commercial enterprises have adopted the new system, and the newspapers and theaters are planning to make the change very soon.

Tourists to the U. S. S. R.

THE increase in the number of tourists visiting the Soviet Union led to the organization last spring of "Intourist" (Foreign Tourist Society), to take charge of the arrangements which had formerly been handled by the Sovtorgflot.

Since the whole problem of handling foreign tours is new to the Soviet Government, and since "Intourist" did not start its work until the season had already opened, there were necessarily a number of defects in its first season's work, a repetition of which will be avoided in the future.

During the past summer upwards of three thousand tourists visited the Soviet Union, more than three times as many as in the preceding summer. Travel across the Soviet Union to the Far East by way of the Trans-Siberian also increased greatly. During the period from January 1st until the middle of July, over 6,000 travellers from other countries took this route. Travel to the Near East also greatly increased. At the begin-

ning of the Chinese Eastern Railway controversy Trans-Siberian travel fell off considerably, but revived again after a short time, when passengers were routed by way of the Amur Railway.

Americans made up the overwhelming majority of the visitors to the Soviet Union during the past summer. Of all the tourists 66 per cent were Americans, 15 per cent English, 8 per cent Germans, 5 per cent Spaniards, and the remainder from other countries. Classified by profession 25 per cent were business men; 5 per cent manufacturers; 24 per cent teachers, students, scientists, doctors, engineers, lawyers, artists or writers; 3 per cent artisans and farmers; 17 per cent industrial and clerical workers; 26 per cent miscellaneous. The majority of the tourists visited only Moscow and Leningrad. There were, however, many trips to other parts of the Soviet Union, including the Ukraine, the Volga, the Crimea, the Caucasus, Siberia—even Swanetia.

Almost every phase of Soviet life was studied by the various delegations and individual visitors. More than ten new stores, selling antiques and handicrafts, were opened for the accommodation of tourists.

At the present time the problem of winter tours is being taken up by "Intourist," since the winter season offers as many attractions to tourists as the summer, particularly with regard to theatrical and musical events.

Arrangements are now under way to accommodate many more tourists next summer than ever before. Negotiations are already being conducted for the reception at Soviet ports of nine special tourist steamers which are adding the Soviet Union to regular tours. Agreements have been made with several travel agencies to facilitate tours to the Soviet Union, and "Intourist" is giving special attention to the preparation of hotels, eating arrangements, and transport.

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Soviet Museums

THE museums of the Soviet Union are something more than mere repositories of the past. They have become vital educational institutions, playing an important role in increasing the general understanding of both past and present. Millions of people are visiting the museums annually, not making one cursory visit, but going back again and again.

Before the revolution the museums of Petrograd and Moscow were under the control of the Palace, and were regarded as the property of the Tsar. There was no guiding principle for their organization and management. This was particularly noticeable in the case of provincial museums, which frequently were nothing more than storehouses for miscellaneous collections in which various local curiosities and monstrosities rubbed elbows with valuable paintings and museum pieces. Most of the really fine art objects were in the hands of private persons, and not accessible to the masses of the people—such were the Stroganov, Shuvalov, Sheremetov, Yusupov and many other collections. The finest of the memorials of the past were, on the whole, well cared for, but excavations of places interesting and important for science met with insurmountable difficulties. The landowners for the most part would not permit excavations on their land, insisting on carrying them on themselves with crude and unscientific methods. Against this dark background the Agricultural Museum in Petrograd and the Polytechnic in Moscow, both of which attracted considerable attention, were rare exceptions.

The Soviet Government has done a tremendous piece of work in the twelve years of its existence in developing museums of all types. Foreign specialists have paid high tribute to the achievements in this field. Recognizing that there are still many defects to be overcome, the Soviet Government has nevertheless reason to be proud of what has already been accomplished.

The first step was the organization of a single governmental apparatus to administer the museums and to preserve memorials of the past, objects of art, specimens of natural history, and objects illustrating past and present folkways, and the revolutionary movement. The numerous private collections in different parts of the country were nationalized, and out of them new museums were organized in the large centers, and frequently in the locality wherein they originated. Thus were preserved great numbers of valuable cultural objects which otherwise might easily have been destroyed during the time of the intervention and civil war.

The next step was the careful survey and re-

organization of the collections in the various museums, and the reconstruction of the museums themselves. Special attention was given to the regional museums, which are distinguished from the others by their complex structure and the variety of problems with which they have to deal in representing the characteristics of a given region from the viewpoint of economics, natural conditions, and past and present population. In addition to the regional museums, the museums were divided into the following types: ethnographic, memorial, art, industrial, natural history, polytechnic, and three types of historical museum—cultural, revolutionary and social.

The problem of the distribution of the various types of museum throughout the Soviet Union is very difficult, since the area is so vast, and in spite of the growth in the number of museums since the revolution there are still not nearly enough, and their distribution is very uneven. The 401 museums in the R. S. F. S. R., for instance, are distributed as follows: 44 in Moscow, 25 in Leningrad, 332 in the provinces.

Ethnographic Museums

There are two central ethnographic museums in the Soviet Union, the Central Ethnographic Museum in Moscow, and the Ethnographic Department of the Russian Museum in Leningrad. The first of these was organized after the revolution, when it was separated from the former Rumiantsev Museum, and housed in a new building—the first new museum to be constructed after the revolution. Having as its basis the former collection, the museum has continued to grow, and is constantly being enriched by numerous expeditions carried on according to a definite plan. It is a monument to all the various peoples that go to make up the Soviet Union. This museum represents an entirely different attitude toward these people than that of Tsarist Russia, which looked upon them as “foreigners.” The ethnographic museum illustrates the policy of the Soviet Union toward national minorities. It gives full examples of all the racial cultures, shows the conditions under which this culture has developed, with emphasis on the problem of raising the cultural level of the backward peoples. In the new huge building of the Central Ethnographic Museum in Moscow, an attempt is made to organize parallel exhibits of the social customs and culture of the peoples of the U. S. S. R. Thus on the one side is a Kirghiz “Yurta” (nomad tent), showing all the details of daily life, with the productive processes in full swing, and on the other side is an exposition analyzing all the elements of the social “com-

plex," ornaments, religious objects, and so on. The museum has recently acquired some valuable exhibits from Yakutia, Siberia, the Caucasus and Central Asia. By October 1st, 1928, the collection of the Central Ethnographic Museum had grown from the 32,500 objects it inherited from the Rumianstev Museum to over 60,000 objects.

The Ethnographic Department of the National Museum in Leningrad, which is being constantly enriched by expeditions of its staff, was not opened to the public until 1922. Another museum of world importance which must be mentioned is the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography of the Academy of Science of the U. S. S. R., which was given greatly enlarged quarters at the time of the 200th anniversary of the Academy, when the library of the Academy was removed to another building. This museum includes all the peoples of the earth. Of the greatest interest are its exhibits of culturally backward peoples, particularly of India. Recently certain thematic exhibits have been arranged in this museum, notably one on the history of human housing, and one on the role of fire in the history of man, and the various methods of obtaining it.

The growth of these central ethnographic museums has given an impetus to the organization of local ones, which now exist in the Crimea (one in Bakhchi-Sarai, one in Yalta, and one in Simferopol), in Kazan, Saratov, Kharkov, Dniepropetrovsk, Minsk, Tiflis, and many other places.

Industrial Museums

Of the museums showing various methods of production first place must be given to the Polytechnic Museum in Moscow, which in spite of many defects due to the age of some of the exhibits, has been able to develop extensively its work of spreading polytechnical knowledge among the masses. Regular lectures on various technical subjects are held at the museum, and attract large audiences. Special exhibits on radio, lighting, and so on have attracted great interest, and experimental work is being carried on in the laboratories of the museum in chemistry and physics.

Of this type of museum perhaps the most important at the present time is the Agricultural Museum in Leningrad. This museum has been expanding its activities greatly in the last few years, and one of the most interesting of its experiments is the nursery on Krestovsky Island, where it demonstrates its scientific discoveries. At the present time this museum is preparing exhibits on the organization and role of the state farms and peasant collectives, and is also carrying on a workers' university on problems of agriculture. In order to establish closer connections with practical agricultural problems, this museum has organized a special department in the Northwest, devoting

special attention to export in all branches of agriculture.

In addition to these central museums mention must also be made of the extensive growth of local agricultural museums in connection with the Peasants' Houses, which carry on propaganda for raising the technical level of agricultural methods. Practically every county seat in the Soviet Union has a museum of this kind. In some places they have been organized as departments of the regional museums.

Museums of the Revolution

The "Museums of the Revolution" are an entirely new type of museum. At the present time there are two main ones, one in Moscow and one in Leningrad. The former English club in Moscow, and part of the Winter Palace in Moscow have been set aside to display the history of the revolutionary movement. Out of these central museums have grown special departments setting forth the history of the revolution in the regional museums.

Museums of Social History

In this field there has developed another entirely new type of museum which did not exist at all before the revolution. These are the monastery, church, and palace museums. Monasteries, churches, palaces or mansions, the best examples of certain periods are kept intact or restored with all their trappings and furniture, just as they were used or lived in, down to the minutest detail, and thus turned into museums which give a living representation of the past, preserving not only architecture, paintings, sculpture and other objects of art, but the social customs of past periods.

Thus were developed the palace museums of Detskoye Selo (formerly Tsarskoye Selo), Peterhof, Oranienbaum, Pavlovsk, and Gatchina. At the present time these palaces are being transformed into centers for the study of a past era, while the utmost care is being taken to preserve everything having an artistic or historical value. A number of other palaces most typical of their periods will be restored in a similar manner. The Social-History division of the Russian museum is doing an interesting piece of work in the Fontanna House. Here the luxurious way of living of the feudal barons is shown, and along with it is depicted in detail the life of the neighboring peasantry of the period, with detailed exhibits of their life and labor. In some cases whole estates are turned into museums, including not only the central manor house, but all the surrounding buildings.

The church and monastery museums represent a special problem. All artistic creation in the pre-Peter period was carried on under the influence of religion, and therefore in order to study the most important examples of architecture and

painting of those times it is necessary to turn to church buildings and ikons. This has led to the most careful preservation and restoration of all those churches and monasteries of significance in the development of Russian architecture.

Of the monasteries being thus preserved, mention should be made of the Troitzko-Sergiyevskaya Lavra, near Moscow, and the Donskoye, Novodevichi and Voskresenskoye monasteries. In all of these monasteries museums have been organized, in some cases of a regional nature, some of them special museums as, for instance, the one of world significance in the Sergiyevskaya Lavra, which is now known as the State Sergiyevskaya Museum. This museum is exceptionally rich in the valuable objects which have been preserved within its walls. Its famous sacristy contains objects dating from the time of Ivan the Terrible. In addition an exhibit has been organized showing the economic significance of the monastery, its role under the Tsarist Government, and the part played by the religious academy formerly housed there.

The church-museums sometimes represent fine examples of architecture. Among them may be mentioned the Sofiskaya Cathedral in Novgorod, dating from 1059, and the Kiev Cathedral once located on "the great waterway leading from the land of the Varangians to the land of the Greeks," the cathedrals in the Kremlin, St. Basil's, the Kremlin in Rostov-Yaroslavl, and a number of other ancient churches in Moscow, Novgorod, Vologda and Yaroslavl, all of which have been carefully restored under the Soviet Government.

Military Museums

Under this heading must be mentioned first of all the Leningrad Artillery Museum, which contains an extraordinarily rich collection of weapons, ammunition and other accoutrements of war. This museum was reorganized during the revolutionary years, and its collection greatly increased and improved. In addition, preparations are under way for the establishment of a second military museum from collections which are now scattered about in a number of different museums in Leningrad and Moscow. There are several other military museums of a special character, such as the Chemical Museum, and the Tula Arsenal, which was started before the revolution. A Central Military Museum is now in process of organization.

Art Museums

The collection of the Tretyakov gallery in Moscow has been more than doubled since the revolution. In view of the extraordinary growth of the number of excursions and individual visitors, and also the increase in the collection itself, it has become necessary to take over a neighboring house as well, and the question is now being considered of transferring the whole collection to an-

other more adequate building. At the present time the pictures are all being rehung in chronological order. Special art classes for the visitors are held in the gallery.

The Art Department of the State Russian Museum in Leningrad has received many new pictures, including a large number of canvasses by Levitsky, acquired from private collections and the Museum of the Academy of Art.

The Hermitage Museum in Leningrad founded by Catherine the Great, contains one of the finest collections in the world. Before the revolution it was really a "hermitage" to which the Tsar, living in the Winter Palace, could withdraw for rest and relaxation. It was in fact for this purpose that it was built next to the palace, and even connected with it by passageways. After the revolution the whole palace was made a part of the Hermitage. Practically the entire upper floor of the palace is now occupied by pictures which have been added to the Hermitage collection, and the rest of it, just as it was inhabited by the imperial family, has been turned into a museum. The Shtiglitz and Stroganov private collections have now been added to it.

The Hermitage collection has tripled since the revolution, and the place it has occupied has been proportionately extended. Several new departments have been added since the revolution, including the China and Crockery Division, which contains many fine pieces from the Shtiglitz collection, the Oriental Department, and the Early Medieval Division. The publishing activities of the Hermitage have been growing, and although it has not yet been possible to issue a complete catalogue, many separate leaflets have been published about the special exhibitions and the permanent collections. The Hermitage has formed close connections with the Universities and other higher educational institutions in Leningrad, and in connection with them is working out new methods of presenting exhibits. The Egyptian exhibit, for instance, is so displayed as to show first Egyptian agriculture, then handicrafts and industries, then the governmental organization, private life, and finally the superstructure of education, art, and religion.

The Moscow Fine Arts Museum has greatly increased its collection in recent years, and is becoming a second "Hermitage." It has a large collection of Western Art.

A special museum of Oriental art and culture has been started, in view of the tremendous impetus that has been given to the cultural development of the Eastern nationalities in the Soviet Union, but is still only a beginning.

Historical and Archeological Museums

The greatest achievement in this field is the completion of the capital repairs of the left wing

of the Russian Museum in Leningrad and the transfer to it of the History Department of the Russian Museum. In the exposition now being prepared there is shown the parallel development of the exploited and exploiting peoples of the earth.

The aim of the Historical Museum in Moscow, founded before the revolution, was to show the culture of all the peoples inhabiting the territory of the U. S. S. R. Pursuing this vast plan the Historical Museum opened a permanent exhibit of the period from the 16th to the 19th century, and in addition organized a number of temporary exhibits, among which should be mentioned an exhibit of peasants' and workers' life in the Urals, the result of a special expedition. In addition there are a number of special archaeological museums which have developed at places where excavations were being made.

Moscow Toy Museum

The aim of this museum is not only to exhibit various types of toys, but also to carry on investigations and scientific laboratory work with the aim of applying modern educational principles to the manufacture of toys.

The museum was founded in 1918 under the Peoples' Commissariat for Education. Since little attention had been paid to the science of toys, either from the artistic or the historical point of view, there was not a single collection to form a nucleus for the new museum. Many of the exhibits were taken from the toy shops in 1918 and 1919, and were thus illustrative of the pre-war and pre-revolutionary epochs.

The hand-made peasant toys, wrought with such quaint and humorous and often really artistic craftsmanship, were collected mainly from the village of Sergiyevskaya, where toy making has developed into a flourishing industry. Frequently the collectors arrived just in time to salvage rare specimens from the dust-heap, to be preserved for future generations within the museum cases. The exhibits in the peasant toy section cover a period from the beginning of the nineteenth to the end of the twentieth century. The exhibit of dolls is a little ethnographic study in itself. Each of the many races inhabiting the different sections of the Soviet Union makes dolls in its own image, clothing them in native costumes down to the minutest detail. The materials in which each region is most rich are used for toys. Thus carved figures of pine or birch come from the forest region, clay toys from Viatsk and other provinces, while from the far North come exquisite things carved from mammoth tusks preserved in the glacial ice.

Many extremely valuable exhibits reflecting various stages in the history of culture have been transferred from private houses, of which the "Doll's House of the 40's" found in the Gargarin mansion is one of the most interesting. Others,

of even greater historical significance, were contributed by the Decorative Arts Department of the Stroganov Art School. There are also several dolls from the Shabel collection, dressed in the modes of the latter part of the 19th century.

Many of the most interesting exhibits have been picked up in the Moscow markets. Korsini, a woman explorer, has contributed a collection of Asiatic toys, and many others which have been preserved as family relics and handed down from one generation to the next, have come in from all parts of the U. S. S. R.

The marionette theaters of the 40's and 60's furnished the nucleus for a puppet section. To these have been added examples of Java and Indo-China marionettes, and the exhibits now include many different examples of marionette, puppet and silhouette theaters.

The printing section is interesting both from the point of view of the development of the toy proper and as illustrating the transition stage between the toy used for play and for educational purposes. The period covered by this collection goes back seventy years, and the exhibits are both Russian and foreign. There are also a few rare and valuable objects dating from much earlier periods, toy alphabets of long ago, and children's books of all periods.

As the Toy Museum has developed it has attracted the attention of other organizations. In 1922 the Moscow Arts and Crafts Polytechnic founded an "Art Toy Section" to train instructors in the toy industry.

Scientific Activities of Museums

The strengthening of the scientific side of museum work has resulted in a greater definiteness with regard to the program of collecting objects for the museum. This has been particularly noticeable in the case of provincial museums where the chance collection of local objects has been replaced by a systematic program of expeditions to gather definite material.

Scientific expeditions are now being organized by the museums in many different fields. Thus the Historical Museum organized a three-year expedition to the Urals to study the lives of the workers and peasants there; the Russian Museum sent an expedition to Altai, to study the Western Finns; the Riazansky Museum sent an expedition to study the lakes of the Meschersk region; the Central Ethnographic Museum sent one to Eastern Siberia to study the Eastern Finns; the Pensa Museum is carrying on a systematic investigation of all the productive resources of Pensa Province; the Samara and Saratov Museums are exploring the lower and middle Volga; the Siberian Museums are studying the untouched riches of that region; the Bakhchi-Sarai, Kherson and Kerchensk Museums have been carrying on studies and explorations in the Crimea for years.

Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union

FOLLOWING the confirmation by the British House of Commons on November 5th of the immediate resumption of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Great Britain, Gregory Yakovlevich Sokolnikov was named Soviet Envoy to London.

At the present time Mr. Sokolnikov holds the post of president of the Soviet Oil Syndicate, and as such directed the negotiations which resulted in an important agreement last February with the Anglo-American Company, representing the largest English and American oil concerns.

Mr. Sokolnikov, the son of a doctor, was born in 1888, in the town of Romnakh, Poltava Province, and attended high school in Moscow. A member of the Communist Party since 1905, he was imprisoned and exiled by the Tsarist Government for his revolutionary activities, and spent the years from 1909 to 1917 abroad. He is a graduate of the Sorbonne University in Paris, where he specialized in law and political economy.

In August, 1917, Mr. Sokolnikov was elected a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, and during the early months of the Soviet regime was in charge of the nationalized banks in Leningrad. He was president of the Brest-Litovsk delegation, and from 1918 to 1920, held an important military post. In 1921 he became assistant Commissar of Finance, and was Commissar of Finance from 1922 to 1927, in which capacity he reorganized the currency on a gold basis. In 1922 he attended the Hague Conference as financial expert, and was one of the two Soviet delegates to the International Economic Conference at Geneva in May, 1927. He has held his present position as head of the Oil Syndicate for the past two years.

Soviet Comment on Resumption of Relations with Britain

In connection with the vote of the British House of Commons to resume relations with the Soviet Union, *Izvestia* published an editorial on November 7, which concluded with the following paragraphs:

"The Soviet public sincerely welcomes the results of this vote (in the British House of Commons), and the new perspectives which are at last opened up in the relations between the two countries. We have always held the point of view that business collaboration and business contact between the U. S. S. R. and the capitalist countries, and in particular between the U. S. S. R. and England, was both necessary and expedient in the interests of both countries, notwithstanding all the differences in social structure. We have always maintained that the rupture of



G. Y. SOKOLNIKOV

Appointed Soviet Envoy to Great Britain

Anglo-Soviet relations represented a direct menace to peace, and that in the interests of peace they should be resumed as soon as possible. We can now state with satisfaction that, as the results of the vote have shown, the experience of the past years has not been in vain, and at the present time our point of view on this question is shared not only by the English working masses, but by a considerable section of the ruling class of that country.

"The ratification of the Anglo-Soviet protocol of October 3rd means the exchange of ambassadors in the near future, and simultaneously a mutual confirmation of the obligations with regard to propaganda, obligations covering also all those anti-Soviet intrigues of the British Government and its organs which we have everywhere encountered during the past few years. It means further the immediate commencement of negotiations for the regulation of all questions of dispute. As is well known, such negotiations have already been carried on once, and in August, 1924, led to the signing of a treaty, which was subsequently repudiated by the Conservative Gov-

ernment. In recalling that fact, which is evidence of where the responsibility lies for the unsettled state of these problems, we declare that the Soviet Union now as before sincerely desires to reach an agreement. If, as we hope, the present British Government will enter upon these negotiations with the purpose of seeking a basis for the mutually advantageous solution of all the questions of dispute, it will find in the Soviet Union a conscientious and friendly collaborator."

Exchange of Radiograms with Afghanistan

On the fifteenth of October the following radiogram was received by the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Kabul:

"By the mercy of the Almighty God the valiant Afghan Army, commanded by Shah Vali Khan and his brother, Shah Machmud Khan, has captured Kabul from Bacha Sakao. On October 10th, Ark was bombarded. On October 13th, Bacha Sakao fled with his family and some of his supporters. Part of the army of Bacha Sakao fled, and part surrendered to the brave Khan. Most of the ministers of Bacha Sakao declared their allegiance. The Kugistantsi tribe recanted. The government was merciful to its opponents. Kandagar, Kabul, Ghazni, the Southern Provinces, Jalalabad and Hezaredjat are under our control. Our followers in Mazar, Kattagano-Badachshan, Maimon and Herat, tortured by the rule of Bacha Sakao are awaiting the orders of the Central Government, and will soon send their representatives to the capitol. The army of Bacha Sakao has surrendered in many places. The King of Afghanistan will be elected at the Great National Assembly, which will be attended by representatives of all tribes. Marshal Nadir Khan will arrive at the capitol tomorrow."

On October 17, an additional radiogram was received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Kabul, with the following contents:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan has the honor to inform you that Marshal Mohamet Nadir Khan entered the capitol on October 15. In recognition of his devotion and his splendid services, he was unanimously elected king by the Afghan National representatives. In connection with this event the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the name of the Government, expresses the desire that the friendly relations already existing between the two governments shall be continued in the most satisfactory manner and on the firmest possible foundations."

On October 19, Mr. Karakhan, Assistant Peoples' Commissar for Foreign Affairs, despatched the following answer to the above radiograms:

"The Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, in answer to the radiograms of October 15 and 17, from the Afghan Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, has the honor to acknowledge the information that Marshal Mohamet Nadir Khan has been recognized as King by the National representatives of Afghanistan.

"The Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs accepts with satisfaction your declaration, made in the name of the Afghan Government, that the friendly relations already existing between the two governments shall be continued in the most satisfactory manner and on the firmest possible foundations. The People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, confirming in the name of the Government of the U. S. S. R., the continuance of the friendly relations between the two governments, expresses its readiness to develop them further on the basis of existing treaties and in accord with the interests of strengthening the independence of Afghanistan and its economic and cultural progress."

New Afghan Ambassador to Moscow

Information has been received that Sirdar Mohamet Azis Khan, brother of the Afghan Padishah Mohamet Nadir Khan, has been appointed to the post of Ambassador to Moscow from Afghanistan.

Soviet-Chinese Controversy

On October 18, the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs handed the following statement to the German Embassy in Moscow, with the request that it be transmitted to the Nanking and Mukden Governments:

"On the 27th of May, during the raid on the Consulate General in Harbin, 37 Soviet citizens who were visiting the consulate at that time, were arrested. In spite of the demand for their liberation which was made by the Union Government in its note of May 31, they have been kept prisoners for many months.

"Court action was instituted against them which was a post facto attempt to justify the lawless attack on the Consulate General and the senseless arrest of the Soviet citizens who were there at the time. The trial was carried on with utter disregard of all established rules and procedure of legal practice. All petitions of the accused and of the counsel for the defense regarding the calling of witness, cross-examination and so on were summarily denied by the judge on the ground that everything was clear to him even before the trial. The accused were not even able to obtain the originals of those 'documents,' which were presented to them, and which have been repeatedly stigmatized by the Union Government as forgeries, and which, together with the fact that the defendants had visited the Consulate, were the only evidence produced against them at the trial.

"A trial of this nature cannot but arouse the

strongest indignation not only in the U. S. S. R., but in the public opinion of other countries and China itself. None the less, on October 15, sentence was pronounced, condemning the accused to long terms of imprisonment, of different lengths.

"The Union Government is forced to state that the trial, as shown by the entire proceedings, was a distorted legal farce to which the Union Government does not attach the slightest legal significance and which it considers as nothing more than covert and lawless punishment of Soviet citizens."

Statement Regarding Mr. Tchitcherin's Health

In response to numerous queries regarding the health of Gregory Vassilevich Tchitcherin, Peoples' Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union, the following statement was printed by *Izvestia* on October 22:

"The Peoples' Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gregory Tchitcherin, was taken ill with diabetes in 1925. In spite of the serious turn which his illness took from the very beginning, Mr. Tchitcherin through his own persistent desire continued his extraordinarily heavy and intense work and was only able to carry out the prescribed regimen and treatment during those months when he went abroad for his vacations on the orders of his doctors. In addition to this, he has suffered from several complications during the past three years (a severe rheumatic infection, angina and grippe, complicated by inflammation of the lungs). As a result of this, still another complication arose in the fall of 1928, polyneuritis (multiple inflammation of the nerves), which compelled him to spend three weeks in the Kremlin Hospital, after which he went away for extended treatment in Germany, where he first underwent treatment in Berlin under the care of Professor Klemperer, and then in the spring went to Wiesbaden, where he was under the care of Dr. A. Jeronne. In Wiesbaden, Mr. Tchitcherin was also examined by Dr. Fuersster, and by Dr. L. Levin of Moscow.

"According to the unanimous opinion of the above named doctors the improvement resulting from this prolonged treatment is not yet sufficient

to risk the aggravation of the main trouble (diabetes), by undertaking the journey back to Moscow, and leaving Wiesbaden, where the patient is assured the best conditions for treatment and the opportunity of using further the hot mineral springs. It may be hoped, however, that with further progress of the improvement already achieved, the question of Mr. Tchitcherin's return to the U. S. S. R. can be taken up after a short time.

"PROF. G. KLEMPERER, (*Berlin*),

"PROF. O. FUERSTER (*Wiesbaden*),

"DR. A. JERONNE (*Wiesbaden*),

"DR. L. LEVIN (*Moscow*).

"*Wiesbaden, September 28, 1929.*"

Foreign Trade

The Foreign Department of the Supreme Economic Council of the U. S. S. R. has issued preliminary figures for the trade of the Soviet Union over European frontiers for the year 1928-29. The total foreign trade turnover of 1,420,000,000 rubles represents a decrease of about two and one-half per cent over the preceding year. Imports decreased by about 15 per cent, and exports increased by 13.6 per cent. The growth of export operations resulted in a favorable trade balance for the year of 25,400,000 rubles, whereas the preceding year ended with a negative balance of 183,900,000 rubles.

The increase of export operations was felt mainly in the field of industrial export, which showed an increase of 34.3 per cent over the year before, and which now constitutes 60

per cent of the entire Soviet exports. The most important item in the exports was oil products, of which 3,500,000 tons, amounting to 123,000,000 rubles, were exported, an increase of 33 per cent in quantity and 25.7 per cent in value over the preceding year. The second place is held by lumber, the export of which increased 50 per cent in value and 66 per cent in quantity.

Agricultural exports decreased by 4.8 per cent, mainly due to the falling off of grain exports, but this was largely compensated for by the increase in other agricultural goods exported.

As regards Soviet imports it should be pointed



GEORGE TCHITCHERIN
People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs

out that whereas in general they decreased by 15 per cent against the year before, the share of industrial import was greatly increased, and the share of articles of consumption decreased. Industrial imports, consisting chiefly of machinery for both heavy and light industry, equipment for electrical construction, and so on, constituted 92 per cent of the entire import in 1928-29.

In general, the results of foreign trade operations during the first year of the five-year plan may be considered satisfactory, especially with regard to the achievement of a favorable trade balance.

Book Notes

"HUMANITY UPROOTED," by Maurice Hindus. Jonathan Cape and Harrison Smith, New York, 1929. \$3.00.

In "Humanity Uprooted" Mr. Maurice Hindus gives his observation of life in the Soviet Union from the standpoint of the sociologist rather than that of the economist, insofar as the two approaches can be separated.

Mr. Hindus is primarily interested in the facts of Soviet life, and his book affords interesting glimpses of that life with some explanation of the changes in thought and action, the new order has brought to the individual of various categories—the married woman, the flapper, the student, the scientist, the Jew, the soldier, the factory worker, the worker on the land—and what has happened in respect of religion, property, family life, love, etc.

Born and receiving his early education in Tsarist Russia, maturing in the United States, Mr. Hindus is able to make some interesting distinctions between traits innately native and those resulting from the revolution. His new book is the fruit of annual visits to the Soviet Union during recent years.

"RED STAR IN SAMARKAND," by Anna Louise Strong, Coward McCann, New York, 1929. \$3.50.

In "Red Star in Samarkand," Miss Strong has given the first detailed and comprehensive report of the workings of the Soviet Government in Central Asia. Miss Strong has spent the greater part of the past eight years in the Soviet Union, has a working knowledge of the Russian language, and little of political significance or purely picturesque interest misses her practiced and keen powers of observation. Miss Strong describes the working of the Soviet policy of giving political positions and cultural independence to the natives of these Central Asian countries, stimulating and developing local industry, and at the same time fighting the grip of ancient Moham-

edan law and custom, mainly by educational methods. Particularly interesting are the chapters dealing with the efforts to free the women from the hideous subjection of the past, which have born fruit in the unveiling of thousands and in the election of many women to government positions.

"ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION," Vol. II. International Publishers, New York, 1929. \$4.00.

With the appearance of Vol. II of the "Illustrated History" there is now available in English for the first time a complete history of the Russian Revolution. The first volume covered the period from the beginning of the century to the summer months of 1917. The present volume goes on from that point, giving a detailed story of the October revolution, the Civil War, the "N. E. P.," and the main cultural and economic achievements of the first years of reconstruction. The history is translated from the Russian. It was edited by Astrov, Slepko and Thomas, and contains articles by Lenin, Bukharin, Stalin, and Rykov.

"A GIRL IN SOVIET RUSSIA," by Andrée Viollis. Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York, 1929. \$2.50.

This book is by a French woman journalist, who spent three months travelling through the Soviet Union in 1926. It is written with great charm and insight, although many of the observations, particularly those regarding the schools, are necessarily superficial. It is a pity, too, that the book should not have been available in English until now, since the three intervening years have brought so many changes that many of the facts and figures are not applicable to the present situation. As a cross-section of Soviet Russia, showing the curious intermingling of old and new folkways, and recording the rich activity of the period, the book is well worth reading. The translation is excellent.

NOTICE:

After January 1st
the offices of
THE SOVIET UNION INFORMATION BUREAU
and
THE SOVIET UNION REVIEW
will be removed to
1637 Massachusetts Avenue N. W.,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Miscellaneous News

Literacy in the Soviet Union

According to the latest literacy figures, 55 per cent of the population of the U. S. S. R. are now literate, as against 22.3 per cent recorded in the census of 1897, and 36.6 per cent in the 1926 census.

Systematic work for the "liquidation of illiteracy" began in the last years of the civil war — in 1920 and 1921. During the past nine years eleven million people have been taught in the "illiteracy liquidation centers." The society "Down With Illiteracy," which has a membership of several million, has played an important role in the spread of literacy, inducing large numbers of the population to do volunteer teaching.

The percentage of literacy among the culturally backward nationalities in pre-war times was negligible. During the five years from 1923 to 1928, about a quarter of a million among the minor nationalities became literate, and over 100,000 have been taught during the past year. Teaching is carried on in the native tongue, and many of these peoples are using an alphabet for the first time. The Central Publishing House of the nationalities has published primers in 43 languages during the past year. The introduction of the Latin alphabet has hastened the spread of literacy among the Turanian peoples. Thus it is expected that 100,000 Tatars will learn to read and write during the present year, 55,000 Kirghiz, and equally large numbers of other nationalities.

According to the five-year plan, 85 per cent of the Soviet population will be literate by 1932-33. At the present time the various constituent republics are challenging each other to hold competitions for the complete liquidation of illiteracy within the next three years. During 1929-30, it is proposed to teach seven and a half million adults—more than three times as many as were taught during the past year.

The trade unions of the U. S. S. R., whose members are now 91.5 per cent literate, have resolved to complete their anti-illiteracy campaign within a year, and have appropriated 15,100,000 rubles for this purpose.

The Seven Hour Day in Soviet Factories

The Council of Labor and Defense has decided to extend the seven-hour day, and to introduce it in a number of new enterprises employing about 600,000 people. The introduction of the seven-hour day in industry was begun in 1927-28 in accordance with the decision of the jubilee session of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R., held on the occasion of the tenth an-

niversary of the revolution. So far 366 factories employing 454,000 workmen have adopted the seven-hour day. By the end of 1929-30 over a million workers will have their day reduced to seven hours. The introduction of the seven-hour day throughout every industry will be completed by the end of 1933. In industries where the shorter working day has been introduced production has increased 12.2 per cent, and wages 5.3 per cent.

Departure of Soviet Flyers

The Soviet flyers, Semyon Shestakov, Philip Bolotov, Boris Sterligov and Dmitri Fufayev, who flew the plane "Land of Soviets" from Moscow to New York, sailed for the U. S. S. R. on November 28th.

A farewell reception was given to the flyers arranged jointly by the American Society for Cultural Relations with Russia (U. S. S. R.), the Open Road, the Aeronautic Division of the Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Society of Automotive Engineers, and the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aeronautics of New York University.

Twenty tractors were presented to the flyers by the Friends of the Soviet Union as a gift to the new Soviet farms from groups of workers in America.

Third Industrialization Loan to be Increased

The third industrialization loan, which was to be limited to the sum of 750,000,000 rubles, has already been over-subscribed by more than fifteen million rubles.

Chiatura Manganese Production

Fifty years ago the first shipment of Chiatura manganese was shipped from Georgia to the European market. Since the opening of the Chiatura fields the 16,977,786 tons of manganese have been mined, of which 14,647,959 tons have been exported.

In 1913, over 1,066,000 tons of manganese, which constituted 42.7 per cent of the world's export, was exported from Georgia. After the civil war the export of manganese was resumed, and a concession was given to the Harriman Company for the development of the Chiatura fields. When this concession proved unsuccessful the work was turned over to a government trust organized for the purpose, known as "Chiatura Manganese Industry." When the trust took over the enterprise from the concessionary, only one of the thirty-five plants was working. During the thirteen months the new trust has been in operation 19 mines have been restored, from which 1,230,672 tons of ore have been procured. The number of workers has increased from 450 to 9,500. The export has

increased to from 80 to 90 thousand tons a month, as against 23,360 tons exported in August, 1928.

According to the five-year plan, the output of manganese is to be increased to 1,300,000 tons of washed manganese, and 300,000 tons of ordinary ore in 1932-33.

Soviet Rubber Substitute

The laboratory of the "Resinotrest" (Rubber Trust), which has been carrying on experiments under the direction of Professor Bosse in the production of synthetic rubber, and in the cultivation of rubber yielding plants in the U. S. S. R., has found that a certain wild plant of the "hondrill" species is rich in rubber content. This plant grows in Central Asia, Azerbaijan, Kazakstan and Kirghizia. By the action of insects and various blights a lime forms on the roots of the plant which contains about 30 per cent of rubber and pitch. Experiments on several tons of this lime showed that the rubber secured from it is suitable for manufacturing purposes.

Several hundred thousand tons of raw rubber and pitch material may be procured from the areas where the plant is already growing. Research work is still in progress in the sandy deserts of Central Asia.

The ease with which the plant can be grown, and the favorable conditions for its cultivation in the vast stretches between Astrakhan and the Chinese border renders possible the organization of large hondrill plantations. The Resinotrest is organizing the gathering of lime and seeds from the wild plants on a large scale, and plans to start plantations next spring. The Supreme Economic Council has allotted three million rubles for further work along this line, and has instructed the Resinotrest to concentrate particularly on the production of tires for the growing automobile industry of the Soviet Union.

Moscow-Sverdlovsk Radio-Telephone

The first radio telephone in the U. S. S. R., connecting Moscow with Sverdlovsk, a distance of 1,700 kilometers, has been put into operation. Each telephone subscriber in Moscow or Sverdlovsk is now able to make a contact with any telephone in the other city through an interurban telephone station, which transmits the conversation by radio.

The Moscow-Sverdlovsk line is the second longest radio telephone in the world. The line has been equipped with two powerful transmitting machines, which were built of Soviet materials in the central communications laboratory.

Radio Station of Central Trade Unions Council

The new radio station of the Central Trade Unions Council, which is the most powerful station in the U. S. S. R., started operation on No-

vember 7th. The station is located near the city of Tschelkovo along the Northern Railway, 38 kilometers from Moscow. It took about two years to build, and cost 1,790,000 rubles. Broadcasting from the station reaches the remotest regions of the U. S. S. R., as well as Western Europe. The station was built by the "Electrosviaz" trust, and both foreign and Soviet equipment was used in its construction. "Radiofication" of the workers' districts has proceeded rapidly, and about eleven million trade union members will listen in on the programs of their new radio station.

Sun Power Station

Operations have been started in Samarkand on the construction of a 210 h. p. station, which is to receive its power from the rays of the sun.

According to the plan of the builder of the station, the young Soviet engineer, Kosmind-Yushko, high temperatures will be obtained not by collecting the sun's rays into the small focus of a mirror, but by the condensative accumulation of the power of the sun rays over a definite period of time.

The station is to be completed next year.

Minor Nationalities of the Soviet North

Five years ago a governmental "Committee of the North" was organized to deal with the affairs of the peoples inhabiting the Northern outskirts of the U. S. S. R.

The Committee of the North organized the different nationalities under tribal Soviets, which were in turn united into native regional Soviets. These regional Soviets are located in special townships organized by the Committee of the North, which serve as centers of civilization. So far six such townships have been built in entirely wild regions; on the Chukhotsk peninsula, Sakhalin, the Okhotsk Coast, Yakutia, the Turukhan District, and one in the Komi region for the Samoyeds. Two more townships are now being organized, one on Kamchatka for the Kayaks, and one on the Kazym River, in the Tobolsk District, for the Ostiak Samoyeds. These centers have hospitals, boarding schools, meteorological and wireless stations, veterinary stations, and so on.

Among the native tribes the Samoyeds appear to be the ones most rapidly assimilating Soviet civilization. During the territorial division of the North the Samoyeds were separated into an independent racial region with an extensive network of schools and other cultural institutions. The Ural and Siberian Ostiaks and the Western and Eastern Tunguses are also to be organized into distinct regions.

Development of the Far East

A special commission has been set up by STO (The Council of Labor and Defense), to develop the Far East, particularly with respect to the

natural resources of Kamchatka, Sakhalin, the Soviet Islands in the Okhotsk and Bering Seas, and Wrangel Island. Credits to Far Eastern industries will be increased and they will be granted a number of additional privileges.

STO has also decided to stimulate the colonization of the Far Eastern region, which has a population only slightly in excess of two million in a territory of 1,200,000 square kilometers. Under the five-year plan it is proposed to colonize 750,000 people on an area of 4,500,000 hectares.

The extensive natural resources of the Far East have been explored to only a limited extent. The region abounds in coal, the coal deposits of the Bureinsk-Zaviatinsk District being estimated at 375,000,000 tons, and those of the Western part of Sakhalin at 1,500,000,000 tons, oil (in Sakhalin and Kamchatka), iron, silver, lead and wolfram. There are also extensive gold deposits in the Far East, estimated at no less than 6,000 tons. Gold mines are being developed in every part of the region.

Of much importance to the region are its fishing and forest resources. The forests cover an area of over 90,000,000 hectares and are exploited by the Far Eastern Lumber Trust, a government organization. The export of Far Eastern Lumber already constitutes 40 per cent of the total Soviet lumber exports.

The favorable climatic conditions have served to stimulate the growing of rice in this section, and recently the cultivation of sugar beets on a large scale has been undertaken, creating a basis for the development of the sugar industry in the Far East.

Azerbaijan Scientific Institute

In Azerbaijan a new Government Scientific Institute has been opened which will carry on a scientific study of the natural resources and productive possibilities as well as of the national culture of Azerbaijan, and the neighboring countries of the Near East.

There has so far been very little exploration of the natural resources of Azerbaijan. The recent discovery of huge deposits of magnetic iron near Gandji, for example, was entirely accidental. During the past three or four years, however, some progress has been made along these lines in connection with the industrial development of the country. The capital investment in the industry of Azerbaijan is now three times what it was before the war.

Concession Applications

During the past year 270 proposals for technical assistance concessions were received by the Chief Concessions Committee from foreign firms, as against 200 the year before. The increase has been mainly in the fields of mining, metallurgy,

the chemical and lumber industries, and public utilities. The largest number of proposals, 72, have come from Germany, while 69 have come from the United States. There has also been increased interest on the part of English firms, 20 proposals having come from them as against seven the preceding year.

During the eight years of the existence of the Chief Concessions Committee 2,670 applications for technical assistance concessions have been received from foreign firms. The Concessions Committee is mainly interested in applications connected with large scale enterprises of importance to the industrialization program. Most of the concession contracts concluded during the past year were of this nature.

Course for Foreign Physicians Concluded

As a result of the course for foreign physicians in Soviet medical methods and health production, which was held during September and October in Moscow, an International Society for Medical Connections with the U. S. S. R. will be organized by the physicians who attended. The physicians, among whom were representatives of Germany, France, the United States, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Poland, and Lithuania, were given a course of lectures by Soviet medical men, and shown the Soviet Health Institutions. Several of the doctors who have written their impressions, noted particularly the extensive scale on which scientific activities are carried on in the U. S. S. R.

Joint Stock Company to Sell Inventions

A joint stock company for patenting and selling Soviet inventions abroad was organized in the U. S. S. R., at the beginning of this year. The company has branches in Berlin and New York. During the short period of its existence the company has received 130 inventions for sale abroad, and many foreign firms have applied to it for patents.

Purchase of U. S. Ships

The Amtorg Trading Corporation, through its vice president, J. G. Ohsol, has purchased from the United States Shipping Board twenty-five cargo vessels which will be reconditioned and added to the Soviet merchant fleet for use in Pacific Coast waters, the Black Sea and the northwestern ports of the Soviet Union. The price was \$1,155,000, payable one-fourth in cash, the remainder in one year.

Changes in Soviet Diplomatic Service

Mr. A. M. Ustinov has been relieved of his post of diplomatic representative of the U. S. S. R. in Greece, and Mr. V. P. Potiomkin, formerly Counselor to the Soviet Embassy in Turkey, has been appointed in his stead.

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