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## ERRATA

*In the "Calendar of Events for 1929-30," under "June," on page 176 of the November issue, it is erroneously stated that Franz Josef Land has been renamed "Fritzhof Nansen Land." The Academy of Sciences passed a resolution recommending that this be done in honor of the explorer's services to the Soviet Union, but further steps have not been taken.*

*On page 199 of the December issue the article entitled "Indictment of 'Industrial Party' Members" opens with the words "On October 11 the Soviet press published the indictments, etc." November 11 should be substituted for October 11.*

# SOVIET UNION REVIEW

Twenty Cents

January, 1930

Vol. VIII, No. 1



**Soviet-Chinese Settlement**

**Soviet-Turkish Treaty**

**Trade Relations of the Soviet Union**

**Cultural Developments**

**Economic Plan for 1929-30**

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## Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union

ON November 19th, the agent of the Commissariat of Foreign Affairs in Khabarovsk received from Tsai Yun Sheng, Harbin Diplomatic Commissar, the following telegram:

"On November 20th Kokorin and Nechayev, formerly members of the staff of the Soviet Consulate in Harbin, crossed the frontier at Pogranichnaya-Grodekovo. Request that they be met and that your military command be notified."

On November 21st, Mr. Kokorin, formerly a member of the staff of the Soviet Consulate in Harbin, and after the rupture of relations with China attached to the German Consulate at Harbin for work in rendering assistance to Soviet citizens, arrived on Soviet territory by way of Pogranichnaya Station in the company of the former dragoman of the Chinese Eastern Railway, Mr. Nechayev and the Chinese Colonel Wang. Mr. Kokorin transmitted the official statement of Mr. Tsai that he had been given full powers by both the Mukden and Nanking Governments for the immediate commencement of negotiations to regulate the Soviet-Chinese conflict, and the request of Mr. Tsai that the Soviet Government immediately appoint its representative to meet with him.

On November 22, the agent of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs in Khabarovsk, Mr. Simanovsky, sent the following answer to Tsai Yun Sheng through Mr. Kokorin, who returned to Harbin in the company of Nechayev and Colonel Wang.

"The Soviet Government stands for a peaceful regulation of the conflict, but does not consider it possible to enter upon negotiations before the fulfillment by the Chinese of the pre-

liminary conditions of which China was informed through the German Government on August 29. The conditions are in substance as follows:

"1. Official agreement by the Chinese to the restoration of the pre-conflict status of the Chinese Eastern Railway, on the basis of the Peking and Mukden agreements of 1924.

"2. The immediate restoration of the rights of the manager and assistant manager of the railway recommended by the Soviet side, in accordance with the Peking and Mukden agreements of 1924.

"3. The immediate liberation of all Soviet citizens arrested in connection with the conflict.

"The Soviet side declares that just as soon as these conditions have been fulfilled by the Chinese side, and the Soviet Government has been informed of this officially and in writing, the Soviet Government will immediately set free all Chinese citizens arrested in connection with the conflict and will participate in a Sino-Soviet conference for the final settlement of all questions of dispute."

On November 27th, the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs received the following telegram in Chinese from Mukden:

"I have just received the telegram transmitted by Kokorin to Diplomatic Commissar Tsai, and acquainted myself with its contents.

"In view of the fact that both sides desire equally to fulfill the Russo-Chinese and Mukden agreement of 1924, I express my agreement in principle to the three points in the preliminary conditions set forth by you on August 29, and with the additional statement thereto appended.

"I ask your esteemed government, according to

the second point of the conditions, to immediately appoint a manager and assistant manager.

"As regards points 1 and 3, taking into consideration the fact that they refer equally to both sides, it is necessary that accredited persons be appointed by both sides to consider the method whereby they shall be carried out.

"Kindly reply by telegraph.

"CHANG HSUEH-LIANG."

On the same day the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs sent the following telegraphic answer:

"To the President of the Mukden Government, Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang.

"The People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs has received your telegram of the 26th of November in which you declare your acceptance in full of the preliminary conditions transmitted to you in written form on the 22nd of this month through the Harbin Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Tsai Yun Sheng. These conditions were as follows:

"1. Official agreement by the Chinese to the restoration of the pre-conflict status of the railway, on the basis of the Peking and Mukden agreements of 1924.

"2. The immediate restoration of the rights of the manager and assistant manager recommended by the Soviet side, in accordance with the Peking and Mukden agreements of 1924.

"3. The immediate liberation of all Soviet citizens arrested in connection with the conflict.

"In accordance with point 2 the Union Government recommends the restitution of the rights of Emshanov as manager of the road, and of Eismond as assistant manager, and awaits your immediate official notification of this.

"As regards points 1 and 3, which have also been accepted by you, the Soviet Government proposes that in fulfillment of point 2 your representative be sent immediately to Khabarovsk with official written instructions, and on our side the agent of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs in Khabarovsk, Mr. Simanovskiy, is appointed to consider the technical methods for carrying out these points and to settle questions regarding the time and place of the Sino-Soviet conference.

"Acting Commissar for Foreign Affairs,

"LITVINOV."

#### "Izvestia" Editorial on Soviet-Chinese Situation

On November 27th the following editorial was published in the Moscow "Izvestia":

"Immediately after the seizure of the Chinese Eastern Railway the Chinese militarists began to concentrate large military forces on the border, strengthened by White guard units. Then commenced repeated attacks, first at one point of the Soviet border, then at another, firing on Soviet

border troops, and raids on Soviet settlements for purposes of plunder and destruction. At the same time White guard bands were sent across the Soviet border to carry on diversion activities in the rear of the Soviet troops.

"This provocative policy, to all appearances, was quite obviously intended to create an alarming situation in the Soviet Far East, and to force the Soviet Union, whose peaceful aspirations are known to the whole world, to sanction the seizure of the Chinese Eastern Railway. It was continued, however, even after the Chinese should have been convinced of the futility of such means of pressure on the Soviet Government. The military actions on the Soviet-Chinese border were inspired by those elements in the Chinese military political cliques, who were interested either in using every means to provoke and intensify the Soviet-Chinese conflict, or in drawing the imperialist powers into the conflict, or finally, in weakening in every possible way the Mukden group on whom would devolve the whole burden of the consequences of this policy.

"The Soviet Government repeatedly exposed this provocative playing with fire and warned the Chinese militarists of its inevitable and sad consequences for them. The fact of the concentration on the borders of Chinese troops and White guard hands was noted as far back as July 13th in the note regarding the seizure of the Chinese Eastern Railway. In the statement made by the Soviet Government on August 19th, a whole list of the attacks and depredations on Soviet territory which had taken place at that time was cited. The Soviet Government pointed out that these attacks were creating a dangerous situation on the border and, declaring that it would take all precautions to prevent the Soviet troops from crossing the border even in separate instances, at the same time demanded the disarming of the White guards and the prevention of further attacks on Soviet territory, emphasizing that further complications arising from new attacks on Soviet territory would be wholly the responsibility of the Nanking and Mukden Governments. This warning had no effect, and the statement of the Soviet Government on September 9th, transmitted to Nanking and Mukden through the German Government contained a long list of new provocative attacks by the Chinese and White guard troops. In this statement the Soviet Government declared emphatically that any new provocative attacks on the part of the Chinese or White guards would compel its troops in self-defense to take decisive measures for the protection of the border of the Union and the peaceful population of the border region. It again directed the most serious attention of the Nanking and Mukden Governments to the serious consequences which might result in the event of

new provocative attacks on the part of Chinese troops supported by Russian White guards.'

"Since this statement led to no results whatever, the Soviet Government in its statement of September 25th, in which were enumerated further instances of daily and persistent aggressive attacks on the part of the Chinese and the White guards, declared that 'the Nanking and Mukden Governments 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 also of the Chinese soldiers and White guard detachments acting at the behest of these authorities.' The Soviet Government reiterated that the entire responsibility for the resultant situation and for possible future consequences lay absolutely and wholly with the Nanking and Mukden Governments, and declared 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.'

"The sequence of these statements is the best possible evidence of the fact that the Soviet Government refrained until the last possible moment from taking recourse to the repressive measures which finally became necessary to protect the daily threatened security of the Soviet border and the lives and labor of the Soviet population of the border regions. The Soviet Government first exhausted all means of persuasion and warning. Furthermore it refrained from involving the situation on the border with the fate of the conflict on the Chinese-Eastern Railway, and in its statements referring to the military activities of the Chinese troops, confined itself to repeated demands for the cessation of the attacks and the dispersal of the White guards who represented the most dangerous element in the situation.

"All of these arguments and demands were in vain. The repeated statements of the Soviet Government which have been cited were ignored by the Nanking and Mukden Governments, which did not even consider it necessary to attempt to refute the facts therein contained. On the contrary in the measure that the conflict created an even more unfavorable situation for the Chinese adventurers, they began to increase both their repressive measures against the defenseless Soviet citizens who remained in China and their provocative actions in the form of attacks and depredations on Soviet territory.

"The Chinese thereafter extended the field of their aggressive operations to the mouth of the Sungari and the Amur River, where the Chinese troops and the Chinese river boats engaged in repeated firing on passing Soviet merchant ships, disorganizing normal traffic on the Amur, and making frequent attempts to blow up Soviet patrol boats with the aid of floating mines. These

incidents finally forced the Soviet military command to take the necessary measures in that district to put an end to these military operations which were actually being carried on by the Chinese.

"At the same time, on October 12th, the Soviet Government again energetically protested to the Nanking and Mukden Governments against the provocative acts of the Chinese troops and White guard bands and was again forced to state that it would continue to take all necessary measures for the defense of its border. The Nanking Ministry of Foreign Affairs simply refused to accept this protest, thus again confirming that the Chinese militarists were not amenable to persuasion and that they intended to continue their policy of provocative acts and de facto warfare.

"The Soviet Government displayed the greatest possible patience and restraint. In thousands of workers' meetings throughout the country the masses demanded to know why the Red Army had not put an end to further provocative acts by the Chinese militarists. Notwithstanding, the Soviet military command while resisting the Chinese attacks in each concrete instance, refrained as long as possible from taking decisive measures which could not fail to have an effect on the Chinese aggressors.

"But there is a limit to patience. The complete deafness of the Chinese militarists to all arguments and warnings on the one hand, and on the other the increasing frequency of the attacks, raids and forays of bands of soldiers which created in the most disturbed sections of the border a situation entirely unendurable for the peaceful border population, finally compelled the Soviet military command to give the Chinese and White guard bandits a lesson which would teach them that they could not with impunity create an actual condition of war on the border.

"On the 17th of November, part of the Far Eastern Army, in repulsing a new attack of the Chinese and White Guard troops, pursued them into their own territory. This decisive action immediately demoralized the Chinese troops, and as a result over 8,000 Chinese soldiers and officers were disarmed, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition was taken. As was to be expected, the echoes of this blow resounded far beyond the limits of the actual operations of the Soviet troops. Judging by reports in the press complete demoralization and panic swept the Chinese Army, and the Chinese and White Guard detachments retreated in disorder from the Soviet border deep into Chinese territory. Naturally, this general panic gave rise to utterly distorted and exaggerated versions of the extent of the operations undertaken by the Soviet military command with the sole purpose of guaranteeing the security of the Soviet border. On the other hand, it is to be supposed that this

panic will aggravate the economic and political situation in Manchuria, already strained to the limit, which has already been brought to the brink of complete catastrophe by the adventurist anti-Soviet policy of the Chinese. The long series of provocative and outrageous acts of violence in regard to which we have issued so many warnings to the Chinese authorities, have thus had their inevitable results. All the workers of the Soviet Union completely endorse and support the action, putting to an end the provocative policy and the military aggression of the Chinese generals, necessitated by the failure of all other methods and not in the slightest degree meaning retreat by the Soviet Government from its unchanging policy of peace."

On November 29th, the German Ambassador in Moscow, Mr. Von Dirksen, delivered to Litvinov, Acting Commissar for Foreign Affairs, a note from the Nanking Government dated November 14th, the contents of which had already been reported in telegrams from foreign sources printed in the Soviet Press.

On the same day the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs gave to the German Ambassador the following answer:

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the note of the Nanking Government of November 14th, delivered to me yesterday morning. The Union Government has already received official notification from Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang regarding his acceptance of the preliminary conditions necessary for the quickest possible settlement of the conflict by means of direct negotiations. The proposal of the Nanking Government, set forth in the above-mentioned note, could only prolong the conflict, and is therefore superfluous.

"LITVINOV."

#### Conference at Nikolsk-Ussurisk

The following statement from the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs was published in the Moscow "Izvestia" of December 4th:

"On December 1st the representative of the Mukden Government, diplomatic commissar Tsai Yun Sheng, arrived at Nikolsk-Ussurisk in company with Lee Shao-gen, member of the administration of the Chinese Eastern Railway, to confer with the agent of the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs in Khabarovsk, Mr. Simanovsky, regarding the procedure for carrying out the second point in the preliminary conditions of the Soviet Government, accepted by Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang in his telegram to the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of November 26, 1929.

"As a result of the exchange of opinions which took place, Mr. Tsai Yun Sheng, on behalf of the Mukden Government, and Mr. Simanovsky on be-

half of the Government of the U. S. S. R., on December 3rd signed the following protocol:

"1. On behalf of the Mukden Government, Diplomatic Commissar Tsai declares that the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chinese Eastern Railway, Mr. Lu, has been dismissed from that position.

"On behalf of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics the agent of the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs in Khabarovsk, Simanovsky, declares that after the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Lu, is removed from his position, the Government of the Union, in accordance with the statement of Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Litvinov to the German envoy in Moscow on August 29th, will be ready to place new persons in the positions of the manager of the Chinese Eastern Railway and his assistant, Messrs. Emshanov and Eismont. In the latter instance the Government of the Union reserves the right to appoint Messrs. Emshanov and Eismont to other positions on the Chinese Eastern Railway, to which Mr. Tsai has given his consent in personal conversation with Mr. Simanovsky.

"2. Diplomatic Commissar Tsai declared on behalf of the Mukden Government that the latter, wishing in every way to assist in the settlement of the conflict between China and the U. S. S. R., and to eliminate all causes of further complications, will strictly observe the Mukden and Peking agreement of 1924, both as a whole, and in its separate parts.

"The agent of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs in Khabarovsk, Mr. Simanovsky, accepted with satisfaction the statement of Commissar Tsai that the Mukden Government would strictly observe the agreement of 1924, and on its part declared that the U. S. S. R., standing always on the basis of the existing agreements between China and the U. S. S. R., will observe them without question both as a whole and in their separate clauses. The above statements, included in the first and second points of the protocol, are considered accepted by both parties.

"Nikolsk-Ussurisk,  
December 3rd, 1929.

"DIPLOMATIC COMMISSAR TSAI,  
"A. SIMANOVSKY,  
*Agent of the Peoples' Commissariat for Foreign Affairs.*"

#### Telegram from Mukden

On December 5th the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs in Moscow received from Mukden the following telegram, in Chinese:

"The telegram of the 27th from the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs received. As regards the most important part, the agreement by the representatives of both parties sent to

Nikolsk-Ussurisk in regard to point 2, I hereby especially declare my full agreement with the results of the conference. In addition, I shall immediately send diplomatic commissar Tsai Yun Sheng, with written authorization, to consider all questions with the representative of the U. S. S. R., Simanovsky, in accordance with our telegraphic correspondence and the results of the conference. I shall inform you of this especially by telegram. Chang Hsueh-liang, December 5th."

On December 6th the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs sent the following telegraphic answer:

"To the President of the Mukden Government, Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang. The People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs acknowledges the receipt of your telegram of December 5th, and has the honor to inform you that the agent of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, Simanovsky, has been given instructions to meet with Mr. Tsai.

"Acting Commissar for Foreign Affairs,  
"LITVINOV."

#### Negotiations at Khabarovsk

On December 13th Diplomatic Commissar Tsai Yun Sheng arrived in Khabarovsk with written instructions from the Mukden and Nanking governments to proceed with negotiations with Mr. Simanovsky, agent of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs in Khabarovsk.

On December 14th Mr. Tsai handed Mr. Simanovsky the following written statement:

"On behalf of the Mukden government, and in accordance with the protocol concluded in Nikolsk-Ussurisk, I have the honor to ask you to inform your government that the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chinese Eastern Railway, Mr. Lu Jung Huan was dismissed from the post of Chairman of the Board on December 7th, and that Mr. Ho Fu Mian has been temporarily appointed to fulfill the duties of this post until the appointment of a new chairman."

In view of the fulfillment by the Mukden government of the conditions set forth in the first paragraph of the Nikolsk-Ussurisk protocol regarding the removal of Mr. Lu, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chinese Eastern Railway, the Soviet government agreed to recommend new persons to the positions of Manager and Assistant Manager of the Chinese Eastern Railway, namely Mr. Rudyi as manager, and Mr. Denisov as assistant manager.

#### Soviet-Chinese Protocol on Restoration of Status Quo on Chinese Eastern Railway

On December 22nd, in Khabarovsk, the agent of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs in Khabarovsk, Mr. Simanovsky, on behalf of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and Diplomatic Commissar Tsai Yun Sheng, on behalf of

the Chinese Republic, signed the following protocol:

"The undersigned, having been properly authorized by their respective governments, have agreed to the following:

"1. Point 1 of the preliminary conditions of the Union Government is understood by both sides in complete accordance with the telegram of Acting Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Litvinov, of November 27th of this year, and with the Nikolsk-Ussurisk protocol of December 3rd of this year, as a restoration of the pre-conflict status, and based on the Mukden and Peking agreements.

"All disputed questions which have arisen during the period of joint Soviet-Chinese administration of the railroad are to be settled at the forthcoming Soviet-Chinese conference. In accordance with this the following measures shall be carried out immediately:

"a. The restoration of the activity of the Board of the Chinese Eastern Railway on the basis of the former agreements, and the resumption of duties by the Soviet members of the Board. In the future the Chinese Chairman of the Board and the Soviet Assistant Chairman of the Board are to act only jointly, in accordance with point 6, article 1, of the Soviet-Mukden agreement.

"b. The restoration of the former co-relation of the departments headed by Soviet and Chinese citizens and the restoration of the rights of the Soviet chiefs and assistant chiefs of departments (or the immediate appointment of new candidates if they should be put forward by the Soviet side).

"c. All orders and instructions regarding the railroad issued in the name of the Board and the Management of the Chinese Eastern Railway since July 10th, 1929, are to be considered void unless approved respectively by the lawful Board and Management of the road.

"2. All Soviet citizens without exception who have been arrested by the Chinese authorities since May 1st, 1929, and in connection with the conflict, are to be liberated immediately, without division into categories, including the Soviet citizens arrested during the raid on the Harbin Consulate on May 27th, 1929.

"The Union Government will also set free immediately all Chinese citizens without exception arrested in the course of the conflict, and interned Chinese soldiers and officers.

"3. All employees of the Chinese Eastern Railway who are citizens of the U. S. S. R. who have been dismissed or resigned from their positions since July 10th, 1929, are to be granted the right and the opportunity to return immediately to the job occupied before their dismissal, and to receive the money due them from the road.

"Those of the employees who were dismissed or resigned from their positions and who will not take advantage of this right, must be immediately paid in full their wages, pension, dues, etc.

"The vacancies may be filled only upon instruc-

tions of the lawful Board and Management, respectively, of the Chinese Eastern Railway. All former Russian subjects, non-citizens of the U. S. S. R., taken into the service of the road during the conflict, are to be dismissed unconditionally and immediately.

"4. The Chinese authorities will immediately disarm the Russian White guard detachments and expel their organizers and instigators from the boundaries of the Three Eastern Provinces.

"5. Leaving the question of complete resumption of diplomatic and consular relations between the U. S. S. R. and China open until the Soviet-Chinese Conference, both parties consider it possible and necessary to reestablish Soviet consulates on the territory of the Three Eastern Provinces and Chinese consulates in corresponding points of the Soviet Far East.

"Taking into consideration the fact that the Union Government stated on May 31, 1929, that 'since the Chinese authorities are proving by all their actions their obvious reluctance and inability to comply with the generally accepted procedure of international law and custom, it will not, for its part, henceforth consider itself bound by this procedure with regard to the Chinese Mission in Moscow and the Chinese consulates on Soviet territory, and that from now on extra-territorial rights to which international law entitles them, will not be recognized with respect to the Chinese embassy and consulates,' also taking into consideration the fact that both sides intend to resume consular relations in accordance with the principle of international law and custom, the Mukden Government declares that it undertakes to safeguard for the Soviet consulates on the territory of the Three Eastern Provinces all the immunity and all the privileges conferred upon them by international law and custom, and it is understood that it will refrain from any violations of this immunity and of these privileges.

"In its turn, the Union Government renounces the special regime which it established for Chinese consulates in the interval between May 31, 1929, and the time of the severance of relations, and it will accord to those consulates which by virtue of paragraph 1 of this clause, will be reestablished on the territory of the Soviet Far East, all the privileges and all the immunity to which they are entitled by international law and custom.

"6. With the reestablishment of consulates the opportunity for the resumption of normal activities is immediately granted to all Soviet economic organizations which existed in the region of the Three Eastern Provinces prior to the conflict.

"Similarly the opportunity is granted for the reestablishment of Chinese commercial enterprises which had existed within the boundaries

of the U. S. S. R., inasmuch as their activities were discontinued in connection with conflict on the Chinese Eastern Railway.

"The question of trade relations between both countries in its entirety is to be decided at the Soviet-Chinese Conference.

"7. The question of real guarantees of the observance of the agreements and interests of both parties is to be settled at the forthcoming conference.

"8. The Soviet-Chinese Conference for the solution of all questions at issue is to be called in Moscow for January 25, 1930.

"9. A state of peace is to be restored immediately on the frontiers of China and the U. S. S. R., with the subsequent recall of the troops by both sides.

"10. The present protocol enters into force from the moment of signing.

"Signed in the city of Khabarovsk on December 22, 1929.

"Representative Plenipotentiary of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

"SIMANOVSKY,

*Representative of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs."*

## Soviet-Turkish Treaty

ON December 17th a Soviet-Turkish Protocol providing for the extension of the treaty on friendship and neutrality, was signed at Angora. The document states:

"The government of the Turkish Republic and the government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in recognition of their mutual interests and their desire to preserve and further stabilize normal and prolonged relations permeated with the spirit of sincere friendship, have decided to extend the period of the treaty on friendship and neutrality signed in Paris December 17th, 1925. For this purpose they have appointed on the one hand Dr. Tewfik Rushdi Bey, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Turkish Republic, and on the other Mr. Karakhan, Assistant Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and Mr. Suritz, Diplomatic Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Turkey, who drew up the following protocol:

### Protocol

"Article 1. The treaty on friendship and neutrality concluded between the Turkish Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Paris, December 17th, 1925, is to be considered extended for a period of two years from the moment the present treaty expires. If one of the contracting parties does not notify the other within six months of the completion of the two-year period, of its desire to terminate the existing

treaty, the treaty will again be automatically extended, this time for a period of one year.

"Article 2. Each of the contracting parties declares that it has no agreements whatever besides those already published with other countries directly bordering by land or sea on the territory of the other party.

"Each party is obligated to refrain from commencing any negotiations having as their object the conclusion of political agreements with countries directly bordering by land or sea on the territory of the other party, without notifying the other party. Each party is further obligated to refrain from concluding such agreements without the consent of the other party. Furthermore it is understood that acts having as their aim the establishment or preservation of normal relations with these countries and which are to be published, remain outside of the sphere of the obligations set forth above.

"Article 3. The present protocol, which will serve as a supplement to the Turkish-Soviet treaty on friendship and neutrality, and will be an inseparable part of it, will remain in force during the period covered by the treaty, extended in accordance with the provisions contained in Article I of this protocol. It will enter into force after its ratification, regarding which both sides will be notified.

"Drawn up in Angora, December 17th, 1929.

"L. KARAKHAN

"I. SURITZ

"TEWFIK RUSHDI."

#### Exchange of Telegrams

On December 17th Acting Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U. S. S. R., Mr. Litvinov, received from Angora the following telegram from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Turkish Republic, Dr. Tewfik Rushdi Bey:

"I am happy to inform you that we have just signed a protocol having as its aim the extension and stabilization of the Turkish-Soviet treaty signed in Paris. Completely convinced of the happy influence of this act on our future friendly relations, I count its signing as one of the most important and happy events for both countries, and tender to you my most hearty congratulations.

"DR. TEWFIK."

In response to the above telegram, Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Litvinov, sent the following telegram to Dr. Tewfik:

"Thanking you for your kindness in notifying us of the signing of the Angora protocol, I hasten, on my part, to express to you my sincere congratulations on the event of the happy conclusion of an act which undoubtedly will serve to further strengthen the friendly relations binding together the people of Turkey and of the Soviet Union.

"I share completely your conviction that the

Angora protocol, extending and deepening the basis of Soviet-Turkish friendship, will at the same time play an important role in the development of the policy of both countries in the direction of peace.

"I take this opportunity of asking you to accept personally and to transmit to your government the deep gratitude of myself and my government for the warm and friendly reception given to our Assistant People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Karakhan.

"LITVINOV."

#### Changes in Soviet Foreign Service

Mr. D. V. Bogomolov has been relieved of the post of Diplomatic Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Poland, and appointed Counselor to the Soviet Embassy in London.

Mr. I. I. Khodorovsky has been relieved of the duties of Trade Delegate of the U. S. S. R. in Italy.

Mr. C. F. Sukhovy has been relieved of the post of Trade Delegate of the Soviet Union in Turkey, and Mr. I. I. Khodorovsky has been appointed in his stead.

Mr. N. S. Angarsky has been appointed Trade Delegate of the Soviet Union to Lithuania, in place of Mr. P. A. Galanin.

## Soviet Trade Relations

THE year 1928-29 marks the end of the first five-year period of the existence of Soviet trade treaties with other countries.\* During the preliminary period in Soviet trade relations with other countries, also a five-year period, the treaties which were signed were either of a purely diplomatic nature, containing certain items concerning trade, or temporary trade treaties of short duration. In 1924 the U. S. S. R. entered upon a new period in her trade relations, with the conclusion of trade treaties of a more permanent nature, covering a wide range of economic and civil relations between the Soviet Republics and the capitalist world. The complex mechanism of foreign trade gave rise to the necessity of the legal regulation not only of foreign trade in its most narrow sense, but of a multitude of other questions incident to the economic intercourse of the Soviet Union with the outside world. The first Soviet trade treaty was concluded with Italy on February 7, 1924. Subsequently a series of trade treaties was concluded with other countries, the provisions of which covered all those questions which ordinarily figure in international commercial relations, such as the rights of citizens and juridical entities, import, export, re-export, transit, navi-

\*This article is translated from the November 20, 1929 issue of "Soviet Trade," published in Moscow.

gation, taxation, protection of industrial property, and so on. It should also be noted that due to the fact that the Soviet trade treaties represent the legal formulation of economic relationships between two entirely different systems of economic organization—on the one hand the capitalist states, and on the other a socialist state—the Soviet treaties are characterized by certain features which obviously are not encountered in treaties between bourgeois states. Foremost of these are the provisions establishing the recognition of the monopoly of foreign trade, defining the status and activities of the trade missions and providing that Soviet economic organs abroad have the same status and rights as other juridical entities irrespective of the juridical differences. These points have become firmly established in the practice of Soviet trade relations during the period indicated and are indispensable features of every trade treaty of the U. S. S. R. The extensive application in them of the most favored nation clause should also be noted.

On this basis the Soviet Union has during the past five years concluded treaties with Germany, Italy, Norway, Latvia, Esthonia, Sweden, Greece, Persia, and Turkey. In addition, during the same period a number of special treaties of a combined trade and diplomatic nature, as follows: a treaty with Lithuania on the mutual adoption of the most favored nation clause in the sphere of customs relations, a treaty with Sweden regarding the status of the trade mission, a treaty with Iceland containing most favored nation clauses in many spheres of economic relationships, and so on.

The Soviet-German economic agreement or, as it is called, the "Protocol of Soviet-German Negotiations," which was signed December 21, 1928, summarized the negotiations between the U. S. S. R. and Germany which were commenced in Berlin in February-March, 1928, and were finished in Moscow in November and December of the same year. The document of 1928 is very closely connected with the Soviet-German treaty of February 12, 1925, and its purpose, as set forth in the introduction, is to "define and develop the provisions of the original treaty" with the aim of thus increasing the economic relationships between the two countries. We shall review here only the most important clauses of the protocol. Foremost among them is the affirmation of the fulfillment by both sides of the obligations undertaken in accordance with Article I of the Economic Agreement included in the 1925 treaty, viz: "The contracting parties will endeavor in every way to assist in the development of mutual trade relations, to carry on as stable as possible an exchange of goods and, in the measure that economic rehabilitation is achieved, to restore the place of each country in

the export and import program of the other, to the pre-war level, and agree that each will be directed by considerations of an economic nature." In view of the statements by part of the German Press alleging that trade between the two countries has not developed on the basis of this principle, the following decision of the conference categorically denying these allegations, is of great importance:

"Both sides are agreed that the cooperation in the development of mutual trade relations provided for in Article I of the Economic Agreement has found its expression, especially in taking stock of the results of the past year, in the increased exchange of goods between the two countries, which is evidence that both contracting parties have successfully endeavored to carry out the principle of Article I of the Economic Agreement." Closely connected with this, is the final conclusion of the conference on the question of the alleged difficulties of Soviet-German trade arising from the methods of work of the Soviet trade mission in Berlin:

"After a detailed consideration of mutual trade relations, both sides have come to the conclusion that these relations have in general developed normally and that such complaints and misunderstandings as have taken place are not typical of the general development of economic relations between the two countries."

Both of the above-mentioned decisions of the conference of 1928 have a much broader significance that extends far beyond the limits of the question of the mutual relationships of the U. S. S. R. and Germany, since they make it clear that the monopoly of foreign trade and its organizational forms by no means hinder the development of the foreign trade of the Soviet Union, but on the contrary, contribute to its stability, because it follows a definite plan. The second most important point of the protocol is the acceptance by both sides of the obligation to impress upon their respective economic organs that "irrespective of the different economic systems of the two countries, conditions of a discriminatory character should not be created, by means of special conventions or other measures in their mutual economic relations." It is quite evident that this formula, ostensibly of a bi-lateral nature, actually referred to the so-called "Russian Committee" in Germany, which proposed to apply special methods to Soviet-German trade. Other provisions of the protocol concern the transit of German goods across the U. S. S. R., customs and veterinary questions, the protection of industrial property, the import of samples and advertisements, navigation, courts of arbitration, and so on.

The Soviet-Greek treaty signed June 11, 1929, regarding trade and navigation, contains pro-

visions regarding customs, transit, internal taxes and duties, the rights of the trade mission of the U. S. S. R. in Greece, navigation, and the participation of Greek merchants in Soviet fairs. In customs relations the parties mutually extend most favored nation privileges to each other, excluding, however, those privileges which the Soviet Union has granted the Baltic States and also to the Eastern countries bordering on the U. S. S. R. In regard to transit most favored nation privileges have been exchanged, and consequently all the transit privileges are extended to Greek goods, which are provided for by internal legislation and by the international treaties of the Soviet Union with those countries which have concluded trade treaties and with which it has normal diplomatic relations. Therefore, in particular, Greece has obtained the right to ship goods through the U. S. S. R. to certain of the Eastern countries. The general and extra-territorial rights of the trade mission and the special privileges of the trade representative and his assistant are provided for as in the usual treaty relations of the Soviet Union. A natural sequel to these provisions, and a recognition of the Soviet monopoly of foreign trade, is the protocol especially affixed to the treaty which guarantees the non-application in trade with the Soviet Union, of the Greek law of July 23, 1928, "on the regulation of the export and import law of Greece with certain countries." This law provides for a number of difficulties arising in the trade of Greece with countries which have established restrictions on foreign trade, or a foreign trade monopoly. The treaty of June 11 has brought to an end the unique situation which existed between Greece and the U. S. S. R., as a result of the failure of the Greek Government and Parliament, which came into power after the August coup of 1926, to recognize the treaty signed in June 1926, between both countries.

The restoration of treaty relations between the U. S. S. R. and Greece had an immediate favorable effect on the economic relations between the two countries.

The past economic year is also marked by the beginning of the resumption of relations with Great Britain. In May, 1927, the Conservative Government annulled the Soviet-English trade agreement of 1921, after a raid by the London police on the trade mission. Although in addition diplomatic relations were severed between the U. S. S. R. and Great Britain, nevertheless, inasmuch as the act of recognition by England of the Soviet Government could not by its very nature be withdrawn, as follows from the general theory of international law, and has been recognized in British diplomacy, certain commercial and diplomatic consequences of "de-jure" recognition remained in force after the rupture of re-

lations between the two governments. But naturally the absence of diplomatic and treaty relations inevitably had a most serious effect on the export of England to the U. S. S. R.

Turning to Soviet relations during the past year with the Baltic States, mention must be made of the Soviet-Esthonian treaty on trade and navigation of May 17, 1929. This treaty is divided into two parts. The first of them is devoted to questions of domicile. It establishes the most favored nation principle as regards physical and juridical entities, with the reservation that privileges of any kind granted by one side to the juridical entities of a third country, shall be extended to the state economic organizations of the other side. The second section treats of questions of trade and navigation. Affirming the desire of both countries for an extension of trade relations, each extends most favored nation privileges to the other in everything touching upon import, export, re-export and the transit of goods. The most favored nation principle is also applied in the sphere of navigation. In all cases the privileges granted by the Soviet Union to Finland, Latvia and Lithuania and also the continental countries of Asia bordering on the U. S. S. R., are omitted from the most favored nation clauses. The rights of the trade mission are set forth in a number of articles defining its status, along the usual lines laid down in Soviet treaties. Further, Esthonia has granted to the Soviet Union certain special port privileges. In its turn the Soviet Union has granted to Esthonia the right of transit which is enjoyed, in accordance with Soviet law, by all countries with which it has trade treaty relations. The special right of shipping Esthonian goods to Far Eastern markets has also been granted.

Simultaneously with the conclusion of the Soviet-Esthonian trade treaty, the process has been completed of including in the Soviet treaties with the Baltic States reservations regarding the exclusion from the most favored nation privileges extended to one or another of these states, of those privileges which are extended to all the others. As is well known, in its treaties with all other countries, the Soviet Union reserves the right to withhold the privileges extended to the Baltic States. At the same time, due to the above-mentioned features of the Soviet treaties with the Baltic States, the Soviet Union has the right to withhold from the other border states any privileges granted to one of them. This policy has been made necessary by the differences in the economic structure of each of the Baltic States.

A Soviet-Persian customs convention was concluded on March 10, 1929. This convention replaced the customs convention of 1927, which was accompanied by a declaration by the Soviet

Government of its readiness to renounce the agreement before its expiration in the event that Persia should be able to achieve customs autonomy in connection with the proclamation in May of the same year of the end of the capitulations regime in Persia. As soon as Persia succeeded, in May, 1928, in terminating conclusively

its former system of capitulation treaties and in establishing complete tariff autonomy, the Soviet-Persian customs agreement of 1927 was also rejected, in accordance with the declaration of the Soviet Government. The convention of 1929 signed in its stead contains mutual favored nation clauses in regard to customs tariff.

## Krjijanovsky's Report on Economic Plan

**A**T the Fifth Congress of the Central Executive Committee held recently in Moscow, Mr. G. M. Krjijanovsky, chairman of Gosplan (State Planning Commission), reported on the control figures\* for the development of industry in the Soviet Union for 1929-30. An abstract of his speech follows:

"The results of 1928-29, the first year of the five-year period, and the control figures for 1929-30 are entirely convincing evidence that we are not only following the course charted in the five-year plan, but that in certain decisive items of the plan we are ahead of schedule.

"I will cite a few figures in proof of this. According to the control figures the capital investment in planned industry for 1929-30 will amount to 3,423,000,000 rubles†, whereas according to the five-year plan it was proposed that capital investment in planned industry should attain this sum only in the fifth year. The same thing is true of capital investment in the 'socialized sector.'

"Another example. Take the index 'seeded area of the collectives', which according to the control figures will reach 11,400,000 hectares this year, whereas in the five-year plan it was not proposed to attain this area until the last year of the five-year period.

"As a third example I will take the State budget which the control figures for 1929-30 set at 11,260,000,000 rubles (exclusive of railroads, which would add 130,000,000 rubles). It was originally expected to attain a budget of this size only in the fourth year of the five-year period.

"Now as to results already attained in the first two years of the five-year plan. During the whole five years it was proposed to invest 13,500,000,000 rubles in planned industry, of which 1,659,000,000 was to have been invested the first year, 2,331,000,000 the second year, and so on. The actual investment for the first year, according to the latest figures, amounted to 1,734,000,000 rubles, and the control figures for 1929-30 give 3,423,000,000 as the capital investment in 1929-30. That is to say, that the investment for the first

two years exceeds the five-year plan figure by 1,165,000,000 or in other words, not only has the program for the first two years been carried out, but 40.5 per cent of the program for the third year as well.

"The area seeded to grain in the collectives, according to the actual results of the first year and the control figures for the second, will have grown by 10,300,000 hectares in the first two years—an area which we had not expected to attain until the beginning of the fifth year of the plan.

"And so with all the other indices.

"You see that both as regards the actual accomplishments of 1928-29 and the task set for 1929-30, which we are absolutely convinced will be fulfilled, we are actually exceeding the figures of the five-year plan, and in some respects we are already sharply cutting into the program for the fourth and even the fifth year.

### National Income

"I will next take up the characteristics of the separate and most important parts of the economic plan for 1929-30. The index which indicates most clearly that we are on the right path, that we are not overestimating our means, is the growth of our national income, which shows that we are actually building up our economic structure with our own hands. I shall not dwell on the details, but only on the most important and decisive factors. The year 1929-30 gives us, in fixed prices, an increase of 20 per cent in the national income. This is an entirely unheard-of increase. The growth of our pre-war income from year to year was less than three per cent. The annual growth of the income of the United States is about three per cent.

"Agriculture even as recently as 1925-26 played a leading role, providing about 41 per cent of the general income. In 1929-30 the role of agriculture, due to the great development of industry, is lowered to 27 per cent. On the other hand, \*census industry, which occupied about 23 per cent in the general income of the country in 1925-26, now in 1929-30 has increased to almost 33 per cent; that is to say, it will provide almost

\*Control figures are drawn up for the entire economic program for each year. They are worked out on a basis of strict accounting of results and resources, and they represent the revised figures for the plan for each year.

†A ruble equals 50.5 cents.

\*Census industry includes all industries employing 16 or more workers and using mechanical power, or employing 30 or more workers without mechanical power.

one-third of the general income of the country. The leading role in the national income has thus passed from agriculture to industry. Consequently our progress is based on the powerful development of large industry.

"When we considered the five-year plan and said that in order to fulfill our program it would be necessary to mobilize during the five years over 80 billion rubles from the national income, this figure was literally seized upon by all critics. They insisted that it was utterly impossible that 80 billion rubles could be collected in five years in this country. The facts have shown how these critics erred. In actual fact over 18 billion rubles has been mobilized in 1929-30 for financing the economic program and other needs. This pointed the way for the achievement of the total figure. That is just the amount we need in order to achieve 80 billion rubles for five years. Of the 18 billion rubles, 12 billion will go for the needs of economic construction, almost 4 billion for social and cultural needs, and only 1,700,000,000 will go for administrative expenditures. These figures tell us at once that this basic need of the five-year plan is no fantasy, but that we shall actually collect this tremendous sum of 80 billion rubles.

#### **Labor**

"During 1929-30 the labor army employed in the Soviet Union will reach thirteen million—nine million industrial workers, and four million clerical and intellectual workers, which means an addition of a million workers in one year. According to the control figures about 500,000 workers were reduced to a seven-hour day during the past year, and an equal number will be added during the present year. The continuous working week will be introduced in two-thirds of our industry in the course of the year.

"With regard to wages we may count on a certain improvement during the present year—nine per cent increase in the nominal wages, and three per cent additional due to reduction of the workers' budget; that is to say, an actual increase in wages of 12 per cent. However, that is not the whole story. When I consider wherein lies the guarantee of our conviction that we have in our workers entirely exceptional power, it seems to me that this must be approached not only from the point of view of these material facts, but we must remember the school that our workers have passed through. Foreign observers are struck by the special intelligence of our workers. In evidence of this I shall cite a very interesting communication from the firm of Kahn, which is building the Stalingrad works—the same American firm which constructed the Ford plant. The members of this firm are not in the least inclined to exaggerate our worth, they have a very critical attitude toward us. The letter says:

"The speed and economy of the organization

of the steel production can, to a large extent, be explained by the cooperation we receive from the Soviet workers. We have nothing but praise for them. They are more intelligent than our own workers. If they are given proper direction, if their work is not interfered with, if they are given the necessary stimulus in the sense that their foremen and managers work with the same intensity as themselves, we should be able to achieve better results with them than with our own workers.'

#### **Electrification**

"I must first of all draw your attention to the growth of our work in the field of electrification. It may be said frankly that the year 1929-30 is an entirely exceptional year in respect of the progress we must make in this most important branch of our constructive work. We have planned a program which would at once increase the power of our electric stations by 500,000 kilowatts. We have never before made such a leap forward. We have entered upon the year 1929-30 with construction under way through which one and a half million kilowatts of electric energy can be provided. By the end of the year our construction in this field will provide three million kilowatts. This figure is far in advance of the one set forth in the electrification program of the Chief Electrical Trust, in fact, practically doubles it. There is still another important factor in this connection. In general, it must be remembered that 1929-30 is an exceptional year as regards the amount of capital investment and capital construction. One of our main concerns is to concentrate the entire attention of the Soviet public on the construction of the gigantic industrial enterprises—huge metal plants, great factories and shops which we are now building up in different parts of the country, and around our regional electric power stations. One of our main campaigns for this year is for especial vigilance on this front, because it is no exaggeration to say that the fate of this construction program will decide the fate of the Soviet Union.

"In the field of building regional electric power stations we note great progress this year. We have already passed from the stage of three and four-year building periods to the construction of enormous stations in two years, and in the case of the Stalingrad Station, which is in the forefront of our whole electrification program, the construction period will be only seventeen months. At this rate we are already approaching the achievements of the foremost countries in the world.

#### **Fuel and Ferrous Metals**

"I should like to dwell briefly on certain conclusions to be drawn from our industrial construction. I will first of all emphasize that the tremendous development of our industry is con-

nected in the closest way with the fact that it is standing on its own feet, that in spite of the colossal sums which we are spending on industrial construction, *the share of our own funds in industry is increasing at a rapid rate.* This is the best possible evidence of the fact that in the final reckoning we shall make both ends meet, and that industry itself is creating its own resources.

"If we compare the share in industrial expenditures of funds accumulated within the industries in 1927-28 with 1929-30, we find that in 1927-28 such funds constituted only 39 per cent of all capital investment in industry; in 1928-29 they constituted 45 per cent; and in 1929-30, according to preliminary estimates, over 50 per cent of all industrial investment will come out of industry's own resources.

"I must warn you that in the present year and in the next few years it will be necessary to concentrate attention and to exercise particular vigilance in the sphere of fuel, and that in building up fuel reserves special importance must be given to coal. The basis of power throughout the whole world and with us as well has grown up on a foundation of ferrous metal and coal. However quickly we may be able to furnish peat and local forms of fuel to reinforce coal, nevertheless the question of coal will be a decisive one with us in the near future. We have a tremendous program for coal. In 1929-30 we expect to increase our coal output to 52,000,000 tons.

"Similar attention must be given to the problem of oil. The program for 1929-30 calls for an output of 16,200,000 tons of oil, amounting to 753,000,000 rubles—an increase of 17 per cent over last year's program.

"However, when we consider how to tie up questions of export and demand arising from the tremendous growth of tractors in our agriculture, then we can see clearly that even this rate must be increased. We must force our oil program to keep pace with our tractor program so that tractors and other motor machinery will not be left without the necessary fuel.

"Without any exaggeration it may be said that the construction of such giant metallurgical plants as the Magnitogorsk works, the Kuznetsky, and finally the Zaporozhsky plant in connection with our Dnieprostroy, will literally decide all the problems connected with electrification, with machine construction, and hence our whole economic program.

#### Growth of the "Socialized Sector" in Agriculture

"I shall now pass on to a brief survey of the results of the vast revolutionary process taking place in our agriculture.

"From the control figures you will see that in 1930 the seeded area of the socialized sector—State farms, collectives and machine and tractor stations—is about 20 million hectares, that in the total production of this sector we shall achieve

in 1929-30 what we expected to achieve only in the fifth year of the five-year plan.

"But here we must say frankly that in this field we simply can not keep up with the facts. These figures are already out of date. You know that recently these figures were considered in the Department of Agriculture of the R. S. F. S. R. (Soviet Russia proper), where their estimates far exceeded these figures. In the R. S. F. S. R. alone the number of peasant households which it was planned to have included in the socialized sector during the present year was not three million, as had been projected for the entire country, but five million. One hundred and seventy-eight entire districts will be organized on a collective basis. In the R. S. F. S. R. alone there will be organized more than 1,000 large-scale collectives, the collective movement will be increased more than two and a half times over last year, the State farms in the R. S. F. S. R. will increase their seeded area from 8 to 16 million hectares, and so on.

"To be sure, the present year will be an extraordinarily difficult year, because notwithstanding the growth of our tractor base, we are only able to introduce complete mechanization on the State farms. We have not been able to keep up with the swift growth of the collectives in our mechanization program, and still use horses to a large extent. With the completion of our new tractor plants we shall be able to cultivate over 100,000,000 hectares by mechanical means, and decrease the number of horses used by eleven million head. This means an entirely new form of agriculture. The problem of live-stock can also be solved only by the development of State farms and collectives. I can not neglect another factor which, it seems to me, must be constantly emphasized in order to sum up the results of our work from another angle. We see that the growth of the socialized sector in agriculture has broken all records. But the strength of our socialized sector is not exhausted in that. We see that in 1929-30 the number of people employed in the whole socialized sector—in industry, in transport, in State and cooperative trade, and in agriculture—is not so great. In 1929-30 only 25 per cent of the population of the country will be employed in this field. But consider how the economic importance of this 25 per cent has increased this year. More than half of the entire production of the whole country will be in their hands, and 85 per cent of all hired labor. The share of the socialized sector in all capital investments is 75 per cent; in the trade turnover, over 96 per cent; that is to say, private trade has been almost entirely crowded out. About two-thirds of the entire national income is in the hands of this 25 per cent. These figures are evidence of the fact that we are actually building a structure wherein the strength of the socialist elements even now, irrespective of their comparatively weak numeri-

cal weight, occupy a very important and significant economic position.

### Special Campaigns

"If I were to be asked what campaigns will be of decisive importance during the coming year, I should say that in addition to the special items I have already emphasized in my report, one of our main tasks will be to actually guarantee the 12 per cent growth in real wages. This is a great and difficult task, but we can accomplish it. This will also go a long way in guaranteeing success in our struggle to lower industrial costs.

"In the present year we shall enter upon the

spring seeding campaign under exceptionally favorable circumstances. The grain buying campaign has been successfully completed. We have not yet made great progress in increasing the amount of our harvest. We must therefore increase our seeded area. We have a tremendous task before us in the organization of collectives. In this task we must not neglect the spring sowing campaign.

"And there is still another campaign which is of the greatest importance in 1929-30. This is the campaign for skilled workers and technicians. The preliminary condition for the success of this campaign is the extension of our resources in the campaign for literacy."

## Miscellaneous News

### New Railroad Construction

During the past fiscal year over 158,000,000 rubles were spent in railroad construction in the U. S. S. R., more than double the amount spent the year before. About 6,000 kilometers of new railway lines were constructed in the course of the year. In addition to completing construction started the year before, eleven new lines were commenced. Of the latter the most important are the Borovoy - Akmolinsk, Magnitnaya - Kartali, Troitsk-Orsk, and the Saratov-Akmolinsk, with a bridge across the Volga. Some of these have already been completed. Construction of the Turkestan-Siberian road has proceeded very rapidly, and its southern section now extends beyond Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan. In addition to the construction work, a great deal of technical and economic research work is being carried on.

During the present year the rate of railroad construction will be still further increased. It is planned to spend about 300,000,000 rubles, more than a third of which will be spent on roads needed for agriculture. About 70,000,000 rubles will be expended on roads especially for industry, 13,000,000 rubles on lumber carrying lines, and 89,000,000 rubles on passenger lines. The main construction work will be carried on in Kazakhstan, the Urals, Central Asia, the Central Industrial Region, Western Siberia, the Far East, the lower Volga, and the Ukraine.

### Technical Publications

"Gostechizdat," the Government Technical Publishing Company, has been commissioned with the publication of books for the engineers reorganizing Soviet industry, students in the technical schools and universities, and also for the masses of the workers. During the past ten years Gostechizdat has published almost 40 per cent of all the technical literature published in

the U. S. S. R. During the past year the number of technical books published was two and a half times as great as during the preceding year, and in connection with the needs of the five-year plan, there will be a still greater increase during the next few years.

Gostechizdat is giving special attention at the present time to the preparation of books for semi-skilled workers, and plans to publish 360 books of this type during the coming year. Gostechizdat has also undertaken the task of publishing for the correspondence schools.

Thirty different technical journals are now being published by Gostechizdat. These magazines deal with the latest developments in the technical field in other countries as well as in the Soviet Union. During the five-year period it is planned to increase the number of technical journals to seventy.

### Apartment House for Foreign Specialists

The Supreme Economic Council is building an apartment house in Moscow to house the foreign specialists who come to work in Moscow. There will be eighty apartments of two, three, and four rooms equipped with kitchen, bath and all modern conveniences, and there will be a central laundry and drying room. On September fifteenth the "continuous production" system of work was inaugurated in the building operations, and as a result, one section of the building will be completed and ready for occupancy by January 1st, and the other by the middle of March.

### First Samoyed Paper

The first newspaper in the Samoyed language came out in November. The paper is called "Naryan Vinder" (The Red Tundra), and is being published in the village of Telvisochno, the center of the newly organized Samoyed district with its own administration.

### **Fossils of Sub-Tropical Animals in Siberia**

An expedition of the Academy of Science has discovered in the sands of Kazakstan near Irtysh, an immense deposit of skeletons of animals which existed in Siberia during the sub-tropical era in Northern Asia.

### **Exhibition of New Written Languages**

The exhibition of the new written languages that have been introduced since the revolution is now being held in the Communist Academy.

A feature of the exhibition is a huge map—"The Languages of the U. S. S. R.," which shows how the Russian speaking peoples have settled in the zones most favorable to agriculture, while other nationalities have been crowded to the North and South, to the tundras and waste lands. The map shows how before the revolution the Russian written language was forced on all the minor nationalities except the Mohammedans, among whom the Turkish written language was spread.

After the October revolution 160 of the peoples of the U. S. S. R. were given their own written language. All the Mussulman peoples have now adopted a Latin alphabet, as have also the Abkhasians, Ossetians, Komi. Chuvash and others. In addition many minor peoples who had no written language at all before the revolution, received either a Russian or a Latin alphabet as a result of the October revolution.

At the present time the question is being considered of the reform, or even the Latinization of the Russian alphabet.

There is a foreign section of the exhibition showing how the Latinization of the Turkish alphabet in the U. S. S. R. has been reflected in other countries such as Persia and Turkey. The "Centroizdat" (Central Publishing House), which now publishes literature in every language in the Soviet Union, is well represented. There are books which are published by the Centroizdat in 52 languages at a time. The Moscow Esperanto library, perhaps the largest of its kind in the world, is also represented.

### **Language Study**

The growing contacts of the Soviet Union with other countries has meant a great increase in the study of foreign languages among the general population. The first step in the widespread teaching of foreign languages has been through the radio. Through questionnaires it has been ascertained that 30 per cent of the workers in Moscow take advantage of radio language lessons. Every month new courses and clubs for the study of language are opened. Every trade union, workers' club, or government enterprise has at the present time an organized group studying one or more languages. VOKS (Society for

Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries), has organized a special section for spreading the knowledge of languages and has organized courses for language teachers and prepared textbooks. In Moscow alone VOKS has been instrumental in the organization of 150 language study groups. Periodical competitions between the different groups are being held, and trips abroad will be given to the most successful students to perfect their knowledge of other languages. English and German are the two most popular languages.

### **All-Union Congress of "Shock Brigades"**

On December 5th an All-Union Congress of "shock brigades" met in Moscow.

The "shock brigades" are voluntary groups of workers who make it their object to improve the quality and reduce the cost of production by giving the example to other workers of a high degree of labor discipline. The "shock brigades" take the lead in all the competitions that are taking place between various factories. Each brigade has an elected leader. The Congress will be attended by about 700 delegates. The main object of the Congress is to sum up the results of the socialist contests taking place throughout the country.

The movement for "shock brigades" has gained wide popularity during the past year as the highest form of socialist competition. Thus, the Putilov Works has 5,000 workers organized in such brigades, the Red Sormovo Plant 4,000, the Zlatoust Machinery Factory 2,400, and so on. Recently the workers of some big enterprises have passed resolutions to place the entire factory or mine in the position of a "shock brigade." Among these factories are the Petrovsky workers, which employs 23,000 men, the Tver Car Building Factory, the Briansk Machine Works, and others.

### **Seven-Hour Day for Railroad Workers**

The People's Commissariat of Railroads has issued instructions providing for the establishment of a seven-hour working day for the workers on the four chief railroads of the Soviet Union. The introduction of the seven-hour day on the other railroads will begin the following year, and on the completion of the five-year plan will be extended to all the railroad workers in the Soviet Union.

### **Administrative Appointments**

Mr. Yacov A. Yacovlev has been appointed People's Commissar of the newly organized Commissariat of Agriculture of the U. S. S. R., which was formed at the recent Congress of the Central Executive Committee, with the aim of uniting the work of the Agricultural Commissariats of the separate republics.

## Books and Pamphlets About the U. S. S. R. in the English Language

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## Expansion of Education in the Soviet Union

**T**HERE was no compulsory education existing in old Russia. This problem has only come to the fore in recent years, following the revolution. At the end of the five-year plan all children of school age will be enrolled in the schools. This year the budget of the elementary schools (4-year schools) has grown about 50 per cent, as compared with last year, and the number of school buildings constructed will be almost double the number built last year.

A comparison of social education (the name given to cover primary and intermediate education in the U. S. S. R.) in 1927-28 and 1928-29, gives the following picture:

	No. of Schools	No. of Pupils	No. of Schools	No. of Pupils
	1927-28		1928-29	
Primary Schools.	109,792	8,423,177	114,735	8,813,857
Seven - year schools .....	5,484	1,958,122	5,707	2,071,420
Nine - year schools .....	891	565,793	946	635,120
High Schools ...	955	314,487	897	328,701
Schools of Peasant Youth.	1,015	87,941	1,323	127,149

This table shows that in one year the school system has grown by 5,471 units, or 4.6 per cent, and the number of children in school has increased by 626,727, or 5.5 per cent. A decrease is shown only in the number of high schools, but even here the number of pupils has increased considerably. The decrease in the number of schools is explained by the fact that in many cases they have been replaced by the nine-year schools.

A comparison of the growth of the schools in the cities and in the villages of the Soviet Union shows a strengthening of education in the villages.

While the city school system has increased by only .7 per cent, the village schools have grown more than five per cent as against last year. Especially noteworthy has been the growth of schools in the Central Asian Republics. They have increased by 11.8 per cent in Turkmenistan, and by 20.9 per cent in Uzbekistan.

Many measures are being undertaken in the schools to accommodate greater numbers of children. Over thirteen and a half million children of school age will be newly enrolled into the schools during the present year. The intermediate and high schools are also to be expanded this year, but not at the rate of the elementary schools, many of which are to be reorganized into elementary trade schools. This has become an actual necessity as the country rapidly develops along both industrial and agricultural lines.

### Pre-School Education

The past two years have been characterized by a tremendous growth of public interest in the development of pre-school education in the U. S. S. R. In this field of social education the period of restoration is practically over, and after the catastrophic fall in the number of such institutions during the years of transition to the New Economic Policy, when the appropriations from the central government had to be radically curtailed, their number has again reached the former high point, as shown by the following table.

#### Pre-School Institutions in the U. S. S. R.

	Institu- tions	Children	Institu- tions	Children
	1927-28		1928-29	
Kindergartens ..	2,141	105,840	2,477	128,427
Playgrounds ....	3,662	201,300	7,030	365,635

### Reform of Higher Education

The Commissariat of Education is occupied with the question of reorganizing the whole system of industrial-technical education to meet the need for a skilled force to carry out the five-year plan. This requires a radical change in the educational program. The first step in the reform is to shorten the period of study from five years to four. The system of granting students diplomas on the basis of the execution of some definite project after their course of study is over is to be replaced by the system of having the students work out and execute a definite practical project during their course. According to the new program the theoretical and practical work must be so divided that the student will spend no less than 40 per cent of his time on practical work, and wherever possible the time shall be evenly divided.

The year is now divided into 36 ten-day periods, with eight working days and two rest days in each. During 32 of these periods the students are at work, and the remaining four are their vacation period. The students work six academic hours of fifty minutes each a day. The students must begin to specialize in the second year of their course. It has been found necessary to organize a number of special universities for the training of engineers and other specialists, vocational schools (over 81 of which will open this year), and extension courses. The Governments of the Constituent Republics have assigned 119 million rubles for the financing of the higher schools during the fiscal year 1929-30, and 668 million rubles for vocational schools.

A new university has been established in Moscow solely for the training of specialists. There will be four departments in the university: chemical, rubber, silicate, and food. This new university is the first experiment in giving workers on the job the opportunity of becoming highly skilled specialists in their own industry. The university offers a three-year course.

### Measures for Training Specialists

Under the Supreme Economic Council of the U. S. S. R., there is a special institute for increasing the skill of engineers, technicians, and administrative personnel for different branches of industry. The institute was organized two years ago and has branches in Leningrad, Kharkov, Sverdlovsk and Novo-Sibirsk.

During 1928-29, the institute carried on in different cities 32 short term courses for engineers and technicians, 29 courses for master workmen, and a few general courses in addition. Throughout the year altogether 65 courses were held, attended by 3,400. In addition, courses were held for administrative workers, and also a number of evening courses in most of the more important cities. Besides these classes the institute or-

ganized correspondence courses for engineers and technicians in English and German, which were taken by over 2,000. The institute issues a monthly "Bibliography of Technical and Economic Literature," which has a circulation of 7,000, and during the past year it published 135 different lecture courses. The extent of the work of the institute will be more than quadrupled during the present year.

A large number of specialists as well as university students are to be sent abroad annually to learn the latest methods and the application of modern technique. In addition to all these, a number of other measures have been undertaken to raise education to a level that will keep up with the general policy of the Soviet State in the reconstruction of the country on a highly industrial basis.

Apart from the regular school system which prepares young boys and girls for higher educational institutions, a great number of preparatory courses are being founded, where those who are not sufficiently prepared for college will receive special training. As a consequence of all these efforts on the part of the Government, the number of engineers engaged in various branches of industry is constantly increasing and by the end of 1929-30 their total number will have increased by 21 per cent. This year will also mark a considerable increase in highly skilled labor—about 500,000 workers will be given special training in various vocational courses. Besides this there will be an increase of 25 per cent in the boys and girls enrolled in the "factory training schools" this year as compared with last.

The training of agricultural specialists is no less a problem in U. S. S. R. than the training of industrial workers. The development of the State farms and collectives has introduced entirely new methods of work on the land. Thus a great need has arisen not only for university trained agriculturists, but for mechanics, tractor drivers, etc. Hundreds of thousands of agricultural workers will be trained this year. 40,000 peasants, men and women, will be trained for tractor work. 26,000 will take special administrative courses in order to become later managers and administrators of state and collective farms.

### "Liquidation of Illiteracy"

Particular emphasis is being laid on "the liquidation of illiteracy," in the educational program of the Soviet Union for the present year. It is proposed during the current year to teach over seven and a half million adults how to read and write, as against two and a half million last year, and 1,322,000 the year before. This means that within one year all of illiterate working men and women as well as half of the peasants engaged in state and cooperative farming, will become literate.

## Village Arbitration Committees

THE basic unit of the Soviet judicial system is the People's Court, consisting of one People's Judge and two lay associates, which has wide jurisdiction in trying civil and criminal cases. These People's Courts serve chiefly the rural population, and are usually limited to one to every three or four townships. In the more sparsely populated districts this frequently means that the area within the jurisdiction of a single court is very large, and the villages very scattered, some of them being twenty kilometers and more from the central court. Since it is difficult for the peasants involved and all the witnesses needed to travel to the court itself, the court comes to the village. Every so often the court makes a circuit of the district, going from village to village to try all cases that have come up in the interim. This frequently means endless delays and difficulty over the settlement of even the most trivial problems.

In order to release the People's Courts from the ever growing number of petty cases in the villages, to bring the courts nearer to the rural population, and to give the peasants themselves a chance to participate in the administration of justice, the People's Commissariat of Justice of the R. S. F. S. R. passed a decree in 1928, providing for the establishment of Arbitration Committees under the village Soviets. These Arbitration Committees consist of a chairman, elected by the village Soviet from its members, and twelve members elected at a general meeting of voters, who serve two at a time in rotation, not receiving any remuneration for their work. Thus the entire peasant population has a chance not only to appeal to the Arbitration Committee, but to participate in its work. While any peasant may be elected, the choice is apt to fall on the more active and cultured elements, such as demobilized Red Army soldiers who have had educational opportunities while serving in the army, members of the Communist Youth League, who have had experience in social service, representatives of the women's organizations, members of the Peasants' Mutual Aid Committees, the cooperatives, and so on.

The Arbitration Committees deal with cases which concern: (1) property disputes involving sums not over 15 rubles, with the exception of claims for alimony and wages and in cases where some State institution or social or cooperative organization is one of the parties; (2) petty criminal offenses, such as written or verbal insults, and attacks not resulting in bodily injury.

In civil cases the Arbitration Committees deal chiefly with cases relating to injury to a neighbor's crops or property and similar happenings

which affect the deepest interests of the peasants and which are at the same time of a legal nature. The petty criminal cases usually arise from the backward cultural and social life of the village, and while not constituting a serious menace have an injurious social effect. These cases are not so much in need of the judgment of the court as the cultural and educational influence of the more advanced and active persons in the village. For example the family quarrels and beatings which occur so frequently among the more backward members of the community are handled by the Arbitration Committees. If such cases were handled by the People's Court the sentence would not necessarily reach the persons directly interested. It would be pronounced in the presence of people not directly concerned in the case, and would therefore make little impression. In the People's Court there are frequently only a few of the villagers present listening to the cases while when cases are tried by the Arbitration Committees the whole village turns out and follows the case with the greatest interest. The remarks of the peasants show their attitude toward the accused, and this social censure is usually as effective as any court sentence. By this direct method the Arbitration Committees help to combat many of the crude and brutal customs of the past.

Sometimes the Arbitration Committees consider actions which are merely anti-social, without necessarily being against the law, such as refusal to participate in communal work of repairing roads or clearing woods. Such expansion of the activities of the Arbitration Committees mobilizes the public opinion of the whole village.

The procedure of the Arbitration Committees is organized along the most simple and effective lines, and quick action is assured. In order that every peasant, whether literate or not, may be able to present his case to the committee, his complaint may be submitted in writing or orally, and every case must be brought up not later than a week from the day of its filing.

The sessions of the Arbitration Committees are held publicly on definite days and hours, fixed by the rural Soviet in accordance with the convenience of the population, usually on hours and days when the people are free from work. The sessions are held in the school house or village club. In the summer sometimes the whole village meets in the open air.

The Arbitration Committees are charged not only with settling the cases that come before them, but searching out the cause of the trouble and eliminating that as well. The committees are not bound by any formalities, and the Peo-

ple's Commissariat of Justice demands from them merely the following simple procedure: both sides in the case must be informed of the hearing, and when they appear each is given an opportunity to give full explanation. No minutes of the court proceedings are kept, no witness may be examined privately, anyone present at the meeting may act as a witness and expose anyone testifying falsely. The committee does not withdraw to discuss the sentence, and everything is done in the presence of the public. The decisions of the committee are decided by a majority of votes which must be presented in writing and made public.

A decision of the Arbitration Committee may be set aside only by a People's Judge or a prosecuting attorney and the case may be taken up by a People's Court if the Arbitration Committee has made a decision contrary to the law or the interests of the State or of the working population. During six months only eight out of 408 cases were cancelled. This simple process completes the functions of the court in both criminal and civil cases. The proceedings are really a court of public opinion of the more advanced and active members of the community. The committee does not base its decisions on any point or paragraph of the civil or criminal code, but simply on common sense and considerations of the general welfare of the community.

The simplicity of the proceedings does not mean that the cases are decided superficially. For example, in one civil case a herdsman was accused of driving the cattle into a meadow not supposed to be used for pasture land, but to be cut for hay. The owner of the plot asked compensation of five rubles for the damage to his meadow. The facts of the damage were proved, but the Arbitration Committee felt that perhaps the owner was asking too much. Thereupon the Arbitration Committee and a large part of the village population went in a body to the place where the damage was done, and examined it. It was found that in the damaged area 12 poods of hay at 25 kopeks a pood could have been cut, and therefore the Arbitration Committee imposed a fine of not five but three rubles to be paid to the plaintiff by the herdsman. At the same time the committee availed itself of this opportunity to warn the community not to pasture cattle on the meadows reserved for hay, as frequently happens in the village. A similar case arose when a peasant permitted his horse to graze in an oat field belonging not to an individual, but to the village Mutual Aid Committee. The offender was not only sentenced to pay the damages, but received a public reprimand for his anti-social act.

In criminal cases the Arbitration Committees may impose any one of the following measures: (1) compulsory work of a period of not over seven days; (2) a fine not exceeding ten rubles; (3) a

public reprimand which may be announced in the press; (4) compensation for damages.

Here are a few typical examples of the sentences imposed by Arbitration Committees: a husband is reprimanded before the community for beating his wife; two peasants are fined ten rubles apiece for insulting each other, which sum is to be paid if the quarrel continues; for stealing a bag of coal a peasant is sentenced to plowing the communal field; for rudeness in a club the offender is fined five rubles, and since he is unable to pay in cash he must lend his horse to take the actors playing in the club to and from the station.

The committees deal with many matters beyond the range of usual court proceedings. Thus a peasant woman with four children begged the Arbitration Committee in her village to do something about her husband's continual drinking. As a result, the committee appealed to the local Health Department to give this man compulsory treatment. In the case of another peasant woman continually being beaten by a drunken husband the committee learned that the quarrels in the family were due to poverty and unemployment. The committee resolved that the Labor Exchange should take steps to provide work for the man immediately. On the next day a job was found for the man, and the drinking and wife-beating stopped.

A decision of the Arbitration Committee has the power of a court order, and the local militia is charged with the execution of any such decision. The authority of the Arbitration Committees in the village is such, however, that the majority of its decisions are fulfilled without any compulsory measures being necessary.

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## Social Insurance in the U. S. S. R.

**S**OCIAL INSURANCE in the U. S. S. R., is a widespread Government system embracing over eleven million wage earners. Over a million people, 58 per cent of them men and 42 per cent women, receive a State pension. Any worker who has been employed for a certain minimum number of years is entitled to a pension in case of infirmity, or after reaching the age of fifty.

Soviet social insurance legislation provides a full wage (except for very highly paid groups) for all wage earners temporarily disabled and physically unfit for work, in cases of acute illness, contagious diseases at the home of the worker, or when nursing a sick member of the family.

A phase of the social insurance system which deserves special mention is the clause providing for mothers and infants. The Soviet mother is given every opportunity to bear and to rear a healthy child. For this purpose the State provides a vacation with full pay before and after the birth of the child. The law provides a four months' leave of absence for factory women (two months before and two months after birth), and three months for all other working women. Besides this every mother whether employed or not receives an allowance for the baby's layette when the child is born. After the birth of the child the mother receives a special maintenance dole for a period of nine months, intended for special care and food for the mother during the nursing period. Day nurseries are everywhere provided, and the working mother is given time off to go nurse her baby.

The social insurance system also takes care of the family in case of the death of its supporter, the amount of maintenance provided depending on the number in the family and their ages. The family also receives an allowance for funeral expenses.

### Financial Basis of Social Insurance

The financing of the Soviet social insurance is provided through monthly payments by all State enterprises, factories and offices alike, as well as business firms, private or otherwise, constituting on the average a sum equal to 12½ per cent of the monthly payroll. There is no deduction from wages. In this way over a billion rubles a year is collected. The Social Insurance budget for 1929-30 amounts to 1,314,000,000 (\$676,710,000). All enterprises are subject to fine in case of delay in making payments.

In the past four years the social insurance budget has increased two and a half times, and the number of persons receiving pensions has increased from 452,000 to over a million. The Social Insurance Department has decreased its

overhead expenses by a third in this period. In reducing its expenses the department aims to extend wider aid to the insured along different lines, such as medical care, which is free to all insured workers and their families, medicines, free hospital and dispensary treatment, sanatorium and rest home care. While at the sanatorium or rest home, the insured worker receives full salary, and in addition the Insurance Department pays the railroad fare of those whose salary does not permit them to bear such expenses themselves.

### Unemployment Fund

The State Unemployment Fund is administered by the Social Insurance Department. In recent years, particularly last year, this fund has been greatly extended. According to official figures for January 1, 1928, the Chief State Social Insurance Department of the R. S. F. S. R., including 81 insurance branches, paid unemployment insurance to 50 per cent of all the unemployed registered at the Labor Exchange. These figures cover only those unemployed without any means for subsistence, the remaining 50 per cent were at least partially provided for. Among the unskilled workers 59 per cent received substantial aid from the Social Insurance Department.

The unemployment regulations for 1927 entitle all unemployed skilled workers, minors, and demobilized army men to financial relief from the State, regardless of the length of time previously employed, while a longer period is required of all others in order to receive unemployment aid.

In addition to unemployment insurance, the unemployed receive many other forms of help such as free rent and communal services, special terms at the Cooperatives, and various other privileges and exemptions.

### Social Insurance in the Village

Social insurance in the villages extends to those unable to work and in need of help, such as war invalids, the families of soldiers killed at the front, those who have been invalids since childhood, and so on. During the past year old age insurance has been added, and poor peasants over 65 receive a pension. The actual administration of social insurance is delegated to certain members of the District Executive Committees, and the funds for social insurance with the exception of 25 per cent of the amount spent on war invalids or soldiers' families, is replaced out of the State budget. The main forms of assistance are pensions, housing, jobs, aid in forming producers' cooperatives and medical treatment.

The number of pensioners in the village has grown with extraordinary rapidity in the last few years. Thus in the R. S. F. S. R. alone, exclusive

of the autonomous republics, the number of insured has grown from 62,700 on October 1, 1927, to 168,000 on October 1, 1929. As regards those who have found work through the social insurance agencies, the number is not yet very large. The number of invalids in cooperative artels in the R. S. F. S. R. was only about 13,000 at the beginning of last year.

Very great help is given to the needy in the villages by the Peasant Mutual Aid Societies. The latter uses its funds to help not only those unable to work, but the poor peasants generally, and of recent years this help has been of a more and more constructive character. The Mutual Aid Societies have done a great deal of work in help-

ing their members to form collectives and producers' cooperatives. Of special importance is their work in serving their members through the use of agricultural machinery and equipment on easy terms. The Mutual Aid Societies are exceptionally active in such districts as the North Caucasus, the Middle Volga Region, the Urals, and so on.

Of no less importance in the social insurance work in the villages than pensions, is the whole series of privileges and exemptions granted by Soviet law to the village invalids and poor peasants in the way of freedom from taxation, supplying with wood and seed and various types of free agricultural service.

## Jewish Agricultural Colonization

OVER twenty-two thousand Jewish families have been established on the land during the past five years in the Soviet Union. In spite of skepticism as to whether Jews, city dwellers and traders for many generations, could ever make good farmers, in spite of all the difficulties incident to tearing up deep roots and starting an entirely new way of life, these new Jewish colonies have for the most part grown and prospered, and only a small percentage of the colonists have returned to the towns.

Of the three million Jews in the Soviet Union, a third are workers and clerks, a third traders and members of the professions, 800,000 artisans and hand workers, and upwards of 200,000 farmers.

The colonization movement is not the only means of assisting the Jews in the Soviet Union. Efforts are being made to increase the number of Jewish industrial workers, and a special organization exists to give them assistance in receiving higher technical education. The American organization "Ort" helps in supplying tools to artisans.

The agricultural colonization movement among the Jews is guided by "Komzet" (Committee for Settling Jewish Laborers on the Land), a government organization established in 1924, and "Ozet," a voluntary society. The purpose of these committees is to centralize assistance to the hundreds of thousands of Jewish small traders and artisans whose ancient means of livelihood no longer have a place in the new social structure. Through the committee credits are arranged for Jewish families to enable them to settle on the land,—credits for building houses, and for agricultural equipment. Every possible encouragement is given to this movement. Certain sections have been set aside for colonization. In addition to credits, the settlers are released from taxes during the first few years, are given 75 per cent reduction in railroad fares, and assistance in learning to adapt

themselves to new conditions and become farmers.

The American "Agrojoint" committee, through an agreement with the Soviet Government, has given very substantial aid during the past five years to colonist groups in the form of machinery, instruction and long term credits without interest. This committee has recently raised a loan of several million dollars, which, added to the sum set aside by the Soviet Government for this purpose will mean a decided increase in the number of Jewish families settled on the land this year. "Icor," a non-partisan organization of American Jews, cooperates with the Soviet committees in the colonization movement. "Icor" not only supplies tractors and other agricultural and industrial machinery through funds raised in America, but keeps the Jewish colonists in touch with the latest developments in American industrial agriculture, and the best methods of industrial colonization.

The main sections colonized so far have been the Ukraine, White Russia, Uzbekistan, the Crimea, Daghestan and other parts of the R. S. F. S. R. In line with the general Soviet policy of political and cultural autonomy for national minorities, special Jewish Soviets are established wherever the Jewish colonies are large enough or where Jews are a majority of the population, and as a result there are a great many local Jewish Soviets. There are three entirely Jewish counties with their own Soviets and other administrative organs, where Yiddish is the official language, there are Jewish schools, clubs and theaters, and all publications are printed in Yiddish. Kalinindorf, in Khersonsky Okrug, was the first of these to be established. Of the 41 villages in Kalinindorf rayon, 32 are Jewish, and 84 per cent of the population are Jews. Among the Jewish population 85 per cent are organized into agricultural collectives, and 80 per cent belong to the consumers' cooperatives. There are two hospitals, four dispensaries, three dental centers, two Peo-

ple's Houses, fourteen day nurseries and kindergartens, and school accommodations for all the children.

Year by year the conditions among the colonists improve, they become better farmers, have better crops. What dissatisfaction exists is mostly among the older people who find it hard to adopt the new ways which the younger generation take up with enthusiasm. The same type of agricultural education and assistance is extended to the Jewish farmers as to the peasants throughout the Soviet Union. They are encouraged in the use of modern methods and machinery, and more land is cultivated by Jewish farmers each year. In the Ukraine the average sown acre per individual Jewish farmer has tripled in the past few years. The formation of collectives is proceeding rapidly. Twenty-eight per cent of all the Jewish families who have settled on the land in the Ukraine are organized into agricultural collectives.

Since land was growing scarce in the regions already being colonized, it was decided two years ago to set aside Biro-Bidjan, a vast section in the Far East covering four million hectares, for Jewish colonization. The present population of this region numbers about 32,000—Russians, Kazaks, Koreans, Tungusians, White Russians, Ukrainians, and a few Chinese. Allowing a hundred persons to a square mile, a million and a half Jews could easily settle in this region. The main efforts of the colonization committee will henceforward be centered here.

Already over 1,500 Jewish settlers have been established in Biro-Bidjan, half of them with their families, while most of the others are arranging for their families to join them. It is proposed to settle 60,000 more within the next four years, and in time it is thought to establish a National Autonomous Republic for the Jews in this section. A Soviet scientific expedition and an American commission organized by "Icor" have visited the region, and pronounced it adapted to colonization, with no more difficulties than usually attendant upon pioneering in a wild and virgin country. The swamp land can be easily reclaimed by surface drainage, troublesome insects will disappear with cultivation. Biro-Bidjan presents many opportunities for combined agricultural and industrial development. While less adapted to the growing of wheat than other sections, rice grows well there, and many industrial crops. It is good country for cattle raising. Orchards and gardens flourish. There is plentiful forest land, and rich deposits of coal, iron, graphite, lime, copper, gold and other minerals. The Biro and Bidjan rivers and their tributaries can be used for navigation and fishing, and the Amur trunk line of the Siberian railway connects the country with all sections of the Soviet Union.

Over a thousand hectares of virgin land were plowed and sown last spring, and many more

were put under cultivation in the fall. Land is being cleared and drained, roads and dams and bridges are being built. Three large State farms and three machine and tractor stations have been started. A rice plantation and an experimental station are being developed. Courses are being held for tractorists and the skilled industrial workers needed to build up the region. Several schools have been established for the colonists.

Three full-fledged villages of the new colonists have already been organized, with their own Soviets. Everywhere the attitude of the native population has been extremely friendly. They welcome the new settlers, because the greatest need of this region is more people.

Most of the Jewish colonists of Biro-Bidjan have come from the Ukraine and White Russia. Most of them, too, have come from the large urban centers where the Jewish population has hitherto evinced less interest than elsewhere in agricultural colonization. The explanation for this lies in the fact that agriculture in Biro-Bidjan is more closely allied with industrial processes than in the other regions that have been colonized.

## Unemployment Decreasing

UNEMPLOYMENT in the Soviet Union is on the decrease. On August first, 1929, the number of unemployed registered on the Labor Exchange was 1,298,000 as against 1,700,000 registered on May 1st. By December first the number was reduced to 1,241,000. Since then, with the expansion of industry and agriculture, the extension of the seven-hour day and the introduction of the unbroken week, thousands of additional workers have found employment, and the number registered on the Exchange has still further decreased.

Heretofore unemployment has been increasing year by year, due rather to the fact that many peasants have sought work in the towns than to the failure of former workers to find employment, for the actual number of wage earners in the Soviet Union is far greater than before the war, and each year finds an increasing number of workers employed. Between 1924 and the end of 1929 the number of workers increased from 6,800,000 to over 12,000,000. From August, 1928, to October, 1929, the number of hired workers increased by 900,000, and by the end of the present year it is estimated that there will be over 13,000,000 workers employed in the Soviet Union.

According to the figures of the five-year plan, the army of unemployed will be reduced to less than half a million by the end of the five-year period.

At the present time the bulk of the unemployed still come from the poor and to a certain extent the middle farms. The growth of the collective

movement and the extensive development of the handwork cooperative industry opens up opportunities for the employment of much of this superfluous labor power right in the village, and will serve to check the movement of peasants to the towns. New local industries, and industries in the national republics which were never before given an opportunity to develop also mean increased local demand for workers.

At the present time unskilled workers predominate on the Labor Exchange, constituting over 60 per cent of all the registered unemployed, and of these the majority are seeking employment for the first time. The industrial group of unemployed is constantly decreasing. In 1929 this group amounted to 16.3 per cent of the unemployed, or a little over 200,000. During the present economic year industry, agriculture, transport and trade require about 800,000 new skilled and semi-skilled workers to meet their needs. The problem of unemployment in the Soviet Union has thus become mainly the problem of training the unskilled workers. Measures of this kind are already being carried out, both by training workers already on the job to more skilled work, thus making way for less skilled workers, by increasing the facilities of the trade schools, and by the organization of special short-term courses in connection with the Labor Exchanges.

In 1928-29, the sum of 142 million rubles was spent in unemployment relief, compared with 31 million rubles in 1924-25. Unemployment benefits are paid to most of the unemployed, the amount paid and the number receiving assistance increasing from year to year. During the past year 853,000 unemployed workers received unemployment benefits compared with 300,000 in 1924-25.

To the argument that the increasing use of machinery in the Soviet Union will soon create a new unemployment problem by displacing so much labor power, Soviet economists reply that far more labor will be needed to carry out the industrialization program of the Soviet Union than will be replaced by machinery.

Not only will the increasing application of the continuous working week and the shorter working day provide work for ever increasing numbers, but the industrial program calls for a progressive increase in both the bulk and variety of industry, new shops and plants of every description are being constructed and planned, and the Soviet Union's natural resources have been barely tapped as yet. In agriculture many new crops are being introduced, more careful cultivation is practiced than formerly and large tracts of entirely new land are being opened up in the development of the State grain farms and the peasant collectives.

## Campaign Against Alcohol

THE production and sale of vodka in the Soviet Union is a state monopoly handled through the "Centrospirit" trust. In 1928-29 53,123,000 decaliters of vodka were produced in the Soviet Union as compared with 110,950,000 decaliters produced in 1913 under the Tsar, or less than half as much.

The government monopoly of vodka, which was authorized to produce and dispense vodka up to the pre-war strength of 40 per cent alcohol, was established in 1925 due to the extensive brewing of bootleg vodka of inferior quality, which wasted large quantities of grain, and endangered health. Alcoholic beverages are, however, sold under increasingly severe restrictions regarding the amount sold to one person, the number of places permitted to sell, and so on. In many districts the sale is prohibited entirely on pay days and holidays.

As a result of a growing anti-alcoholic movement the consumption of alcohol in the U. S. S. R. has lately been decreasing. The fight against alcohol is led by a special "Anti-Alcohol Society" which was organized a year and a half ago, and now has thousands of branches throughout the Soviet Union, and a membership of hundreds of thousands. All public organizations conducting anti-alcohol activities receive assistance from the government, particularly from the Commissariats of Health and Education. Demands by workers for the discontinuation of the sale of vodka in this or that district are complied with immediately. In the schools the pupils are instructed in the harmful effects of the use of alcohol. Last fall a special "Anti-Alcohol Week" was held in which propaganda against excessive use of alcohol was carried on through demonstrations, lectures, plays, moving pictures and so on. The Department of Health has established a system of dispensaries throughout the country for the treatment of chronic drinkers, and has a special course for anti-alcohol propagandists.

The government plans a progressive decrease in the manufacture of spirits. During 1928-29 the estimated output of 56,580,000 decaliters of vodka was reduced to 53,123,000 decaliters. The government has appropriated special funds to combat the drink evil. In order to reduce the consumption of vodka its price has been raised to 22.76 rubles per decaliter, as against 17.56 rubles in 1927, and 10.93 rubles in 1913.

As regards the production of home brew, the figure for 1928 was less than one third of that for 1927, according to the Central Statistical Administration.

## The Moscow Children's Theater

**L**AST year the Moscow Children's Theater counted a quarter of a million children in its audiences through the daily performances at the theater, and special performances given at the factories. During the coming season it is planned to increase the number of performances given in the workers' districts, and to give special performances for parents in the evenings. On the invitation of a German theatrical society the Children's Theater will visit Germany for a month. During the summer a tour will be made of Moscow province.

Several new pieces will be added to the repertoire of the theater this year. Special attention will be given to increasing the children's knowledge of other countries and races, beginning first with the border republics of the Soviet Union. Nikolay Shestakov, the writer, was sent to Turkmenistan by the theater and as a result of his observations he wrote a play called "Aul Gidje," which was the first new play presented this season. At the present time Mr. Shestakov is in Karelya gathering material for a play on Karelyan life. Another new play enlists the interest of the children in the building up of the new collective forms of social organization in which the children are taking an eager part. In March a play by Rozanov based on national differences between groups of children in a Soviet school will be presented. Special plays for children of various age groups are being prepared, as well as a number of plays in which children will be the actors.

More attention is to be paid to music than formerly, and among the composers who have been asked to compose and arrange music especially for children are Alexandrov, Mosolov, Polovinkin, and others.

An interesting branch of the work of the theater is the contact made with the audiences. Delegates are elected from the schools, children's homes and Pioneer groups which visit the theater. Special conferences are arranged between these delegates, the actors and actresses, and others connected with the theater, at which the merits of the various plays and the types of plays desirable for the future are discussed. The delegates publish a bulletin about theatrical affairs, and see that material about the theater is published in their school wall newspapers.

The psychological department of the theater not only studies the immediate reactions of the children to the various types of plays, but also attempts to study the influence of the theater over a period of time on different children.

Plans are under way for the building of a new

children's theater more adequate for the diversified work of the theater.

Anatole Lunacharsky, formerly Commissar of Education of the R. S. F. S. R., wrote an article recently describing the aims of the children's theater, in which he said:

"The Soviet theater for children is following an uncharted route, and is carrying on work that has no precedent either in the past of our own country or in other countries. . . . Its aim is not to distract from reality, not to dull the consciousness of the children and adolescents, not to beguile them with sweet fantasies. On the contrary, our theater rouses them, pushes them into the very thick of life, with all its conflict and searching. It is a gigantic trumpet voicing the complaints and aspirations of the growing generation which has already been drawn into direct contact with vital labor processes by the whole system of Soviet training.

"Our theater never debases art for children, is never falsified to fit the traditional concept of the level of children's understanding. It approaches its audience with all seriousness, both in form and content. And hence our greatest difficulty—where to find children's pieces answering these requirements. The past has left us nothing in this field. An entirely new repertoire must be created. And in its development this new repertoire is suffering all the pains and difficulties of birth and growth. Out of this new movement have come such pieces as 'Black Spring,' vitally reflecting the tremendous struggle that is now going on in the village.

"However, the difficulties with repertoire are not the only ones. One of the most important tasks is that of organizing the audiences, carrying on educational work among them, cultivating their own artistic initiative. There must also be work with the parents, with the school teachers, who see in the theater only a means of teaching literature, with the members of the cultural workers' union, who give too little attention to the question of art for children.

"The material situation of the children's theater movement is also difficult, and the question of building space is particularly important. However, in spite of all these obstacles, the children's theater movement is growing and deepening, and is in need of a general directing center. The section on 'outside of school activities' of the Department of Education is transforming the State Pedagogical Theater into such a center.

"This theater is familiar to all the young people of Moscow. Even the children in the outlying

workers' districts know it, as it has given many performances at workers' clubs during recent years. It is also well known to foreigners who have frequently written in their press of its artistic achievements, and of the fearless and serious way in which it approaches its young audiences. Last summer the theater made a tour with its entire staff. The theater gave performances in the workers' towns in Ivanovo-Voznesensk district, in the city of Ivanovo-Voznesensk itself, and also in Nijni-Novgorod. At the same time the theater gave exhibitions of an educational nature, and organized conferences and lectures on questions of artistic education. In this way it gained a thorough knowledge of the needs and requirements in the provinces in preparation for the task it is now being called on to fill by the Commissariat of Education.

"During the coming season the theater will begin to work in three directions. The main theater will continue as before to give performances in Moscow, both in its own theater, and in workers' clubs. At the present time intensified work is going forward in the preparation of new pieces for this season which will actually meet contemporary requirements.

"In addition a travelling theater is being organized. This theater will cover a wide area, penetrating into the deepest corners of the country, reaching children far removed from any artistic influence. While maintaining its serious attitude and its realism and its artistic integrity, the travelling theater is at the same time striving to attain a simplicity and adaptability in its settings which will permit the actors to travel any distance and to give their performances under the most primitive conditions—not only in theaters but in barracks, dormitories, children's homes, playgrounds or simply in the courtyard of a peasant's home. This theater will work outside of Moscow most of the time.

"The third method of work will be that of mass instruction. The collection which the theater has already made of demonstration, educational and bibliographical material will be developed and extended. On the basis of this material mass educational and consultation work will be carried on. The purpose of this mass instruction will be to help new children's theaters, to assist the dramatic activities of the children themselves, and to carry on propaganda for the organization of such work among children. This work must be closely connected with the artistic work of the Pioneer organizations, in order to make use of the independent dramatic work of the children themselves as a means of combatting 'hooliganism,' the evil influence of the streets, and also to include this activity of the children in the general scheme of measures undertaken by the state for cultural work among children."

## Soviet Scientific Expeditions

PRACTICALLY all Soviet scientific institutions of any importance have sent out numerous expeditions during the past year to explore various regions of the Soviet Union.

The Academy of Science alone has organized sixty-eight expeditions. The expedition headed by Prof. Fersman successfully completed the work that has been carried on during the past ten years in exploring the Khibin swamps on the Kola peninsula. The expedition discovered rich apatite fields, with deposits of at least 500,000 tons of apatite, as well as several other minerals of importance for industrial purposes.

Several expeditions were engaged in studying the natural resources of Yakutia, Southern Ossetia, the Crimea, and other regions. Excavations were made in the Crimea at the site of the ancient city of Esky-Kerman, and many objects dating from the sixth and seventh centuries were found.

Archeologists from the Academy of Science discovered cultural relics of the Cro-Magnon race near Elets, in the province of Orel. Other expeditions, excavating in the ancient tumuli of Buriat-Mongolia, found Chinese silk stuffs, lacquer vessels of the Khan era, mirrors and pottery.

The Geological Committee sent out over two hundred expeditions last summer which found rich iron ore fields in the Trans-Baikal province, copper and other non-ferrous metals in Kazakhstan, oil in the Urals and in regions West of Baku, and new coal deposits in Trans-Caucasia, Turkestan, Kuznetsk basin and other places.

The Institutes of Applied Botany and of Experimental Agronomy sent out about a hundred expeditions to the grain and cotton regions of the U. S. S. R. during the summer.

Very interesting materials showing conditions of life and culture among Slavonic tribes were collected by an expedition sent out by the Academy of the History of Material Culture. An expedition sent by the Russian museum discovered the tomb of a Scythian Khan in an ancient tumulus in the Altai mountains.

The ice-breaker "Sedov" brought back a rich collection from the region of Franz Josef Land, and the ice-breaker "Litke" made an interesting collection at Wrangel Island. The members of one of the Yakutsk expeditions on board the "Stavropol," a Sovtorgflot steamer locked in the ice with a valuable cargo a few miles from North Cape, were transferred from the "Litke" by dog teams.

Over ten expeditions organized by the Institute of Applied Geophysics have been experimenting with new methods of discovering ore. The expedition headed by Prof. Petrovsky which went to the Urals was successful in applying radio waves for this purpose.

## The Search for Eielson and Borland

FOUR airplanes, manned by some of the foremost Soviet aviators, and numerous dog teams were ordered out by the Soviet Government to help in the search for the American fliers Eielson and Borland, whose plane, wrecked while carrying provisions to the ice-bound Nanuk, was found by the American aviators Crosson and Gillam on January 25th. The wrecked plane was found ninety miles East of North Cape, on the extreme Northeast boundary of the U. S. S. R.

The Soviet Government mobilized its resources to help in the search in response to appeals from the Department of the Interior and Senator Borah received late in December. A careful examination by the Soviet Arctic Commission of the Academy of Science and other scientific organizations, of all available information regarding the plane left little hope that the aviators, lost on November 4th, would still be found alive after the lapse of so much time, but this did not interfere with preparations for an exhaustive search.

In view of the excessively difficult conditions of Arctic flying in winter, the Polar darkness, the frequent blizzards and extreme cold, and the fact that the region where the fliers were lost is little known and in part quite uncharted, no pains were spared in the equipment of the rescue parties, supervised by the Soviet Arctic Commission, and in collecting all possible data about the region.

Chuknovsky, the Soviet pilot who did such gallant work in the rescue of the Nobile expedition last year, accompanied by the same crew who were with him then, left Moscow early in January, and took off from Yakutsk for Kolyuchinsk in a large plane of the type of the "Land of Soviets," which made the Moscow-New York flight last summer, provided with special asbestos felt motor covers and stoves for preliminary heating of the engines. Chuknovsky reached Kolyuchinsk on January 28th.

A second rescue expedition headed by the aviator Gromov with a picked crew, took off shortly after in a giant Fokker plane by another route. Pilots Slepnev and Fladishev with the two small Junker planes, which have been wintering at Providence Bay, were instructed to equip their planes with dog teams and sleds and meet Chuknovsky at the same rendezvous, with an additional fuel supply. They reached the scene of the accident the day after the plane was found.

The Soviet government instructed the radio station at Wrangel Island to keep the director of the search, Alfred Lomen, at Nome, Alaska, informed of weather conditions. All the Northeast radio stations and organizations of Osoaviakhim were ordered to give every assistance to the

rescue expeditions. The aviation bases and warehouses of Osoaviakhim along the shores of the Arctic Ocean were turned over to the immediate use of the rescue expeditions, special bases with supplies of gasoline and landing fields were prepared at strategic points, and a special brigade of mechanics was despatched to Yakutsk.

Meantime numerous dog teams were actually participating in the search, on the instructions of the Soviet government, and running down all rumors. One searching party was sent out by the Stravropol, a Soviet ship returning to Vladivostok with a number of passengers, including a scientific expedition to Yakutia, and a cargo of fur and mammoth tusks, which was ice-bound not far from the Nanuk. The Soviet colony on Wrangel Island also took part. Governor Min-eyeff headed the Wrangel Island party which searched with dog sleds in blinding snow storms from January 7th to 14th, but was finally forced back by blizzards and lack of food for the dogs.

Several sledge teams were sent out by Osoaviakhim. On January 28th a Soviet searching expedition of 140 dogs, divided into 14 teams, arrived at Kolyuchin Bay, unaware that the plane had already been found.

When the plane was finally found it was in the general vicinity established by the Soviet Arctic Commission as the probable scene of the disaster, and about thirty miles East of the spot described in the letter from a native reporting that the fliers had landed near the Amguem River, which was broadcast from Tinkignea by the Soviet wireless operator, Kyrillenko, on January 16th.

While the evidence of a terrific crash reported by the discoverers of the wreck of the plane left little hope that the men themselves might still be alive, the Soviet Government decided to continue the search until full knowledge of the fate of the aviators could be determined, and sent land searching parties to the spot. The members of these parties, as well as the aviators, and a group of men taken by plane from the schooner Stavropol, assisted the members of the Nanuk crew in digging away the hard packed snow covering the wreckage, and over a large area surrounding it.

*The Index to the seventh volume of the "Soviet Union Review" will be published in February. On request it will be sent free to all readers of the Review.*

## Trends of Soviet Foreign Trade

THE chief feature of Soviet foreign trade for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1929, was the substitution of a favorable balance of 47,834,000 rubles (\$24,634,510) for the unfavorable balance of 166,856,000 rubles of the previous year. This change was effected by cutting down imports by 12.1 per cent, while exports were expanded by 12.8 per cent.

In the matter of exports, the increase was almost wholly due to expansion of industrial exports, especially coal (125 per cent), lumber (46 per cent), asbestos (43 per cent), manganese ore (29 per cent), and oil products and iron ore (each 24 per cent). Exports of lumber took first place in value (137,154,000 rubles), with oil products second (132,614,000 rubles), and furs third (109,119,000 rubles). In 1927-28 furs held the first position, with oil products second and lumber third. For the second year in succession grain exports were negligible. They are not expected to cut any considerable figure during the current year, though the harvest was the second best since the revolution. The only important farm exports that showed a substantial gain last year were flax and sheep casings.

The only substantial increases shown in the import list for last year were in agricultural machinery and supplies (70.5 per cent) and in certain raw materials such as iron and steel (75 per cent) and wool (11.7 per cent). Imports of industrial equipment were cut 18 per cent as compared to the previous year, and imports of consumption goods were reduced by 25 per cent, to a total for the year of only 107,000,000 rubles.

Owing to the reduction of imports the total trade turnover showed a slight decline of 14,907,000 rubles, or less than one per cent. For the first quarter of the current fiscal year the trade turnover increased over 23 per cent, as compared with the first quarter of 1928-29. Exports increased nearly 24 per cent, with a commensurate gain in the trade balance as compared with last year. These increases indicate that Soviet foreign trade will pass the billion dollar mark during the present year. They foreshadow the beginning of a rapid expansion in the Soviet market.

The foreign trade for the past two years in rubles has been as follows:

	1928-29	1927-28
Exports .....	877,737,000	777,849,000
Imports .....	829,903,000	944,705,000
Total ....	1,707,640,000	1,722,554,000

Among foreign countries Germany continued to hold first place in Soviet trade, furnishing 23 per cent of Soviet imports and taking 24 per cent of the exports. Her total turnover was 397,002,000

rubles. England with a turnover of 236,000,000 was in second place, taking 22 per cent of Soviet exports, but furnishing only 5 per cent of the imports. The United States, with a turnover of 191,394,000 rubles, stood third in Soviet trade. The United States provided 18 per cent of the imports and took 4 per cent of the exports. Imports from Persia, the fourth country, were nearly 50 per cent greater in value than those from Great Britain.

Under the five-year plan Soviet imports in 1932-33 are scheduled to be about double those of last year. The imports of machinery and equipment will be drawn largely from Germany, the United States and England. The relative position of imports from each of these countries during the past three years will give some indication of how these increasing purchases will be made.

During the past four years Soviet imports from the three countries were drawn in about the following ratio: Germany 8, United States 6, England 3. During this period the United States has gained little on Germany, while imports from England have fallen by 65 per cent. It has generally been assumed that the bulk of equipment purchased abroad by the Soviet Union comes from the United States. That is not the case. Not only have the purchases in the United States during the past four years been materially smaller than those in Germany, but over 40 per cent of the value of imports from the United States have been represented by raw cotton which cannot be purchased elsewhere. Owing to the expansion of cotton growing in the Soviet Union these purchases have already begun to decline, with a commensurate increase in the proportion of purchases of machinery and equipment.

The following table gives Soviet imports from Germany, United States and England, for the past four Soviet fiscal years, in thousands of rubles:

		Soviet Imports from		
		Germany	U. S.	England
1928-29 .....	188,465	152,929	44,338	
1927-28 .....	248,433	187,754	47,521	
1926-27 .....	161,546	145,652	101,082	
1925-26 .....	176,079	122,162	129,549	
Total .....	774,523	608,497	322,490	

The following table gives Soviet exports to Germany, United States and England, for the past four Soviet fiscal years, in thousands of rubles:

		Soviet Exports to		
		Germany	U. S.	England
1928-29 .....	208,537	38,469	192,503	
1927-28 .....	186,152	27,917	150,773	
1926-27 .....	169,114	23,207	198,613	
1925-26 .....	111,618	30,666	194,049	
Total .....	675,421	120,259	735,938	

The abrupt drop in Soviet imports from England after 1925-26 was due to temporary causes which put a severe handicap on trade. England's need for certain Soviet products, such as timber, food-stuffs and oil products, was sufficient virtually to overcome the handicap as far as Soviet exports to England were concerned. Soviet import business could more advantageously be placed elsewhere, and the bulk of it was absorbed by Germany, which made special efforts to annex it by advancing credit facilities, etc. It is to be expected that during the next few years Soviet purchases in England will gain materially, in respect to purchases in Germany and the United States. By 1932-33 annual imports to the Soviet Union from the three countries should be approximately \$500,000,000. Many considerations will dictate the sources from which this business will be drawn, under the general axiom that trade follows the channels of least resistance.

## Bogdanov Appointed Amtorg Chairman

PETER A. BOGDANOV, who arrived from the Soviet Union about three weeks ago, has been elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Amtorg Trading Corporation to succeed Saul G. Bron, who has been appointed Soviet trade representative to Great Britain. Mr. Bogdanov has already taken office and Mr. Bron has sailed for London. The Amtorg Trading Corporation is the principal company representing industrial and trading organizations of the U. S. S. R. in this country. In the calendar year 1929, the business of the company amounted to \$115,000,000 out of the total turnover of \$155,000,000 for Soviet-American trade. Before the war the annual Russian-American trade averaged \$46,000,000.

Mr. Bron, who retired as Chairman of the Amtorg after serving for nearly three years, in reviewing the development of Soviet-American trade before his departure, said:

"The rapid growth of Soviet-American trade is shown by the fact that the business of the Amtorg has doubled since 1927. From a comparatively insignificant organization formed six years ago, the Amtorg Trading Corporation has developed into probably the largest exporting organization for American industrial and agricultural equipment.

"In leaving this country I wish to say that it has been my privilege to work with a number of your leading men in the field of business and it is, to a great extent, their wholehearted cooperation that has made possible the notable development of Soviet-American business relations."

Mr. Bogdanov, who was formerly the head of the Soviet Supreme Economic Council, stated:

"It is a source of gratification that Soviet-American economic and technical relations have expanded so greatly during the past few years. The fact that since its inauguration Soviet-American trade has amounted to over \$600,000,000, of which exports from this country made up about three-fourths, and that technical assistance agreements are in force with over forty important American engineering and manufacturing firms, indicates the considerable significance of the economic relations established.

"The process of intensive, large-scale industrial and agricultural development which the Soviet Union is now undergoing in connection with the Five-Year Plan, which estimates total capital investments of \$33,000,000,000 for economic upbuilding, is preparing the ground for the further development of business relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. If American industrial and financial circles will to a greater extent adapt their methods to the conditions and requirements of the Soviet Union, there is every reason to regard the past progress in the trade and technical relations with this country as only the forerunner of much broader relations in the future."

Mr. Bogdanov was born in 1882 of the family of a well-known Moscow merchant and public man. In 1909, he graduated from the Moscow Technical Institute as mechanical engineer. For a number of years he was connected with the Moscow Municipal Administration in various engineering positions. Since 1918, he has been actively engaged in the upbuilding of Soviet industry, first, as director of a chemical trust, then as head of the Metal Division of the Supreme Economic Council, later (1921-25) as Chairman of that body and, since 1925, in charge of the economic and administrative activities of the North Caucasus Region.

Mr. Bogdanov was appointed head of the Supreme Economic Council of the U. S. S. R. in 1921, after the introduction of the New Economic Policy, and under his supervision the reorganization of Soviet industry from the war basis to its present commercial basis was effected. From 1925 to 1929, he was Chairman of the Regional Administration of the Northern Caucasus Region. This region, with a population of 8,500,000, is one of the important agricultural and industrial sections of the country, including the Grozny oil fields, the anthracite coal mines of the Donetz Basin, a number of agricultural machinery factories and the "Giant" State farm, the largest in the world, with an area of 500,000 acres.

Mr. Bron, before coming to the United States, was for two years head of the Exportkhleb, the Soviet Grain Exporting Organization, and for

four years Commissar for Foreign Trade for the Ukraine. He was at one time also a member of the Collegium of the Commissariat for Trade of the U. S. S. R. and a director of the Bank for Foreign Trade. He received much of his education in Germany, France, and Switzerland, taking the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the Universities of Zurich and Kiev. He is a member of the American Academy of Political Science and the National Geographic Society.

## The Bessedowsky Case

ON January 8th, the Supreme Court of the U. S. S. R. tried the case of Gregory Bessedowsky, former counselor of the Soviet Embassy in France, accused of "obtaining and squandering in Paris the sum of \$15,274 out of the government funds in his care, while he was occupying the post of chargé d'affaires in the absence of the regular diplomatic representative."

The Bessedowsky Case would in no way differ from many other cases of embezzlement of public funds if Bessedowsky had not attempted to escape legal consequences under the screen of a political scandal. But Bessedowsky miscalculated. The trial showed that this affair went far beyond the limits of \*Chapter 2, Article 116 of the Criminal Code of the R. S. F. S. R. Through the testimony of the witnesses, who were present, a number of irrefutable documents and on the written evidence of absent witnesses, Bessedowsky was pictured not only as a thief and embezzler, but as a traitor as well, who betrayed the interests of the Soviet Republic in order to procure funds for gay living.

In the course of the trial, not only were the actual facts of the case established, but the hypocrisy of Bessedowsky's attempt to establish himself in the public opinion of Europe as a martyr to his political differences with his government was clearly exposed.

It was brought out in the evidence that Bessedowsky was actually a political chameleon, changing his color in accordance with his environment. Before 1917, he was a member of the Constitutional Democratic Party ("Cadet" Party), under Kerensky he became a Social Revolutionist, and after 1918, a Bolshevik.

Gregory Bessedowsky entered the political arena in 1923, in the Ukrainian Department of the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, and after the organization of the Union he was automatically transferred to the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U. S. S. R. In October, 1927, he was appointed to the post of counselor to the Soviet Embassy in France. During the en-

tire period of his Soviet service Bessedowsky never once made the statement that he was in disagreement with the line of the party. During the Trotsky dispute he came out against the left opposition, and later fought against right tendencies in the party. Thus, as all Bessedowsky's co-workers in Paris, including the stenographer who wrote all his letters, testified, Bessedowsky had never had any "differences" with the party or with the Soviet Government, and never wrote letters to any one regarding these "differences." And yet "political disagreement" was the *leit-motif* of all his diatribes against the party and the Soviet Government in his attempts to hide his treachery.

Employees of the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs who had come in contact with Bessedowsky had thought of him as a careerist. Their evidence suggested that he was disappointed in his ambition, since he had hoped to be not counselor, but diplomatic representative at Paris. Further evidence, from others who worked with him, showed that recently Bessedowsky had more and more neglected his duties, giving himself up wholly to a life of dissipation which called for funds far beyond his salary.

So disturbed were the other members of the embassy by his conduct that when Mr. Dovgalevsky, the diplomatic representative, arrived in Moscow, he recommended that Bessedowsky be recalled from Paris. Instructions were immediately sent out that Bessedowsky, who as first counselor was fulfilling Mr. Dovgalevsky's duties during the absence of the latter, should immediately turn over the affairs of the embassy to Mr. Ahrens, the second counselor. Mr. Roizenman, a member of the collegium of the Workers' and Peasants' Inspection, who was at that time in Berlin, was instructed to proceed at once to Paris to examine the financial affairs at the embassy.

At the same time Bessedowsky, taking advantage of the fact that he was acting representative, attempted to get a check for \$15,000 from the head bookkeeper of the embassy, Mr. Jukov, on the pretext of urgent expenditures. When Mr. Jukov objected, Bessedowsky still insisted that a check for \$5,000 be made out, for which he gave a personal receipt.

Bessedowsky delayed in handing over the affairs of the embassy to Mr. Ahrens. Having been informed of this by Mr. Ahrens, the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs on September 28th, sent a telegram to Paris in which they proposed to Mr. Ahrens that in the event of Bessedowsky's further refusal to turn over his duties to him, Bessedowsky should be removed and the French Foreign Office should be informed that Mr. Ahrens had assumed the duties of chargé d'affaires. After telling Mr. Ahrens that he would not leave for Moscow until

\* The clause in the Criminal Code referring to misuse of funds or falsification of documents by persons holding official position.

the return of Mr. Dovgalevsky, since he intended to make such a scandal in Paris before his departure that it would be impossible for any Soviet representative to remain there, Bessedowsky sent the following telegram to the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs:

"This is to inform you that on Monday I shall write a note to the Foreign Office informing them that I am leaving for a vacation and leaving Mr. Ahrens temporarily in charge of affairs. The outrageous slander which Dovgalevsky has carried on against me has left me in an extremely nervous condition. I will leave Paris not later than October 3rd."

Having received the sum of \$454.49 for his trip to Moscow, Bessedowsky informed the Foreign Office that he was leaving for a vacation. Knowing at that time that Mr. Roizenman was expected in Paris to investigate the accounts of the embassy, he drew up an act stating that he had burned vouchers for \$10,000. Mr. Roizenman testified that after he had arrived he immediately called Bessedowsky to him and after listening to his confused explanations was convinced of his guilt. Bessedowsky pleaded a headache before he had finished his explanations, and asked to be permitted to rest for two hours before continuing.

In two hours he returned to the embassy with the police, collected his bags and effects which had been previously packed and prepared, and moved to private quarters. The witness, Mr. Roizenman, learned only the next day from the newspapers that Bessedowsky had "escaped" from the embassy over the fence, with perspiring face and torn clothing. The witness expressed astonishment that Bessedowsky had found it necessary to climb over the fence when no one had interfered with his departure, and when he might with perfect ease have called a taxi and concealed himself somewhere in Paris, where it is not difficult to hide. This bit of opera bouffé as well as the ugly newspaper campaign that followed it were obviously intended to prove that Bessedowsky was a "political offender" and thus shield him from being brought to trial as an ordinary criminal.

After the charges were brought against Bessedowsky a telegram was sent to him in Paris requesting him to choose a lawyer from the Moscow College of Defense Lawyers, and to appear before the court. Bessedowsky received the telegram, but failed to choose a lawyer or to make his appearance.

When the witnesses had all presented their evidence, the presiding judge, Mr. Vasiliev-Yuzhin, made the following statement:

"From the material that has been presented the court is convinced that Bessedowsky is not only an embezzler, but a traitor to the interests of the Soviet Union. But in the absence of any-

thing but circumstantial evidence on the latter point, the court will limit itself to penalizing Bessedowsky under Chapter II, Article 116 of the Criminal Code."

After four hours deliberation the Supreme Court found Bessedowsky guilty of obtaining and squandering \$15,270. The verdict was ten years imprisonment, with the confiscation of all property, and the subsequent deprivation of all political and civil rights for five years.

### **New Regulations on Export of Antiques and Art Objects**

The Council of People's Commissars of the U. S. S. R. has ruled that visitors to the Soviet Union may take with them abroad, without special permission or license, antiques and works of art purchased in State and Cooperative stores. Such articles may be taken abroad upon presentation of the bills issued by the store which sold the article. The customs duty will be included in the price of the article and collected by the store.

Antique objects and works of art acquired from private persons and stores which do not enjoy the right of exporting articles abroad may be taken out of the country by special permission of the Commissariat of Education. In such cases the customs duty may be paid either at the border or in any branch of the State Bank.

The same rules will apply to the export of precious metals and stones, the value of which, however, will be included in the amount of foreign money which may be taken abroad by people leaving the U. S. S. R.

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## Miscellaneous News

### Resumption of Trans-Siberian Travel over Chinese-Eastern

Trans-Siberian travel over the Chinese-Eastern Railway, which was diverted to the Amur line at the time of the seizure of the Chinese-Eastern by the Chinese, was resumed on January 22nd. The former schedule will be continued, trains for Manchuria leaving Moscow on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, and for Vladivostok on Fridays. Trains from Manchuria arrive in Moscow Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays, and trains from Vladivostok on Thursdays.

The decision to resume operations was made by the Commissariat of Transport on receipt of a telegram from Mr. Rudyi, the new Russian manager of the Chinese Eastern Railway requesting that this be done.

### Soviet Inventions

During the past five years over 60,000 applications for inventions have been received by the Central Bureau of Workers' Inventions and various economic organizations, of which one-third were received in the past year alone. It is interesting to note that during the twenty years preceding the revolution there were altogether 80,000 applications received, making an average of 4,000 a year, as against 12,000 a year at the present time.

This growth in inventions is explained by the fact that the Soviet Union has drawn tens of thousands of workers into the field of inventing. Workers' invention clubs are widely developed in factories and shops all over the country. In many parts of the Soviet Union exhibitions of Soviet inventions are held regularly. There are frequent conferences of inventors. The press is of enormous help in furthering inventions, and many valuable proposals come to light through its support.

The facts for different sections and enterprises show that inventions developed within the factories by workers on the job mean an economy of many millions of rubles to industry annually. Transport has a particularly high record of inventions. In the past eight years over 10,000 inventions have been offered relating to transport, of which the major part have been accepted and are already in use. Important inventions and discoveries have been made in every branch of the productive and cultural life of the country, many of them having world-wide significance. In order to facilitate the interchange of inventions with other countries the stock company "Priz" was organized. This company arranges for the export of Soviet inventions and their patenting in other countries.

### Soviet Libraries

Along with the unbelievably rapid growth of the demand for books in the Soviet Union, the number of libraries in the country is also growing. This is particularly noticeable in the cultural and educational work of the trade unions. At the beginning of 1929 there were in the U. S. S. R. 10,000 permanent trade union libraries, with over 20,000,000 books, serving two and a half million readers. In addition to the stationary trade union libraries, there were over 22,000 traveling libraries, with about a million readers, and some 4,000 book distributing points with 150,000 subscribers. In the Trade Union libraries 36 per cent of all the books belong to the belles lettres genre, while the remainder are mostly scientific, social, and political.

If we consider the work of all the libraries in the Soviet Union the figure is of course considerably higher. It is enough to point out that in the R. S. F. S. R., alone, there are now over 13,000 stationary libraries, containing over 41,000,000 books. This tremendous network of libraries growing from year to year, is still far from meeting the need of the working population. Since the revolution, with the growth of the general literacy of the population and the awakening of the masses of the population to wider social interests, whole new sections of the population have been added to the reading public. There is great demand for agricultural books in the Soviet towns and villages, the agricultural laborers and poor peasants make up the bulk of the readers. The young peasants are avid for popular scientific literature.

The Soviet librarian of today is really a teacher, and is constantly called on to give consultation and advice, to hold classes, to get up wall newspapers about books, and to help the readers in the choice and criticism of books.

### Health Conditions in the R. S. F. S. R.

According to data published by the People's Commissariat for health of the R. S. F. S. R., improvement in health conditions has been particularly noticeable in the larger cities, especially Moscow and Leningrad. The infant mortality in Moscow was 26 per cent in 1913, and in 1928 it was 12.8 per cent. The general death rate in Moscow in 1913 was 23.1 per thousand, and in 1928 it was 13 per thousand. The improvement in Leningrad has been almost as great.

The number of epidemic diseases in the R. S. F. S. R., particularly typhus and smallpox, has been steadily declining in recent years. This applies also to tuberculosis and venereal diseases. The total number of contagious diseases in 1927 was 1,318,000 as compared with 2,658,000 in 1914.

The general death rate in the R. S. F. S. R. in 1926 amounted to 21.5 per thousand, compared with 27.9 in pre-revolutionary Russia. Infant mortality has been reduced to 170 per thousand as against 275 per thousand before the revolution.

This improvement in the general health of the population has been due not only to the steady increase in sanatoriums, hospitals, dispensaries and health resorts, and the extensive system of social insurance, but to prophylactic measures such as the widespread physical culture movement, and a growing system of sanitary education for the masses through posters, lectures, pamphlets, cinema and radio.

#### **Life Extension Institute in Moscow**

On the initiative of several Soviet professors a new Life Extension Institute is being organized in Moscow. The Institute will carry out detailed research along this line in laboratories and clinics, and advice on hygiene and diet will be given to the public on the basis of the results of these studies. The People's Commissariat of Health and several scientific institutions as well as organs of social insurance are participating in the organization of the Institute.

#### **Radio in the U. S. S. R.**

During the present year not only will the equipment and development of the 215 city re-broadcasting stations already under construction be continued, but 530 new stations will be added, 300 of them in the villages. In connection with this chain of re-broadcasting stations, 340,000 receiving sets will be installed.

Along with the development of the radio system, the Soviet radio industry is increasing its work. It is manufacturing new high power amplifiers of 10, 30, and 75 watts to equip the larger city and factory stations.

To form an idea of the extent of radio development in the U. S. S. R. projected for the present year, it is enough to state that over 1,300 tons of wire are required, one million insulators, several thousand kilometers of insulated wire, 225,000 amplifying tubes, and so on. The expenditures for the equipment required will amount to 11,500,000,000 rubles.

During the present year the chain of radio stations will be increased by stations in Leningrad, Irkutsk, Tashkent, Kiev, Odessa and Erivan.

At the present time there are 61 central broadcasting stations in the U. S. S. R. There are 59 radio-telegraph stations with 84 transmitters, over 200 receiving stations, 580 private short wave transmitters, and over 200 public ones. The unimaginably swift development of radio in the Soviet Union will soon bring the U. S. S. R. abreast of the foremost countries in the world in this respect.

#### **Inter-Planetary Communication**

A section of Inter-planetary Communication has been organized at Leningrad University. On its staff are astronomers, mechanics, physicists, geo-physicists, chemists, and so on. Teachers and scientific workers and students from the various departments interested may be members of this section. There will be lectures, seminars, research work, and a special library on inter-planetary communication will be established.

#### **Exchange of Books with Foreign Countries**

During 1928-29, the Central Book Chamber of the R. S. F. S. R., exchanged 78,399 books with other countries, as against 70,676 books exchanged the year before.

Soviet books were sent to 120 of the foremost foreign libraries. First place in the exchange of books with the U. S. S. R., was held by the United States and Germany, the German *Notgemeinschaft* taking 33,750 books, and the Congressional Library in Washington, 20,906 books.

#### **New Cultural Institutions in the U. S. S. R.**

An "Institute of Public Hygiene" has commenced work in Moscow. The aim of the institute is to increase the working population's knowledge of sanitation and hygiene. Its program includes a study of the level of understanding of problems of hygiene among different groups of the population, working out methods for education and training in hygiene, training of the necessary workers in this field, research work, and so on. In connection with the institute, a theater and a poster workshop have been organized.

#### **"Palace of the Sun"**

The construction of a scientific "Palace of the Sun" has been completed in Slutsk (formerly Pavlovsk), equipped according to the plans of the famous physicist Prof. Kalatin. The purpose of the "Palace of the Sun" is to make a careful study of solar energy, a problem of immense importance to agriculture, biology, medicine, and technology.

#### **Lumber Resources of the North**

One-third of all forests of the world are in the Soviet Union. The center of the lumber industry of the U. S. S. R. is the Far North, where 77 per cent of the entire area of 1,093,000 square kilometers is woodland. The saw mills of this region produce 40 per cent of the lumber exported from the Soviet Union.

In the five-year plan a billion rubles is assigned for the economic development of the Northern Region, of which 430,000,000 rubles will be invested in the lumber industry alone. A series of new saw mills and cellulose "combinats" will be constructed, and the old plants will be rebuilt according to new technical methods. The whole Northern region will be converted into a vast

lumber combine. At the present time serious attention is being directed to the lumber campaign, which will employ 300,000 lumberjacks, drivers and other workers. The Communist Youth League and other organizations are organizing "shock troops" to send to the North woods to help put the campaign through.

### The Spring Sowing Campaign

Energetic preparations for the spring sowing campaign are going on throughout the Soviet Union. In accordance with the Government's plan the sowing area in the spring of 1930, must be enlarged by 11 per cent, or over 90 million hectares.

The collectives already include over 10 per cent of all the peasant households, or about 13 million people.

In the spring sowing campaign the collective households have a sowing area of over 30 million hectares, while according to the five-year plan the sowing area was expected to reach only 24 million hectares by 1932-33.

The chief grain regions of the U. S. S. R.—Northern Caucasus, Middle Volga, Lower Volga—will be completely collectivized by 1930. The collectivization of other regions will be completed by the autumn of 1931.

The area of spring crops in the big grain farms will cover not less than 3 million hectares as against 2.6 million hectares which were allotted in the plan.

The Government has assigned 814 million rubles for financing the spring sowing campaign including 500 million rubles for the collective section. Individual households and collective households will be helped to the extent of over 140 million rubles.

In order to secure an opportunity for the new collective households to continue the sowing campaign without interruption, the organization of their fields will be carried on throughout the winter. For this purpose all forces and means will be devoted to regions with collective households. Twenty-five thousand workers will be sent from main industrial centers to help collective groups which are in need of qualified workers and organizers.

In addition to 38,000 tractors which are now already in villages, 25,000 new tractors will be sent during the spring sowing campaign to help peasants who also will receive agricultural machinery amounting to 200 million rubles.

### Chicherin Returns to Moscow

George Chicherin, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union, has recently returned to Moscow after an extended course of treatment at Wiesbaden.

### Exploitation of Kamchatka and Sakhalin Resources

Kamchatka's principal industry is fishing. The Kamchatka Stock Co. has developed six new fisheries during the past year. Last year nine and a half million rubles were invested in the canning industry of Kamchatka compared with four and a half million rubles the year before. The year's production of the canning industry was 300,000 cases valued at eight million rubles. The Kamchatka Stock Co. is now exploiting nine fishing regions as against four last year.

The Kamchatka Stock Co. also engages in whaling and deer breeding and is building factories for the production of canned meat, chamois, etc. The Company is also mining coal in Korf Bay and on Anadyr. During the past year the Kamchatka timber output was doubled.

Kamchatka's exports for 1928-29 amounted to 9,700,000 rubles as against 2,500,000 rubles the year before.

Kamchatka's rapid economic development has resulted in a growth of maritime shipping which the Petropavlovsk Port is no longer able to handle. A new port is now being built in Ust-Kamchatsk.

A considerable increase has been made in this year's appropriations for Kamchatka's industries, and special funds are being used also for the promotion of agriculture on the Peninsula.

Like Kamchatka, Sakhalin engages chiefly in fishing. This year Soviet Sakhalin is expected to produce nine million rubles worth of fish products. The island also presents extensive opportunities for the exploitation of lumber and coal. The production of lumber is expected to reach three million cubic meters, while the coal output should reach 1,200,000 tons.

In view of the increase of cargoes the construction of the port in Alexandrovsk on Sakhalin is being rushed and will be completed in 1930-31.

This year's investment of capital in the industries controlled by the Sakhalin Stock Co. is estimated at 18,100,000 rubles.

The Government has decided, in addition to extending increased industrial and agricultural credits to Kamchatka and Sakhalin to assist in the colonization of these provinces and the organization of a system of medical and cultural institutions.

It has also been decided to build a railway to connect Alexandrovsk with Okha.

### Changes in Soviet Diplomatic Service

Mr. V. A. Antonov-Ovseyenko has been relieved of the post of diplomatic representative of the U. S. S. R. in Lithuania, and appointed diplomatic representative to Poland.

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**Housing Program**  
**Recent Soviet Developments**  
**Soviet Municipal Finance**  
**The Moscow Service Bureau**  
**Among the Minor Nationalities**  
**The Berlin Counterfeit Case**

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## Recent Developments in the Soviet Union

THE Soviet press for the past month reflects an intense preoccupation throughout the whole country with the problem of meeting the demands of the five-year program for increased industrial production, of transforming the old agricultural system to the new collective basis, and a complete reconstruction of old ways of life along socialist lines.

### Industrial Progress

Reports of industrial results for the first quarter of the present fiscal year show increased production and lowered costs in almost every branch. Industrial production has been increased 27 per cent in this period, and costs have been lowered 4.6 per cent. However, far more concern is expressed over the fact that these results are a few per cent under the requirements of the plan than satisfaction over the progress that has been made, and the papers are full of the usual "self-criticism," mercilessly exposing all defects and failures and urging increased efforts. Special attention is being paid to the speeding up of coal and steel production. The timber and cotton programs are behind schedule because of an actual labor shortage. The unemployment situation of a short time ago is rapidly reversing itself, and it has already become a problem to find sufficient labor power to man all the new industrial undertakings. Transport is perhaps the most serious problem at the present time. Reconstruction and expansion of the old inadequate system have not been able to keep up with industrial production and the growing demands of the population for goods

and products. A Soviet railroad commission, headed by D. E. Sulimov, Assistant Commissar for Transportation, is now in the United States making an intensive study of American railway organization and mechanical equipment.

### Agricultural Collectives

The sweep of the peasants into the collective movement continues far in excess of all expectations. According to the latest reports over half of all the peasant households in the Soviet Union are organized into collectives. Recent heavy snows, falling on individual and collective fields alike, and protecting the fall sown grain, have reassured thousands of doubting peasants who had been warned, at the instigation of the village kulaks, that God would punish those who joined collectives by ruining their crops. The mild winter leaving only a light covering of snow had given credence to their words. But since the snowfall many who had held back are flocking under the collective banner and have applied to have their individual fields thrown together, to be plowed by tractors this spring as one great field.

The Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R. has passed a new decree relating to the tasks of the local Soviets in connection with the extensive collectivization movement in agriculture. The issuance of the decree was the result of the decision of a conference of representatives of the different Republics of the Union and of town and village Soviets.

According to the decree the village Soviets will take the leadership in the movement to organize

collective farms and to promote the progress of socialization. The village Soviet is vested with the power of distributing the land and insuring its rational exploitation in collective farms. The village Soviet is also to focus its attention on the preparation of the production programs of the collective farms and to see that the collectives fulfill their obligations to the state.

The poor and middle farmers are to be encouraged to join collective farms, but the attempts of the kulaks to get into collectives and to interfere with their work are to be opposed.

Each village Soviet is to have its own budget, and to have charge of all cultural, educational and social institutions, local improvements, and so on. Those Soviets which fail to adapt themselves to the new tasks arising out of the collective movement are to be dissolved, and new elections are to be held.

Grain collections for 1929 increased by 56 per cent over the preceding year, and the program for the current year was not only completed but exceeded on February 1st, whereas in previous years the collection of grain has dragged on until the summer.

### Socialist Reconstruction

The emphasis is not on economic development alone, however. No less attention is being paid to the socialist reconstruction of daily life, the satisfaction of cultural and recreational needs. A special commission on the improvement of labor and living conditions has been organized under the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R., which is concerned with problems of socializing household functions, the organization of factory kitchens and cooperative dining rooms, large central laundries and the establishment of more day nurseries and kindergartens.

Numerous new communities and cities are springing up around the new industrial enterprises and giant power plants. With large numbers of workers flooding into these districts and having to be housed quickly, some of these have developed in a rather hasty and planless manner. A recent government decree has provided for special organizations to take charge of the planning and development of these cities along definite socialist lines. Such socialist cities are being developed in Stalingrad, Magnitogorsk, Nijni-Novgorod, in connection with the Dnieprostroy project in the Ukraine, in the Kuznetsky Basin and in the Don Basin.

One of the most extensive of these projects is already under way at Stalingrad. Stalingrad, with its huge tractor factory, its lumber, chemical, and other industries, all built around a single power base, its railroad and river routes to all parts of the country, is becoming one of the most important industrial centers of the Soviet Union. Five new cities are being developed here. Their

construction is being concentrated in the hands of a single organization "Stalingradstroy" which is directing the building of these cities as one gigantic enterprise, combining factories and shops, housing projects, schools, social and cultural institutions, public utilities—all the institutions required to serve all the needs of the population. These cities are planned with the idea of eventually eliminating entirely individual kitchens and laundries, and providing that all kinds of household service be handled collectively.

The Mothers' and Babies' Department of the Commissariat of Health was asked to work out a plan for the construction of these cities which would provide the best possible conditions for mothers and young children. Their proposal, which has already been adopted in some cases, was that the basic unit be a block of several five or six-story houses containing all facilities for collectivized household processes, and a special section for children from one to four, where the children would not only be cared for by trained people during the day, but would sleep at night, remaining, however, in close contact with their parents by being in the same building.

No plan has been adopted as final. There are numerous discussions regarding the application of socialist theory to life, and much of the new socialist construction is necessarily experimental. The features that are common to all of these new communities, however, are the large areas set aside for gardens and recreation grounds, the central dining rooms and laundries, nurseries, libraries, club rooms, and theaters. The tendency is to limit the new cities to from 100,000 to 120,000 inhabitants, to separate the residential from the factory districts by parks and boulevards, and to combine as many of the attributes of city and country life as possible. An agricultural socialist city is to be built in Khopersk, the first county to be completely collectivized. The five-year plan provides for the construction of two hundred new socialist cities by 1933. Meantime many projects are under way to adopt the old cities to the socialization program.

A typical example of these projects is a Communal Home for workers adapted in every way to a socialized plan of life which has just been completed. It is a four-story apartment house in the "Zamoskvarechye" workers' district of Moscow, with a hundred and twenty apartments.

This apartment house will be occupied by workers from nearby factories who participated in making the plans according to which it was built, and which provides for the maximum possible "collectivization" of household processes ordinarily carried on in each individual apartment.

Just beyond the main vestibule is a large dining hall which can accommodate 1,500 people. The large modern kitchen is equipped not only to

serve meals in the dining hall, but to provide meals to be sent to the apartments of those who for reasons of health or inclination prefer to eat in privacy.

The floor above is given over to a large auditorium, smaller clubrooms, and an attractively decorated rest room. On the other floors, in addition to the living apartments, there is a "Mothers' and Infants Room," a "Pioneer Room," and a

large gymnasium, with a sun parlor adjoining, fitted with small booths for individual sun baths, and showers. The roof has been equipped for summer moving pictures.

Wings have been built to the first floor, to be devoted especially to the children. Here are day nurseries to accommodate fifty or sixty children, a kindergarten, play rooms, dormitories and baths.

## Municipal Finance in the U. S. S. R.

UNDER the Soviet Government the powers and the functions of municipal government have been greatly increased as compared with Tsarist days. Special attention has been paid in the past ten years to establishing a firm financial basis for city administration and development. Regular sources of revenue have been turned over to the city Soviets to manage, and individual city budgets have been drawn up.

All municipal enterprises and property are under the control of the City Soviets. The revenues from all public utilities, buildings, commercial enterprises, markets and large land enterprises, are turned into the city budget, as well as local municipal taxes, a portion of the state taxes and duties collected in the cities and certain deductions from state trading taxes.

The city Soviets have made large capital investments in building and public utilities and have wide powers in making loans and in distributing revenue. At present the basic capital of the municipal housing fund totals almost two billion rubles (or about \$1,000,000,000), while that of the public utilities is over a billion rubles.

The growth in expenditures for public utilities has increased very rapidly, the amount having doubled in the period from 1924-25 to 1926-27. In the Soviet Union this growth is reflected in expansion of the city budgets, just as in the United States it would be reflected in an expansion in the public utility corporations. The city budgets increased by 37.5 per cent in 1925-26, and by 30 per cent in 1926-27. By 1927-28 the municipal budgets reached the pre-war level, and progress since then has taken them considerably beyond it. Last year the city budgets amounted to more than a billion rubles, or more than 44 per cent of all local budgets. This is particularly striking in view of the fact that the process of reconstruction has been carried on almost entirely on the basis of the internal resources of the country, whereas the public utilities in pre-war days were largely in foreign hands.

Over 30 per cent of the city income is obtained from revenue from municipal enterprises, 26 per

cent is derived from municipal property, and 25 per cent from government taxes and individual local taxes and collections.

Many changes have taken place in the composition of city income under the Soviet Government. The role of loans has greatly decreased as compared with pre-revolutionary times. The large increase in the income from municipal enterprises is the result of the municipalization of the housing fund, chiefly of buildings used for commercial purposes, which furnish a large source of income for the local municipal administration.

All revenue from municipal enterprises and public utilities is re-invested in these departments and for municipal improvements. But this is not sufficient, and large sums from the general city budget are spent annually for this purpose as well. Now that new construction has replaced the widespread destruction of municipal enterprises during the years of war and civil struggle, there is every prospect that these enterprises will be self-supporting in the future.

A Central Bank of Municipal Economy and Housing was organized in 1924 with the aim of furnishing credits to municipal enterprises, and branches have been established in a number of cities. These banks furnish credits to local industries and trade as well as public utilities and housing. Long term credit operations have been noticeably extended in the past few years, and the capitalization has increased.

The present program for industrialization has brought up new problems for extending municipal construction, and in this connection the question of interesting foreign capital arises. A general plan has been drawn up for concessions in municipal transport, city electric stations, water supply and sewerage systems, gas works, slaughter-houses and auxiliary enterprises.

In spite of the fact that the number of street car lines has considerably increased as compared with pre-war, the condition of municipal transport is very acute as a result of the extraordinary growth of the urban population. Plans are under way for the construction of a subway in Moscow,

two interurban railway lines, and sixteen new street car lines. The amount of capital investment required for these projects is about 120,000,000 rubles.

Sewage disposal was one of the least organized and backward branches of city administration prior to the revolution. Only nineteen cities in the Russian Empire had regular sewerage systems. The situation has greatly improved, but there is still much to be done in this field. Present plans call for the construction of twenty-one new systems.

Altogether the plans for the development of municipal enterprises with concession capital would require an investment of about 400,000,000 rubles in the immediate future.

The whole problem of municipal construction is undergoing important changes in connection with the five-year plan. Certain cities of purely administrative importance, with no industrial or commercial significance are dying out. Industrial sections where public utilities have been in the most elementary state up to the present time are rapidly growing up, and a number of entirely new cities are being built in localities where the new industrial enterprises are centered.

## Housing Program

THE chief place in the new housing program is held by large scale building carried out through the city soviets, government organizations, or housing cooperatives. This type of building requires enormous capitalization, and although the amount expended by the government for this purpose increases year by year, it will be some time before it is possible to fully meet the housing needs of the workers.

In view of this the attention of the Soviet Government has been directed to certain forms of subsidiary building which, although on a small scale, may still be of assistance in increasing housing facilities. Foremost among this type of housing is building done by workers and employees for their own individual needs. Certain special legislation has been passed for the regulation of this type of building. In 1927 a decree was issued providing for individual building by workers of houses for themselves, not to be used for profit through sale or renting. (Decree of the R. S. F. S. R. on "Regulation of Individual Workers' Housing," Collected Laws, 1927, No. 99, article 663.)

The decree provided certain exemptions and privileges in connection with building of this kind. Thus, in view of the shortage of building materials on the open market, individual workers wishing to build may procure materials through the Central or Local Housing Cooperative Associa-

tions. In connection with the decree special instructions were issued regarding the setting aside of a certain fund of land in each locality, to be used for this purpose, this land to be set aside in accordance with the plan of the given city or town with due consideration for the development and well-being of the latter. The decree provides that such building shall not be permitted as a general rule on the territory of industrial enterprises or on land reserved for transport.

Since individual housing cannot, through lack of means, be held to the high technical and sanitary standards required for larger housing projects, Gosplan has worked out, on the basis of the above-mentioned decree, certain minimum norms which must be fulfilled by the individual builders in order to obtain the necessary credits through the municipal banks or the workers' housing fund.

In order to stimulate individual building special arrangements have been made to set aside a fund for this purpose in the Municipal Banks, and through the Housing Cooperatives. Credits for individual building are extended, however, only in those regions where State and Cooperative housing projects are unable to meet the housing needs of the working population. Loans are given for a period not exceeding ten years. In order to procure a loan anyone wishing to build must sign a separate contract, covering the following points: 1. the prospective builder must invest a sum amounting to at least 30 per cent of the total cost of the building; 2. the minimum sanitary and technical norms established by Gosplan must be observed; 3. the building must be kept in good repair by the owner until the loan has been paid in full; 4. the building must be insured.

The contracts for the use of land for building are made out for definite terms of years, due on the one hand to the fact that the type of individual houses built now will probably not fit into the types of social organization which are developing, and might hinder large-scale building operations, and on the other to the fact that land set aside for individual housing now may be destined for some other use later in the city and town plans. Contracts for stone and concrete houses, therefore, are limited to a maximum of 65 years, for buildings of part stone and part wood, to 60 years, and wooden buildings to 50. These periods apply to new buildings only. In the case of rebuilding, repairing or building additions to already existing buildings, the contract is limited to two-thirds of the above mentioned periods.

In addition to building by individual workers, groups of four or five workers' families not belonging to any workers' housing cooperative, are encouraged, for the sake of economy, and the more rational use of the land set aside for this purpose, to cooperate in building. Such groups, wishing either to build a group of houses, or to build a single house for the use of several families, are given preference in choice of land and materials.

## The Moscow Service Bureau

TO be all things to all people is the task the "Moscow Service Bureau" has undertaken to perform.

If you are preparing a lecture, or writing a book or are just curious, and want a certain piece of information, you simply call the bureau, and in nine cases out of ten you will get an answer within two or three minutes without leaving the phone.

The bureau answers over 2,000 questions every day. Questions like this:

"How many hectares of cotton were grown in Turkestan in 1928?"

"In what year did Beethoven write the Eroica Symphony?"

"What to do with a dead dog?"

"When will Professor Abramov return from the Crimea?"

Let us suppose your organization needs a small quantity of some rare metal. It cannot be found in the regular stores. The Metal Syndicate answers your despairing letter after a month and says they have none. But call up the Service Bureau and within a few minutes they will tell you just where to get it and at what price.

Perhaps you are an illiterate peasant in from the provinces, and know nothing about Moscow. The Service Bureau will tell you where to find the nearest Peasants' House, where to find restaurants, museums, places of amusement, how to procure low rate tickets and so on, and will help you choose the train for your departure.

Perhaps you are a member of the Communist Youth Organization, with a paper to prepare on the party situation to read before your "yacheika" (Communist cell). You need to know the exact position taken by the Right and Left groups within the party, and the opinion of party leaders on these tendencies. The Service Bureau will refer you to the proper numbers of the Pravda or other publications containing just the information you need.

Or perhaps you are a busy Muscovite belonging to many different committees, with work that takes you about town from one place to another all day. If you cannot afford a secretary, all you have to do is to give the Service Bureau a memorandum like this:

"Wake me at 8. At 10 call my office and remind me that I have a report to make at 10:30. At 12 o'clock call such and such a place and say that I cannot be there today. At 2 o'clock remind me that I must give an answer to the Trade Bureau today. At 4 o'clock remind me that I have to go to a meeting. At 6 o'clock Petrov will call the bureau for a message for me. Tell him . . ." and so on.

Any Muscovite with a telephone may become a subscriber to the Service Bureau for ten rubles a

year, which entitles him to ask an unlimited number of questions. Practically all the institutions in Moscow are subscribers of the Bureau, and find it indispensable. A skeptical German scientist visiting Moscow heard about the Bureau and decided to test it by asking ten of the most difficult question he could think of, and was amazed to receive accurate answers to all of them. When he returned to Germany he wrote an article for the Oberschlesische Zeitung declaring that the work of the Bureau in its extent and cultural significance was unique in the whole world.

The Service Bureau occupies rather modest quarters. It is located in one large room divided into a series of booths occupied by young women surrounded by card catalogues and encyclopedias and reference books. The card catalogues give the key to where information may be found on any subject. Each girl at the telephone has an assistant to send on errands for information which is not right under her hand. So well has the system been worked out that most of the questions that come in can be answered by the girl at the telephone. When the questions are of a more technical or complicated nature they are referred to a specialist. There are specialists on industry, agriculture, law, science and so on, right in the bureau. In addition, arrangements have been made with certain specialists in different fields outside, to whom some of the more difficult questions are referred. Day by day events are followed carefully, newspapers are clipped, and all the latest information in every line is constantly added to the files.

Out of the Moscow Service Bureau a Central Information Bureau for the whole country has been developed, which receives hundreds of questions from the provinces by letter, post card or telegram every day. The Central Information Bureau issues a special post card, which may be purchased for fifteen kopeks at any postal station in the Soviet Union. A question sent on such a card must be answered within three days of its receipt in Moscow. Thus Anna Kuzmincheva from Vitebsk Gubernia writes in to ask why her former husband, Peter Kuzminchev from Kazinovsky volost isn't paying his "aliment." A peasant poet from a State farm in the Don Basin writes in to know why the Publishing House "Federation" has sent him no word about the book of poems he submitted. A Chukchi from the Far North may get information about some business with a Moscow institution. A Muscovite may find out what kind of weather they are having in Yakutia. Peasants from all over the Soviet Union may find out where to get certain kinds of seed, when such and such a grain should be planted, how to get credits for agricultural ma-

chinery. There are agents of the Central Bureau in most of the large cities of the U. S. S. R., and in addition to answering questions they will perform such services as meeting a child going away somewhere to school, purchasing the proper tickets, and putting the child on another train to another city, where another of the Bureau's agents will be on hand.

## Factory Kitchen No. 1

**I**N the Krasnopresensky Workers' District in Moscow stands a large many windowed concrete building. Across the front of the building is the legend "Moscow Factory Kitchen, No. 1."

Great trucks draw up and dump their loads of vegetables, meats and other products into the hatchways. Then they rumble off with loads of huge thermoses filled with prepared food for the chain of factory dining rooms served by the central kitchen.

Within the factory itself are large, light-flooded dining rooms serving six thousand workers from the surrounding factories every day, with lunches costing 30, 45 or 60 kopeks (from 15 to 30 cents). Above the dining rooms are rest rooms where the workers can spend their noon hour playing chess, reading, listening to music or strolling on the wide verandas.

Everything in the factory kitchen is mechanized. The dishes are concentrated at several points, placed on belts which roll them into a huge washing machine, which turns them out clean and dry on to another belt, which rolls them back again to the point where they are needed, "in their shining porcelain purity" as one ecstatic Soviet writer puts it.

On the first floor food is prepared for cooking. Delicate machinery removes the cores from the apples, hulls the berries—deftly and with incredible rapidity doing things that have hardened the hands and dulled the minds of housewives for countless years. Larger machines cut vegetables and meat and thousands upon thousands of slices of bread. There is a laboratory for analyzing the meat and other food, for the greatest care is given to the quality of the food served.

On the next floor the food is prepared for cooking, in some cases put through the first processes. From this floor "semi-manufactured" meals are sent out to distributing points whence thousands of homes are provided with vegetables and meat all ready to serve except for a final simmering on top of the stove, baking in the oven, or "flavoring to taste."

On the third floor the final process takes place. Here the food is cooked in twenty-two vast white enamel kettles with shining nickel tops, heated from a central steam plant.

The building contains ample wash rooms and shower baths for those who work there.

This factory kitchen, which is one of ten of its kind existing in different parts of Russia, took a year and a half to build, and cost two million rubles. It started operations on November 7th, the twelfth anniversary of the revolution. In December it was serving altogether 45,000 lunches a day, over 6,000 of these in its own dining rooms. In addition it serves twenty-six dining rooms with 24,000 fully prepared lunches, and thousands of semi-prepared lunches are sent out to fifteen distributing points, and eleven dining rooms.

According to the "Narpit" (People's Feeding Association), the five-year plan calls for the building of a hundred such factory kitchens, for which tens of thousands of thermoses have already been ordered.

This is only one of the methods used in solving the problem of freeing women from the drudgery of kitchen work, and making mass production of food attractive. Efforts are being made to increase the efficiency and cleanliness of the many smaller cooperative dining rooms already in existence. The "Narpit" is especially concerned with the problem of furnishing food that is not only healthy, and varied in accordance with the occupations of different workers, but also in making it as tasty as possible, and in making the environment attractive. All the new apartment houses that are going up, all the new Soviet cities that are developing around the new industrial projects, are giving special attention to the problem of communal kitchens and dining rooms.

The problem is also one of concern to the State farms and collectives which must feed large staffs of agricultural workers distributed over large areas.

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## The Berlin Counterfeit Case

THE trial of the two Georgians, Karumidze and Sadatirashvili, and their five German accomplices in the counterfeiting of Soviet money, came to an end on February 8th. Three of the Germans accused were formally acquitted. The others, including the two Georgians, who were the ringleaders, were given political amnesty on the ground that they had manufactured the counterfeit money not from motives of gain, but were actuated by aspirations "for the liberation of Georgia and the resumption of its economic relations with Germany."

The history of this counterfeit case dates back to the autumn of 1927, when a band of manufacturers of counterfeit chervontsi (Soviet ten-ruble notes) was discovered in Germany. Among those directly concerned were Georgian émigrés living in Germany, and a number of Germans. The notes were traced by the police to Munich and Frankfurt. In both cities secret establishments for printing notes were discovered and counterfeit notes representing a large sum were seized. Sadatirashvili, the leader, was arrested, but liberated shortly afterward, and subsequently went to Munich, where he undoubtedly attempted to destroy the main evidence. He was again arrested, again set free, and later arrested again.

After this introductory episode, an investigation began which proceeded very slowly. For a long time nothing was heard of the matter until finally at the beginning of 1929 a new sensation directed general attention to the counterfeit chervontsi case. The German press reported that very important material had been photographed, of which there were facsimiles in England. The public prosecutor began a new investigation, and again nothing more was heard regarding the case until finally on January 6, 1930, when seven counterfeiters were brought to trial.

In the course of the trial, held by the Moabit Criminal Court, which lasted for more than a month, Karumidze pleaded that the counterfeit money had been manufactured with the lofty purpose of freeing Georgia, and compared himself to Napoleon I, who, he said, also used counterfeit money for political ends. He declared in his testimony that "Germany continued to recognize an independent Georgia in spite of Soviet occupation." This was vehemently denied by the German Foreign Office, which immediately issued a statement that Germany recognized only the Soviet Union.

In describing the program for the "liberation" of Georgia, Karumidze declared that the plan was to manufacture a huge amount of counterfeit chervontsi, send them into the U. S. S. R. and pre-

pare a revolution in Georgia. The preparations were to take a year and a half and then it was planned to spread revolt throughout the whole Caucasus. Karumidze stated that twelve originals, with water marks, had been sent him from the Soviet Union. Fully understanding the desire of the court to minimize the importance of the trial, Karumidze constantly emphasized the fact that it was proposed to create only the technical apparatus of the work in Germany, and that the actual manufacture of chervontsi on a large scale would take place elsewhere. When questioned about the counterfeited notes circulated in Germany he said that a few notes had been issued as "testers," although as a matter of fact many thousands had been circulated. He finally acknowledged that he had ordered a hundred thousand water marked sheets of paper from the Bavarian factory where the money was printed, but explained that shares of a non-existent Turkish Persian bank were to be printed thereon.

Sadatirashvili also pleaded political motives in the manufacture of the false chervontsi. He said that the aim of the group was to arouse distrust of Soviet currency among peasants in the U. S. S. R., and also among Turkish and Persian merchants trading with the Soviet Union.

In the course of his testimony, Sadatirashvili attempted to divert attention from the real issue by stating that the Soviet Government had forged American hundred dollar notes in large quantities as well as the currency of other countries. Karumidze supported these charges, but neither of the accused were able to produce the slightest evidence in support of this tale.

Three of the Germans involved in the actual manufacture of the money declared that they simply received orders and were not aware that they were doing anything illegal. The others pleaded political solidarity with the Georgians' aspiration for freedom, and declared that this movement was also in the interests of the internal political situation in Germany.

In handing down its decision, the court acknowledged that the accused were engaged in the manufacture of counterfeit money, since chervontsi are considered foreign currency in the eyes of the German law. The court stated, however, that it was actuated by the consideration that all the accused had acted solely from political motives, without any desire for personal profit. The political character of the actions of the accused were recognized not only in relation to the Caucasus, but in relation to Germany itself. On this basis the court decided that the amnesty law of 1928 could be applied to the Georgians even though they were foreigners.

In explaining its verdict the court emphasized that Karumidze "risked his life for Germany even during the World War," and that in their actions both Georgians were guided by political aspirations "for the liberation of their country and the resumption of economic relations with Germany." The court further stated that it acted on the presumption that the collaboration of the German and Georgian accused was explained by their common purpose "to help Germany in accordance with the needs of the political situation in the fields both of foreign and internal policy."

In commenting on the verdict in an editorial on February 9th, the Moscow "Izvestia" said, in part, as follows:

"... It has been established in a German court that a gang of counterfeiters were engaged in the manufacture in Germany of foreign currency, the currency of a country connected with Germany by a series of political and economic agreements. It would seem that the confirmation of this fact would of itself have been sufficient ground for conviction. Any government would have been within its rights in insisting on that. The French Government on a former occasion so insisted, and procured a conviction when a gang of French counterfeiters were discovered on Hungarian territory....

"The Berlin court waved aside the criminal character of the act which was clearly brought out at the trial, and recognized only its political character. At the present moment we have no intention of quarrelling with the court... but even if it is conceded for one moment that the 'hero' of the trial was swayed by high political passions, where is it written that such a crime (and counterfeiting under any conditions remains a crime) should not be put a stop to on German territory?

"What would be the effect on German public opinion if counterfeiting of German currency should be discovered on the territory of the U. S. S. R., and the Soviet court should exonerate the accused, finding that they acted from 'political' motives?

"The court stated that in their actions 'Karumidze and Sadatirashvili were motivated by political aspirations for the liberation of their country and the reestablishment of economic relations with Germany.' Thus, in the opinion of the Berlin court, aspirations and definite acts directed toward the violent separation from the Soviet Union of one or other of its parts is in accord with the treaty relations of Germany and the obligations thereby undertaken.... One would suppose that the Soviet Union had no economic relations with Germany, and that the efforts of both sides were not directed toward the strengthening and developing of those relations.

"Should we then conclude that an attempt to

tear away, let us say Eastern Prussia, or any of its other constituent parts from Germany, even though our aim were to 'reestablish economic relations,' would not be considered by the German public as a violation on our part of the obligations of the Rapallo Treaty?...

"The defense asserted that the accused were actuated by purely political motives. The court confirmed this. The defense proclaimed the principle that any crime against the Soviet Union was in accord with the internal political interests of Germany. Finally, the counsel for the defense declared that the Soviet Union should be deprived of the opportunity of finding defense in a bourgeois court. The Berlin court wholly accepted this principle, demonstrating that *a crime ceases to be a crime when it is directed against the Soviet Union*....

"We are within our rights in placing our question before the entire public of Germany, and getting its answer as a whole. Do they think—do the responsible leaders of German policy believe that this verdict, recognizing that 'anything is permissible' on German territory with relation to the U. S. S. R., can remain without influence on the political and economic relations of the Soviet Union and Germany? Do they think that the Rapallo Treaty places obligations only on the U. S. S. R., and leaves Germany, the German public and the German courts entirely free from such obligations? And if they do not believe it, how will they demonstrate this? Deeds are necessary, and not words alone...."

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# Among the Minor Nationalities

## Cultural Progress in White Russia

During the past ten years Soviet White Russia has undergone a complete cultural transformation. As was the case with other national minority groups, the Tsarist government carried out a policy of complete Russification in White Russia. Before the revolution only the Russian language was used in the White Russian schools. Any attempts to open schools or courses where White Russian, Jewish or Polish was spoken were severely suppressed. The lower schools accommodated only 43 per cent of the children of school age. Racial disputes between the children, which were encouraged by the government's policy, led at times to serious conflicts.

At the present time the state schools in White Russia accommodate 74 per cent of the children between the ages of eight and eleven. There are schools for all the races represented in the White Russian Republic, where the children may study in their native language. In 1928 the primary schools in White Russia were divided as follows: 4,725 White Russian, 148 Jewish, 133 Polish, 118 Russian, 39 Latvian, Lithuanian and other minor groups. In 1929 over 400 new primary schools were added. Teaching in the native tongue is carried on not only in the primary schools, but in the high schools and colleges.

In the past few years there has been great development in professional and technical training, which was almost completely lacking in pre-revolutionary days. There are now thirty technical schools, thirteen factory schools, and eight practical trade schools. Before the revolution White Russia had no university of its own. In the past ten years the White Russian State University has been established, as well as the White Russian Agricultural Academy, a Veterinary Institute, and a Communist University.

Scientific research activities have also been developed extensively in White Russia in recent years. Scientific institutions are studying every aspect of the country. Geological, geo-botanical and soil investigations are being carried on. Research work is being done with regard to local industry, agriculture, history, social customs, and language. The achievements of White Russian science are becoming known to the whole scientific world. The opening of the White Russian Academy of Science on January 1, 1929, was made the occasion of a national holiday.

The workers' and peasants' regional scientific organizations have developed their activities extensively under the direction of the Academy. The number of museums, laboratories and libraries in White Russia is constantly increasing.

White Russian literature is also developing.

Along with the older White Russian writers—Kupala, Kolos, Viadula and others—a large group of young proletarian writers is growing up. The White Russian Association of Proletarian Writers and other literary organizations are publishing a large number of literary, critical, scientific and educational journals in the White Russian language. The scientific institutions are issuing many volumes of scientific literature annually.

A great awakening is to be noted among the peasants of White Russia who were kept in complete ignorance in the old days. Numerous centers for the "liquidation of illiteracy" are functioning in all parts of the White Russian Republic. There is an average of one People's House and three village reading rooms to every township. In 1928 there were 540 village reading rooms in White Russia, and 1,520 "Red Corners." The radio, the cinema and the daily paper, hitherto unknown in the villages, are now to be found everywhere.

## Ninth Anniversary of Soviet Armenia

Nine years have passed since the establishment of the Soviet Government in Armenia. During those years not only has the shattered economic structure been entirely restored but both agriculture and industry have been developed far beyond their pre-war status. In addition, Armenia has its own five-year plan, and as elsewhere in the Soviet Union, more has been achieved in the first year of the period than the plan provided.

The Tsarist government artificially restricted the development of all national areas, making them simply colonies of the Great Russian Empire. No local industries of any importance were developed to make use of the rich raw materials, which went to swell the coffers of the imperial government, leaving the richest areas of Armenia stagnant, their potential resources almost untouched. What industry there was in pre-war times was confined to copper, cotton-ginning and the manufacture of spirits, the entire production amounting to less than eleven million rubles. The copper and part of the cotton-ginning industry were controlled by French capital.

During the Dashnak (Social Revolutionary) government what industry there was was almost completely destroyed, and fell to less than 10 per cent of pre-war production.

When the Soviet government came into control, it immediately set about restoring industry and agriculture. By 1923-24 industrial production had reached 24.1 per cent of pre-war, and by 1926-27, 78.6 per cent. During the past year the pre-war figures have been exceeded.

Along with the restoration and reconstruction of former industries a series of new industries

have been started such as pumice-stone mining, oil mills, soap factories, tobacco factories, textile and clothing factories, machine shops, printing plants, and so on. Over seventeen million rubles have been spent in restoring the old industries and starting new ones, and in addition five million rubles has been invested in electrification. The five-year plan provides for a capital investment of seventy-five million rubles in all branches of industry.

Under the Dashnak government the agriculture of Armenia was reduced to a pitiable condition. The seeded area fell to 20.4 per cent of the previous area, the cotton area to 3.3 per cent. Between 1923 and 1928, 15,400,000 rubles were spent on the reconstruction of agriculture. So disastrous were the years of fighting, Turkish occupation and counter-revolutionary control to agriculture that it was not until 1928 that its production was restored to the pre-war level. Since then great progress has been made in the spread of modern methods and collectivization, and there are now 300 peasant collectives and a number of large State farms. A large amount of irrigation work has been done.

The growth of industry and agriculture have been accompanied by an increase in the cultural level of the people. In the year 1921-22 there were only 71,000 pupils in the schools, in 1927-28 the number had grown to 118,000 and at the end of the five-year period it is expected to reach 200,000.

### Turkish Theater

Before the October revolution there was really no Turkish theater among the people of Turkish nationality in the Soviet Union. There were various amateur groups which led a precarious existence, but which lacked interesting plays and experienced performers. The women's roles were taken by men, and the whole performance was extremely primitive.

There are now two Turkish theaters in Baku, the Academic Theater and the Workers' Theater. The Academic Theater produces for the most part well-known European classics, and some of the plays of the younger Turkish dramatists. The Workers' Theater gives mainly plays by Russian authors, translated into Turkish.

Last season the most successful plays given by the Academic Theater were "The Bride of Fire" and "Seville," by the Turkish playwright, Dzhabar-Dzhabarli, and an Oriental version of "Hamlet."

Among the most popular plays given by the Workers' Theater were "Razlom," by Lavrenev, "The Humming of the Rails," by Kirshon, and "Revolt," by Furman, all of which have been translated into Turkish. The Workers' Theater also produced several European plays.

The young Turkish theater has so far been

lacking in competent directors and actors. A dramatic school has been established, however, which is training talented young people to fill this gap. Women are now appearing for the first time on the Turkish stage.

The Azerbaijan Council of Trade Unions gives very active support to the theaters, frequently buying up the whole theater for workers' organizations, and arranging discussions and disputes regarding the different plays among the workers.

### Azerbaijan State University

The Azerbaijan State University has just celebrated its tenth anniversary. Before the revolution there was not a single institution of higher learning throughout the whole of Trans-Caucasia, with the exception of the Religious Academy in Tiflis. During the ten years of Soviet government in the Caucasus an extensive chain of higher educational institutions has been established. In Azerbaijan alone there are now five such institutions. In addition the Azerbaijan State Scientific Research Institute has been established as a scientific center.

The Azerbaijan University is made up of five different departments in which there are over 2,400 students. The Turkish students now constitute 53 per cent of the entire student body as against 20 per cent when the university was founded. In 1920 there was not a single Turkish girl student attending the University, and at the present time there are several hundred. Of the workers in the Scientific Research Center 128 are Turkish students who have been graduated from the university. In connection with the university 28 institutes and laboratories have been established, and there is a university library containing over 100,000 volumes. The annual budget of the university is over two million rubles, as against a fifty thousand ruble budget the first year of its existence.

### "Socialist Competition" in Freeing Women

Tashkent and Bokhara are having a contest to see which city can accomplish most toward the actual emancipation of women. At a recent meeting attended by native peasants and workers and representatives of labor, party and government organizations, a "socialist competition" agreement was drawn up between the two cities, with the following provisions:

To achieve the unveiling of all working women through educational methods.

To attract as many native women as possible into the textile, clothing, food and all other branches of local industry, as well as into trade and state organizations.

To assist native women handicraft workers in forming cooperative organizations. To this end Bokhara has organized three artels of a hundred

women each for embroidering caps and jackets. and Tashkent has organized two similar cooperative artels.

Bokhara undertakes to see that 75 per cent native women shall be employed in the tricotage industry. Tashkent undertakes to have 150 women employed in its tricotage factory. Bokhara agrees to organize a hundred cotton picking artels, two dairy and one poultry artel. Tashkent will organize two hundred cotton picking artels, six dairy, one poultry cooperative and so on.

Both parties agree to develop silk cooperatives among women, to attract women into the collectives, to increase the number of day nurseries and mothers' and babies' consultation centers, and to enroll all city women between the ages of fifteen and thirty-five into schools for the "liquidation of illiteracy." In the villages all of the women taking an active part in the work among women, the village Soviets and the collectives, will be taught to read and write.

Bokhara and Tashkent undertake to see that in promoting people from the ranks to positions in trade union, party, soviet, cooperative or social work, thirty-five per cent of the positions should be given to women in the village units, fifteen per cent in the township units, and at least ten per cent in county work.

The agreement is for one year, and went into force in December. The progress of the work will be checked up every four months.

### Alkhan-Churtsky Canal

For decades the mountain peoples of the North Caucasus—the Ingushi, Chechens, Ossetians, Karachayeys, Adighehs, and Cherkesses—led a precarious existence tilling their meagre fields on the mountain sides, out of which the pitiless rays of the sun sucked what little moisture there was.

Little by little irrigation projects have been increasing the productivity of this land. The Malo-Kabardinsky water system has already been completed. The Digorsk canal has been opened up, and still larger projects are under way. But there are still great areas of land in the North Caucasus region which yield little because of lack of moisture.

Between Vladikavkaz and Mozdok lies the vast Alkhan Churtsky valley, with over 200,000 hectares of almost unused land, which would yield rich harvests if properly irrigated and cultivated. The soil is the typical rich black soil of the South. But in this valley which is of such importance to the Ingushi and Chechens, there is no water. The Soviet Government has been working on this problem since 1925, when the first survey of the valley was made. A canal is being dug through the Alkhan-Churta valley, which will be 272 kilometers long, without its branches, one of the largest irrigation projects in the North Cau-

casus. In the heart of the valley there will be a hydro-electric station.

The completion of the canal will mean the transformation of the valley. The plan is to bring the mountain folks who cannot make an adequate living down into the valley and establish fourteen thousand new farms along the canal, 59 per cent of them to be organized into collectives at once, and the remainder into machinery cooperatives. Fifty-four thousand hectares of the new land will be set aside for two State farms of the Zernotrest. A large vegetable farm will be organized. Kenafa, sugar beets, soy beans, rice, and other crops will be grown.

## Reorganization of Foreign Trade Apparatus

ON February 10th, the Narkomtorg (Commissariat for Trade) issued instructions for the reorganization of the foreign trade apparatus and certain changes in its method of work. The instructions were signed by Mr. A. I. Mikoyan, Commissar for Foreign Trade.

The purpose of the reorganization is to eliminate the main deficiencies in the present method of work, and to strengthen further the foreign trade monopoly. All export and import stock companies are to be reorganized into monopolistic export-import units which will be a part of the Commissariat for Trade of the U. S. S. R. To these units will be transferred a considerable part of the regulating and planning functions, with a corresponding strengthening of the planned direction and control of foreign trade by the central apparatus of the Narkomtorg. All the technical preparatory work in the placing of orders abroad and in the sale of export goods will be carried on by the units.

Fourteen all-union export associations have been organized, namely: Exportkhléb (grain), Exportles (lumber), Exportlen (flax), Masloexport (butter), Ptitzeexport (poultry), Pushno-export-syndicat (fur), Rudoexport (minerals), Prodexport (foodstuffs), Promexport (industrial exports), Lektexhsirye (medical and other plants), Kustexport (handwork), Antikvariat (antiques), Raznoexport (miscellaneous), and Plodexport (fruit).

The export of oil, coal and matches will be carried on through special independent offices of the Soyusneft, Soyusugel and Spichobyedineniya. The import of caoutchouc and the export of rubber will be carried on through the rubber-asbestos combination.

The following import organizations are being organized: Metalloimport, Elektroimport, Textilimport, Chimimport (chemicals), Selchozimport (agricultural), Kozhimport (leather goods),

Tsvietmetimport (non-ferrous metals), Raznoimport (miscellaneous), Mezhdunarodnaya Knig (international books), and Kino-export-import (cinema).

In addition an All-Union Association is being organized to handle matters of transport, shipping, insurance, and freight—"Sovfrachttransport." All operations on export and import with the countries of the East (excluding cotton, wool, and oil), are to be concentrated in the association "Vostgostorg". Imports of consumers' goods from the East are to be carried on through Sentrosuyus.

In order to simplify the work of the trade missions licenses and specifications will in the future be given in the language of the country where the orders are to be placed.

## Resumption of Soviet-Chinese Trade

THE Soviet commercial agent in Harbin reports that the Soviet trading organizations there are operating successfully. Connections with the customers have been fully restored, and new groups of Chinese clients have been acquired. The resumption of business by Soviet trading organizations in Harbin has met with a favorable response, and Chinese merchants are meeting their obligations promptly.

Chinese customers are showing a great interest in Soviet goods, for which there is an increasing demand. A large consignment of oil products has recently been received from the Soviet Union.

Chinese circles are evincing a desire for the speediest possible regulation of Soviet-Chinese relations, and the creation of a legal basis for the purpose of improving and developing commercial relations between the U. S. S. R. and China.

## Book Notes

"THE NEW EDUCATION IN THE SOVIET REPUBLIC." By Albert P. Pinkevitch. Translated under the auspices of the International Institute, Teachers College, Columbia University, by Nucia Perlmuter. Edited by George S. Counts. The John Day Company, New York. \$4.00.

Professor Pinkevitch is president of the Second State University of Moscow, which has the largest school for the training of teachers in the Soviet Union. His book was originally written for use by pedagogical faculties in the Soviet Union, without thought of foreign translation. The volume is the first thorough explanation available in English, from an authoritative native source, of the Soviet educational system, its workings and objectives. Professor Pinkevitch shows that Soviet

pedagogy has appropriated many points from advanced educational theory of other countries, adapting them to the pedagogical problems of a collectivist society. He reveals the diverse structure of the Soviet educational scheme, which has been confronted not only with its Tsarist heritage of widespread adult illiteracy, but also with the peculiar problems of nearly 200 national groups within the country, each with its own inherited culture, customs and language.

Dr. Counts contributes a sympathetic introduction. "Russian educators," he says, "have literally canvassed the world for educational ideas which they may fit into their scheme and make to serve their purpose. Because of their administrative arrangements they may carry on experimentation on an unusually large scale and according to a carefully worked out plan. Among the more interesting aspects of their school program are the wide extension of freedom to the pupil, the development of what they call the complex method of teaching, the organization of the curriculum about nature, labor, and society, and the large emphasis on socially useful labor."

"THE SOVIET UNION AT WORK. PAST—PRESENT—FUTURE." Compiled by Albert A. Johnson. A. A. Johnson and Associates, Springfield, Mass.

Mr. Johnson's volume contains 65 large pages of graphs and charts, derived from official sources, giving a comprehensive picture of life and progress in the Soviet State. Mr. Johnson's material shows the administrative structure of the country, federal, republican and local, the general characteristics of the national economy, and his book contains sections dealing with industry and transportation, labor, agriculture, commerce, trade and the cooperatives, finance, education. His economic charts give statistics for recent years, with comparative figures for 1913, and the projected figures under the five-year plan. The pages are of generous size, the charts large-scale, the type large and clear. Mr. Johnson has performed a praiseworthy service in making this mass of graphic material available for American readers. His volume should prove of great value to business men interested in the Soviet Union, to economists, to students and to travellers.

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## Miscellaneous News

### Cleansing of Government Departments

THE periodic cleansing of the Soviet state apparatus is under way. The purpose of the cleansing, which is carried on under the direction of the Workers' and Peasants' Inspection, is to check up on the work of all important government organizations, with the aim of eliminating bureaucracy and waste, simplifying the work, and getting rid of incompetent workers. The cleansing is now being carried on in all of the most important Commissariats of the U. S. S. R.—the Supreme Economic Council, the Commissariat of Foreign and Internal Trade, and the Commissariat of Education of the R. S. F. S. R. The cleansing is carried on at the same time both in the lower units of the organization and in the center, and the workers of the organization itself are called upon to help. Thus all the People's Commissariats are undergoing a thorough cleansing from top to bottom, beginning with the central apparatus and ending with the local land and financial administration in each township.

In each organization a special commission is organized consisting of a number of workers, students from the special educational institutions in the corresponding field and employees of the organization which is undergoing the examination. This commission studies the existing structure of the apparatus, checks up all the work of the organization, ascertains the speed and efficiency with which it carries out government instructions, and so on. The apparatus of the respective organizations is then reorganized in accordance with the findings of these commissions.

As a result of the examination of the personnel, an average of from eight to ten per cent of the employees of each government organization have been discharged, on the grounds mainly of bureaucracy, corruption, or incompetence. In accordance with the government instructions regarding the cleansing, former members of the nobility and their children may be discharged only in cases where they do not perform their work conscientiously or are not loyal to the Soviet Government. In place of those discharged, preference is given to members of the working class who have undergone special training, if the position is a responsible one.

### Final Draft of New Calendar

THE Commission for the preparation of a new calendar has submitted to the Council of People's Commissars of the U. S. S. R. the final draft

of the new calendar which it is expected will be adopted by the Government.

According to the new calendar the year 1917 will become year I, and November 7, the date of the Bolshevik revolution, will become the first day of the year. The year will be divided into twelve months of 30 days each. Each month will consist of six five-day weeks. The year will have 360 working days and five holidays, including Lenin Memorial Day, two days in celebration of International Labor Day and two days in celebration of the anniversary of the revolution. These days will be included in their respective months as extra-calendar days. The names of the months will remain unchanged. The days of the week also remain the same, with the exception of Saturday and Sunday, which will be dropped entirely.

The business year, according to the new project, will begin on January 1st.

In relations with other countries both the old and new dates will be given to avoid confusion. The Calendar Commission proposes that the new calendar go into effect during the present year.

### Reorganization of Industrial Management

SOVIET industries have adopted a new plan under which they will be managed in the future. Heretofore the industries have been managed by "chief administrations" included within the Supreme Economic Council, as well as by the State trusts and syndicates. In the future these "chief administrations" and syndicates will be merged under the name of "concerns." There will be twenty-six industrial concerns which will carry out all planning operations, have charge of capital investments, marketing and supplies, and control the commercial and financial work of the industries.

The Supreme Economic Council will be organized in accordance with the new scheme. Its principal function will be to give general economic guidance to industry as a whole, to direct the planning and regulation of industry, to prepare plans for industrial reconstruction, approve the balance sheets and accounts of the concerns, appoint their Boards of Managers, and so on.

The Council of People's Commissars of the U. S. S. R. has approved this new scheme, and the most important of the concerns, including the coal, oil, peat, ferrous metal, electro-technical, agricultural machinery, auto-tractor, textile, timber, paper and others will shortly commence operations.

## Motor Sledge Communication

FOR the first time regular mail and passenger communications have been opened on motor sledges in the U. S. S. R. The line connects Cheboksary, the center of the Chuvash Republic, with the nearest railway station, with which no other form of communication is possible in the winter. Another line connects Archangel with Pinega, a distance of 220 kilometers.

This line is served by sledges designed by the Central Aero-Hydro-Dynamic Institute. These are metal sledges containing six seats. The Scientific Auto-Motor Institute also produces motor sledges, built of wood.

The motor-sledges are of the latest design and pass over any winter road as well as over soft snow. The sledges, which are equipped with 100-120 h. p. motors have a speed equal to the average speed of any modern automobile, and are in every respect as reliable as the latter.

Last year's 3,500 kilometer sledge run revealed the high qualities of the motor sledges built in the U. S. S. R. and the advisability of utilizing this means of transportation in the vast snow-covered plains of the Soviet North.

The high technical standard reached in the production of motor sledges in the U. S. S. R. makes it possible to manufacture them on a mass scale.

## Agricultural Research Bureaus

THE All-Union Lenin Agricultural Academy, which is the central institution for agricultural research in the Soviet Union, is organizing agricultural bureaus in other countries, which will be headed by members of the Academy. The function of these bureaus will be to keep the Academy informed of all the important achievements in the field of agriculture. The first of these bureaus will be organized in the United States, Germany (the German bureau will also cover Austria and Czecho-Slovakia), Italy and Japan.

### Customs Conference Invitation Declined

In answer to the communication from the General Secretary of the League of Nations with regard to the possibility of the U. S. S. R. taking part in the international conference for the establishment of a so-called "customs armistice," Mr. Litvinov sent a note stating that the U. S. S. R. did not intend to participate.

### Decree of Central Executive Committee

The Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R., has issued a decree declaring that the failure of any citizen of the Soviet Union, holding a responsible position in any government institution or enterprise of the Soviet Union abroad, to return to the Soviet Union, if so instructed by a government organization, will be regarded as

treason, and punished accordingly should any such person subsequently return.

### New Afghan Ambassador

On February 14th the new Afghan Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Muhammed Asis Khan, arrived in Moscow. Muhammed Asis Khan is the elder brother of the present Afghan King, Padishah Nadir Khan, and was at one time foreign minister of Afghanistan.

### New Administrative Appointments

In view of the appointment of Dr. N. A. Semashko to a responsible position on the presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the R. S. F. S. R., he has at his own request been relieved of the post of People's Commissar of Health for the R. S. F. S. R.

Dr. M. F. Vladimirsky has been appointed People's Commissar of Health for the R. S. F. S. R. in place of Dr. Semashko.

Mr. N. A. Kubiak has been relieved of the post of Commissar of Agriculture for the R. S. F. S. R., in connection with his transfer to a post on the supreme Economic Council of the U. S. S. R. Mr. A. I. Muralov has been appointed R. S. F. S. R. Commissar of Agriculture in his stead.

Mr. T. A. Yurkin, formerly director of the State Farm "Gigant" has been appointed to the post of President of the Administration of "Kolkhozcenter" of the U. S. S. R. and the R. S. F. S. R., the organization directing the work of organizing and assisting peasant collectives throughout the Soviet Union.

### Changes in Soviet Foreign Service

Mr. F. F. Raskolnikov has been appointed diplomatic representative of the U. S. S. R. in Esthonia.

Mr. Y. K. Davtian has been relieved of the post of diplomatic representative of the U. S. S. R. in Persia.

Mr. A. M. Petrovsky, formerly diplomatic representative of the U. S. S. R. in Esthonia, has been transferred to the post of diplomatic representative in Lithuania.

Mr. M. M. Vassiliev has been appointed trade representative of the U. S. S. R. in Italy.

Mr. K. M. Begge has been relieved of the post of trade representative of the U. S. S. R. in Germany, and has been appointed President of the Administration of Promexport.

Mr. I. E. Lyubimov, Assistant Commissar of Trade for the U. S. S. R., has been appointed to the post of trade representative of the U. S. S. R. in Germany.

Mr. N. V. Popov has been relieved of the duties of trade representative of the U. S. S. R. in Poland, and appointed a member of the council of the Trade Mission of the U. S. S. R. in Germany.

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**Dizziness From Successes**

*By Joseph Stalin*

**Constitution For Agricultural Collectives**

**The Turk-Sib Railroad**

**Cultural Work in the Red Army**

**Soviet-Japanese Relations**

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## Dizziness From Successes

*An article on the agricultural collective movement by Joseph Stalin, general secretary of the Communist Party, which was published in all Soviet newspapers on March 2nd.*

EVERYONE is now talking of the successes of the Soviet Government in the sphere of the collective movement. Even our enemies are compelled to acknowledge appreciable successes. And these successes are indeed great. It is a fact that on February 20th, 50 per cent of the peasant households in the Soviet Union were already collectivized. This means that we have more than doubled the provisions of the five-year plan up to February 20th of this year. It is a fact that on February 28th the collectives had already put aside more than 360,000 metric tons of seed for the spring sowing, that is, more than 90 per cent of the plan. We cannot but recognize that the collection of so much seed grain through the collectives alone, after the successful completion of the grain buying campaign, represents an enormous achievement. What does all this mean? It means that the fundamental trend of the village toward socialism may be considered already assured.

There is no need to prove that these successes are of the greatest importance for the future of our country, for the working class as a whole, as the directing force in our country, and finally, for the party itself. Not to mention the direct practical results, these successes have a tremendous importance for the internal life of our party, for the training of the party. They inspire our party with a spirit of courage and confidence in our strength. They arm the working class with faith

in the victorious outcome of our efforts. They bring new millions of reserves into our party.

Hence the task of the party is to *consolidate* the successes that have been achieved, and to *utilize* them systematically for further progress.

But successes also have their dark side, particularly when they are attained with comparative "ease," and, as one might say, in an "unexpected manner." Such successes sometimes produce a spirit of glorification and over confidence. "We can do anything!" "Nothing is too hard for us!" These successes sometimes intoxicate people. Some people are beginning to have their heads turned by success, to lose their sense of proportion, and their capacity for understanding reality. They exhibit a tendency to over-estimate their own powers and to under-estimate the strength of their opponents. Adventuristic attempts are made to solve immediately all the problems of socialist construction. They do not stop to consider how to *consolidate* successes already achieved, and to *utilize* them systematically for further progress. Why should we consolidate achieved successes—when we can rush right on to the complete victory of socialism: "We can do anything!" "Nothing is too hard for us!"

Hence the task of the party is to wage a decisive campaign against these moods so dangerous and harmful for our work, and drive them out of the party.

It cannot be said that these dangerous and in-

jurious moods have been very widespread in the ranks of our party. But nevertheless these moods do exist in our party, and there is no basis for affirming that they will not increase. And if these moods should receive the right of citizenship among us, then there is no doubt that the collective movement will be considerably weakened and that the danger of the disruption of this movement will become real.

Hence the task of our press is to expose systematically these and similar anti-Leninist moods.

A few facts:

(1) The success of our collective policy is explained, incidentally, by the fact that this policy rests on the *voluntary* nature of the collective movement, and a consideration of the *diverse conditions* in the different sections of the U. S. S. R. The collectives cannot be organized by force. That would be stupid and reactionary. The collective movement must depend on the active support of the basic masses of the peasantry. We cannot mechanically transplant to undeveloped regions types of collectives adapted to developed regions. That would be stupid and reactionary. Such a "policy" would with one blow destroy the idea of collectivization. It is necessary to consider carefully the diverse conditions in the different sections of the U. S. S. R. and to adapt the rate and methods of the organization of collectives to these conditions. Foremost in the collective movement are the grain growing sections. Why? Because in these sections we have the greatest number of already established collectives and State farms, and therefore the peasants have had an opportunity to become convinced of the strength and importance of new technical methods, in the strength and importance of the new collective organization of agriculture. Because these sections have behind them two year's experience of fighting against "kulakism" in the grain buying campaigns, experience which naturally simplifies the development of the collective movement. Because these regions have during the past years been supplied with some of the best workers from the industrial centers. Can it be said that these especially favorable conditions exist also in other sections as, for instance, the consuming regions of the North, or in the regions inhabited by the nationalities which are still backward, such as Turkestan? Certainly not. It is clear that one of the most important prerequisites for a vigorous collective movement is that it should be voluntary and adapted to the diverse conditions of the different parts of the U. S. S. R.

And what is the actual situation? Can it be said that the voluntary nature of the movement and a consideration of local conditions are not being violated in many places? Unfortunately, this cannot be said. We know, for instance, that in

a number of the Northern counties in the consuming belt, where favorable conditions for the immediate organization of collectives are comparatively fewer than in the grain producing regions, the attempt is frequently made to *substitute* bureaucratic decrees on the collective movement, paper resolutions regarding the growth of collectives, the organization of paper collectives, which have not actually been formed, but regarding the "existence" of which there is a whole pile of boastful resolutions, for real preparatory work in the organization of collectives. Or let us take certain sections of Turkestan, where conditions for the immediate organization of collectives are even less favorable than in the Northern sections of the consuming belt. It is known that in a number of places in Turkestan there have already been attempts to "overtake and outstrip" the foremost sections of the U. S. S. R. by threats of military force, by threatening those peasants who for the present do not wish to enter collectives to deprive them of water for irrigation, or of manufactured articles. What can there be in common between this "policy" and between a political party depending on voluntary formation of collectives, and adaptability to local conditions? Clearly there is not and can not be anything in common between them. To whom then are these distorted, bureaucratic, paper methods, these unworthy threats to the peasants, useful? To no one but our enemies! Where will these distortions lead? To the strengthening of our enemies, and the destruction of the idea of the collective movement. Is it not clear that the authors of these monstrosities, considering themselves "Lefts" are actually furnishing grist for the mill of Right opportunism?

(2) One of the greatest merits of the political strategy of our party consists in the fact that it is able to select at any moment the *most important link* in a movement, and catching hold of that it then draws the whole chain in the direction necessary to solve that particular problem. Can it be said that the party has already chosen the basic link of the collective movement in the system of collective construction? Yes, this can and must be said. What then is the basic link? Perhaps the associations for joint cultivation of the land? No. These associations, in which the means of production are not yet socialized, represent merely a transition stage of the collective movement. Perhaps then, the agricultural commune? No, not the commune. There are still only single instances of the commune form in the collective movement. Conditions have not yet ripened for the agricultural commune, where not only production but distribution is socialized, to become the *predominant* form. The basic link of the collective movement, its *predominant* form at the present moment, the form on which we must now concentrate, is the agricultural *artel*.

In the agricultural artel the basic means of production, mainly in the cultivation of grain, are socialized. The basic means of production include labor, use of the land, machinery and other equipment, working stock and farm buildings. Small gardens and orchards, homes, a certain portion of the cows, smaller livestock, poultry and so on, are not socialized. The artel is the basic form of the collective movement because it is the most expedient form for the solution of the grain problem. The grain problem is the keystone of the whole agricultural problem because without solving this problem it is impossible to solve either the problem of livestock (large and small), or of technical and special crops which furnish basic raw materials to industry. That is why at the present moment the agricultural artel is the most important form of the collective movement. The "Model Constitution" for collectives, the final text of which is being published today, is based on this form. This must also be the model for our party and Soviet workers, one of whose duties will consist in making a thorough study of this constitution and in carrying it out in full.

Such is the policy of the party at the present moment. Can it be said that this policy will be carried out without violations and mutilations? No, unfortunately, that cannot be said. It is a fact that in a number of districts in the U. S. S. R., where the struggle for existence of the collectives is far from being ended, and where the artels have not yet become strongly established, attempts are being made to jump through the artel form, and leap right into the agricultural commune. The artel has not yet been established, but they are already "socializing" homes, small livestock, poultry—and furthermore, such "socialization" is purely the product of arbitrary, bureaucratic decrees, because the conditions making such socialization necessary do not exist. It might be supposed that the grain problem was already solved in the collectives, that it represented a stage already passed, that the main task at the present moment was not the solution of the grain problem, but of the livestock and poultry problem. It may be asked, who will benefit from this stupid "work" of jumbling up in one heap all the different forms of the collective movement? To provoke the peasant-collectivist by socializing his home, all his cows, all his small livestock and his poultry even before the artel form of collective has become firmly established—isn't it clear enough that such a "policy" can be useful and advantageous only to our enemies? One of the zealous socializers has even gone so far as to issue ordinances to the artels, wherein he orders that "within three days an exact accounting shall be given of all the poultry owned by each household," that the office of a special "commander of accounting and inspection" be created, that "the commanding heights of the artel shall be oc-

cupied," that he shall "command the socialist battle without quitting his post"—and consequently—squeeze the whole artel in his fist. What is this—a policy of guiding the collectives or a policy of disrupting and discrediting them? I do not need to mention those of our comrades who *begin* the organization of artels by pulling down the church bells. Think of it—pulling down the church bells—what r-r-revolutionaries!

How could this feverish intensity of "socialization," have arisen, these comical attempts to overleap ourselves, attempts having as their aim the avoidance of classes and the class struggle, and which in reality are grist in the mill of our enemies? They could have arisen only in the atmosphere of our "easy" and "unexpected" successes on the front of collective organization. They could have arisen only as a result of the anti-Leninist mood in the ranks of one section of the party; "We can do anything!" "No one can stop us!" "Nothing is too hard for us!" They could have arisen only because some of our comrades have had their heads turned by success, and they have been deprived for the moment of the ability to think clearly and observe soberly.

In order to correct the line of our party in the field of collective construction we must put an end to this mood.

This is one of the immediate tasks of our party.

The art of leadership is serious business. The leaders must not lag behind a movement, because that means to lose contact with the masses. Neither should they rush ahead of a movement, because that also means to lose contact with the masses. Who wishes to lead a movement and at the same time maintain contact with the millions of the masses, must wage a campaign on two fronts—against those who lag behind, and against those who rush forward.

Our party owes its strength and its success to the fact that in leading a movement it is able to preserve and multiply its contacts with the millions of the workers and peasants.

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# Model Constitution for Agricultural Collectives

*Final text of the model constitution for agricultural artels, the type of collective described by Joseph Stalin in the foregoing article as the most important form of the collective movement at the present period. This text has been ratified by the highest government bodies of the U. S. S. R.*

## I. Aims and Tasks

1. The batraki (agricultural laborers), poor and middle peasants of ----- village, ----- county, ----- region, hereby voluntarily unite themselves into an agricultural artel, in order, by combining means of production and labor, to establish a large collective farm, and thus to guarantee real and final victory over the kulak, over all exploiters and enemies of the workers, and real and final victory over need and ignorance, over the backwardness of the small individual farm, and to create a high productivity of labor and establish a marketable surplus.

## II. Land

2. All boundaries dividing the land allotments of the members of the artels, are eliminated, and all the individual fields are merged into one piece of land which is turned over to the collective use of the artel.

While all the land allotments are socialized, the land surrounding the houses (gardens, orchards, etc.), is set aside for individual usage, and furthermore, where the necessity arises, the amount of such land may be changed by decision of the administration of the artel, with the consent of the general meeting of the artel members.

3. The combined land fund of the artel may under no conditions be decreased. Members leaving the artel may not receive any of the land of the artel. Those leaving the artel may procure land only from free land of the State Land Fund.

## III. Means of Production

4. The following are to be socialized: all working animals, agricultural inventory, all commercially productive livestock, all seed reserves, all cattle fodder necessary for the socialized livestock, farm buildings necessary for the operation of the artel, and all enterprises for working up agricultural products. Dwellings of artel members are not subject to socialization.

While general agricultural inventory is socialized, smaller agricultural implements necessary for garden and orchard work may be retained for individual use by artel members.

In case of necessity the administration of the artel may set aside from the socialized working cattle the minimum number of working stock necessary to serve the individual needs of the artel members.

In farms with one cow, milk cattle are not subject to socialization. In farms with more than one cow, one cow is left for personal use and the remaining cows are socialized. Breeding cows are to be socialized in any case. With the socialized milk cows a commercially profitable artel enterprise may be established.

In districts where there is a well developed small livestock industry, small livestock such as pigs and sheep, are to be socialized, but a certain number of small livestock, the number to be determined by the artel, will be retained by the artel members. In districts where there is no small livestock industry, pigs and sheep are not to be socialized. Poultry are not subject to socialization.

While small livestock and poultry are to be left with the individual members, at the same time the collective will organize a small livestock and poultry industry.

Each artel must establish an untouchable seed and food fund as insurance against harvest failure and lack of food.

## IV. Activities of the Artel

5. The administration and all the artel members are obligated to:

(a) extend the seeded area by using all the land at the disposal of the artel, by the improvement and cultivation of all poor land and by surveying the land within the artel;

(b) to make full use, on a socialized basis, of all draught animals, inventory, tractors, machinery, seeds and other means of production; to buy tractors and other means of production on its own and borrowed funds, with the aim of a gradual transition to a completely mechanized enterprise;

(c) to establish the correct utilization and care of all socialized livestock and equipment and to keep the livestock and equipment in a better condition in collective than in individual farms;

(d) to improve the plow and meadow land and to carry out the agricultural measures necessary to increase the yield;

(e) to carry out the technical and veterinarial measures necessary for a rapid development and improvement of commercial livestock and poultry raising;

(f) to develop all the remaining branches of agricultural production adapted to the natural

conditions of the given locality, and handicraft industries in accordance with local conditions;

(g) to organize the building on a socialized basis of buildings for farm and social purposes, and of a subsidiary nature;

(h) to raise the cultural and political level of the members of the artel;

(i) to utilize all possible measures to improve the living conditions of the members of the artel, especially the women and children.

#### V. Membership

6. Membership applications are acted on by the administration who present lists of newly accepted members for approval at the next general meeting. Workers permanently employed outside the artel are not required to appear in person.

7. Any member of the working population who has reached the age of sixteen is eligible for membership.

Kulaks or other disfranchised persons may not be members of the artel. Exceptions to this rule are permitted in the case of members of families in which there are persons devoting themselves to the work of the Soviet Government: Red partisans, Red soldiers and sailors (whether from the ranks or officers), and village teachers, on condition that they will answer for the other members of their family.

#### VI. Finances

8. On entering the artel each member must contribute an entrance fee of from 2 to 10 per cent of the value of all property, both socialized and non-socialized, which is counted as his share of the farm to which he belongs, excluding articles of household or personal use.

In case the chief source of income of the new member is in the form of wages (as in the case of agronomists, teachers, surveyors, employees of institutions or organizations operating in the district where the artel is located, etc.), the amount of the entrance fee is determined in each case by the administration, but it may not exceed 10 per cent of the annual wages.

For batraki an entrance fee of not more than 5 rubles (about \$2.50) is established.

Workers permanently employed in work outside the collective must pay 3 per cent of their annual salary in addition to the entrance fee of from 2 to 10 per cent of the value of their property provided by the constitution.

*Note:* In addition to the entrance fee the artel does not require of workers who are members of the artel any additional deduction from their wages.

Postponement of payment of entrance fee may be granted by the administration only on the basis and for the period established by the Kolhozsoyus (Central Collective Union). Entrance fees are placed in the reserve fund of the artel.

9. From one-quarter to one-half of the value of the socialized property of the artel members

(working and breeding livestock, equipment, farm buildings, etc.), is deducted for the reserve fund of the artel, and the larger the farm, the greater the percentage that will be deducted for reserve capital. The remainder of the property is reckoned as the stock contribution of the member of the artel.

10. The administration makes a settlement with any member leaving the artel, and returns his stock contribution, and anyone leaving the artel may only receive a land allotment outside of the boundaries of the land of the collective. The settlement is made, as a rule, at the end of the fiscal year.

11. Out of the income received on the completion of the fiscal year, the artel covers the costs of operation and expenses connected therewith, as well as expenditures for disabled members, makes deductions for the reserve and social funds (from 10 to 30 per cent for the reserve fund, from 5 to 15 per cent for other social funds) and settles its payment for labor.

#### VII. Organization and Payment of Labor

12. All of the work of the artel is carried on by its members, in accordance with rules of internal order adopted by the general meeting. Only those persons possessing special knowledge or training, (agronomists, engineers, technicians, etc.), may be hired for agricultural work.

The hiring of temporary workers is permitted only in exceptional cases when urgent work cannot be finished in the time required by the members of the artel, when all members are entirely occupied, and in cases of building work.

13. The distribution of labor in the artel is carried out by the administration in accordance with the rules of internal order. No member of the artel may refuse work that he has been commissioned to do.

14. For the correct organization of the labor of the members of the artel there is established a norm of production, and a scale of price for different types of work, an estimate is made of both the quantity and the quality of the work, the piece work system of payment is applied, and the system of assigning a definite amount of work is followed.

15. Payment for the labor of artel members is made in the following manner: in the course of the year the members of the artel receive an advance (in kind or in cash) for food and other requirements, the amount of the advance not to exceed fifty per cent of the amount due them for labor. At the end of the fiscal year the final settlement for their work is made.

*Note:* From sums earned by artel members at pursuits outside the collective, deductions are made for the social fund of the artel of from 3 to 10 per cent of such earnings, the amount of such deduction, within the limits prescribed, to be determined by the artel or collective unit.

16. The artel extends material aid to its disabled members, and also to those temporarily incapacitated for work. The conditions and extent of such material aid are determined by the administration, and confirmed by the general meeting in accordance with the economic possibilities of the artel, but not to exceed the average earnings.

### VIII. Disciplinary Measures

17. All members of the artel are obliged to abide by the requirements of the constitution, the decisions of the general meeting and of the administration, to observe the rules of internal order, and to fulfil accurately all work and social obligations with which they are commissioned by the administration.

Any careless and negligent handling of the socialized equipment and livestock will be considered by the artel as a betrayal of the work of collectivization, and as practical aid to the enemy—the kulak.

For any such careless and negligent attitude toward socialized property, for failure to appear at work without sufficient cause and for other infringements of discipline, the administration may impose a penalty on the offender in accordance with the rules of internal order (for example: reprimand, warning, temporary removal from work, fine, etc.) In the case of incorrigibles the administration of the artel places before the general meeting the question of their exclusion from the artel.

### IX. Administration of the Affairs of the Artel

18. The affairs of the artel are carried on by the general meeting of the artel and by the management. If the calling of a general meeting is difficult because of the large number of artel members or the fact that the villages are scattered, the general meeting is replaced by a meeting of delegates. Members of the delegates' meetings are elected at meetings of artel members in the different settlements of the collective.

19. The general meeting (or the delegates' meeting) is the highest organ of administration of the artel, settles the most important questions regarding the activities of the artel, elects the administration and the auditing commission and confirms the instructions for their work.

To constitute a quorum at least half of the members of the general meeting (or delegates' meeting) must be present. A decision of the general meeting (or delegates' meeting) is passed by a majority of votes, voting being open.

20. The administration of the artel is elected for one year, is the executive organ of the artel, and directs all its affairs. The administration, in distributing among its members the various duties in connection with the management and production work of the artel, makes the different

members entirely responsible for the execution of the tasks with which they have been commissioned, and gives them the necessary rights.

The administration is obliged to organize its bookkeeping system according to the forms and rules established by the collective system.

21. The revision committee checks up the activities of the administration, in particular their observance of the constitution, their fulfillment of the production plan, contracts regarding obligations to the State, checks up property and documents, audits the books, gives conclusions regarding the annual report, and reports on its activities before a general meeting (or a delegates' meeting).

### X. Relations with the Collective System

22. The artel is a member of the ----- collective association and carries on its work under the direct supervision of said association.

On the basis of its production plan the artel concludes a contract with the ----- collective association on contract work, in which are set forth the obligations of the artel in organizing agricultural production, the sale according to definite plan of all the commercial production to State and cooperative organizations, and also the obligations of the collective organization and other government and cooperative organs in supplying the artel with the means of production and objects for consumption and in the organization of credit assistance and agricultural and technical service to the artel.

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## Family Consultation Bureaus

THE building of a new society with all the consequent changes in family and social relationships has given rise to the development of a new type of social work in the Soviet Union. While new laws and institutions are aimed to create a society where charity and the old type of social work are superfluous, their benefits cannot be expected to accrue to the whole population all at once, and the very process of adjustment creates special problems. The fact that all the old laws were swept away by the revolution, and an entirely new legal code set up, made it necessary to establish legal consultation bureaus throughout the country to give advice and information regarding Soviet law. Many cases came to the attention of these bureaus which were not really in need of legal help, and it was found necessary to establish a more informal type of consultations to help in cases which might be solved without recourse to law.

This type of consultation bureau grew out of the childrens' consultations which were organized under the Moscow Department of Education in 1923. In the confusion of the years immediately following the Civil War period there were large numbers of unsupervised children, not necessarily orphans, but children whose parents or relatives, ill and out of work, neglected them or treated them badly. Sometimes such children would come of their own accord to the Educational Department and ask to be placed in childrens' homes. Sometimes school children came, asking to be supplied with books or shoes so that they might attend school. But the Moscow Department of Education had few books and fewer shoes on hand in those days, and it was sometimes a question of determining which of the children who came were in greatest need. The children were questioned carefully, their homes visited. It was found that a special staff was required to handle this type of work, and so a childrens' consultation bureau was organized to help regulate the relations between parents and children. Then it was discovered that the relations between parents and children were largely dependent on the relations between the parents, so the children's consultation bureaus became family consultation bureaus.

In establishing this work it became clear that it must not become too "official," and that it could only be effective if maintained in close contact with the people, so that they would consider it something of their own, an agency of help and in no sense of coercion, an agency not to meddle in their personal affairs, but to help them find practical solutions to their problems. A large part of the visiting and personal work connected with the bureaus has been carried on through the

organization known as the "Women's Delegates." Through this organization certain women are elected annually by groups of peasant and working women to take special courses to train them in the knowledge and use of the new rights women have acquired under the Soviet law, and to give them practical preparation to take active part in government work. The women delegates have helped greatly in the interviewing and visiting. They talked to the workers in their factories and clubs, and told them about these consultations where they might go for help if they were in difficulty at home. At first many of the workers were suspicious, but gradually gained confidence. At the present time there are 29 such consultations in Moscow, and from the 2,000 persons who applied to the bureau for help in 1923 the number grew to 20,227 in the first four months of the past year.

One of the women in the bureau described the methods of work as follows:

"Those who come to the ordinary legal consultation for help usually state their business more or less coherently. When a woman comes to us she usually starts to cry. I have learned by experience that if you try to stop her immediately everything is lost. You won't get the real trouble out of her that way. Let her cry herself out, then ask her some casual question, or even invite her to cry some more if she wants to, telling her 'never mind, there's no hurry, citizen, I have plenty of time.' Then she will begin to talk, at first hesitatingly, and then more and more boldly. Our six year's experience has taught us to dwell on what would seem to be the most petty details during these consultations, and always to keep them on an intimate and friendly basis. Whatever investigations must be made after the trouble has been determined, are made in the name of the consultation bureau—whether information must be got from the house committee, the local Soviet, or the social insurance department. Everything is done to avoid 'volokita' (red tape) and 'documents.' We call directly by telephone or send our women delegate assistants out to attend to the matter personally, to insist on immediate attention, and we do not permit our client to be sent from one institution to another without any results. The bureau has established a reputation for itself not only among the population, but with the various state institutions which have learned that their requests are not to be trifled with."

The family consultation bureaus are constantly extending their activities. A branch has been opened in connection with the Mothers' and Babies' Section of the Department of Health. Here the doctor may tell a mother with a sickly

infant that the baby must have more fresh air. But the Russian winters are so severe that all houses have double windows which are sealed and padded in the winter. The only way to get air is by having a "fortochka," or a small casement window, within the larger window, which the poorer houses seldom had in the old days. The mother says there is no such "fortochka" in her room, how can she give her baby fresh air? The doctor then refers her to the "family consultation" table, and there the mother learns that according to Soviet law, "fortochkas" must be provided by every house committee. The delegate herself gets in touch with the house committee, and within a few days the baby breathes fresh air. In another case a mother and infant occupy a small dark room in an apartment where a large sunny room has just been vacated. A single man, never at home in the day, has claimed the right to move into this room. But the delegate visits the house committee, and a combination is made whereby the mother and baby shall be moved to the sunny room, and the other tenant satisfied too.

The family consultations are also concerned with foundlings. Far fewer infants are abandoned in Soviet Russia than was the case under the Tsarist regime, since under Soviet law there are no "illegitimate" children, no shame is attached to children being born out of wedlock, the law helps the mother to establish the fatherhood of the child, and the father must contribute a definite proportion of his earnings to the child's support. As long as there is unemployment, however, a certain amount of abandonment is to be expected. The family consultations have their delegates in the maternity hospitals, and when they find women who are not members of unions, and who are out of work and have no means of support, the delegate helps find work for the mother to do when she is strong, in one of the cooperative artels or elsewhere, and arranges for the child to be placed in a day nursery.

The family consultations also have their branches in connection with some of the People's Courts. Four of the district courts in Moscow have such departments. To the family consultation are referred cases of unhappy and confused married people who are not sure whether divorce would be a solution for their difficulties or not. The people for this job are chosen carefully with a view to their psychological insight and tact. They talk matters over carefully with the husband or wife, which ever comes, suggest that the other one come too, visit the home when necessary. Frequently it is found that the cause of the trouble is not any fundamental difficulty in the marriage relation itself, but that it is a case of crowded living conditions, uncongenial work, or ill health. In many cases, without interfering in the personal lives of the people concerned, the

family consultations are able to make suggestions and help them make new arrangements that prevent divorces, and give the people concerned a chance to work things out happily together. On the other hand, cases are found of incompetent diseased parents and defective children, where the only solution is separation of the parents and state care for the children. Sometimes a little practical advice, an explanation of what is required in the new relationships between men and women is all that is required.

For instance, a worker's wife comes to complain tearfully that her husband does not permit her to go to meetings or to take part in social work. The husband is called in and asked what the trouble is. He appears to be what the Russians call a "sympathetic" fellow, and is a party member.

He explains that his wife neglects her household, the child is in rags, everything is dirty and disorderly. The consultant suggests that perhaps he might help a little around the house.

"I'd be glad enough to do that, if she didn't nag me so. She says I must get her a plush coat. I'm sick and tired of hearing about that plush coat. And where am I to get a plush coat when she sends half of my salary to her mother to build a new cottage?"

Conferences are held with the man and with the woman. It is explained to the woman that meetings and plush coats are not the same thing—that a clean and orderly household and a well cared for child do not ruin one's life, but adorn it. The husband is advised to be kinder and more indulgent.

There are countless cases like this where the intervention of the court is not necessary, where a little reasoning or advice will solve the problem. But there are still more cases which must be referred to the court, and in such cases the family consultation bureaus also help in getting information and giving testimony. Sometimes, too, through the type of work, deficiencies are discovered in the existing laws, which are frequently changed or modified in accordance with the recommendations of the family-consultation bureau. For instance, it was formerly necessary for a woman to bring suit for "aliment" (the man's share of the support of the children, or of the woman for a certain period, in case she is disabled or out of work) in the place where the man happened to be living at the time, which frequently meant great hardship for the woman, especially in cases where the man had run far away to escape his obligations. At the insistence of the consultation bureaus this provision was changed so that suit may be brought at the place where the woman resides.

## The Turk-Sib Railroad

THE Turkestan-Siberian Railroad running North and South through Kazakstan, will open on May 1st, four months ahead of schedule. On that day the first through train on the "Turk-Sib," will traverse the whole distance of 1,445 kilometers between Semipalatinsk on the Altai line of the Omsk Railroad and Lugovaya on the Arysev-Pishpek line of the Tashkent Railroad.

Construction of the road began in 1926, from two directions, one part going North and one South. One of the most difficult parts of the road was that between Lugovaya and Alma-Ata. The building of this section involved breaking through the high Chokpar Pass over the Trans Ily Altai mountains, which had to be done in winter, in excessively cold and stormy weather. Last July the Alma-Ata station was opened. Since then there has been through passenger service between Tashkent and Alma-Ata, and between the latter town and Moscow.

From Alma-Ata the line goes North to the village of Iliisk on the Ily River, which rises in China and flows into Lake Balhash. Between Iliisk and the Northern terminus of the line at Semipalatinsk there is only one town, Sergiopol, a town of about 2,500 inhabitants.

The economic significance of this line to the U. S. S. R. as a whole, can hardly be over-estimated. The Turk-Sib is to be mainly a grain, timber and cotton road, carrying the wheat and timber of Siberia south, and the cotton of Central Asia north. The supplying of Central Asia with grain from Siberia and Kazakstan will largely solve the cotton problem of the Soviet Union. The uncertainty and expense of bringing in grain from the North Caucasus and the Aktiubinsk Districts has impelled the native peasantry to grow grain on land better adapted for cotton growing, which will now be released for that purpose.

Of no less importance will be the supplying of Siberian timber to the treeless Southern steppe and desert lands. Heretofore timber has come to Central Asia from the Urals, from the districts along the Moscow Kazan Railway, and even from Siberia itself by a long round about route involving an extra haul of several thousand kilometers.

The Turk-Sib will play an important role in the promotion of trade relations with China. Even now, when much of the goods has to be carried by long caravans of camels for hundreds of kilometers along very bad roads indeed, trade is growing from year to year. When Eastern China is linked by direct line to Moscow much rapid development may be expected.

The region traversed by the railroad is already

being completely transformed. New villages are springing up all along the line, populated by the builders of the roads themselves, by members of countless government and scientific commissions and organizations, and by hundreds of Central Asian tribesmen flocking in from still more remote districts, who are training to be conductors, ticket agents, telegraph operators, and so on. The question arose of keeping the railroad builders in the district to fill the many jobs that will open as the railroad gets into full swing, but it was decided that it would be better for these men who have grown skilled in the task of railroad construction to be transferred to other railroad building projects, and for as many of the native population as possible to operate the finished railroad. Pioneers from other sections lured by the tales of the natural wealth of the region are already swinging into the wake of the road.

Much of the country has a fertile loess soil and when the vast irrigation projects that have been planned are carried out, thousands of new acres of land will be opened up for colonization. In addition to cotton the country is well adapted to the growing of vegetables and fruits. Alma-Ata, which means "father of apples" is the center of a vast apple growing district. Rice grows well in this region, and already great areas of land have been taken up by the State Rice Trust. Other crops that will be grown here are tobacco, flax, hemp, kenafa (a coarse jute plant), teasel and hondrill (a desert plant which yields a kind of rubber). Conditions are also favorable for the raising of livestock, which is the main occupation of the native population.

Later, mining and factory industries will be developed. Around the town of Karkaralink there are rich deposits of magnetite. In the Ily River Valley, in Karaghanda and Akmolinsk provinces there are large coal fields, and a large part of the Soviet copper, zinc and lead reserves are in Kazakstan.

The abundance of salt lakes in the region of the Turk-Sib will provide the base for the development of an extensive salt industry as well as fishing. Lake Balhash itself, in which there are quantities of fish, is being explored at the present time by an expedition sent out by the Waterways Board of the Commissariat of Ways and Communications. So little has this region been explored in the past that small fishing villages were found on the shores of Lake Balhash whose existence is not indicated in the surveys and maps of the district. The people in these villages were unaware that there had been a revolution or that the Soviet Government existed.

Other industries that will be developed in this

region are the silicate, glass, leather, vegetable oil, and sugar beet industries.

The story of the building of the road, which has been carried on under the direction of that gifted and adventurous "social engineer," as he chooses to call himself, Bill Shatoff, is an epic. Through Shatoff's courage in ignoring certain complicated office-made blue prints and taking more direct routes, and the energy and enthusiasm of his 40,000 strong army of workers, the road has been put through a year and a half ahead of its original schedule, four months ahead of its final schedule, and at considerably lower cost than the first estimates. The remoteness and wildness of the country and the absence of roads made the building of the railroad a stupendous task. Houses had to be built for the workers, food supplies organized, medical arrangements provided, materials of all kinds, including enormous excavators, scrapers and other heavy machines had to be hauled for hundreds of miles by horses, camels, and tractors. Bridges had to be flung across rivers and gorges, those in the southernmost section of the road with extra reinforcements to withstand possible earthquakes.

A tremendous construction program is under way including stations, locomotive sheds, railroad schools, hospitals, dispensaries, clubs, and so on. It is expected that the most important of the railroad buildings will be completed this fall, and that by January 1, 1931, the road will be in normal operation with at least six trains going in each direction daily. According to the plans of the Commissariat of Ways and Communications, the freight turnover of the road during 1930 will exceed one million tons, by 1931 it will be 1,344,000 tons, and by 1935 over two million. Representatives of the road from Siberia and Central Asia, however, consider this far too conservative an estimate. Almost four million rubles have already been appropriated for the training of native Kazaks and others for the different types of work required for the operation of the railway. Three technical training schools will be established in Alma-Ata, and several one and two-year courses at other points along the road.

In a recent article in the New York Times, Anna Louise Strong writes of how Bill Shatoff has handled this and other big jobs he has put through. He told her of sitting in his shack in Alma-Ata, looking at the big map of the Turk-Sib marked with all the discovered resources of the region, before the midnight hour when he talks over the radio to all the stations on the line.

"And the map seems to come alive!" he told Miss Strong, "I see on it the railroad running and the wheels turning. The freight trains and the one fast passenger train daily with soft-seat sleeping cars. I see the copper factories working in one place, and the mines in another. I see the

wheat coming in along new roads. I see Ily Valley grow green with irrigated rice fields; new workers' settlements going up. I even see the faces of the people—Russians, Kazaks, Chinese, Uzbeks—as they move about in all kinds of work around that railway. . . . Sometimes it almost seems as if the shade of old Genghis Kahn was looking at that map along with me. Wonder what he'd think if he could see what we're doing with these plains that he trampled with his horsemen?"

## Cultural Work in the Red Army

YOUNG workers and peasants who enter the Red Army receive a many sided training. Thousands of schools, courses, libraries and clubs make up an integral part of the Red Army organization. First of all, the illiterate ones are taught to read and write. Those who have already had an elementary education continue their studies while they are going through military training. The most active and alert young peasants in the villages are frequently those who have been in the Red Army and have come back to their villages trained for the peaceful job of village librarian. It is these returned soldiers who usually take the initiative in organizing dramatic or literary or sport groups in their villages.

There is not a distinct military caste, set apart from the rest of the population, for the closest possible link is maintained between the army and the day-to-day life of the Soviet Union. When special workers are needed for a certain branch of industry or agriculture, courses are organized in the Red Army to train for that kind of work. Thousands of Red Army soldiers are learning to be tractorists and agricultural mechanics, and as soon as they are demobilized will take jobs in the agricultural collectives and government farms. The same is true of whatever branch of industry is in special need of skilled workers.

Red Army soldiers and officers possess equal political rights with all workers, and may vote or be elected to local or central Soviets. No distinction is made between the men and the officers when they are off duty. They meet on terms of equality, and participate on equal terms in all non-military activities.

The Central Red Army House in Moscow is a huge institution containing a large library, gymnasium, auditorium, study hall, and permanent exhibitions giving the history of the Civil War and the Red Army. Over 100,000 guests, many of them civilians, visit this institution monthly

and attend its musical or dramatic entertainments, its lectures and debates on internal and international subjects. An evening school is held in connection with the Central House, and many courses, attended by from 3,000 to 4,000 students.

Another method of maintaining contact with the civil population is the system of "patronage." A group of workers will become patrons of a Red Army regiment, they exchange visits, give entertainments for each other, have athletic meets, and so on. A Red Army regiment in turn will become the patron of a peasant village or collective, organizing reading rooms, supplying literature and arranging plays and concerts and lectures. When the Red Army gives plays or exhibitions the rest of the population is invited.

Libraries are developed extensively throughout the Red Army. In 1929 there were 1,521 stationary libraries, and 14,500 travelling libraries, containing altogether almost 10 million books, of which only 25 per cent were of a military nature. Moving pictures and radio are used widely for both educational and recreational purposes. The Red Army has 1,500 portable moving picture machines and its own radio station.

The summer camps of the Red Army are so organized that military occupations are over by two-thirty in the afternoon, and the rest of the day is given over to general educational and cultural work in the open air, physical culture and sport. Regular classes of all kinds are held, and in addition there are a large number of voluntary "circles" in which the men can pursue any form of study or athletic activity they wish. Red Army soldiers take a particular interest in international affairs since the aim is to imbue them not with a spirit of nationalism and patriotism, but with a spirit of internationalism. One type of "circle" that is very popular is the "ambassadors' circle" in which each member takes a particular country, studies its history, its present economic and political situation, follows its current events, and reports on it to the group.

Physical training of all kinds is greatly developed in the Red Army, not simply the type of exercise that will make good soldiers, but the kind that will make good healthy citizens.

Different sections of the Red Army challenge each other to contests not only on their military prowess, but on their general knowledge. When the groups meet each takes turns asking the other questions on the subject chosen for the competition.

The Red Army soldiers publish their own wall newspapers, and have their own correspondents who write both for military and other papers. There are over 20 Red Army and Navy newspapers published in the Soviet Union.

All of these activities hold true both for the regular Red Army and for the territorial units. The system of territorial training, whereby the

young peasants and workers receive short periods of training in the district where they live, is especially helpful in preventing the period of training from cutting them off from the regular life of the country.

## Soviet-Japanese Relations

FIVE years ago this winter the "Convention on the Basic Principles of the Relations between the U. S. S. R. and Japan" was signed at Peking. This treaty settled a whole series of disputed questions, guaranteed the mutual interests and established normal diplomatic relations between the two countries. In the sphere of politics the treaty provided in particular for the exchange of diplomatic representatives and consuls, obligated the Japanese Government to evacuate Northern Sakhalin which was occupied at that time by Japanese troops, affirmed that neither party to the treaty should enter upon a military alliance or a secret agreement with any third party in violation of the sovereignty, territorial rights or state security of the other party, and finally, contained a solemn mutual pledge of non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

In the economic sphere the treaty of 1925 foresaw an early revision of the fishing convention of 1907, and the conclusion of a trade treaty on the basis of a series of definite principles and finally granting to Japanese citizens and companies concessions for the exploitation of natural resources on the territory of the U. S. S. R. A special supplement outlined in detail the contents of the future concession contracts for oil and coal. Questions concerning mutual claims were left for settlement in subsequent negotiations.

The treaty as briefly outlined above, has been the basis for the development of normal and friendly relations between the two countries, which have been greatly strengthened since that time. The concession contracts for the exploitation of the oil and coal resources of Northern Sakhalin were settled the same year. In 1928, the Soviet-Japan fishing convention was concluded, regulating that most complex and acute of all the questions touching the interests of both countries. In the course of the same year 22 concession contracts were signed regarding fishing rights for the Japanese and the establishment of fish canning factories.

The fishing convention was actually put into effect in 1929, and Japanese fishing in Soviet waters is now entirely regulated by its provisions. Attempts of irresponsible elements in the Japanese fishing industry to violate the terms of the convention were not supported by their govern-

ment, and were successfully resisted by the Soviet Government. While confining the Japanese fishing industry in the Soviet Far East within the definite provisions of the convention, and safeguarding the sovereignty and rights of the Soviet Union, the convention of 1928 at the same time guaranteed to the Japanese fishing industry all the necessary conditions for the future development of this industry which plays such an important role in the economic life of Japan. The convention regulates the question of fishing in the interests of both countries, and thus is an additional element in strengthening the friendly relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Japan.

Soviet-Japanese economic relations are also developing successfully along the lines of trade and concession policy. The coal and oil concessions in Northern Sakhalin are developing very well. During the past year Japan obtained over 154,000 metric tons of oil as against 106,000 tons the year before. This year the amount is expected to reach 200,000 metric tons.

For the year 1928-29 the trade turnover between the U. S. S. R. and Japan amounted to

36,900,000 yen, an increase of 24 per cent over the trade of the year before. Of this amount 15,100,000 yen represents the imports to the Soviet Union, and 21,800,000 the exports.

The chief produce exported to Japan are coal, lumber, salt, asbestos, fish, canned goods and agricultural products.

Among the many indications of the growth of the economic contacts between the two countries the use of Japanese technical help on the railroads should be noted.

The strengthening of economic relations is accompanied by an increase in cultural relations. Each country has been represented by exhibitions of various kinds in the other, Japanese moving pictures are being shown in the U. S. S. R., numerous Soviet artists have visited Japan, and the Japanese theater "Kabuki" visited the Soviet Union in 1928.

Political relations have developed entirely satisfactorily on the basis of these economic and cultural relations, and there are no serious differences or conflicts between the two countries at the present time.

## Miscellaneous News

### Price Cuts

**B**EGINNING with February 1st the retail prices of many articles of general consumption have been reduced in Moscow and other industrial centers. Thus the price of clothing was reduced by 8.5 per cent, that of underwear by 12 per cent, shoes by 10 per cent, cotton goods by 9 per cent, etc. Compared with October, 1929, the general reduction amounts on an average to 4-5 per cent, going as high as 10 per cent in the case of clothing and 20 per cent in the case of footwear. Prices of bread, potatoes, vegetables and fruits have also been cut by from 8 to 15 per cent.

In addition to the price cutting, the reduction of private trade and its replacement by governmental and cooperative trade also has had the effect of increasing real wages. Private traders used to charge far in excess of government and cooperative prices. Now they have been practically eliminated so that the average purchases from private business in the case of workers amount to only 4 per cent of their total purchases, compared with 10 per cent in 1928-29. Private trade continues to exist only in fruit and vegetables, dairy products and some other items.

During the first quarter of this year 166 new government and cooperative shops and several hundred stalls were opened in Moscow alone, primarily in labor quarters.

There are altogether 1,171 retail shops in Moscow. A number of first-class stores have recently been built in the outskirts of Moscow. During the next building season the government will spend 23 million rubles for the extension of the distributing system in Moscow.

### Concessions in the U. S. S. R.

**A**CCORDING to a recent report there are fifty-nine concession enterprises operating in the U. S. S. R. The activity of foreign capital is not, however, limited to concessions. During the past year the number of foreign companies engaged in various kinds of business in the U. S. S. R. has greatly increased, as has also the number of companies giving technical service.

On October 1, 1929, there were 162 foreign companies engaged in business in the Soviet Union, compared with 146 in 1928 and 110 in 1927. Of these 59 held concessions, 70 acted in the capacity of consultants, 27 carried on commercial operations and 6 participated in Soviet Stock Companies.

During the past year 25 new agreements for technical assistance have been concluded, 13 with American firms, and ten with German. American and German firms predominate in the field of technical aid agreements, being responsible for 55 out of 70 agreements of this kind. Among the technical aid agreements 24 are in the metal

industry, 17 in the chemical industry, and 11 in the electrical industry. These technical aid contracts have played an important part in the development of Soviet Industry and the establishment of some entirely new branches of industry.

## Composition of the Communist Party

ON October 1, 1929, there were 1,551,000 members and candidates of the All Union Communist Party, not counting the Communists serving in the Red Army. Of this number one million, or 65 per cent were workers. A fifth of the party membership, 310,600 members, were peasants, and 13 per cent, or 232,600 were clerical and intellectual workers, artisans, handicraft workers, unemployed, and so on.

On the same date there were 211,800 women in the Communist Party, or 14 per cent of the entire membership as against 13 per cent the year before.

During the party "cleansing" which has been going on since last spring and was completed in March, 1930, approximately 11 per cent of the party members have been expelled, or only about a third of the number expelled during the previous cleansing in 1927.

Simultaneously with the cleansing, new members have been taken into the party, for the most part workers of long standing. A third of the new members taken into the party during the past year were members of the League for Communist Youth which, since its organization has trained and transferred to membership in the Communist Party 400,000 of its members.

## Winter Sports in the Soviet Union

WINTER sports have become increasingly popular in the Soviet Union during the past few years. Formerly such sports were limited to a small proportion of the population who could afford the necessary equipment, but now the whole population takes part. Skiing is one of the most popular of winter sports. There used to be only a few thousand pairs of skis in the country, now Soviet ski factories have been established, 350,000 skis were manufactured during the past year, and the Five-year plan calls for three million pairs of skis! Skiing is gone in for not only as a sport. It is used extensively in the Red Army. Some of the country postmen have taken to skis, children ski to school, lumberjacks and railroad workers find them useful, and in some districts workers use them in going back and forth to work.

In the "Spartakiads" held in Norway two years ago, the Soviet skiers were second only to the Finns.

Ice skating, for which Russians were always famous, is also very popular among the masses, particularly among the industrial workers. The trade unions all have special rinks, and all kinds of contests and exhibitions are held.

## Reorganization of the Academy of Sciences

THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES adopted a new constitution at its last annual meeting, closely linking up the activities of the Academy with real life. In addition to the already existing departments—the physico-mathematical and the humanitarian, special groups will be organized in connection with the Academy which will comprise not only members of the Academy, but representatives of social and scientific institutions outside of the Academy. These groups will be based not on a definite branch of science, but on the study of some important problem such as the productive resources of the U. S. S. R., the study of the Orient, and so on.

The group for the study of Soviet productive resources has already been organized. It includes about twelve academicians who are carrying on research in biology, mineralogy, soil science and chemistry. In addition, the Geological Committee, the Institute of Applied Mineralogy and Metallurgy in Moscow and other important institutions working along this line will be represented on the committee. Through the representatives of these organizations the Academy will be connected with a wide circle of scientific workers. The plan of work in studying the productive resources will be dictated by the needs of industry and the interests of the separate republics.

The other groups are organized according to about the same scheme. A special commission has been elected to work out the new constitution in detail.

## Leningrad Forestry Academy

DURING its 113 years of existence before the revolution the Leningrad Forestry Institute graduated altogether 4,000 students, hardly more than it is proposed to train in the present five-year plan period. The Academy prepared only "foresters," without differentiating the courses according to different branches of the forestry industry. Now, in its 126th year, the Academy is undergoing a complete reorganization. It is now divided up into different departments, Technical, Administrative and Economic. The Technical Department has been transformed into an industrial school, training engineers in both mechanical and chemical methods of working up wood products. For the first time the cellulose and paper industries are able to procure, according to a definite

plan, the necessary highly qualified specialists with practical training.

The Forestry Academy is thus the first institution in this field to deal with the whole process, from the obtaining of lumber to its working up. The Academy has well equipped special laboratories and experimental nurseries and the only library of its kind in the Soviet Union, containing over 100,000 volumes.

Of the 4,300 specialists who will be trained in the different forestry colleges during the five-year period, 2,900 will be provided by the Leningrad Forestry Academy.

## Moscow University Library

THE main library of Moscow University is one of the oldest in the Soviet Union. It was founded in 1756, and will soon celebrate its 175th anniversary. The library contains 525,000 volumes, of which a good two-thirds are foreign. The collections of the well-known scholars Granovsky, Anuchin, Kovalevsky and Yanzhula, containing many rare volumes carefully cherished by these professors when they were alive, have been added to the library. The library has grown so rapidly during the past thirty years that two additions have had to be built.

The library is divided into six parts, and serves daily over 800 students and research workers. The periodical department subscribes to 1,383 periodical publications, 839 of them foreign. All of the more important magazines and newspapers published in the Soviet Union or in other countries may be found in this division. During the summer hundreds of students and teachers come in from the provinces to make use of the foreign periodicals. The gap in foreign literature caused during the years of the world war and the blockade is gradually being filled up.

The Moscow University reading room is one of the most convenient to be found in the Soviet Union. It seats 200 comfortably, and during the past year accommodated 106,000 people.

The library has undertaken to extend its functions by supplying certain factories with scientific books, and by organizing a number of book exhibits in workers' districts. It has established a special course for the re-training of the older librarians in conformance with modern needs, and in training new librarians who will be far more than librarians in the old sense, but who will be in part teachers, and able to assist those who come to the library in various kinds of research work.

## Archeological Expeditions

THE Moscow Archeological Museum is organizing a series of archeological expeditions to different sections of the R. S. F. S. R. One of these expeditions will explore the places where Stenka

Razin and his followers encamped—in the Don district on "Pig Island," off the Western shore of the Caspian Sea, where Stenka Razin resisted the Cossacks for ten weeks, along the shores of the Ilovlya river, and other places.

Another expedition will carry on further excavations of the pile dwellings found this year in the region of the Gorbunovsk peat beds, and the stone dwellings found in the peat beds of Kalitinsk where the expedition expects to make a collection of Neolithic tools of wood and bone.

The expedition to Onezhsk and Lage Lakes will study the economic significance of that region and will collect articles of wood and bone to add to the Northern collection of the museum.

Expeditions will also go to Eastern Karelia, to the Votyak autonomous area, where relics of Finnish culture will be studied, to Ossetia, the Crimea and Lake Ilmen.

## Revised Procedure for Legalization of Documents

Note: Our attention has been called to the fact that many American business men, unaware of the requirements of the Soviet law in this respect, are submitting documents to the Soviet authorities in a form which does not answer these requirements. These documents are therefore being returned to the senders, which naturally involves a loss of time and money. We are, therefore, reprinting excerpts from the new law, outlining the correct procedure for the legalization of documents to be submitted to various government institutions in the Soviet Union.—(Ed.)

"Documents emanating from countries which do not maintain diplomatic relations with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics can be legalized only by the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs on the basis of special decisions adopted by the latter. Legalization by the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs serves instead of consular legalization.

"In cases where the People's 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."

Documents to be legalized for presentation to various Soviet institutions should be mailed direct to the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, (Narkomindel), Moscow, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The above procedure went into effect following the decision of the Council of People's Commissars of the U. S. S. R. and the Council of Labor and Defense on September 18, 1929.

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# SOVIET UNION REVIEW

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Twenty Cents

May, 1930

Vol. VIII, No. 5

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**The Soviet Press**  
**Anglo-Soviet Trade Agreement**  
**Spring Sowing Campaign**  
**1,000 Scientific Expeditions**  
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**Folk Songs in the Soviet Union**

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## Anglo-Soviet Trade Agreement

*\*Temporary Trade Agreement between the Government of the U. S. S. R. and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.*

THE Government of the U. S. S. R. and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and North Ireland, mutually desiring to conclude within the shortest period possible, a formal treaty on trade and navigation between the U. S. S. R. and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and North Ireland, have agreed for the time being on the following temporary agreement which will serve as a *modus vivendi* until the conclusion of such a treaty.

### Article 1

With the aim of developing and strengthening the trade relations between the U. S. S. R. and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and North Ireland, the contracting parties are agreed that without detriment to any of the more favorable stipulations contained below, all exemptions, rights and privileges with regard to trade, which in the U. S. S. R. and in the United Kingdom, respectively, have been granted or may be granted to the subjects or citizens of any other foreign government or juridical persons, including companies organized in accordance with the laws of the said government, or the property of such

subjects, citizens or juridical persons, including companies, must be mutually extended to British subjects, persons under British protectorate, or juridical persons, including companies of the United Kingdom, and correspondingly—to citizens or juridical persons, including companies of the U. S. S. R., and to their property. Products of the soil and industry of Great Britain shall enjoy in the U. S. S. R., and products of the soil and industry of the U. S. S. R. shall enjoy in the United Kingdom, all exemptions, rights and privileges which have been granted or may be granted subsequently to the products of the soil and industry of any third foreign government in all that concerns the prohibition or limitation of import or export, customs duties and revenues, transport, the storage of goods in warehouses, the return of revenues and excise.

Nothing in the present agreement will be extended to:

(a) Special decisions regarding trade and contained in treaties which the Union has concluded or may conclude in the future with those governments of which the entire territory previous to August 1st, 1914, constituted in all respects an indissoluble part of the former Russian Empire, or with continental border countries in Asia.

\* Translated from the Moscow "Izvestia" of April 20, 1930.

(b) Rights which have been granted or may be granted to any third country which has a customs alliance with the U. S. S. R.

(c) Privileges which the Union has granted or may grant to border states with regard to local trade among the inhabitants of the border zones.

**Note:** The expression "persons under British protectorate" in the present agreement, refers to persons belonging to any territory under the protectorate or sovereignty of His Majesty, or over which His Majesty has accepted a mandate. However, it is understood that the provisions of Article 1 do not apply to persons on such territory to whom the present agreement is not extended in accordance with the provision of Article 5.

### Article 2

1. In view of the fact that according to the laws of the U. S. S. R., foreign trade is a government monopoly, the Government of His Majesty in the United Kingdom agrees to grant to the Government of the U. S. S. R. the right to establish in London a trade delegation consisting of a trade representative of the U. S. S. R. and his two assistants, constituting a part of the embassy of the U. S. S. R.

2. The head of the trade delegation will be the trade representative of the U. S. S. R. in the United Kingdom. In accordance with point 1 of the present article, all diplomatic privileges and immunities will be extended to him and both his assistants, and immunity will be extended to the quarters occupied by the trade delegation (Fifth Floor, Eastern Wing, Bush House, Oldwich, London), to be used exclusively for the purposes set forth in point 3 of the present article. No one else on the staff of the trade delegation except the trade representative and his two assistants, will enjoy any other privileges or immunities than those which have been granted or may be granted in the United Kingdom to officials of the trade organizations of other countries which are controlled by the government of that country.

3. The functions of the trade delegation will include:

(a) aiding and promoting the development of trade between the U. S. S. R. and the United Kingdom;

(b) representing the interests of the U. S. S. R. in everything that concerns the foreign trade of the Union, controlling, regulating and carrying on that trade with the United Kingdom, on behalf of the U. S. S. R. and in the name of the U. S. S. R.

4. Inasmuch as the trade delegation operates with regard to trade both in the name of and on behalf of the U. S. S. R., the Government of the latter takes the responsibility for all deals legally transacted in the United Kingdom by the trade representative or by other persons duly authorized by him. However, the Government of the U. S. S. R., does not take upon itself any responsibility for the actions of government economic organizations which in accordance with the laws of the U. S. S. R. are exclusively responsible for their own actions with the exception of those cases wherein the responsibility for such actions is definitely taken upon himself by the trade representative acting in the name of and on behalf of the Government of the U. S. S. R.

5. The names of the trade representative and of the persons authorized to represent him will be periodically published in the journal "Board of Trade," and in addition to this will be announced by other methods in a form clear to the public. The right of these persons to represent the trade delegation will continue until information to the contrary is published in the same manner.

6. Any question which may arise in relation to the trade transactions concluded by the trade delegation in the United Kingdom, will be settled in the courts of the United Kingdom in accordance with the laws of the latter.

7. With regard to the property of the U. S. S. R. in the United Kingdom, the same measures will be applied which could legally be applied to carry out the decisions of the courts of the United Kingdom, insofar as these decisions are made in connection with the transactions mentioned in point 6, with the exception of those cases when this property belongs to the category of property necessary to establish the right of state sovereignty or for the official functions of diplomatic or consular representatives of the U. S. S. R., which, according to international law, is exempt from such measures.

### Article 3

British ships, their freight and passengers, and ships of the U. S. S. R. and their freight and passengers will enjoy in the ports and territorial waters of the Union and the United Kingdom, respectively, the same rights, privileges and exemptions which are enjoyed or may be enjoyed in the

future by national ships, their freight and passengers, or the ships of the most favored nation and their freight and passengers.

The provisions of the present article are not extended to coastal trade. The contracting parties reserve for national ships the right of coastal navigation between ports situated on the same coast. With regard to coastal navigation between ports not situated on the same coast, each of the contracting parties undertakes to extend to the vessel of the other regulations no less favorable than those provided for the vessels of any other foreign country.

The provisions of the present article will not be extended to:

(a) the application of special laws for the protection, restoration and development of a national mercantile fleet;

(b) privileges granted to maritime sporting organizations;

(c) port services, including pilots, tugs, and life-saving and help at sea;

(d) navigation on internal water-ways, closed to foreign ships in general, even though such navigation is open to vessels of border states.

**Note 1.** Nothing in this agreement should be construed as granting to the vessels of either party the right to engage in fishing in the territorial waters of the other party, or to unload their catches in the ports of the other party, and similarly nothing in this agreement may give to British ships the right to claim any of the privileges which have been granted or may be granted by the U. S. S. R. to the fishing fleets of countries situated on the Arctic Ocean.

**Note 2.** Nothing in the present article can affect the right of either party to apply the regulations in accordance with their national laws with regard to the transport of immigrants, emigrants and pilgrims.

**Note 3.** The provisions of the present article do not refer to ships registered in the ports of the self-governing dominions of His Majesty nor to their freight and passengers, until such time as the present agreement shall be extended to them in the manner provided in Article 1.

#### Article 4

The provisions of the present agreement may be extended by mutual agreement, with any changes mutually agreed upon, to any of His Majesty's self-governing dominions (including any mandated territory administered by the government of such a dominion) or to India, through an exchange of notes between the Government of the U. S. S. R., and the government of any such dominion or of India.

#### Article 5

The provisions of the present agreement may, on the principle of reciprocity, likewise be extended to any of His Majesty's colonies, possessions, protectorates or mandated territory administered by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom in the event that His Majesty's ambassador in Moscow or in his absence, His Majesty's chargé d'affaires, will notify the Government of the U. S. S. R. to this effect.

The contracting parties agree that in the event that His Majesty's ambassador in Moscow (or in his absence, His Majesty's chargé d'affaires), shall give notification extending the present agreement, in accordance with the preceding point, to any of the colonies, possessions or protectorates of His Majesty, or to any of the territory over which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom holds a mandate, the trade organizations of the U. S. S. R., will have the right to send to the said colony, possession, protectorate or mandated territory, agents acceptable to the government thereof, to carry on commercial transactions between the U. S. S. R. and such colony, possession, protectorate or mandated territory.

It is understood that such agents would in all cases be subject to the ordinary laws applicable to foreigners in the colony, possession, protectorate or mandated territory in which they will reside and will not enjoy any diplomatic or consular privileges or immunities.

#### Article 6

Insofar as in any territory mentioned in articles 4 or 5 and which is not bound by the present agreement, the products of the soil and industry of the U. S. S. R. are granted conditions as favorable as those extended to the products of the soil and industry of any other foreign country, the products of the soil and industry of such territory will enjoy in the U. S. S. R. wholly and unconditionally, most favored nation privileges. At the same time, however, the Union Government reserves for itself the right at any time to abandon this article with relation to any of the separate dominions or India.

#### Article 7

The present agreement enters into force from today on, and will remain in force until the entering into effect of the trade treaty between the

U. S. S. R. and the United Kingdom with the understanding, however, that each of the parties will have the right at any time to make a declaration to the other regarding the suspension of the agreement, which will then remain in force until the expiration of six months from the date when the declaration was made.

As regards any of the self-governing dominions, India, or any colony, possession, protectorate or mandated territory of His Majesty, with regard to which, in accordance with Article 4, notes were exchanged, or with regard to which on the basis of Article 5, a declaration on the application of the present agreement has been made, the agreement may be terminated especially by each side at the end of six months or subsequently at any time by a statement to this effect six months in advance, made either by His Majesty's ambassador or to His Majesty's ambassador in Moscow, or in his absence by His Majesty's chargé d'affaires or to His Majesty's chargé d'affaires.

In witness whereof the accredited representatives have signed the present treaty and affixed thereto their seals.

Executed in London in two copies in the English language, April 16th, 1930.

The translation into Russian will be made as soon as possible and will be agreed upon by both parties. Both texts will thereafter be recognized as authentic for all purposes.

G. SOKOLNIKOV,  
A. HENDERSON.

#### Protocol

In concluding the present agreement the contracting parties are actuated by the purpose of eliminating all forms of discrimination from their economic relations. Accordingly they are agreed that insofar as this concerns the treatment of each party of trade with the other, with regard to the purchase and sale of merchandise, the utilization of tonnage and all analagous questions they will be directed solely by commercial and financial considerations, and, being guided by these considerations, they will not undertake any legislative or administrative measures of a nature which would place the merchandise, shipping, commercial organizations and trade in general of the other party in a situation in any respect worse than that of the merchandise, shipping and com-

mercial organizations of any other foreign government.

In accordance with the aforesaid principle, trade between the U. S. S. R. and the United Kingdom must be undertaken on the same basis as trade between the United Kingdom and other foreign governments, insofar as this is connected with any legislative and administrative measures which have been or may be undertaken by the Government of His Majesty in the United Kingdom with the aim of extending credits for the facilitation of such trade. Thus in all transactions, only financial and commercial considerations should be taken into account.

G. SOKOLNIKOV,  
A. HENDERSON.

#### Supplementary Protocol

In connection with point 6, article 2, it is understood that the head of the trade delegation and his two assistants will not make any claims on the basis of the privileges and immunities extended in accordance with point 2, article 2, of the present agreement, in connection with any litigation in the courts of Great Britain arising out of the commercial transactions concluded between the trade delegation of the U. S. S. R. and Great Britain.

G. SOKOLNIKOV,  
A. HENDERSON.

#### Statement by the Envoy of the U. S. S. R.

"At the moment of signing the trade agreement between the Government of the U. S. S. R. on the one hand and His Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom on the other, the Government of the U. S. S. R. has commissioned me to make the following statement:

"The Government of the U. S. S. R. declares that it reserves for itself the right of the U. S. S. R. to all ships of the former Russian fleet, both naval and mercantile, which were either the property of the Russian Government or subject to nationalization under Soviet law and which were taken abroad without the knowledge and consent of the Soviet Government or in any other way escaped actual transfer to the organizations of the Soviet Government."

G. SOKOLNIKOV."

**Statement by the British Foreign Minister**

"At the behest and in the name of His Majesty's Government in the South African Union I hereby declare that not a single provision of Articles 4 and 6 of the temporary trade agreement signed today between His Majesty's Government of Great Britain and the Government of the U. S. S. R. is extended to the South African Union.

A. HENDERSON."

**Statement by the British Foreign Minister**

"At the behest and in the name of the Government of the Irish Free State I hereby declare that not a single provision of Articles 4 and 6 of the temporary trade agreement signed today between His Majesty's Government of Great Britain and

the Government of the U. S. S. R., is extended to the Irish Free State.

A. HENDERSON."

**Text of Note Handed to Mr. Sokolnikov by Mr. Henderson on the Signing of the Trade Agreement**

"I am authorized by the Government of the Irish Free State to inform your Excellency that the Irish Government on its part is ready to exchange notes with the Government of the U. S. S. R., establishing a *modus vivendi* on the basis of the most favored nation principle to have effect until the conclusion of a trade treaty between the Irish Free State and the U. S. S. R."

## The Spring Sowing Campaign

**D**URING the past two months as spring has rolled Northward across the whole breadth of the Soviet Union, the attention of the entire country has been centered upon the spring sowing campaign. The collection and distribution of selected seed was carried out successfully, and the State farms and collectives exceeded the sowing program. According to preliminary estimates, the spring sowing area of the collectives will be about a third greater than it was last year, and it is expected that the decision to increase the entire seeded area for spring crops by 13 per cent, as against the 8 per cent originally provided in the plan, will be fulfilled.

Ninety thousand tractors ploughed the fields of the collectives and State farms this spring. The tractors and other machinery of the State farms were loaned to the collectives when the State farm ground was ploughed and sown, and those of the collectives were loaned to groups of poor peasants without tractors when theirs was ploughed. The State farm "Gigant," for example, after completing its own sowing, seeded 20,000 hectares for neighboring collectives, and then sent a hundred of its largest machines to another district.

A thorough campaign of preparation for the spring planting was carried on, in which the press played an important part, and which was stimulated by the method of "Socialist competition" through which collectives, State farms and whole districts vied with each other in the preparation of selected seed, early plowing, and increasing the seeded area. As a result the collectives prepared 4,300,000 metric tons of selected seed instead of the 3,900,000 provided for in the program.

A model program for the sowing campaign was issued by the Kolhozcenter (Collective Farm Center) which greatly helped the collectives in carrying out their work efficiently. The program called for a careful division of labor among the collective members; the division of the land into sections, work on each section to be under the direction of a leader; the preparation and repair of all machinery well in advance of the beginning of the season; the organization of a system of field repair; the preparation of working cattle and arrangement for their feed; the organization of efficient systems of field kitchens for the workers and so on. The government also furnished assistance in preparing the working animals for the spring work by furnishing over 50,000 tons of feed to the needier collectives. A specially picked corps of 25,000 workers was sent out to the collectives, ninety per cent of all the agricultural specialists employed in institutions and students in the graduating classes of agricultural colleges, and a large number of Red Army soldiers trained as tractorists and mechanics, were mobilized to help put through the spring sowing. Even the theaters were called upon to help. The Moscow Art Theater, the Bolshoy Theater, and the Meyerhold Theater sent special troupes to the villages during the seeding campaign.

Nor was the "individual sector" neglected. The newly organized All Union Department of Agriculture recognized the necessity of giving the greatest possible aid and encouragement to the poor and middle peasants operating their farms individually. Seed was accordingly supplied to the poorer peasants, and the contract system, whereby a peasant or group of peasants receives

an advance of seed and implements or products for which a certain portion of the crop is pledged, was increased. Individual peasants were further encouraged by the new agricultural tax for this year which provides that all increases over last year's sowing by individual poor and middle peasants as well as collectives will be entirely exempt from taxation, in addition to the surplus area sown last year over the year before. Other exemptions are offered to individual peasants on technical crops, such as flax, hemp, sugar beets and so on, and on certain categories of livestock. While the new tax comes down harder on the kulak class than ever before, the number of poor peasants entirely exempt from taxation is increased. Nine million five hundred thousand peasant households are entirely freed from taxation and those collectives organized by peasants who paid no taxes last year will not be taxed this season.

Following Stalin's article\* regarding the mistakes that had been made in the agricultural collective movement and a subsequent open letter published in all Soviet papers on April 3rd, in answer to questions he had received from all over the country, a large number of the "paper" collectives which had no solid basis of organization were dissolved, and even some of the better ones were temporarily broken up. A campaign of instruction was carried on, the "model constitution for artels,"\* providing for the looser type of collective with only the land and machinery and part of the livestock socialized, as against the commune with almost everything socialized, was widely distributed as the most desirable form of collective organization at the present stage. On April 5th a decree was issued by the Central Executive Committee of the Soviet Union and the Council of People's Commissars granting new privileges to collectives. These measures clarified the whole movement and restored the confidence of the peasants, and the collective movement has now settled back into a period of consolidation of the gains already achieved, and of steady growth. After a careful weeding out of the "paper" collectives, it is now estimated that about 45 per cent of the farms in the Soviet Union are organized into collectives, which is double the number originally provided for by the Five-Year Plan as the goal for 1933. In some of the grain-producing sections whole villages and counties are firmly organized on a collective basis.

The decree on "New Exemptions for Collectives and Their Members" contains among others the following provisions: exemption from taxation for a period of two years of all socialized working stock in the collectives, of all cows, sheep, pigs and poultry either socialized or maintained as individual property, and of land used for vegetable gardens; extension of additional credit to the sum

of 500,000,000 rubles (over \$250,000,000); postponement of payments on credits previously granted; cancellation of debts to government for land surveying for households entering collectives; cancellation of fines incurred before April 1st, 1930, for non-payment of taxes, for households entering collectives; postponement of payments for tractors until the end of the current fiscal year.

At the present time efforts are being made to strengthen in every way the contacts between the State farms and the collectives not only through the loan of machinery, but through extension of the facilities of the State farm machine shops, and through helping the collectives in the organization of their work and agricultural instruction. Special courses of training for collective workers are being instituted on the State farms, and workers are sent out from the State farms to give practical assistance to the collectives. It is also planned to bring the State farms and collectives closer together in social and cultural activities.

The Zernotrest (Grain Trust) has decided on a program whereby in addition to helping the collectives in the spring sowing, the State grain farms will during the current season plow 100,000 hectares of the collectives' land for summer fallow, 300,000 hectares for fall planting, and 600,000 hectares for next spring's sowing.

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# Soviet Elementary Schools

*Excerpts from a report by Sinaida Hoodnitskaya of the People's Commissariat of Education of the R. S. F. S. R., who is now studying educational methods in the United States.*

**I**N the Soviet Union the child is considered as a member of society. As such the child is a free personality, an individual with equal rights and responsibilities to adults, except for the natural limitations due to age. Coeducation is universal from kindergarten to university, there are no differences in the opportunities offered boys and girls. As a consequence there are growing up new relationships between boys and girls, adults and children, schools and children, communities and children, the State and children.

"This background provides unique advantages for the educational process, since the dominating factors of life are not limited by the school, and the situations of real life are carried over into the school. Music, radio, theaters, libraries, camps, museums, institutions of art and science, factories and farms—all these are within the reach of every child. Soviet institutions of every kind are required to be ready to help, to answer questions, to stimulate the thinking and acting of millions of Soviet children.

"The Soviet school has entirely lost the flavor of the mediaeval school, limited within four walls, where ink, paper, recitations and punishments always played the leading role. Academic study is no longer an end, but a means, and the children put everything they have learned to a practical test. The school is closely bound up with the community. It has become a place of practical activity where children and parents and other adults cooperate to raise the general political, cultural, economic and educational level and in carrying out projects of socially useful labor. How would such a project improve the conditions of the community and how would it affect the Five-Year Plan—these are the questions that are asked before starting on a project. In good schools one would not really know where school activity stops and where the community begins.

## Elementary School System

"Throughout the whole country we have a State system of elementary and secondary public or mass schools, but no private, nor so-called progressive and new schools. We believe that all of our schools should possess and combine qualities and advantages of the very best educational efforts based on scientific studies of child development. At the same time they should demonstrate to the population and be open at any time to parents as well as to organizations of public control, surveys and visitors. In short—we believe that as children represent the next generation, all of them have the right to attend the best schools.

"The only differences you will find within our school system are those incident to the use of different languages, as children are taught to read and write in their native language. There are, according to the reports of the Academy of Sciences, in addition to Russians, who form the majority of the population (52 per cent), over one hundred diverse nationalities in the Soviet Union, most of them still on a low cultural level. To overcome this cultural backwardness the Soviets started new schools, developed new alphabets, printed new primers and textbooks, trained teachers for racial groups who had never before taught in their native language. Thus you may visit Tartar schools, Chuvash schools, Tadjik schools, Gypsy schools, Eskimo schools, and so on, each of them especially adjusted to meet the particular needs of the various types of children.

"In Chuvash schools much of the school-time is devoted to formation of sanitary and hygienic habits, as that nationality has always suffered from tracoma. In such a school, the academic work is interwoven with demonstrations between the class periods on how to brush the teeth, to wash the hands and face in a proper way, to take care of eyes, to instruct parents at home in habits of cleanliness—soap, brush and towel being parts of the academic primary equipment.

"In the Gypsy school at Moscow you may see along with the regular instruction much art work, dancing, singing. The Gypsy children are alert and vital, reflecting the long inheritance of a life in the open.

"I was told of a teacher who started to teach Eskimo children, the school being at first merely a visiting sleigh! There are now regular schools and reading huts in the Far North, and in Leningrad there is a Rabfac (workers' faculty) to prepare boys and girls of Northern national minorities for college.

"According to the findings of the first social survey, organized by the People's Commissariat of Public Education last year, our best schools are not in cities and towns, but those closely connected with industrial and rural communities. There were no tests nor measurements used in an American way, but every school on the list, which was recommended by the communities, had to prove whether it had been of any value to the surrounding population. Curiously enough it was found that these schools had demonstrated, besides a high level of academic work, much progress in socially useful work and a close relation was proved to exist between these two types of work. Samples of children's work, such as drawings, pictures, manual labor, wall newspapers,

documents, records of the village and factory—people and their organizations were presented, telling how much and in what way the school helped the population to raise its political, economic and cultural level.

"The best school was found to be in a remote village near Viazina, where two teachers, in cooperation with school children, succeeded through their school activities in instructing the village people in the raising of poultry and different kinds of vegetables, organized parent and adult education, at the same time preparing the school children for life.

#### Relation of Labor to Studies

"Socially useful labor is the heart of Soviet education. The guiding principle of Soviet education is that the children should learn as soon as possible to make use of everything they know. Thus they will become more active and useful citizens in the future and while still in school they will get the feeling of the immediate use and significance of socially useful labor for the whole community.

"Thus school children help actively in carrying out the programs of pre-school education, participating in summer playgrounds, in organizing the children within and out of school, in teaching illiterate adults, circulating newspapers, in reading them regularly to illiterate people, in popularizing new methods of farming and tending cattle. Public health, children's health, and sanitation work take much of their time, especially in the primary and elementary grades. The children cultivate school gardens and farms, they form flower co-operatives, poultry clubs, start school shops, repair roads and build bridges across brooks. They organize national campaigns, such as 'Protect the Birds,' 'Fight against Harmful Insects,' as well as against mosquitoes and flies. In some rural schools children have started self-service lunch. Some schools do scientific research work in finding out new kinds of vegetables and fruit, better fitted for the climate, and so on.

"Let us take for example a first grade child, seven or eight years old, in some backward peasant village, where conditions would seem unbelievably primitive to the average American. The first school year the child learns about hygiene and sanitary habits, and actually teaches members of his family how to improve their conditions. I remember a rural school where the children learnt why it was necessary to open the window in winter time and to have a separate bed for every individual. In one case I read of, in a child's copybook, the child would make pictures and put them on a wall at home, the mother would ask what the pictures were about, which gave the child a chance to explain. In such a way many useful regulations appear in every home.

"I was told about 12 and 13 year old children

who found out that their district, being a remote one, was not well supplied with water. Their parents had to use a primitive surface well. At school, the children studied different systems of water supply and found their local conditions to be unsatisfactory. They sent a delegation to the president of the Water Supply Department, showing him figures about the population, the water supply and the need of an artesian well. He merely replied that he had not much time to talk to them and no money. Then they wrote a letter, describing the emergency and possibilities of different diseases . . . the end of this real children's story is that after a period of three months this district had a new artesian well.

"I remember another school where the children succeeded in organizing a playground for the school on a piece of ground turned over to them by a neighboring factory. But soon the children observed that some of the adults, visiting this playground, did not follow all the regulations . . . and threw cigarettes on the ground. The students' committee, on the advice of the principal of the school, resolved to go over to the factory meeting and tell the people over there frankly all about these difficulties. . . The adults liked this simple way of telling the truth and the question was settled satisfactorily.

"I know a school on the Volga, where boys and girls of the last grade in a high school helped the City Soviet in solving two problems. They took a census of and visited all the orphan children and developed a new plan for transportation, which was taken in consideration by the City Department of Transportation the next year when planning improvements in this municipal activity.

"Socially useful labor is closely connected with the school curriculum. The curriculum has for its aim the study of the productive activity of mankind in its various forms. Nature study illuminates the material basis and shows how the economic mode of living at a given time and place determines the forms and relationships of social life. The relations between nature, productive activity and social order are explained on the basis of concrete facts and observations. Special attention is paid to trips, excursions, and visits which play a leading role in collecting these materials and facts.

#### Relations of Teachers and Children

"All this work is carried on in close cooperation between the teacher and children. These relations are of extreme interest. Corporal punishment is forbidden. Rough treatment of the children calls forth protest on the part of children and the population. The school aims to develop in the children an inner sense of discipline, based on a realization of its importance. To this end complete self-government of children has been instituted in the school. When a child is in a kindergarten,

a school, a playground, a reading hut, children's club, or children's home he learns more and more by experience about his rights and responsibilities. Being a member of a small group, he participates with other boys and girls in building up a group life through cooperating in study, work, and play. Group cooperation needs some regulations and there arises the idea of self-government, its chief purpose being collective cooperation for the good of the group, as a social unit. The child's next experience is to be elected by his fellows as chairman or secretary of the group, or as representative to cooperate with other groups in the institution. Representatives of the children are freely admitted at the age of ten and eleven to teachers' meetings and discussions about everything that is going on in the schools—pupils' achievements and promotions, educational and socially useful problems, questions of financial and sanitary conditions of the school, equipment, and so on.

"Self-government of the pupils is universal from kindergarten to university, some activities being of course limited by the age of the child. Self-government is closely connected with social political education and forms the basis of the educational work. It is through participation in numerous branches of children's self-government that every youngster, step by step, gets experience to

meet and solve concrete every day problems of real life, and thus grows up into an active and thinking member of society.

### Interchange Between City and Country Schools

"There is a great movement of having city children and rural children visit each other in order to learn more about each other. It is carried out in this way. The students' committees of both schools, with the assistance of the teachers, get into contact with the special bureau for children's trips and arrange everything that would be necessary for such a visit: railroad tickets, boarding accommodations, etc. Then they plan special trips and visits to places and institutions well known because of their political, social, artistic or cultural value, always keeping in mind that the chief reason for this trip should be a closer and better understanding between children of different parts of the country. They organize an evening entertainment and issue a wall newspaper. The visitors usually bring a small exhibit of materials and products characteristic of their regions or districts, or charts and records, illustrating their study, work and play. In such a way children from the city and from the country keep in touch with each other and learn about each other's lives."

## The Soviet Press

**T**HIS year there are altogether 605 newspapers in the U. S. S. R., with a joint circulation of 12,521,000 copies. Before the revolution the total circulation of all the newspapers in Russia amounted to 2,710,000. The tendency at the present time is to specialize the newspapers more and more, so that they represent definite branches of industry or agriculture, and cater to the interests of special groups of the population, always, of course, carrying general news as well. During 1929 several new papers were established, among them "The Fight for Coal," published in Siberia in connection with Socialist competition in the mining industry; "The Proletarian," published in the Moscow District; "The Literary News" and the paper, "The Worker and Art," devoted to special questions of literature and art.

In 1930 a number of changes have been made in some of the more important Moscow papers. On January 1st "The Trade and Industrial News," the organ of the Supreme Council of National Economy, became "For Industrialization," expressing what had already for some time been the policy of the paper—to reflect and assist in every way the process of Socialist industrialization of the U. S. S. R. On February 1st "The Agricultural Gazette," formerly an organ of the Council

of People's Commissars of the U. S. S. R., became "Socialist Agriculture," the organ of the newly organized People's Commissar of Agriculture of the U. S. S. R., the Kolhozcenter (Collective Farm Center) and the Zernotrest (Grain Trust). In its new form it will be devoted particularly to problems of collectivization and large scale industrial agriculture. On March 1st "Economic Life," the oldest Soviet paper on economic problems, formerly the organ of the Council of Labor and Defense and the Economic Council of the R. S. F. S. R., became the organ of the People's Commissariats of Internal Trade, Ways and Communications, and Finance, so that these three vital branches of the national economy might find adequate attention in the press.

Newspaper circulation in the villages is growing rapidly. Before the revolution newspapers were rare in the rural districts; now there are a large number of peasant newspapers, with a circulation of over three million. "The Peasants' Gazette" alone has over a million circulation. This does not represent anywhere near the actual number of readers of the papers, as a large number of the subscribers are the village reading huts, peasants' and agricultural laborers' clubs, or collective groups, so that many of the single copies

have dozens of readers, and are regularly read aloud to groups of illiterate peasants.

Of great importance are the papers published for and by the national minorities. Altogether there are newspapers published in fifty-eight languages on Soviet territory.

At the present time the various types of papers may be divided as follows: papers of central and local government organs, 158; trade union papers, 22; general workers' papers, 66; peasants' papers, 225; Communist Youth and Pioneer papers, 77; military, 21; Cooperative, 19; miscellaneous, 17.

In the past few years about a hundred new newspapers have been established of both general and specialized character. In connection with the redistricting of the country the regional and district papers have increased in importance.

The growth in circulation and bulk of the papers has been somewhat hampered by the difficulties of the paper industry in keeping up with the enormous demands of publishing of all kinds. There is no doubt that as soon as this problem is overcome the growth of circulation will be still more intense, in proportion to the spread of education among the masses and the improvement in economic conditions. The cutting down in size of some of the newspapers has been partially compensated for by the practice of issuing periodical supplements. The lack of paper has also somewhat hampered the transition of the newspapers to the continuous working week. In addition to "Pravda" and "Izvestia," which are already being issued every day in the week, only a few of the other papers will adopt this system for the present.

#### Worker and Peasant Correspondents

At the present time there are over 300,000 worker and peasant correspondents with whom the editorial staffs of the papers are carrying on educational and organizational work. Through these correspondents the Soviet press maintains the closest possible contact with the masses. These correspondents from all over the country keep the local and central papers in constant touch with what is happening in every corner of the Soviet Union. They criticize mercilessly every abuse of authority, any stupid or vicious application of government measures. It was largely through these correspondents that the over-zealous and stupid methods of many of the local officials in trying to carry on the collectivization movement among the peasants by bureaucratic decree and by violence, rather than by voluntary means based on demonstration of the advantages of the method, were brought to light and are now being corrected. There is not space to print all of the material sent in by these correspondents, but it is all given the closest attention and plays a vital part in determining government policy.

#### Role of Press

The Soviet papers play an active part in all that goes on in the Soviet Union. They are not concerned with sensational, personal news. They play a definite organizational, educational and critical role. This has been especially apparent during the past year in the execution of the Five-Year Plan. It has been mainly through the influence and agitation carried on in the press that the Socialist competition to improve both the quantity and quality of production has achieved such gratifying results. As soon as the campaign for Socialist competition opened at the beginning of 1929 the newspapers "Rabochaya Gazette" and "Luganskaya Pravda" began to carry in their pages reports of the progress of the competition between the different mines of the Don Basin—the first of the multitude of competitions. Through the activities of the press the competition in the mines spread throughout the whole Soviet Union, and grew to a mass movement among the miners for increasing the productivity of labor and lowering production costs, the results of which were followed with great excitement.

On the initiative of the "Tverskaya Pravda" the local textile factory, "Proletarka," entered upon a "Socialist contract" with another huge textile factory, the famous "Triokhgornia" works of Moscow, and subsequently these "Socialist contracts," setting a definite goal of production to be reached within a certain period, became the most popular form of carrying on competitions between factories and shops, mines, Soviet farms and collectives, institutions of all kinds, whole districts. The newspapers do not stop at mere agitation and reportorial work. They take an active part in checking the progress of such campaigns, organizing conference, assisting in the activities of the "shock troops"—the groups of foremost workers which have been organized in all factories and institutions to take the initiative in such movements—and in publishing the "scores."

#### Wall Newspapers

The number of wall newspapers continued to grow during 1929. These are an important institution in Soviet life. Many of them have developed into regular newspapers, and many factories and shops are now issuing their own regular printed newspapers which in quality and make-up compare very favorably with the regular press. These papers not only reflect vitally the local problems, and take a constructive part in factory life, but are closely linked up with the general press. Dealing in a simpler way with complex national and international problems, using more graphic material, they lead their sometimes barely literate readers gradually to a greater understanding of what is going on in the world around them. The recent period has been characterized especially by the growth of wall newspapers in the collectives and State farms.

## Music for the Masses

THERE are ten thousand amateur musical and choral groups in the cities of the Soviet Union, and thirty thousand in the villages. A great deal of folk, popular and classical music, is published for the use of these groups. One method of distributing music is through the newspapers. The Communist Youth and Pioneer papers have been instrumental in making the music of Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Chopin, Tchaikowsky and others accessible to millions of young musicians who could not obtain it otherwise.

These musical groups receive a great deal of encouragement and assistance. Periodical conferences are held to consider all possible means of bringing music within the reach of the masses. Special attention is directed to singling out those particularly gifted both as musicians and composers in the different circles, and arranging for their further musical education.

A large number of symphonic orchestras have been organized by independent groups. Where there are not players for all the instruments, the four string "domra," a simple instrument, easily mastered, is used. In Moscow alone there are about twenty symphonic orchestras, with a thousand members. Many of the workers' clubs have developed very fine orchestras. Among the workers' groups Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, and Rimsky-Korsakov are the most popular composers. Compositions of young Soviet composers dealing with modern themes are frequently played by these orchestras. In some cases orchestral and choral work are combined, and workers' groups in a number of cities have given very creditable performances of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Some of the more ambitious groups, both in the cities and villages, have undertaken the production of whole operas.

Art and music have an important place in the curriculum of all Soviet schools, and there are hundreds of choruses and musical circles among the school children. The Young Pioneers have numerous orchestras and hundreds of childrens' choruses. Some of the schools have excellent childrens' orchestras. A complete symphonic program of Haydn and Grieg was recently given at School No. 2 of the Moscow Krasno-Presensky District. All the musicians and soloists were children from eleven to sixteen years.

Music is very popular in the Red Army, which also has numerous instrumental and choral groups. The central clubs of the Red Army have special courses in music, and offer many facilities for both playing and hearing music. There are ethnographic sections which collect and study the songs of the national minorities, and com-

posers' groups, which arrange the folk music for instrumental and choral work. Wind instruments are especially popular in the Red Army. Red Army symphony orchestras in the larger cities frequently give concerts which are open to the public.

The radio, the gramophone, the sound picture are all being used to carry classical, folk and revolutionary music into the most remote corners of the Soviet Union.

A new musical instrument called the "Sonar" has recently been developed by the engineer Ipatiev. This instrument is an adaptation of the "Theremenovoks." It has a keyboard, and is so simple that anyone can learn to play it. It has been estimated that it can be manufactured to sell at between twenty and thirty rubles, and will unquestionably become a very popular instrument in time.

Musical education is further carried on through special concerts. The Moscow District Council of Trade Unions has for some years periodically arranged splendid concerts for audiences of workers. The "Persymphens" (conductorless orchestra) and the Sophil (Soviet Philharmonic) in addition to their regular performances, frequently give concerts for workers directly at their place of work, during rest hours. Recently the operas, too, have been adapting themselves to the needs of the masses. A traveling opera company has been formed which gives excellent performances in the various workers' districts. The regular State operatic theaters in Moscow, Leningrad, Kharkov and Sverdlovsk have arranged special "workers' corners" where workers unfamiliar with the opera may come during the intermissions and receive instruction on musical or other questions arising in connection with the performance.

An important factor in the musical education of the people is the recently organized society "Music for the Masses." The chief task of this society is to increase the facilities for musical education. Its members assist in the establishment of musical schools, in arranging for the training of gifted workers and peasants, stimulate musical composition, develop music among the minor nationalities, and extend the use of music in connection with mass demonstrations on national holidays, and so on. Another of the chief problems of this society is to lower the cost of musical instruments so that they will be within the reach of everyone. There is already a factory which manufactures simple accordions, and also the "Baianov" accordion, a somewhat more complex instrument.

Not so long ago it was thought that the ac-

cordion could be used only for folk songs and peasant dances. But in 1926 an accordion symphony orchestra was organized under the direction of L. M. Banovitch which has given very creditable performance of classical music as well. Last summer, at the invitation of the central council of the railroad workers' union the orchestra made an extended tour of the Soviet Union, giving 161 concerts, and helped in the formation of accordion clubs, assisted workers' organizations in remote parts of the country to secure music and instruments, and so on. The orchestra visited the encampments of the Far Eastern Army on the Manchurian border, where they were very warmly received.

Musical publishing houses are constantly expanding their work, and issue tens of thousands

of inexpensive editions of all types of music. Hundreds of five kopeck sheets of music have been issued for the use of the circles. Inexpensive editions of the songs of the national minorities are also appearing, and musical publications have greatly increased in the remote republics.

Musical "Olympiads," festivals, contests and inter-republic competitions play an important role. On such occasions thrilling choruses of thousands of voices have been heard in Moscow and Leningrad. Music is being used more and more as a means of mass expression at public festivals, and some interesting experiments have been made in the composition of music for such occasions.

## Folk Songs in the Soviet Union

ALL Russians sing. In the darkest and most remote villages groups of peasants may be heard singing songs that have come down through the centuries. In some miraculous way unlettered peasant boys and girls have memorized endless verses of a rich store of songs and sing them in close and intricate harmonies that would put many a college glee club to shame. Many of these songs have become known from one end of Russia to the other, have been woven into operas and sung by choruses until they have become familiar all over the world. Many others, especially among the minor nationalities, have been confined to certain localities, have never even been written, but sung down from one generation to the next. What collections of music were gathered from remote districts in the past were apt to be known only to limited groups.

Now all this rich musical wealth stored up for centuries is being dipped into, and poured out into a new musical culture. Old themes are being worked into new songs, and being used in new symphonies and operas and ballets.

Every section of the Soviet Union is contributing its share of themes to the new composers. The cities of White Russia had begun to lose the old folk music, but much of it has remained among the White Russian peasants. Now the interchange between city and country is being restored. Two State choruses, with cymbal accompaniment, have been organized in Minsk. Such composers as Pashenko, Lobachev, Buglai, Davidenko, Koval and others are finding a wealth of material in the White Russian songs to use in their mass revolutionary songs and instrumental compositions. The workers in the cities have become very fond of singing peasant choruses with soloists, and in playing peasant airs with their balalaika and ac-

cordion orchestras. The new energetic tempo of life is reflected in the change from the old melancholy, haunting type of folk song to the popular "tschastushka," couplets sung rapidly and gaily, the words frequently composed as they go along.

The process of collecting and adapting folk music is being carried on most intensively in the Ukraine, where choral singing is very popular. In Kiev a type of chorus has been revived from the seventeenth century, a group of singers who play the many stringed instrument known as the "kobze." A large group of young composers in Kharkov and Kiev are using a vast amount of this material in symphonies, chamber music and operas. The symphony of Leo Revutzky is especially noteworthy.

Of especial interest in the world of music is the re-birth of the national music of the Soviet East, where the influence of Arabian and Persian music is very strong. The Soviet musicians Uspensky and Belayev have produced an important work on "Turkoman Music," including the transcription of 115 songs. The Azerbaijan Turks have preserved the colorful music of Arabia and Persia in an even purer form in their complex melodies and rhythms. They have established their own opera and conservatory in Baku, where the original form of their folk music is being preserved.

A thousand songs of the Kirghiz have been collected and published by the poet Zatayevich. He is soon to issue a supplementary edition of songs, and seventy Kirghiz melodies which he has arranged for the piano. A study of the one-voice melodies of the Kirghiz, Turkomans and Azerbaijan Turks reveals a highly developed melodic art, which was lost to European composers at the beginning of the twentieth century. Among these Eastern peoples all human experiences are ex-

pressed in music. The Kirghiz, for instance, sing at the most serious business meetings. They have a special song to establish a betrayer. Uspensky relates that the Turkomans will often gather in a crowded hut and listen to their singers from early evening until long after midnight. Their attitude toward music is reflected in the saying: "Singers hasten on galloping horses to a happy people, to an unhappy people the Tear comes with soldiers." One Turkoman singer refused payment for singing with the words, "I sing—this is my gift to the people."

Two years ago a scientific institute for the study of Uzbek folk music was founded in Samarkand. The activities of the institute include scientific investigation, the collection and arrangement of folk songs, the teaching of classical music, training of Uzbek composers, and the reconstruction of national instruments. The institute also has a training course for music teachers. An orchestra of national instruments has been established among the teachers and students of the institute. A valuable work by the director of the institute, Mironov, has been published, in which is given an analysis of the folk and classical music of the Uzbeks, with many examples. The first elementary text book in the theory of music has been published in the Uzbek language.

In Georgia and Armenia European influences are felt, but here, too, native folk music is being preserved and developed. In Tiflis there is a very fine Georgian opera, where the operas of the native composers Arakishvili and Paliashvili may be heard. The Georgian Conservatories are graduating well trained young musicians. The Tiflis radio station broadcasts a great deal of music, both native and European, and there are several native choruses in Tiflis.

In Armenia the well known blind composer, Nikolai Tigranov, is still at work, and the gifted composer Stsendarov, pupil of Rimski-Korsakoff, died only recently, leaving behind his opera, "Almast," and an orchestral arrangement of Armenian music. There are several gifted young Armenian composers whose compositions are being published by the Armenian State Musical Publishing House.

Among all the national minorities there is great musical activity. The Chuvash, Tartars, Bashkirs, the peoples of the Lower Volga and the Crimea all have their musical schools and choruses. Much of their music has been written down for the first time. The Tartars of Kazan have formed an operatic theater. The songs of Daghestan have been collected, and a musical school has recently been opened there. The songs of the Chechentsi, the Circassians and the Abkhazians have also been collected. Some of the peculiar three-voice Abkhasian songs have been orchestrated by the young musician Kovachem. Many of the songs of the Yakuts and the Buriat Mongols have been collected by Salmont and Subotini.

These native songs and melodies are not kept within their own districts, but there is a constant exchange of music between the various nationalities through visits of national choruses, orchestras, opera troupes, and through the publication and wide distribution of the music. Radio stations in the different republics carry native songs to all parts of the union. Gramophone records have been made of much of this native music. Plans are under way to make sound pictures of all the different nationalities, which will give a fascinating picture of native life and customs accompanied by reproductions of native music.

## Home Study by Radio

ACCORDING to a registration made in 1929 by the People's Commissariat for Posts and Telegraphs of the U. S. S. R., there were over 410,000 radio receiving centers at that time in the Soviet Union, and 340,000 new sets will be installed during the current year. By means of the radio the most remote and unenlightened corners of the U. S. S. R. receive instruction from the foremost professors in Moscow, Leningrad and Kharkov. Every worker who has a radio has an opportunity for self-instruction without leaving his own home. In some places there are whole families who study around the radio.

In the U. S. S. R. the most widespread and systematic course of study through the radio is on the lines of the workers' universities. In Moscow, Leningrad, Minsk, Tiflis and Baku, there are radio workers' universities. The Leningrad University has courses for both workers and peas-

ants, the Moscow University for workers only. In addition to lectures the radio keeps a strict survey of the students' progress and checks their work by means of correspondence tests. The radio universities in Tiflis, Baku and Minsk conduct courses in the native languages, and the nature of their work is similar to that of the Moscow Radio University.

In addition to the workers' university there are regular radio courses in technical subjects, the English and German languages, and shorthand.

The technical courses are conducted with the assistance of the Bureau of Correspondence Courses at the Lomonosovsky Institute. The courses begin with general technical subjects: applied mathematics, physics, elementary mechanics and reading plans. When these subjects have been mastered there are courses for mechanics, locksmiths, tractor drivers, electricians and

others. Instruction in these subjects may continue as long as two years, depending on the nature of the subject. A small fee is charged for these courses. During the first year two subjects are taken, mathematics and plan reading, and the fee for this instruction is 16.65 rubles (about \$8.00). The fee for the second year is based on the subjects chosen.

The Moscow Stenographic Society has arranged a shorthand course. A speed of seventy-five words a minute may be attained by this method within a year. There is a fee for the course, the first month costing two rubles. The student receives two lessons per week on the theory of shorthand, exercises on the lessons and two tests per month.

Two-year foreign language courses are conducted by the Bureau of Correspondence Courses in connection with the Educational Department. The standard adopted is that of secondary schools. The course is free but the necessary books must be purchased. These may be obtained from the Bureau of Correspondence Courses for sixteen kopeks (eight cents) each. Seventy-four such booklets have already been published.

In addition to these regular courses, the Moscow station also broadcasts many lectures of an educational nature. For instance, in March, 1929, the Moscow station broadcasted many lectures of an economic-geographical nature, a number of which dealt with the Five-Year Plan. Such subjects sometimes serve as supplementary material to the regular transmissions as, for instance, in connection with the course on economic geography in the radio workers' university.

A beginning has been made in the organization of local self-education societies to serve as rallying points for self-education by means of the radio.

In March, 1929, this subject was discussed at a conference of the educational authorities and the idea was approved.

Since the great drawback in radio work at present lies in the absence of oral discussions, self education societies organize oral assistance for those who go in for home study by radio. Such oral work is best organized in connection with educational centers: schools, workers' universities, technical institutes, etc.

Many students buy their supplies through the university and the Bureau of Correspondence Courses attached to the Educational Bureau and the Lomonosovsky University, but for those who cannot do this the supply of books is organized through local libraries—every student possesses a registration card which entitles him to receive the necessary literature.

The Moscow radio center acts as a clearing house for information concerning the addresses of home students in the various provinces, the programs, lessons, lists of literature required and the

various lecturers.

Assistance on these lines may be supplied by those self-education centers that have no local re-broadcasting station, but are connected with the Moscow network. In the R. S. F. S. R. there are twenty-three transmission stations; in the Ukrainian S. S. R., four; in the Transcaucasian S. F. S. R., three; the White Russian S. S. R., two; in Uzbekistan S. S. R., two, and in the Turkoman S. S. R., one. These have various wave lengths. In the centers far removed from Moscow such as Khabarovsk, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Tashkent, etc., where Moscow transmissions cannot be heard, it is planned to establish local radio courses.

Self instruction societies also help in arranging for the installation of radios in village reading rooms and clubs, and, of course, in the workers' homes. For this purpose it is proposed to organize oral and correspondence courses in radio technique in connection with the local wireless station.

## Soviet Worker Inventors

A GREAT deal of inventing is being done by workers on the job in Soviet factories. So extensive has the movement become that in some factories practically every worker is engaged in working out some new process or tool. A striking example of this is the Briansk Locomotive factory, "Krasnye Profintern." During 1928 over a thousand inventions were submitted by the workers of this plant, and the economies achieved by the application of those accepted amounted to 328,000 rubles. Not a single process of production, not a single detail of the works escaped the eager attention of the worker inventors. During last October alone four hundred proposals were submitted to the administration by the workers. So great is the flood of inventions by the workers in this factory that the department to which the inventions are referred could not handle all of them, and three special commissions had to be organized to consider the different types of inventions, and also a special bureau to examine new proposals. Of the 13,000 workers in this factory, 600 have become inventors. In addition, hundreds of workers have participated in the work of "rationalization"—in working out simpler and more efficient methods of work, and from their ranks new inventors are arising. A system of premiums for inventions has been established and during the past year 30,000 rubles have been paid out to workers in the form of premiums.

Another factory where inventing is especially popular among the workers is the "Press" factory in Moscow, which manufactures different kinds of tinware. Tens of thousands of rubles have been saved in this factory through inventions of the

workers, and the whole process of production has been completely reorganized. Numerous processes formerly done by hand are now done automatically through the inventions of the workers. Through one worker's invention of a method of automatic lubrication the output of one press was increased from 12,000 to 20,000 articles a day. Automatic methods of cutting and stamping introduced by a worker increased the output of another machine from 25,000 to 30,000, and so on.

These two factories are not exceptional. The Five-Year Plan and the competition between the different factories and different sections within a factory, has given a tremendous impetus to creative activity among the workers, which is being supported in every way by the factory administrations and the government.

## 1,000 Scientific Expeditions

THE intensive economic development now going on in the Soviet Union in connection with the Five-Year Plan has made it necessary to organize scientific expeditions to all parts of the Soviet Union to study the natural resources of the country, and particularly to locate new deposits of ore and other minerals. Increased appropriations for this purpose have enabled the Academy of Sciences to equip over a thousand expeditions of all kinds this year, in addition to the hundred expeditions sent out by the scientific research institutes in Moscow and the expeditions sent out by scientific institutes of the various national republics.

The expeditions of the Academy of Sciences will explore all parts of the Soviet Union from the Polar regions to the Pamirs, and from White Russia to the Japanese Sea. Several expeditions will go abroad, among them an expedition to study Aetna and the volcanoes on the Lipari Islands, headed by Prof. Levinson-Lessing, and an expedition to Mongolia.

Several well known scientists of other countries will participate in some of the expeditions within the Soviet Union. Roy Chapman Andrews, chief of the division of Asiatic exploration of the American Museum of Natural History, will take part in excavations in Western Turkestan to be made under the leadership of Prof. Borissiak.

The Tadzhikistan expedition will continue the exploration of the Pamirs which has already yielded important results. The Soviet scientists intend to carry out the most thorough explorations in parts of the Pamir to which no human beings have heretofore penetrated, which are rich in mineral deposits. The deserts of Kara-Kum, Kizil Kum and others will also be explored.

There will also be expeditions to Siberia, the Urals, the Caucasus and the Kola Peninsula, which will be visited by twenty scientific groups from the Academy in connection with the discovery of nepheline and apatite sites.

For the first time this year the Academy of Sciences will commence the exploration of the vast and hitherto unexplored "metal belt" 2,000 kilometers wide, which stretches from Mongolia to the Okhotsk Sea. In the Trans-Baikalian section of this zone there are rich deposits of silver, wolfram, bismuth and precious stones. The Northern wing of this zone, 600 kilometers in length is rich in arsenic, gold and precious gems.

There will be an expedition to Novaya Zemlya under Prof. Ushakov, explorer of Wrangel Island. Numerous expeditions will go out to various parts of the Soviet Union to study questions of the cultural life of the native populations, their language, living conditions, and ancient customs.

Several agricultural expeditions will carry on experimental work in the more arid sections of the grain-producing regions and along the Black Sea shore of the Caucasus, with the aim of discovering whether new grains, technical crops, caoutchouc and other plants can be grown in this region.

The Moscow Scientific institutes are also sponsoring a large number of important expeditions. The chief geo-physical observatory is organizing an expedition to the Caucasus to study the ultra-violet radiation of the sun and the ozone content in the upper layers of the atmosphere. The Geo-physical Institute is sending a seismological expedition to explore the natural resources of the region around Baku. The Institute of Anthropology of the 1st Moscow State University is organizing expeditions to the Caucasus, Siberia, and the Votjak region. The Museum of Oriental Culture is sending an expedition to Turkmenistan to study rug making. The Institute of Archaeology and Art is sending expeditions to Uzbekistan, the Urals and Siberia. The Institute of Ethnic and National Culture of the Peoples of the East is sending an expedition to study the literature, folk-lore and language of Tadzhikistan. The Institute of Mineralogy is sending an expedition to Western Altai to explore the mica deposits, and so on.

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## Congresses to Meet in U. S. S. R.

### Second International Soil Congress

**T**HE International Society of Soil Scientists will hold its Second International Congress in Leningrad on July 20, 1930, according to a decision adopted at the First World Congress of Soil Scientists held in Washington in 1927.

Over 170 foreign scientists have already signified their intention to attend the congress, representing more than twenty-five countries. The congress will be divided into six different sections. A great many of the papers to be read before the different sections have already been received. The Commission on Soil Biology has received more than seventy papers.

The congress will meet six days in Leningrad and six days in Moscow. During the congress a comprehensive exhibition on soil science will be held, for which a number of foreign exhibits have already been received. Prior to the opening of the congress the delegates will make a seven-day visit to Murmansk and to the White Russian Agricultural Exhibition at Minsk, as well as a number of excursions around Moscow and Leningrad. Upon its adjournment delegates to the congress will make a 24-day trip across the U. S. S. R. to study the soils of the country and inspect the new factories, the State and collective farms and agricultural institutions. The principal points to be visited will be Stalingrad, Tiflis, Batum, Sebastopol, Dnieprostroi and Kiev. Local reception committees have been appointed to meet the delegates to the congress at the more important points on the itinerary.

For the benefit of the delegates several works on the soils and agriculture of the Soviet Union will be published in English and German, as well as a comprehensive guide book containing descriptions of the climate, geology, vegetation and agricultural experimental work of the European part of the U. S. S. R.

### First All-Union Mathematical Congress

On the 24th of June the first All-Union Mathematical Congress will be held in Kharkov. The organization committee of the congress is headed by Prof. Bernstein and has its headquarters in Kharkov.

Mathematicians of other countries have evinced great interest in the congress and all of those so far invited have expressed their desire to participate and have sent in the theses of their reports. An invitation has been sent to Prof. Einstein. It is expected that there will be 400 delegates to the congress, among them about 30 of the foremost mathematicians from other countries.

### International Railroad Conference

On April 25th the fifth international railroad conference on questions of through railroad communication between Europe and Asia opened in Odessa. Sixty-five delegates were expected to attend the conference—from Japan, China, France, Italy, Poland, Checho-Slovakia, Sweden, Belgium, Finland, Austria, Esthonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the U. S. S. R., and other countries. Representatives of the Chinese Eastern Railway and the Southern Manchurian Railway were expected.

## Consumers' Cooperation

**M**EMBERSHIP in the Consumers' Cooperatives in the Soviet Union is growing steadily. On October 1st, 1927, the Consumers' Cooperatives embraced only one-fifth of the people in the Soviet Union. A year later the membership had reached 27 per cent of the population, and on October 1st, 1929, 39 per cent of the entire population were enrolled in the Consumers' Cooperatives. It is interesting to note that whereas a few years ago the rate of growth of the cooperative movement was much slower among the country than the urban population, membership is now growing more rapidly in the villages than in the cities. Thus in the past two years the village membership has more than doubled, while the city membership has increased by only 90 per cent. Of the 33,604,000 cooperative shareholders registered on October 1st, 1929, 20,554,000 were peasant members.

Membership has continued to grow rapidly during the current year, over four and a half million members having joined during the first quarter of the year.

The capital stock of the Consumers' Cooperatives has increased at an even greater rate than the membership. Thus on October 1st, 1927, the capital stock amounted to 76,300,000 rubles, and on October 1st, 1929, it had grown to 370,000,000 rubles. According to preliminary data the capital stock on January 1st, 1930, amounted to 465,000,000 rubles.

In the field of trading, there has been a great increase in the number of cooperative shops and booths. On October 1st, 1927, there were altogether 73,505 Consumers' Cooperative shops. By October 1st, 1929, the number had increased to 114,121. The trade turnover of Consumers' Cooperation in the U. S. S. R. in 1928-29 amounted to over nineteen billion rubles, an increase of 30 per cent over the preceding year. In view of the growth of consumers' and other types of cooperative and state trade, the role of the private trader, which amounted in 1928-29 to forty-nine billion rubles, has shrunk to about 6 per cent of the total.

## Miscellaneous News

### Foreign Technical Aid in the U. S. S. R.

WITH the industrialization of the U. S. S. R. the employment of foreign technical assistance in the industries of the country has been steadily increasing. During the first five months of the current fiscal year twenty-five new contracts have been signed with foreign countries for technical consultation. On March 1st, 1930, there were 104 such contracts in operation in the industries of the U. S. S. R.

During 1928-29 the number of contracts with American firms greatly increased and America assumed the first place among the countries holding these contracts.

According to the Supreme Economic Council the contracts with companies such as Ford, General Electric, Albert Kahn, the Austin Company and others have already produced highly favorable results.

In addition to contracts with business firms, a large number of engineers and other specialists, totaling 1,350, the majority of them Germans, are employed in Soviet industries under individual contracts.

The Soviet Government is doing everything possible to assure the foreign specialists all comforts and conveniences. The Workers' and Peasants' Inspection Department has established a special foreign section to cater to the needs of foreign specialists.

The Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the "Culture and Technique" Society are helping the foreign specialists to orient themselves in the new conditions. Special lectures are arranged for them, and they are given every facility to study Russian.

### The All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences

THE All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences named after Lenin has taken up the reorganization of the entire field of research and experimental work in agriculture.

The Academy, which is headed by the well known Professor Vavilov, originally consisted of eleven institutes specializing in the different branches of agricultural science. At the present time the Academy is engaged in preparing programs for fifty research institutes.

Most of the new institutes will be established in provincial cities throughout the U. S. S. R.,

in view of the diversity of agricultural conditions existing on the vast territory of the Union and the necessity of bringing new territories under cultivation. Thus grain institutes will be organized in Viatka in order to extend grain farming into the North, in Saratov for the purpose of developing more stable agriculture, in Omsk (Siberia) and Kharkov (Ukraine). Cattle breeding institutes will be established in Siberia, Kazakstan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, etc. Institutes specializing in certain crops will be opened in places adapted to the cultivation of that particular crop such as a cotton institute in Uzbekistan, a maize institute in Dnepropetrovsk, a sugar-beet institute in Kiev, and so on. Special institutes will be opened in Moscow, Leningrad, Kharkov and Saratov for the training of scientific workers in agriculture.

In addition to intense research activities and the solution of important practical problems relating to the development and reconstruction of agriculture, the Academy will have charge of the organization of congresses and conferences and the representation of the U. S. S. R. at international congresses.

### Study of the Orient

AT the present time there are twenty-five organizations and societies engaged in the study of the Orient on the territory of the Uzbek Republic. The oldest organization of this kind is the Central-Asian Society in Tashkent, reorganized from the former Turkestan division of the Russian Geographical Society. The activities of this society consist in expeditions to Central Asia, publishing, scientific reports on the lore of Turkestan, archaeological, historical and ethnographical work.

The Central-Asian State University, organized in 1918, has become an important educational institution and has combined the work of a number of scientific research institutes, and gathered around it a number of scientific societies. The university has developed a large publishing activity and as a result has been able to make connections with numerous scientific organizations in the Soviet Union and abroad. At the present time the university sends its publications to 500 organizations in other countries. The library of the university contains 100,000 volumes including many valuable works of Central Asia and the Orient.

Of other scientific organizations carrying on a study of the Orient there should be noted the scientific research institute for the study of the

music of Uzbekistan, the Uzbek State Pedagogical Institute, the Archaeological Society, the Society of Uzbek Proletarian Writers (Kizil-Kaliam), the Samarkand society for the study of that region, and the society for the study of Uzbekistan.

The Uzbekistan committee for the preservation of ancient relics which was organized this year carried out two expeditions in the region of Samarkand and Khoresm. Scientific research work is also carried on by local ethnographic and regional museums in Samarkand, Tashkent, Khivin, Bukhara, and Kokand.

### Central Asian Air Lines

THE administration of the Central Asian Aviation organization, "Dobrolet" is reestablishing its former air lines and opening several new ones. This spring an air route from Sergiopol to Chuguchak in Western China, 350 kilometers in length, will be opened. This line will connect the "Turk-Sib" (Turkestan-Siberian Railroad) with Western China. There will be several flights a week between Semipalatinsk and Pavlodar. Other airlines to operate this spring will be the Tashkent-Alma-Ata, (813 kilometers); Sergiopol-Akmolinsk-Kustanai (1,100 kilometers); Kuliab-Sarai-Stalinabad-Garm; Garm-Khorog, and the Stalinabad-Kurgan-Tiube-Kuliab-Sarai. Regular flights between Tashkent and Kabul will be resumed.

A Moscow-Tashkent air line will be opened this summer. By flying at night, this air route can be cut down about twenty hours, and the flight from Moscow to Kabul can be made in 27 hours. A letter sent by air-mail from Berlin will reach Kabul in 36 hours.

Most of the passenger lines this year will use planes of Soviet construction, the Kalinin and Tupolev types. On some of the Central Asian routes ten-passenger planes of the type of "Wings of the Soviets" which made a successful flight in Western Europe last summer, will be used.

### Kamerny Theater on Tour

The Kamerny Theater left Moscow in March to make a tour of European and South American cities. The first performance was given in Leipzig on March 28th. From there the itinerary included Prague, Vienna, Munich, Turin, Florence, Rome, Milan, Paris, Berlin and Hamburg. On June 19th the troupe is booked to sail for Buenos Aires. In addition to Buenos Aires, the company is booked for Rio de Janeiro and Montevideo. The repertory to be given by the Kamerny theater during its tour includes Ostrovsky's "Storm," Eugene O'Neill's "Desire Under the Elms" and "All God's Chillun Got Wings," and Lecoq's "Jiroflée, Jirofla," and "Day and Night." In addition

"Antigone" will be shown in Paris and Berlin, and "The Beggars' Opera" in South America. The trip will take about seven months.

### Reorganization of Customs

Recently the customs houses of the U. S. S. R. have been completely reorganized. A new customs tariff has been introduced based on the price of the article rather than its weight which will greatly simplify the procedure of collecting duties. The new tariff regulations cover 122 articles, with 154 duties, in place of the 1,000 duties that existed before. The simplification of examinations and warehouse operations will make it possible to reduce the customs personnels considerably, with a consequent savings of two and a half million rubles a year.

### Changes in Soviet Foreign Service

Mr. C. E. Erznkian has been relieved of the duties of Trade Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Finland, and Mr. Z. M. Davidov has been appointed in his stead.

Mr. I. A. Smirnov has been relieved of the duties of Trade Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Esthonia, and Mr. A. A. Dedyha has been appointed in his place.

Mr. N. V. Rogozinsky has been appointed Trade Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Norway in place of Mr. J. J. Elerdov, who has been relieved of the post.

## Book Notes

"SOVIET ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND AMERICAN BUSINESS," by Saul G. Bron. Horace Liv-  
eright, New York. \$1.00.

Mr. Saul G. Bron, former Chairman of the Board of the Amtorg Trading Corporation, prepared this interesting study of the perspectives of American-Soviet trade in relation to Soviet economic development under the Five-Year Plan before he sailed to become Soviet Trade Commissioner in London. His experience of nearly two and a half years as director of Soviet trade operations in the United States gives his book peculiar interest and value. Mr. Bron quotes figures showing that during the past five years trade between the United States and the Soviet Union has amounted to over \$500,000,000, and that during 1928-29 it reached a total of \$155,000,000. Pointing out that the U. S. S. R. is one of the greatest potential markets for American machinery, Mr. Bron discusses the present obstacles in the way of trade, and the possibilities for future development. An appendix presents a series of statistical tables giving details of the Five-Year Plan and of economic progress in every line during the past few years.

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# SOVIET UNION REVIEW

Twenty Cents

June, 1930

Vol. VIII, No. 6



**All-Union Theatrical Festival**  
**Yakovlev on the Agricultural Situation**  
**State Aid For Artists**  
**On the Soviet Educational Front**  
**Opening of the Turksib**  
**Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union**

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## Yakovlev on the Agricultural Situation

SOLID successes of the collective movement are reported and measures for its further development outlined in the thesis prepared for the XVI Party Congress by the Commissar of Agriculture for the U. S. S. R., Yakovlev, which was printed in the Moscow "Izvestia" of May 19th. Extracts from the thesis follow:

"The two and a half years that have elapsed since the Fifteenth Party Congress have been a period of the greatest change in the development of the agriculture of the U. S. S. R.

"This change is characterized by the fact that by May 1st, 1930, in the main grain regions of the producing sections, between 40 and 45 per cent of the peasant households have been collectivized in place of the two or three per cent collectivized in the spring of 1928, and the seeded area of the collectives throughout the U. S. S. R., which amounted to 1,500,000 hectares in the spring of 1928 has been increased, in accordance with the decision of the Central Committee of the Party of January 5th, to approximately 30 to 35,000,000 hectares by the spring of 1930, excluding the winter area. As a result of this, the collectives, together with the sovkhozes (State farms) will, during the present year, 1930, produce the *basic* part of the commercial surplus of grain, as against the period between the Fifteenth Congress and the Sixteenth Conference, when the overwhelming proportion of commercial grain was produced by individual peasants, including the kulaks. Thus the party is solving in practice the main and most difficult problem of agriculture—the grain problem."

Reiterating the main points of Joseph Stalin's

article of March 2nd, on "Dizziness from Successes," Mr. Yakovlev emphasizes in his thesis the importance of building collectives only on an absolutely voluntary basis, of recognizing the agricultural *artel* as the desirable form of collective at the present time rather than the more completely socialized agricultural commune, of adapting the forms of the collective movement to the needs and peculiarities of the different regions, and providing extensive state aid, material and financial. Mr. Yakovlev further stated that as a result of measures taken to correct earlier mistakes in the method of organizing collectives, the achievements of the collective movement had been put on a more solid basis. In the most important grain producing areas the bulk of the spring seeding was carried on by the collectives, and in the non-grain regions the individual peasants carried out an energetic seeding program, while a certain number of the more stable of the collectives, forming a nucleus for the further development of the collective movement in these regions, were maintained.

"This spring," the thesis continues, "not only the inter-village machine and tractor stations and the old collectives, but the new collectives as well, organized on the basis of simply pooling the peasants' equipment, and which have had only a limited organizational and economic experience, were able to extend considerably their seeded area and bring under cultivation waste and virgin land. In addition to this, the possibilities opened up for the development of the sovkhozes, are indicated by the fact that the sovkhozes alone, both the old and the new, will produce during the

present year about 1,700,000 metric tons of commercial grain, and by next year no less than 2,250,000 tons. . . .

"In view of this the congress considers it necessary:

"(1) To revise radically the five-year program for the development of agriculture, basing it on the rate of collectivization envisaged by the decision of the Central Committee on January 5th, and fully confirmed by experience, with the purpose of guaranteeing on this foundation, along with a more rapid development of grain and technical cultures, an increase and strengthening in the development of livestock raising primarily by means of the development of special livestock sovhozes similar to the grain sovhozes and the mass organization of highly productive collective livestock farms;

"(2) To maintain the exemptions already decreed for the collectives and collective members, and to increase the credits advanced to the collectives in 1930-31 over last year, that is, to one billion rubles (over \$500,000,000);

"(3) To guarantee that the Zernotrest (Grain trust) shall put no less than 4,500,000 hectares under cultivation next year, and prepare to seed 9,000,000 hectares in 1932;

"(4) To guarantee that the Svinotrest (Pig Trust) shall produce no less than 400,000 pigs for the market in 1930-31, no less than 3,000,000 in 1931-32, and no less than 7,000,000 by 1932-33.

"(5) To increase the number of cattle in the herds of the Skotovod (Cattle Trust) to 3,200,000 head in 1930-31; 5,500,000 head in 1931-32; and from 9,000,000 to 10,000,000 head in 1932-33.

"(6) To develop the raising of livestock in the collectives, directing a large amount of agricultural credit to this purpose;

"(7) To commission the Lenin Agricultural Academy to work out the following questions: the rational distribution of different branches of agriculture throughout the territory of the U. S. S. R.; the replacement of less advantageous by more advantageous crops; the possibility of guaranteeing for the U. S. S. R. independent supplies of the chief food and technical crops; and the possibilities for the maximum use in agriculture of local sources of power.

"In connection with these problems laid on the Lenin Agricultural Academy, to establish the necessary technical basis in accordance with the latest achievements of science, and to guarantee a strengthened corps of Communist workers.

"(8) To develop the work of the Collective Institute so that it may work out in a modern and scientific way the forms and methods of collective construction and draw up general theories on the basis of local experience.

"(9) To guarantee the complete execution of the program of tractor building and manufacture of tractor machinery to the extent determined by

decisions of the Central Committee of the Party."

The thesis further contains provisions for intensive preparatory work in the non-grain producing regions and in the Eastern republics to lay a basis for the future development of the collective movement. This preparatory work will include the encouragement and development of cooperative organizations and the simpler forms of collective organization as transition steps, a strengthening of the collectives already existing, and the establishment of new sovhozes.

The necessity of giving all possible aid and encouragement to the individual peasants is emphasized. Sovhozes and collectives are urged to help individual peasants, and assist in all forms of cooperative organization among peasant households.

The thesis recognizes that one of the main conditions for the final and complete success of the collective movement is the training of a large skilled group of agricultural workers, most of whom will be drawn from among the collective members themselves. To this end short-term courses are being established in connection with the sovhozes, the machine and tractor stations, the agricultural schools and within the larger collectives themselves, and at the same time provisions are being made to provide opportunities for as many of the young collective members as possible to attend the agricultural high schools and colleges.

Current news and summaries of new developments  
in the economic life of the U. S. S. R.  
are regularly printed in the

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## On The Educational Front

ACCORDING to Andrey Bubnov, Commissar for Education of the R. S. F. S. R., compulsory education for children in the primary grades will be established next year everywhere except among some of the more backward minor nationalities, and within two years it will be universal.

### Reform of Intermediate Schools

This increase in attendance in the primary grades necessitates an extension and reorganization of the intermediate grades, on which attention is now being centered. The question of linking up the entire system of education directly with the economic organization of the country means that there must be a maximum amount of cooperation between the different links of the system, and therefore the plan for reorganization of the intermediate schools recently adopted by the Commissariat of Education, the Communist Youth League and the Union of Educational Workers provides that all the different types of intermediate schools now existing be transformed into a *single system of polytechnic schools*.

This applies to the School of Peasant Youth, the Factory and Shop Schools, the seven-and-nine-year schools, and all the lower and intermediate trade schools which train for definite specialization. It should be explained that the original Soviet educational program provided that there should be no attempt at specialization until the seventeenth year. But the needs of industry for skilled workers required the lowering of this age to fifteen, and in actual practice it has sometimes been even lower. Thus many students on completing their four primary years have gone directly into a trade school, and many of the factory and shop schools, training skilled workers for a given industry, have required only a primary education for entrance. Now this will be changed, and according to the new system, the first seven years must be devoted solely to general education and a broad, general basis for the chief labor processes used in different fields of industry and agriculture. The program requires that this new system of polytechnic schools shall "give an understanding of the united economic plan of the country, the inter-dependence between the different branches of the economic structure and general working culture, and equip the students with the ability of applying their technical and agricultural knowledge in the most diverse practical spheres."

At the same time the entrance requirements of the Factory and Shop Schools as well as other trade schools will be raised, and will in the future

be based on seven years' preparation rather than four.

In order to prepare the way for universal compulsory seven-year education, the program of the Commissariat of Education proposes to establish by next year, in the cities and in factory towns, obligatory continuance in the seven-year school for all students not older than fifteen who have completed their primary course. At the same time it will be forbidden to withdraw any pupil under sixteen from the seven-year school before the completion of the course, except under conditions especially established by the Commissariat of Education. In order to make it possible for the children of poor peasants and workers to continue in school, a special fund is to be established to pay stipends, to provide food and clothing and railroad fare. By 1931-32 the necessary additional schools will be opened to carry out the above plans. Evening courses will be established for the "over-grown" students who have had only primary training. At the same time efforts will be made to bring worker and peasant parents in closer contact with the work of the schools and enlist their aid in solving school problems.

In a recent report Commissar Bubnov stated that every attempt will be made to eliminate two harmful tendencies from the intermediate school system—on the one hand the isolation of the school from the actual processes of life and work, and on the other, the tendency to narrow specialization at too early an age, before the necessary general knowledge has been attained. While adhering strictly to the general polytechnic program, the program of each school is to be adapted to local needs, and to use the actual industrial and agricultural processes of the given region as school material to a greater extent than has hitherto been done. In the cities a new type of municipal seven-year school is to be established which will use as school material such communal enterprises as water systems, electrical stations, factory kitchens—municipal enterprises of all kinds. Special factories or sections of factories will be set aside for educational purposes. Special centralized workshops will be established under the educational department. "Psycho-technical" bureaus will be organized in connection with the schools, to help the young people in the selection of a definite trade or profession.

The chief purpose in the reform of the intermediate schools may thus be seen to make the seven-year schools first accessible to everyone, and then obligatory, and eventually to establish an obligatory 12-year general educational and polytechnical school. The second half of the intermediate course is to be reorganized into a

school of the "technicum" type, in which specialization begins, and in which the student participates directly in production as part of the school work.

### **Educational Work in the Villages**

The People's Commissariat of Education of the R. S. F. S. R. has worked out a new type of educational institution for the village. "Collective Universities" are being established in the villages for the benefit of collective members, so that they may increase their knowledge of agriculture and cooperative organization while they continue to carry on their regular work in the collectives. They also serve as training schools for organizers of agricultural collectives. In connection with the Krasnopoliansky Commune "Gigant" in Siberia such a collective university has been functioning since last year, and took in its second set of students in this April. There are three such universities in the North Caucasus, one in connection with the sovhoz (State farm), "Khutorok," and two in villages where there are a number of collectives.

The other new form of educational work in the villages are the "Houses of Culture," which have been established in the completely collectivized districts in connection with the machine and tractor stations and the collectives. These fill a function in connection with the collectives similar to that of the more highly developed of the village reading rooms. The "Houses of Culture" organize large libraries, courses to train collective members in different branches of agriculture, cooperative and technical work. They also act as centers for moving pictures and for collective listening-in for educational radio programs. The village reading rooms in districts that have "gone collective" will be reorganized into collective reading rooms.

An active part in the reorganization of the cultural and educational work in the villages is played by the trade union organizations which have set themselves the task of "liquidating illiteracy" among the peasants, first of all in the completely collectivized districts. The agricultural union at the present time is carrying on a special campaign for the establishment of universal elementary education through village clubs, red corners and reading rooms.

The union of agricultural laborers has appropriated a million rubles (over \$500,000) for serving the cultural needs of the sovhoz workers, in addition to the deductions for this purpose made from the funds of the enterprise itself. With these means libraries, radio and movies will be established or extended. Special efforts will be made this summer to provide entertainment and instruction for the groups of seasonal workers who because of the vastness of the area covered by the new state farms, must camp in fields far away from the center for long periods at a stretch. The trade unions will organize entertainment,

sport, study and reading circles, and artistic and musical activities.

The cities are doing everything possible to help the villages in the "cultural campaign." Teachers and students go voluntarily into the villages, organizing centers for teaching adults, arousing interest among the peasants, and helping them to get the necessary materials. Particularly striking results have been achieved in the Central Black Earth District, with a peasant population of 12,000,000. In 1927 about a hundred thousand peasants in this region were attending classes—at the present time 1,200,000 of the adult peasants of this district are learning to read and write. Great activity is shown by the peasants who have become literate in helping their neighbors. Over 20,000 peasants are helping in the teaching of other peasants. The peasants take an eager part in arranging quarters for the classes, and helping to provide fuel, light and school materials.

### **Reform of Higher Medical Education in the R. S. F. S. R.**

The All-Russian Conference dealing with questions of higher medical education which has just concluded its sessions, decided on certain measures for the radical reorganization of higher medical schools in the R. S. F. S. R.

Instead of the former unified medical faculty, three faculties will be organized: medical prophylactics, sanitary prophylactics, and the maternity, infancy and childhood faculty. The faculty of medical prophylactics will consist of the following sections: therapy, surgery, stomatology, and the protection of maternity, infancy and childhood. The faculty of sanitary prophylactics will train general sanitary practitioners and those specializing in epidemics, and in domestic, social and industrial hygiene. The maternity, infancy and childhood faculty will train two groups of specialists—in the protection of maternity and infancy and in the protection of childhood.

The courses of instruction in these faculties will be from three and one-half years to four years.

During the autumn of the next semester the Government plans to open new medical institutes in Ivanovo-Voznesensk, in Samara and Khabarovsk, and later on also in Alma-Ata, Simferopol and Sverdlovsk.

Beginning with the next semester the medical faculties will receive more than double the present number of students all year through. To make this possible there will be two shifts of students in certain of the institutes. Some medical institutes will give evening courses. All these measures will make it possible during this year to increase the number of students to 11,000 instead of 3,300 students who were enrolled during the past year.

The conference passed a resolution against maintaining of Latin names in medicine as a sur-

vival of the middle ages and decided to introduce teaching in the higher medical schools in the Russian language only and thus to eliminate Latin terminology in the prescriptions as well as in all branches of medicine.

The conference also passed a resolution providing for the convening of an All-Union Conference to discuss questions of unifying the systems of medical education in all the Republics of the Soviet Union.

## All Union Pedagogical Exhibition

**A**N All-Union Pedagogical Exhibition will be held in Leningrad this year from July 1st to July 15th. The purpose of the exhibition is to show the achievements of the Soviet Union in the field of primary education during the past few years and the perspectives for its development. Nathalia Krupskaya heads the Exhibition Committee.

This will be the first pedagogical exhibition to embrace the achievements of all, without any exception, of the Soviet Republics. Thus for the first time there will be educational exhibits from such republics and regions as the Karelian, Kal-muck, Kirghiz, German Volga, Tartar, Chuvash, Yakut, Georgian, Abkhasian, Adjar, Azerbaijan, Uzbek, Turkoman, Tadjik and others, some of which had no written language of their own before the revolution, nor their own native schools, and hardly more than one or two per cent of whose population were literate. There will be exhibits from twenty-four different republics, and in addition a section devoted to elementary education in transport.

All of the material for the exhibition is divided into eleven sections as follows: (1) Aims of the primary school and its place in the general educational system; (2) direction of primary schools, and the role of Soviet society in this; (3) compulsory universal primary education and the school system; (4) the national question in the schools and training on international problems (5) the school and religion; (6) co-education; (7) content and method of school work; (8) characteristics of Soviet pupils; (9) characteristics of Soviet teachers; (10) primary school budget; (11) school buildings and equipment.

The methods of craft education, methods of teaching individual subjects, the application of the laboratory or Dalton plan, the contract and project methods—all of these will find their reflection in the exhibition. The various forms of socially useful work regarded by teachers of other countries as one of the greatest Soviet educational achievements, and the participation of the school in the actual life of the country, will be shown at the exhibition as fully as possible.

There will also be a foreign section at the exhibition to which America, England, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Es-

thonia, Japan, Turkey, Persia, and the Mongolian and Tanatuvinsk Republics have been invited to send exhibits.

The organization of the foreign section of the exhibition is of special importance to the U. S. S. R., not only as a means of cultural rapprochement with other countries, but as a means of acquainting Soviet teachers with the educational work of other lands. It will afford a peculiar opportunity for the comparison of the work of Soviet teachers, the result of intensive revolutionary construction in a country just beginning to create new cultural values with the work in countries whose culture has been built up by centuries. To give as complete a picture as possible of education in other countries, the foreign sections have been asked to represent the work not only of state schools, but also of private schools and those of workers' and trade union organizations. These schools are of special interest in the Soviet Union as expressing the efforts of progressive elements to create schools answering their political convictions and aspirations.

With regard to technical equipment, methods of teaching, organization of school life, art and physical education, the Soviet teachers are still in the period of research, although they have many important achievements to their credit. They are aware of the advances made in the rest of the world in these fields, the technical improvements, the fine new school buildings and the varied modern educational equipment. The possibility of studying pictures and models of this equipment from all over the world will enable the Soviet teachers to select and adapt all that can be made use of in Soviet education. At the same time foreign visitors will get a comprehensive idea of the ideology, tendencies and accomplishments of the Soviet schools.

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## Soviet Theatrical Festival

THE theater and art of fourteen of the largest national groups in the Soviet Union will be represented in a great theatrical "Olympic" to be held this summer in Moscow. This, the first festival of its kind to be held in the Soviet Union, will represent primarily the theater, cinema, music, ballet and art handicraft work of the various peoples, with the emphasis on dramatic development. Hereafter it is proposed to hold these Olympics annually, and to make of them a vast competition of all the forms of Soviet art. The impulse for this cultural undertaking came from the "Proletarian Theater" group, which has been urging the idea for the past two years, and the actual organization of the event has been in charge of the Chief Art Section of the R. S. F. S. R.

The Olympic will bring together for the first time over a thousand actors and artists from all parts of the country. They will give performances and demonstrations of their own musical and dramatic work, and arrange exhibitions of their arts and handicrafts. Several cycles of lectures on art and its place in the new socialist society, on methods of theatrical work and on the history and theory of the theater will be given by leading experts in these fields. Arrangements have been made to record the festival in sound pictures, which will form the basis for a new department of theatrical archives being organized by the Theatrical Section of the Communist Academy, which is planning to keep permanent records of the work of the best actors of the period and selections from the best dramatic productions.

Special prizes will be awarded at the Olympic for the theaters as a whole, giving the best performances, for special actors and directors, for the best scenic decorations, and so on.

The theater has won for itself a deep and lasting place in the cultural life of the U. S. S. R. In Moscow there are thirty-five regular professional theatres, not to mention hundreds of smaller theatrical groups. Attendance at the theaters has grown steadily since the revolution, and has reached an average of about 90 per cent in the cities. Such theaters as the Moscow State Theater of Opera and Ballet, the First Art Theater, and others of the larger theaters, have a regular attendance of 100 per cent. The theatrical companies of the larger cities make regular tours through the provinces.

Of the fifty larger nationalities that make up the Soviet Union all but five or six have their own national theater. This is just the reverse of the pre-revolutionary situation when only a few of the larger nationalities were permitted to have their own native theaters, and even these were

subject to constant persecution and restrictions. They could not dream of attaining the level of the best Russian theaters, since they were limited chiefly to amateur and very poor provincial stages. At the same time these theaters in no way mirrored the actual life and aspirations of the working class of these peoples, and were characterized by a limited nationalist outlook.

The celebrated "Malorossiski" (Little Russian) theater, with its cult of embroidered towels, wreathes, "hopak" (folk dances) and "vareniki" (a special national dish), and its sentimental love stories as very typical of this. Very different from the old Ukrainian Theater is the new Ukrainian theater of Kurbas, whose *maquettes* were awarded the Gold Medal at the Paris art exhibition. In addition to the two leading theaters "Berezil" and "Franko," there are now twenty national theaters in the Ukraine, as well as the Ukrainian opera, and 15,000 amateur city and rural dramatic circles.

The new Georgian Theater furnishes an equally striking contrast to its recent past. The Georgian theater, not only during the Tsarist regime, but even under the regime of the Georgian Mensheviks, who so lament the "decadence" of Georgian national culture, led a pitiful existence. After the Soviet Government was formed in Georgia not only was the old Georgian theater preserved and developed, but a number of new theaters were organized. There are two new theaters directed by Achmeteli and Mardzhanishvili, and also native theaters in all the larger centers throughout the Georgian republic. A National Georgian Opera has been established, its repertoire already including ten original plays.

Turkmenistan has a new national theater founded in 1919. Its first dramatist was a railroad worker, Atashev. There is a national opera in the Tartar Republic which has produced several original operas. There are also Tartar theaters in a number of the larger cities, including Moscow. There are two dramatic theaters and one musical theater in Uzbekistan. In Moscow there is an Uzbekistan theatrical studio which trains Uzbek directors and actors who then return to develop the theatrical art of their homeland. White Russia has two large national theaters. The Jewish theater occupies an important position and has attained a very high artistic level in all the republics which have a large Jewish population. Independent theaters of the Mountaineer Jews have been formed in the Caucasus, and by the Tadjik Jews in Central Asia.

The Kirghiz, Kalmucks, Buryat-Mongols, Komi, Maris and Chuvashi, whose national culture has

been on a very low level until recently, now have their own drama. Even the minor peoples of Siberia are beginning to organize their own theatrical groups, which for the present take the form of amateur theatrical circles. This is an extraordinary advance when it is remembered that not so long ago the only bearer of culture among many of these peoples was the tribal Shaman, whose prayers to wooden idols and weird antics were their sole form of dramatic entertainment.

In addition to the nationalities which are a constituent part of the Soviet Union, the members of national minorities such as the Letts, Poles, Germans, Finns, Estonians, Chinese, Koreans and others, have their own theatrical groups giving performances in their native tongue.

## Young Workers' Theater

ALTHOUGH established comparatively recently, TRAM, the Young Workers' Theater, has succeeded in winning for itself an important place in Soviet dramatics. At the present time there are throughout the Soviet Union about sixty different TRAM organizations—and this does not include dozens of theatrical groups in the shops and factories which work under the direction of the TRAM organization.

The work of the TRAM groups is characterized by its close connection with matters of vital interest in the day to day life of the Soviet Union. Thus their plays deal largely with such subjects as the five-year plan, the collectivization of the village, problems of training specialists, and so on, developed very often out of local material or adapted to local conditions. TRAM's chief contribution probably consists in the development of this capacity to use local material with dramatic effect, and thus make their artistic work a vital part of the lives of the workers, in a way that would be impossible if their productions dealt with unfamiliar scenes and subjects.

The work of TRAM has also been of great value in stimulating creative activity among the workers themselves, encouraging them to write their own productions, and so on. Many of these provincial productions created solely by local talent have achieved real artistic success as well as acting as a fresh stimulus to their industrial and social activity, both reflecting and moulding the various forms of the new society. It is still, of course, difficult to measure the extent and significance of the vast cultural work carried on by the many TRAM organizations scattered even in the farthest corners of the Soviet Union.

A new aspect of the work, opening up limitless perspectives, is the organization of TRAM branches among the minor nationalities. Not to mention the TRAM societies that exist in Kiev, Kharkov, Odessa, Dnieperstroy, and elsewhere in

the Ukraine, there are independent national TRAM organizations in Tiflis, Baku, Stalinabad, and Minsk, and a number of others in process of organization. These groups are exerting a strong influence on the development of independent cultural activity and initiative among the border regions.

A factor of great importance to the future development of the activities of TRAM was the organization during the past season of a Central Tram Council to aid and coordinate the work throughout the country. This council was able to introduce a number of measures important to the TRAM movement. Thus a two-months course was established in Leningrad for TRAM organizers, which was attended by fifty persons from different parts of the Soviet Union. These carried on investigations and helped in the reorganization of a number of TRAM organizations, and helped in their artistic direction.

## New Central Publishing House

THE Government of the U. S. S. R. has passed a decree providing for the establishment of an all-Russian book and magazine concern which will unite all the more important State publishing houses of the various republics.

All the publishing companies will be centralized in Gosizdat, which is the main publishing house in the U. S. S. R. The Gosizdat publishes all kinds of books, scientific works and *belles lettres*, school books and children's books, magazines, and so on. The Gosizdat has a monopoly in the publication of the Russian classics. In the last two years the Gosizdat has doubled its output of books and decreased their cost by 24 per cent. In the number of titles issued, the Gosizdat is ahead of any other publishing company in the world.

The central place in the activities of the Gosizdat is held by the publication of so-called mass literature for which there is a tremendous demand among the population of the Soviet Union. Lenin's brochure on "Socialist Competition" has sold to the tune of three million and a half copies during the past year. Popular pamphlets on the five-year plan and other activities of the government sell in millions of copies. A large circulation is particularly characteristic of literature for peasants. It is quite a usual thing for pamphlets on subjects of interest to peasants to reach a circulation of from 300,000 to 500,000. An enormous amount of literature has been issued on the collective movement. Over twenty million copies of textbooks have been published for schools for the liquidation of illiteracy. The de-

mand for the works of Lenin has exceeded the supply by several tens of thousands.

Gosizdat is publishing a special cheap library of the foremost examples of modern foreign literature and the classics. The cost of these cheap books is three or four times below the normal level of prices, and they are sold in hundreds of thousands of copies.

The books of the Gosizdat are sold through its own chain of 1,000 units—local branches, stores, kiosks connected with factories, educational and other institutions and in the village they are distributed mainly through the widespread network of consumers' cooperative stores.

During the past few years, Gosizdat has made considerable profit which has gone into the further extension of its publishing activities. The growing demand for books has also resulted in a constant increase in publishing. In 1929-1930 Gosizdat has already published twice as many books as had been provided in the five-year plan, and the demand is still far from being met.

The concentration of publishing in one powerful central organization, modelled on the plans of industrial concerns, will considerably reduce printing costs. The concern will be divided into different sectors specializing in certain branches of publishing. Thus there will be social-economic, agricultural, technical, scientific, educational, young people's, medical, artistic and mass sections. The printing enterprises serving the concern will be united into an independent trust.

## State Aid for Artists

**T**O create more favorable conditions of work for artists—especially painters, sculptors and graphic artists—and to make it possible for them to take an active part in the building up of the new socialist culture and way of life, is the purpose of a recent decree of the Sovnarkom (Council of People's Commissars) of the U. S. S. R.

The decree provides that a special sum of money is to be set aside annually, beginning with the year 1930-1931, in the budget of the Union Republics, for the purpose of obtaining works of Soviet artists for the museums. This sum is to be not less than 200,000 rubles (over \$100,000) and is to be distributed by the People's Commissariat of Finance among the various Republics of the Union. The decree states that in obtaining examples of the work of Soviet artists special emphasis must be laid on encouragement to younger artists.

Special funds are also to be set aside by the People's Commissariat of Education to buy the best of the ethnographic pictures brought back by those artists sent by special commission to

different parts of the country to paint the peoples of various races.

The Central Social Insurance body is commissioned to appropriate 100,000 rubles for the purchase of pictures and sculpture of Soviet artists for the adornment of sanatoria and rest homes. The Central Council of Trade Unions is to be requested to set aside the sum of 150,000 rubles to obtain works of art for workers' clubs and other cultural and educational institutions connected with the Trade Unions.

It is to be proposed to the Sovnarkom of each Union Republic that measures be taken to include in the budgets of the Commissariats of Education, special funds for the payment of artists for their participation in educational exhibits and so on—much of this work having been done freely in the past. It is also proposed that minimum royalties be established for the artists to receive when their paintings, drawings or sculpture are reproduced in any form, providing a stated circulation is attained.

The Supreme Council of National Economy is commissioned to take measures for the organization of the manufacture of paints of a high quality, and to invite foreign assistance if necessary. All possible assistance is to be given to the Artists' Cooperative Society in manufacturing or procuring the necessary paints and other materials necessary to artists in their work.

## Museum of Jewish Culture

**P**RIOR to the revolution, the national minorities of the Ukraine—Poles, Germans, Jews, Bulgarians, Moldavians, Greeks, etc.—had practically no culture institutions of their own. As a result of the revolution they were able to establish such institutions, or are now forming them, with every possible assistance on the part of the government. In the All-Ukrainian Museum of Jewish culture one finds such an organization. The Museum is located in Odessa and bears the name of the famous Jewish writer, Mendel Moïshe Sforim. It was organized only a year and a half ago. In this short period the Museum has been able to gather within its walls a great many exhibits and much archive material, illuminating different periods and aspects of socialist construction among Jews in the Ukraine and particularly the participation of Jews in the revolutionary movement.

The following departments have been organized in this Museum: (1) National Art, (2) Life and Ethnography, (3) Literature, (4) Historical, (5) Revolutionary Movement, (6) Pogroms and Self Defense.

The Department of National Art has a large collection of chronicles, which in addition to their historical value are a permanent monument to the

national art of this people. The department has rich examples of national creative work. The department, "Life and Ethnography," has valuable material, illustrating the old, pre-revolutionary life. The literature department contains excellent material on the work of the writer Mendel Moishe Sforim, Linetsky and others. The room devoted to Mendel Sforim deserves special attention. It is for this writer that the Museum has been named. The material and photographs visually depict his work and its social setting. A special corner illustrates the influence of the writer on various sections of the Jewish population during various periods of his work.

The historical department contains one of the largest collection of Jewish monies, dating from the time of the Second Temple, the epoch of the uprising of the Jews against the Romans under the leadership of Bar Kochba. This collection was compiled over a period of 102 years and presented to the Historical-Archaeological Museum.

There is also valuable material on the life of the Jews in Western Ukraine, relating to the seventeenth century. The Museum succeeded in obtaining materials on the history of the Jews

during the last two centuries. The epoch of Nicholas I and the activity of the "lovtsi" (baiters) who baited the children of poor Jews and gave them over to Cantonists, is well represented. There is also material relating to the history of Jewish artisan groups.

The department on the revolutionary movement deserves special attention and that of "Pogroms and Self Defense." The museum has succeeded in the arrangement of a gallery of photographs illustrating the participation of the Jewish masses in the movement of the Narodniki (People's Party) and the Narodnovoltsi (Party of the People's Will) during the second half of the nineteenth century and in the revolutionary movement of recent times: the October Revolution, Red Guard, Red Army, Red Partisans, struggle against intervention, etc.

In the department, "Pogroms and Self Defense," a large number of exhibits have been gathered (including arms, relics, models, photos, proclamations, paintings, etc.) dating from the year 1871.

The museum has recently started the organization of theatrical and art and other new departments.

## Tourist Travel in the Soviet Union

UP until recently tourism in the Soviet Union was not particularly well organized. While there were plenty of opportunities for groups of native workers and peasants to make excursions to different parts of the country, they were carried on for the most part without any particular system and without any definite aim, and were usually of a purely recreative nature. Groups of tourists for the most part went to the regular popular resorts in the Caucasus, the Crimea or the Volga for their summer vacations, and seldom got off the beaten tracks.

In 1928 the "Proletarian Tourist Society" was organized in the U. S. S. R. From that time on tourism changed its form and content and has become an important cultural and educational agency. Tourism has now become one of the methods of acquainting the workers with the natural riches of their country, with the customs of the innumerable nationalities inhabiting the Soviet Union, and with the progress in industrialization and in the collectivization of agriculture. One form of tourism that has become particularly popular is the "workers' excursion." In this type of excursion a large group of workers of one or another enterprise—sometimes as many as several hundred, take a trip to another part of the country to become acquainted with the ways of life and labor in another enterprise in the same

industry. These excursions usually result in the establishment of a permanent bond between the two enterprises or factories, in making agreements to carry on socialist competitions to improve the quality and quantity of their output, and arrangements for a constant interchange of ideas and experiences. This is the type of excursion in which the workers evince the greatest interest.

Along with this the provincial workers are always wanting to visit the larger centers, particularly Moscow, not only to inspect the museums and monuments of the past, but to become acquainted with the work of certain Soviet institutions, to visit workers' clubs and theaters, and in general to find out how people live in the big city.

The trade unions play a large part in the organization of tourism. They give long term credits to the workers, make arrangements for food and lodging, and arrange for reduced rates for railroad and boat tickets. This has meant a great increase in the number of workers' excursions during the past few years. In 1928 there were 45,000 workers in the Soviet Union, outside of Moscow and Leningrad, who went on tours and excursions. In 1929 this number had tripled, and during the present year it is expected that about 700,000 workers will go on tours of this kind.

The growth of tourism has necessitated the establishment of a central organization to direct this new cultural movement. By a recent government decree the "All-Russian Society of Tours and Excursions" was established, an organization which unites all the various tourist agencies in one central body. This society, the main purpose of which is the organization of long workers' excursions of the type described above, will work according to a definite plan. This society has already commenced the building of a "Tourist House" in Moscow, which will be able to handle as many as 3,000 tourists daily.

#### Foreign Tourists in the U. S. S. R.

During the present summer it is expected that over ten thousand tourists from other countries, chiefly the United States and England, will visit the Soviet Union. This figure does not include tens of thousands of transit tourists who will travel through the territory of the U. S. S. R. from Europe on their way to the countries of the Near and Far East.

During the summer of 1930 it has been arranged by agreement between Intourist and foreign steamship companies that ten or more special excursion steamers with from 350 to 450 tourists each will visit the ports of the Soviet Union. The majority of these ships will come to Leningrad. Some of the tourist ships will stop at Black Sea ports, visiting Odessa, Yalta, and Sebastopol.

In addition to this a number of large and small groups of foreign visitors will make excursions to different parts of the Soviet Union. The 300 delegates to the International Soil Congress will make a tour of the Volga, the North Caucasus, Transcaucasia, the Ukraine and the Crimea. A number of smaller excursions of groups visiting the Soviet Union with cultural or sociological interests are also planned, and a large number of individual visitors are expected.

According to Intourist the daily expenses of a foreign visitor in the U. S. S. R. are no higher than the average cost of traveling in European countries. Traveling in the country districts probably amounts to considerably less, particularly for those willing to travel in the "hard" carriages.

The Intourist Society has had about 400 qualified interpreters trained in Moscow and Leningrad. In addition to knowledge of languages, these interpreter-guides are required to have a certain knowledge of the history of the country, its economic and political organization and of the museums and places of historical interest.

Intourist has also made preparations to insure greater physical comfort for the tourists than has been possible to provide in the past. The hotels in the provincial towns which are apt to attract most tourist travel, have been enlarged

and re-equipped. Special shops have been opened in Moscow in Leningrad to sell antique objects and handicraft work. For the convenience of tourists it has been arranged that the receipts from these stores will serve in place of the usual export permits.

The Intourist has made special agreements to facilitate tourist travel with a number of the largest international tourist organizations and steamship companies, such as Cooks' Tours, Mueller and Co., United States Lines, Cunard Line, White Star Line, Open Road, World Tourists, Amalgamated Bank, and others.

#### Restoration of Peterhof

The town of Peterhof, near Leningrad, where the Tsar had his permanent residence, is now being restored and converted into a center of foreign and Soviet tourism. Fifty rest homes and twenty special hotels known as "Fifth Day Rest Homes," will be opened in Peterhof. The latter homes are being organized in villas near all the big centers of the U. S. S. R. to enable workers and employees to spend their day of rest nearer to nature under healthful conditions. These homes offer for a small charge a room, three square meals, various amusements and medical attendance. They are being organized in connection with the adoption of the five-day week which offers more frequent and regular rest periods than were formerly possible.

As a place of tourism and rest Peterhof, which is a sea resort with a magnificent palace, splendid park and famous fountains, affords exceptional opportunities. The Tsar's residence was built under Peter the Great in 1711 by the architect Leblond, who modelled it after Versailles. In 1746 the palace was partly remodelled by Rastrelli. The famous fountains were also built after the model of the fountains of Versailles and have been fully preserved. Because of its unusual beauty Peterhof attracts great hosts of visitors.

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## First Movies of Yemen

THE name Yemen will be meaningless to many readers. Very few people are aware of the existence of this independent Arabian state in the South of the Arabian peninsula, situated between the Raka tropics and the Equator. Yemen leads its own peculiar, independent life, and still preserves unchanged many medieval ways.

Hitherto, attempts to photograph this country have encountered seemingly unsurmountable obstacles, and hardly a handful of Europeans have penetrated to the interior of this exotic little kingdom. Religious fanaticism forbids the introduction of the cinema, the radio, or even phonographs.

Despite all this, an expedition of the "Mezhrabpom" film company sailed on the Soviet liner "Dekabristi" from Odessa to Hodeida, chief port of Yemen on the Red Sea, a year ago. This expedition included Schneideroff as director, and Telchan as camera man, and was equipped with specially made cameras, negatives and films adapted for use in the tropics.

Early in June of last summer, after crossing the Red Sea on native sail boats, the expedition reached Hodeida, where it met the ruler of the seacoast district and the Ticham desert, Prince Seif Ul Islam Mochamod. Among other gifts, he was presented with a portable camera apparatus and projector, a hand motor, and a supply of films. The expedition was received with remarkable cordiality, and was granted permission to stay and film in Hodeida. As a start this was quite a victory.

Preparations for filming were undertaken immediately. The acquaintance of the local inhabitants was made by the members of the expedition, and thus they gradually grew accustomed to the appearance of the strangers and finally to the actual filming. The work was carried on under unbelievably difficult conditions. The heat was of such terrific intensity that it became impossible to touch the camera with the hands, and the films melted.

Only the simplest kinds of European wares are to be found in this region. There is no fresh drinking water at all to be obtained locally. The only way it can be procured is from occasional boats stopping at the port. The natives drink a salty water from the local wells, very disagreeable to the taste. All kinds of epidemics—smallpox, plague, tropical malaria and so on are raging continually in the city.

The population of the city is composed mainly of officials and soldiers, merchants, fishermen, artisans, stevedores and coffee sorters. Artisan trades are carried on in textiles, pottery, leather goods and so on. Agriculture is widely developed in some parts of Tichami, sometimes yielding four harvests a year.

Coffee is grown in the higher mountain regions, and coffee cleaning and sorting is carried on extensively at Hodeida.

Yemen is a Moslem country, and exceedingly orthodox. All women must go veiled, and at first all efforts to film native women were unsuccessful. The camera men finally succeeded in this, however.

The next task was to apply for permission from the King of Yemen, Imam Yach, to take a trip into the interior of the country and to visit the ancient city of Hanah, capital of the Yemen kingdom. The permission was finally granted, and a small caravan of mules and camels, guarded by soldiers of the Royal Guard, departed for the interior, crossing the desert and then coming into the mountain region.

As the expedition reached higher regions, the sands of the lower Ticham district were replaced by rich crops and blooming oleander groves. After a last halt in a Bedouin village the caravan entered the mountain pass. Then their way led through Vavi Nizhan, the bed of an old mountain river, tropical growths and the jungle. As they progressed, filming all the way, rare gazelles gave way to multi-colored lizards, poisonous snakes, chameleons and great herds of monkeys. Thousands of bright feathered birds twittered and sang in the trees.

A steep climb up the mountain side, and soon the tropical jungles were left behind for the mountain ridge zone with its cut-in agricultural terraces cultivating corn and coffee and other things. Coffee is the chief export of Yemen.

Finally the expedition arrived at Ofir, at the summit of the ridge, a place which it is hard to believe exists today. Palaces of the local feudal landlords are built on the mountain tops, below the palaces are the many-storied dwellings of their retainers, and still below the hovels of the peasants. All these things will be shown in the pictures taken by the expedition which have recently been released in the U. S. S. R.

## New Expedition to Franz Josef Land

PREPARATIONS are under way in Leningrad for a new Polar expedition to Franz Josef Land, on the ice-breaker Sedov. The expedition will be headed by Professor Schmidt, and will also include Professor Samoilovich and Professor Wiese of Leningrad, who took part in the famous "Malygin" and "Krassin" expeditions at the time of the Nobile disaster. The expedition will take a direct course from Archangel to Franz Josef Land, where they will relieve the seven men who have wintered there, and replace them with nine others. The ice-breaker "Sedov" will remain

at Franz Josef Land until August 10th, and will then go Eastward to North Land which until this time has been inaccessible to man. If the ice permits, the ice-breaker will go all the way to the shores of the North Land, and leave four men to winter there. In view of the special difficulties of navigation in that region, the expedition will be equipped with food supplies for three years and with twenty-four sledge dogs.

The object of the expedition is to make a thorough survey of North Land (formerly Nicolas II Land), which is located in the central part of the Soviet Arctic sector. Last year's expeditions on the ice-breaker "Sedov" to Franz Joseph Land and on the ice-cutter "Lidtke" to Wrangel Island explored the North-Western and North-Eastern extremities of North Land.

North Land was discovered in 1913 by the Arctic expedition sailing on the ice-cutters "Taimur" and "Vaigatch," this being the first time ice-cut-

ters were ever used for Polar exploration. That expedition saw only the South-Eastern extremity of the island, whose Northern and Western boundaries are still unknown.

This year's expedition proposes to engage not only in geographical exploration but also in a study of the natural resources of the island, including the possibilities of successful hunting of fur animals.

A scientific station will be opened on North Land and preliminary operations will be started for the construction of a radio station. The expedition will also, if time permits, visit the Island of Einsamkeit in the Kara Sea. This island has been visited only once, in 1916.

The expedition intends to start out early in July so as to return at the end of September, for the ice in this part of the Arctic is navigable only during the short Arctic summer even for a powerful ice-breaker.

## Opening of the Turksib

ON April 25th the following telegram was sent to Joseph Stalin, General Secretary of the Communist Party:

"TODAY, AT SIX MINUTES PAST SEVEN BY MOSCOW TIME, THE RAILS FROM THE SOUTH JOINED THE RAILS FROM THE NORTH, 648 KILOMETERS FROM LUGOVAYA STATION.

"THE WAY IS OPEN FOR THROUGH TRAVEL OVER THE TURKSIB.

"CHIEF OF CONSTRUCTION

"SHATOV."

And Stalin wired back:

"WARM GREETINGS TO ALL THE WORKERS FOR THEIR MASTERLY JOB OF BUILDING THE TURKSIB.

"STALIN."

That was only one of thousands of greetings sent by high officials and workers' groups from all over the Soviet Union on the completion of the great task of linking Siberia to Central Asia over a year ahead of schedule.

Newspapers all over the country carried flaming editorials and exulting poems, and a great gala opening was held at Aris when the last foot of steel was laid, and the first train went through.

The Kazaks and hundreds of other tribesmen in flowing colored robes and gay and astonishing headgear, made holiday. They came with their families, traveling by camel, horse and oxen, over miles of mountain and desert land, some of them camping by the rails for days to await the great event. A special train carried correspondents, foreign visitors, and Soviet officials and workers' delegations from Moscow and other parts of the

Union. The road was officially opened with music, speeches and waving banners, and the Order of the Red Banner of Labor was bestowed on all the workers as a whole who helped to build the road, and to William Shatoff, construction manager, and the chief members of his staff, individually.

The building of the Turksib, the longest new piece of railroad construction in the world, is perhaps the greatest industrial achievement of the Soviet Union, next to the huge Dnieperstroy hydro-electric plant on the Dnieper River, which is being constructed under the supervision of the American engineer, Hugh L. Cooper.

The Turksib, guaranteeing great quantities of low-priced grain and lumber to the cotton base of the Soviet Union, and thus freeing vast new areas for cotton growing, turns a new page in the history of the Soviet East, opening untold possibilities for industrial development and more intensive agriculture and pointing the way for the development and strengthening of friendly economic relations with Western China and Mongolia.

The Turksib road is 1,445 kilometers in length and runs North and South through Kazakhstan between Semipalatinsk and Lugovaya. Construction of the road was begun in 1927, and completed a year and a half ahead of the original schedule, four months ahead of the final schedule, at a cost of 175,000,000 rubles, as against the original estimates of 220,000,000 rubles.

### Life of the Workers on the Turksib

One of the main reasons for the success of the work was the attention paid to the needs of the

workers. During the months of the most intensive building there were 40,000 workers employed on the Turkestan Siberian Railroad. About one-third of the workers were native Kazaks. It was necessary to build up a whole system of cultural and social institutions for these workers—to build them up under the most primitive and wild conditions. Twelve medical points were established, and forty-one first aid points, a large number of sanitary trains were always on call, and a system of stationary and traveling baths was developed.

For the first time in the history of railroad building a system of schools for the children of the railroad builders was established. During the past school year there were 72 groups of children in first grade schools, 81 groups in the second grade schools. There are seven boarding schools, and four kindergartens. There are also several high schools.

There are schools for the adults, too. At 42 illiteracy points men and women have been learning the three r's, and 420 groups of semi-literates are brushing up on their grammar. There are also any number of clubs and groups studying various questions. A number of special technical courses have been established for the more highly skilled workers, particularly among the native Kazak population, which have given excellent results. In the beginning the Kazaks were taken

on mainly in the capacity of unskilled workers, but as a result of practical experience and these training courses large numbers of them have been promoted to more skilled types of work.

A great deal of attention has been directed by the administration of the Turksib to questions of feeding the workers. Community kitchens and dining rooms have been established at the points where many workers were congregated. Stationary and traveling laundries were also stationed at various points along the line to serve the needs of the workers.

All these measures have played an important role in increasing the efficiency of the workers and of the engineering staff. Under the difficult and primitive conditions of work there was much real heroism and self-denial on the part of the workers who labored ceaselessly to put the road through ahead of its original schedule. Frequently the workers and engineers organized contests among themselves which always gave gratifying results.

The method of organization of the work, the development of agencies to meet the social and cultural needs of the workers not only had a tremendous influence on the course of the work itself, but for the first time brought elements of culture and improved living conditions into the lives of the untamed, semi-nomadic peoples of Central Asia.

## Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union

*From the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs.*

ON April 28th, 1930, the diplomatic representative of the U. S. S. R. in Poland, Mr. Antonov-Ovseyenko, handed the following note to the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

"On the 26th of April of this year, owing to an accidental combination of circumstances, there was averted an explosion in the building occupied by the Diplomatic Mission of the U. S. S. R. in Poland, which might have resulted in the destruction of the entire staff.

"The Union Government, regarding this terrorist act as an attempt to bring about serious and far-reaching complications in the mutual relations between the Soviet Union and Poland, cannot refrain from calling the attention of the Polish Government to the circumstance that the above-mentioned terrorist attempt could have taken place only under conditions created due to the recent strengthening of the anti-Soviet activities on the part of certain definite circles in Poland, and certain sections of the Polish press connected with them. These activities which have attracted to themselves the attention of public

opinion not only in the Soviet Union and Poland, but throughout the world, have the aim of creating a situation wherein a rupture of relations between Poland and the Soviet Union, with all the consequences arising therefrom, would be inevitable. The attempt of April 26th shows that those responsible for these activities will not stop at any means for the attainment of their criminal aims, which threaten the peace of the world.

"The Union Government, which has steadfastly striven for the development and strengthening of good neighborly relations with Poland, is compelled to declare that the above-mentioned activity which is no doubt linked up with the operation of certain international factors, represents the greatest possible menace, not only to the mutual relations between the U. S. S. R. and Poland, but also to universal peace.

"The terrorist act of April 26th is not, unfortunately, an isolated instance of an attack on the diplomatic mission of the U. S. S. R. in Poland.

"The Union Government is compelled to remind you of the unsuccessful attempt of Traikovich in September, 1927, the attempt made on May 4th,

1928, on Mr. Lizarev, Trade Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Poland, the attack made on November 21st, 1929, on the consulate of the U. S. S. R. in Lvov, the terrorist plot discovered a few days ago against the same consulate, and finally, the act of June 7th, 1927, to which the diplomatic representative of the U. S. S. R. in Poland, P. L. Voikov, fell a victim.

"In view of the fact that in spite of all the serious events above enumerated, it is still possible for an attack of this kind to take place in Poland, the Union Government considers it necessary to emphasize that in connection with the increased activity of anti-Soviet groups, both in Poland and beyond its borders, the event of April 26th assumes an exceptional significance and appears as one of the elements in a widely conceived plan directed toward provoking a conflict between the Soviet Union and Poland.

"The Government of the U. S. S. R., concerned over the status of Soviet-Polish relations, has repeatedly in the past called the attention of the Polish Government to the necessity of taking decisive steps to bring to an end the criminal

activities of adventurist circles in Poland, which are systematically striving to disrupt the peace between the two countries.

"Such an ominous warning as that of the unsuccessful terrorist act of April 26th of this year, forces the Union Government once again to call attention to the extraordinary danger of the situation thus created, and to charge the Government of the Polish Republic with the responsibility for taking actual measures for the liquidation of the dangerous situation in Poland under the conditions of which actions provoking an attack on the U. S. S. R. continue to arise."

#### **Arrival of Chinese Delegation For Chinese-Soviet Conference**

On May 9th the Chinese delegation to the Soviet-Chinese Conference for the final settlement of the Chinese Eastern Railway dispute, arrived in Moscow by special train. The Chinese delegation is headed by the accredited representative of the Chinese Government and chairman of the administration of the Chinese Eastern Railway, Mo Teh Suey.

## **The Lena Goldfields Case**

**I**N February of this year an exchange of telegrams took place between the Lena Goldfields Company of London and the Chief Concessions Committee of the U. S. S. R. wherein by mutual agreement it was decided to turn over to an arbitration committee questions of dispute that had arisen in connection with carrying out the concession contract. Previously, in December, the Chief Concessions Committee had availed itself of its right under the concession agreement, to give written warning to the Lena Goldfields Company that if its financial obligations were not met within four months, the Soviet Government would appeal to an arbitration committee to annul the agreement. Subsequently the Lena Goldfields Company protested against a search made of the quarters of some of the Russian employees of the company in connection with counter revolutionary activities and economic and political espionage of which a number of the staff were later found guilty in a Soviet court. The Lena Goldfields Company stated that conditions had been created that made it impossible to continue the operation of the concession, and suggested the calling of an arbitration committee as provided for by the contract. The Chief Concessions Committee willingly consented, in view of the fact that the Lena Goldfields Company had continued in its failure to meet its financial obligations, had failed to meet the agreed program for construction and production, and had even held up wage payments.

Before the arbitration committee had had time to meet the Lena Goldfields Company unexpectedly renounced the concession contract, independently and recalled its workers.

#### **Two Documents**

In reply to the above action the Chief Concessions Committee on May 6th sent the following telegram to the administration of the Lena Goldfields in London:

"Your telegrams of April 29th and May 1st were a complete surprise to us, particularly in view of the fact that they came only a few days before the arbitration committee, by the mutual consent of both parties, was to enter upon the examination of the disputed questions connected with the carrying on of the concession, questions which we had hoped could actually be settled. Unfortunately you refused to follow the course adopted by agreement of the interested parties, and thereby to safeguard the conduct of the concession on the basis of fulfilling the concession contract. And by your action in renouncing responsibility, discontinuing the financing of the concession and divesting your representatives of their power of attorney and recalling them as well as the necessary technical personnel, you have actually and formally put a stop to the carrying out of the concession contract, dissolving the latter by a one-sided and unlawful act in spite of the clear meaning of paragraph 86 of the con-

cession contract, in accordance with which 'the concession may be dissolved prior to the term of expiration only on the strength of a decision of the arbitration committee.' By such unilateral actions you are placing the enterprises taken over by you as a concession in an exceptionally difficult position, and on you alone lies the entire responsibility for the consequences which result from your action. We suppose further that under these conditions the arbitration committee established by the contracting parties for the examination of questions of dispute arising from the carrying out of the contract, has ceased to exist, and we are notifying the presiding arbitrator to this effect. We are convinced that we shall be able to reach an agreement with you regarding the settlement of accounts arising from the abrogation of the contract without any participation of an arbitration committee, providing good will exists on both sides. However, if any questions of dispute should arise in the course of these negotiations then it is understood that, in complete accord with the concession contract, an arbitration committee would be established upon which would devolve the examination of all questions of dispute arising from this kind of negotiations. In order to establish the procedure and methods of settling mutual accounts arising from the liquidation of the concession in accordance with the agreement which was reached on April 27th, our commission will meet with you on May 7th.

**"CHIEF CONCESSIONS COMMITTEE."**

Simultaneously the Chief Concessions Committee despatched the following telegram to Professor Stutzer of the Freiburg Mining Academy, chosen by both parties to act as chairman of the proposed arbitration committee:

"On February 12th the Lena Goldfields Company addressed a telegram to the Chief Concessions Committee of the Sovnarkom (Council of People's Commissars) informing them that in consequence of disagreements arising in the carrying out of the concession contract, the Lena Goldfields Company was referring the questions enumerated in the same telegram for consideration by the arbitration committee, in accordance with paragraph 90 of the contract. At the same time Lena Goldfields named as their arbiter Sir Leslie Scott. On February 25th the Chief Concessions Committee responded, signifying its consent to submitting the disputes arising in the Lena Goldfields concession to the arbitration committee, enumerated the questions connected with the fulfillment of the concession contract which in its turn it was presenting for consideration by the arbitration committee, and also designated as its arbiter Mr. Chlenov. After failing to reach an agreement on the presiding arbitrator, the Chief Concessions Committee, in accordance with paragraph 90 of the agreement, nominated

six candidates from among the professors of the Freiburg Academy of Mines, of which number Lena Goldfields selected you. The Chief Concessions Committee immediately affirmed its acceptance of this selection. Both parties requested you to call the first meeting of the arbitration committee for the ninth of May in Berlin. Thus everything was done to solve the disputes formulated by both sides for the arbitration committee organized in accordance with the concession contract. We now consider it necessary to inform you that on April 29th we received a communication from Lena Goldfields that it 'had now finally decided that it was not only impossible under existing conditions to carry out the concessions contract, but also the resumption of the work even with certain changes in conditions considered by the commission, had now become entirely impossible, and that from the present moment we cannot be responsible for any damage incurred by the concession enterprise in the U. S. S. R. because as we have already declared, our enterprise in the U. S. S. R. cannot be directed from here.'

"On May 1st Lena Goldfields informed us that it had 'revoked the power of attorney vested in its agents and instructed all its foreign employees to return.' This unilateral act of Lena Goldfields, which was especially inadmissible in view of the organization by mutual agreement of an arbitration committee to examine the questions of dispute in carrying out the contract, creates an entirely new situation. We therefore have today sent to the Lena Goldfields, in answer to their telegrams, the following telegram: (the exact text of the telegram to the Lena Goldfields printed above follows):

"Accordingly we are hereby informing you that we consider that the activities of the arbitration committee organized by us to settle disputed questions in connection with exploiting the concession and carrying out the contract, of which you are impartial chairman, to have been suspended, and are recalling our representative on the arbitration committee, Mr. Chlenov, inasmuch as the unilateral decision and actions of the concessionary in discontinuing the operation of the concession and refusing to carry out the contract in any way, of themselves dissolve the agreement. Please accept our appreciation and our apologies for the trouble you have been caused.

**"CHIEF CONCESSIONS COMMITTEE."**

#### **Statement in Moscow Press**

On May 12th the following statement was published in the Moscow press:

"The Chief Concessions Committee categorically declared in its telegrams to Lena Goldfields and Professor Stutzer on May 5th that the work of the arbitration committee organized by mutual agreement to consider questions of dispute

connected with the *fulfillment* of the concession contract, has been disrupted by the one-sided and unlawful act of Lena Goldfields in violating the terms of paragraph 86 of the contract ('the concession may be dissolved prior to the term of expiration only on the strength of a decision of the arbitration committee').

"Notwithstanding the fact that on the basis of the above the Soviet side has recalled its arbiter, Professor Stutzer, and the representative of Lena Goldfields meeting together have considered it possible to declare themselves the committee and to adopt a series of decisions regarding the procedure of further court examination. The Soviet Government continues as before to hold the opinion that the conferences and decisions of these two gentlemen have no meaning as far as it (the Soviet Government) is concerned, and no binding power whatsoever. In accordance with the proposal made by the Soviet Government to the concessionary in its telegram of May 5th, the Soviet Government considers that the court organized to review the questions of dispute arising in connection with the carrying out of the contract has ceased to exist, and that the questions connected with settling the accounts of the concession, liquidated by the one-sided action of the concessionary, must be subject to peaceful negotiations, and in the event of failure to reach an agreement, will then be subject to the consideration of a new arbitration committee. The Soviet Government however, cannot permit a situation wherein parallel with these amicable negotiations there will be continued the work of an arbitration committee which has no juridical basis, which is unrecognized by the Government, and from the deliberations of which its representative is absent.

Mr. Chamberlin's book is therefore at once distinguishable from the volumes about the Soviet Union so briskly reeled off by ten-day visitors to the country. It is a much more mature product, more cautious in its judgments and evaluations. The snap judgments of transitory visitors are sometimes of considerable value; the foreigner in permanent residence comes to realize that in a huge country of many diverse racial strains, in a stage of profound transition and rapidly changing values, a correct picture must reconcile so many present complexities and such infinite possibilities that it is well-nigh impossible of attainment.

Mr. Chamberlin's book possibly suffers somewhat by over-cautious weighing of imponderables. It suffers as a serious study from instances of misplaced emphasis. It is somewhat inadequate in dealing with the implications of the industrial program in respect of the development of relations with other countries. In places where Mr. Chamberlin hazards predictions or prophecies, the results are not always happy, as in the case of his gloomy forebodings about the grain procurements from the crop of 1929 (written in the summer of 1929) which actually proved to be far ahead of the procurements of previous years, both in the volume of grain placed on the market and in the rapidity with which it reached the market. Apparently Mr. Chamberlin greatly underrated the possibilities in large-scale mechanized farming as compared with cultivation of small individual strips.

However, in spite of these deficiencies, the book is one of the most important studies of the Soviet Union by a foreign observer.

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## Book Notes

"SOVIET RUSSIA—A LIVING RECORD AND A HISTORY," by William Henry Chamberlin. Little, Brown and Company, Boston. \$5.

Mr. Chamberlin's book must be classed as one of the more serious studies of the U. S. S. R. The author, an American correspondent, has lived in the Soviet Union for seven years, and for a good part of that period has served as correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor. His book is the fruit of his observation, study and travel. It has the value of a first-hand appraisal by a person familiar with the day-to-day life in certain sections of the country and with a fair knowledge of political and economic objectives and perspectives.

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"RUSSIA TODAY AND YESTERDAY," by Dr. E. J. Dillon. Doubleday Doran, New York. \$3.50.

Dr. Dillon, a veteran British journalist and writer on international affairs, lived for many years in Tsarist Russia. He left the country at the time of the Revolution, and in his subsequent writings was one of the most irreconcilable critics of the new regime. He revisited the country in 1928, and this volume is his appraisal of the Soviet Union as he saw it during his visit. His background gives him ample material for comparing the old with the new. During his visit he was particularly interested in the changes, both psychological and physical, in peasant life, and the awakening of the village. His chapters on the life of the countryside as he saw it are probably the most interesting in the volume. There are some crudities and contradictions in the book, but because of Dr. Dillon's background and his former attitude, the appraisal is thoroughly interesting and informative.

## Miscellaneous News

### American-Soviet Business Gains

According to "Commerce Reports" of May 26, "Soviet Russia in Europe" was the fifth most important market for American exports of mining and quarrying machinery during 1929, and the most important market in Europe. American exports of such machinery to the European portion of the Soviet Union for 1929 amounted in value to \$1,215,640. These exports increased rapidly from \$5,840 in 1924.

According to "Commerce Reports" of May 26, "Soviet Russia in Europe" took about 60 per cent of all American exports of tractors during the first quarter of the current calendar year. Of 25,824 tractors exported during the period, 15,312 went to the European portion of the Soviet Union. Of the total value of \$35,138,000 of this export business during the period, the European portion of the Soviet Union accounted for \$21,646,000.

According to "Commerce Reports" of May 5, "Soviet Russia in Europe" was the second most important market for American construction machinery and equipment during 1929, being ranked only by Canada. The value of the exports to the European portion of the Soviet Union was \$1,181,558. The exports to the Soviet Union increased 50 per cent in the past two years.

### Book Publishing in Georgia

THE Gosizdat (State Publishing House) of Georgia has greatly increased its output during the past few years. During the year 1928-29 the number of titles increased by 29 per cent over the preceding year, and the circulation increased by 14 per cent, attaining 1,500,000. For the first time in its existence the Georgian Gosizdat considerably exceeded its program and put on the market a large amount of artistic and educational literature and textbooks. Many standard political and economic works were issued for the first time in the Georgian tongue, fuller editions of the work of Marx, Engels and Lenin were issued than ever before. The Georgian Gosizdat published quantities of literature devoted to the reconstruction of agriculture, and the program of agricultural literature, particularly literature about the agricultural collective movement, is greatly extended for the present year. According to the preliminary plan it is proposed to issue 1,500,000 copies of agricultural books alone, and the work of the first months of the year shows that even this number will be exceeded.

The needs of the elementary schools for text-

books have been fully met last year for the first time.

In the realm of artistic literature the plan was completely fulfilled. Fifty-four new titles in the field of *belle lettres* and poetry were issued. Along with the works of modern Georgian writers and poets a series of books by writers of Western Europe, and the U. S. S. R. have been translated. A number of the best artistic works of Armenian and Turkish writers were translated into Georgian this year for the first time.

### Cultural Advance of Azerbaijan

A GREAT ADVANCE is being made in wiping out illiteracy in Azerbaijan. In the twenty years between 1897 and 1917 the percentage of literacy on the territory of the present Azerbaijan increased at a snail's pace—from 6.3 per cent to 9.3 per cent. While in 1914 there were only 942 lower schools with 62,788 pupils, there were in Soviet Azerbaijan in 1928, 1,479 schools with 188,296 pupils.

In connection with the rapid general economic growth of Azerbaijan and the increasing demand for cultural opportunities on the part of the population, the government of Azerbaijan has passed a decree to introduce universal compulsory education throughout the entire republic beginning with 1932.

The Soviet republic received an exceptionally meagre heritage in the field of technical training. There were in all only four institutions for professional training of any kind in the old Azerbaijan. At the present time there are five higher institutions for technical training, with 5,517 students, 40 technicums with 10,060 students, and many other trade schools, attended by 10,507 students.

During the past ten years 2,221 highly qualified specialists and 3,404 of average skill have been graduated from these institutions.

### White Russian Literature and Art Week in Moscow

The first week in May in Moscow was "White Russian Literature and Art Week," following the plan carried out so successfully last year of holding a "Week of Ukrainian Writers." Over eighty of the foremost writers and artists of White Russia visited Moscow during that week. They were greeted by important government organizations, and special meetings and entertainments were arranged for them in the scientific and cultural institutions of Moscow. Coincident with the visit

of the writers and artists there were held two exhibitions, devoted to White Russian literature and literary organizations. Portraits of White Russian artists and writers, examples of their paintings and books were prominently displayed in the Moscow book stores and kiosks.

## 2nd International Soil Congress

The following statement issued by Prof. Yari-  
lov, Chairman of the Central Arrangements Com-  
mittee for the Second International Soil Congress,  
was published by the Soviet press on May 12:

"Owing to the publication in the press of vari-  
ous incorrect statements regarding the Second  
International Congress, the Arrangements Com-  
mittee and the representation of the Interna-  
tional Association of Soil Experts announces that  
no changes in the time and place of the opening  
of the congress are contemplated.

"The congress will be opened on July 20, in  
Leningrad, and after five days of work will move  
to Moscow, where it will continue its proceedings  
for another seven days, and then the majority of  
the members of the congress will make a 24-day  
tour of the U. S. S. R. to acquaint themselves not  
only with the soils of the Union, the study of  
which gave rise to the theoretical soil science, but  
also with the economic use of these soils in the  
State and collective farms, as well as with some  
industrial enterprises, scientific institutions,  
higher schools of the Soviet Union, and so on."

## Paper From Seaweed

The first factory for the production of paper  
from seaweeds is nearing completion in Novosi-  
birsk. The method by which paper is produced  
from the Siberian lake weeds has been invented  
by the Russian engineer Velijev. The lakes of  
the Chansk district alone in Siberia can furnish  
annually 100,000 tons of seaweeds, which repre-  
sent almost pure cellulose.

The results of the examination of these sea-  
weeds in the Leningrad Technological Institute  
exceeded all expectations. The conversion of the  
weeds into paper takes less than half an hour  
while in the ordinary process of paper produc-  
tion more than a day passes before the raw ma-  
terial is transformed into the finished product.

Sixteen different kinds of paper as well as  
cardboard and glue have been obtained from the  
seaweeds. The waste is used to produce a fire-  
proof plastic mass which can be manufactured  
into tiles and other products. The seaweeds  
contain also iodine and bromine.

The central industrial organs in Moscow have

become interested in the new method of produc-  
ing paper and have decided to take measures to  
make use of seaweeds for industrial purposes on  
a large scale wherever this is possible.

## Cultural Work in the Collectives

The "Kolhozcenter" of the U. S. S. R. has or-  
ganized a special committee to aid in the estab-  
lishment of cultural and social institutions in the  
larger collectives. A fund has been established  
for the use of this committee which is made up  
from a five per cent deduction from the profits  
of all cooperative organizations in the villages,  
the local budgets, voluntary contributions and  
so on.

This fund for the present year amounts to  
twenty million rubles. During the present year  
emphasis will be placed on the establishment of  
cultural institutions in thirty-three regions where  
collectivization has embraced practically the en-  
tire population. In each of these districts there  
will be organized new kindergartens, medical sta-  
tions, communal dining rooms and cultural cen-  
ters. It has also been decided to use part of the  
cultural fund for the equipment and improvement  
of already existing institutions. Thus it is pro-  
posed to equip in the larger collectives 2,000 of  
the simpler type of cultural and social institu-  
tions, such as playgrounds, small libraries, read-  
ing rooms and so on.

During the spring sowing campaign 267 travel-  
ing typographies with 84 brigades of printers and  
journalists were sent out into the villages where  
the collective movement was strong. The journal-  
ists collected local material, got local peasants to  
write themselves, and turned out daily news-  
papers during the heat of the campaign to report  
its progress and stimulate greater activity, to the  
great delight of local peasants. In the wholly  
collectivized regions a hundred radio newspapers  
were organized for the collective members. In  
many cases the traveling newspapers left behind  
them the beginnings of a permanent local news-  
paper, so great an impression did they make.

## The Port of Leningrad

By the end of April the port of Leningrad was  
already crowded with steamers of all nationali-  
ties, an event quite unusual for April. This situ-  
ation will naturally increase the amount of ex-  
port trade. The new mechanical export harbor  
has already started its operations. There are  
eight new landing stages, nine electric water  
cranes, ten timber elevators, and so on. The new  
export harbor is supplied with all the necessary  
machinery and plants. Work has commenced in  
the construction of new deep landing stages near  
the shore.

## Books and Pamphlets About the U. S. S. R. in the English Language

- Ten Days that Shook the World, by John Reed. International Publishers, New York.
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# SOVIET UNION REVIEW

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Twenty Cents

July-August, 1930

Vol. VIII, Nos. 7-8

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**Internal Situation in the U. S. S. R.**  
**Harvest Prospects**  
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**Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union**

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## Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union

### Anglo-Soviet Relations

During his recent visit to Moscow, Mr. G. Y. Sokolnikov, Soviet envoy to Great Britain, made the following statement to the press with regard to Anglo-Soviet Relations:

"The negotiations which have been carried on in London have up to the present moment led to the signing of two agreements: the Anglo-Soviet provisional trade agreement, concluded on April 16th, and the fishing convention, concluded on May 22nd. The provisional trade agreement has created the necessary legal basis for the strengthening and expansion of the commercial relations between the two countries, determined on the establishment in London of a Soviet trade delegation, organized in accordance with the principle of the monopoly of foreign trade, and established the principle of 'non-discrimination' in the trade relations between the U. S. S. R. and England and the financial operations connected therewith (in connection with this the possibility of limitations and exceptions with regard to the U. S. S. R. in the matter of export credits is eliminated). The conclusion of this agreement and the creation of a Soviet trade mission in London have reacted favorably on the economic relations of the two countries and in the future, when the necessary financial measures have been effected, will undoubtedly lead to more substantial results.

"The fishing convention, which is subject to more detailed working over in the future, in its present form, which deals with the basic problems, represents an agreement averting the possibility

of any conflicts or misunderstandings arising in connection with English fishing boats fishing in the waters of the White Sea. As is well known, the conflicts which have arisen in former years in this connection, took on at times an exceedingly sharp character, and the regulation of the question within the limits in which by mutual consent English fishing boats are permitted to operate in the northern waters, represents a substantial step in the matter of guaranteeing normal and peaceful relations between the two countries concerned.

"The trade agreement and the fishing convention are acts which show that the steadfast policy of the Soviet Union toward the maintenance and strengthening of peace is finding a response among the general public, and particularly the working masses of England. But just for this reason the irreconcilable hostile forces which are dreaming of new intervention against the U. S. S. R., are again developing an intensified campaign of attack against the Soviet government. The methods of this campaign are not new: forgeries, stupid tales of plots, wild fabrications from 'our own' correspondents in Riga. However, the strengthening of peaceful relations and the development of trade between the U. S. S. R. and England is so insistently dictated by the immediate interests of both countries that it is to be supposed the attempts of enemies of the Soviet Union to disrupt the work of peace and the regulation of economic connections will remain entirely unsuccessful."

### Anglo-Soviet Fishing Agreement

On May 22nd a temporary fishing agreement was signed in London by representatives of the U. S. S. R. and Great Britain. This represents a second step in the execution of the London Protocol on the procedure of future negotiations between U. S. S. R. and Great Britain, the first step having been the Trade Agreement.

According to the new agreement English fishing vessels have the right to catch fish at a distance of from three to twelve geographical miles off the line of maximum ebb tide along the northern shores of U. S. S. R. The Moscow "Izvestia" points out that this main paragraph of the agreement is interesting, not only from the viewpoint of material opportunities arising from the right accorded, but also from the point of view of the attitude in principle of the Soviet Union on the question of territorial waters.

In 1921 the Soviet Government declared the exclusive rights of the Soviet Republic in exploiting the fish and animal regions in the northern waters of the Union to a distance of twelve miles.

By signing the agreement of May 22nd, England actually recognizes the rights of the U. S. S. R. for the twelve-mile region. "Izvestia" further points out that the reservation made in the second paragraph of the agreement to the effect that the provisions of the agreement "should not be regarded as straining the viewpoint of both governments in the question of the borders of the territorial waters, according to international law," does not change the situation.

The indirect recognition by England of the right of U. S. S. R. for the twelve-mile region forms a precedent for further arguments against the English theory of the three-mile region of territorial waters, the failure of which has already been clearly manifested.

### Joint Soviet-German Statement

On June 14th the following joint Soviet-German statement was given out by the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs:

"In the relations between Germany and the U. S. S. R., a number of questions have arisen in the course of time which, in the interests of the further development of mutual friendly relations, require to be settled. All these questions taken together have been the object of the general diplomatic conversations which have taken place between the two governments during the past few weeks in Berlin and Moscow, and which are being brought to a definite conclusion at the present time.

"Part of the separate claims of each side have already been satisfactorily cleared up in the conversations that have taken place. The remainder must be subject to review by the adjustment commission provided for this purpose by the treaty

of April 25th, 1929, which must meet annually in the middle of the year, and which this year will meet on June 16th, in Moscow, for its current session.

"In considering the separate questions that have arisen, both governments alike are actuated by a desire to surmount the difficulties that have arisen, in the spirit of the Rapallo treaty and of other treaties that are in force between them, and by the desire to pursue the policy which they have followed for many years on the basis of these treaties, in the future development of international relations as well.

"In the course of a frank exchange of opinion they have again come to the conclusion that the fundamental difference in their systems of government should not be an obstacle to the further fruitful development of amicable relations. In this connection both governments agree that they must refrain from any attempts at active influence in the internal affairs of the other country.

"Both governments have decided to support their mutual relations on this basis, and so to approach the questions which may in the future arise between them, whether touching on the direct relations between the two countries or any other matters relating to their interests.

"They are convinced that in this way they will serve both the interests of their own countries, and the interests of international peace."

### Soviet Press Comment

In an editorial on the joint Soviet-German statement the Moscow "Izvestia" of June 14th said in part as follows:

"The very fact of the publication of the joint communiqué is evidence that both sides consider it possible to agree upon a mutually acceptable estimate of the nature of Soviet-German relations and their perspectives. Undoubtedly this fact will be greeted with satisfaction by all those who consider the strengthening and development of friendly relations between the U. S. S. R. and Germany to be in the interests of both countries and very important in the matter of peace in Europe. . . .

"The complications attendant upon relations between countries having completely different economic and social structures inevitably lead to various difficulties and even to moments of strain. But these difficulties, where there is good will on both sides, are merely inevitable steps in the development of mutual contacts, and in part are simply evidence of the need for the further deepening and strengthening of relations. The contents of the Soviet-German communiqué, to an even greater extent than the fact of its publication, demonstrate that there is no question of a crisis in Soviet-German relations, since the basis of these relations—the Rapallo policy and the whole system of Soviet-German political and economic relations—remain in full

force. This circumstance may serve as security that even in the changing international situation the basis of amicable relations between the U. S. S. R. and Germany will be preserved and will continue to develop favorably in the future."

### **First Meeting of Soviet-German Adjustment Commission**

On June 16th the German delegates to the Soviet-German Adjustment Commission, headed by Deputy von Raumer, arrived in Moscow. The first meeting of the commission was held on the evening of June 16th, under the chairmanship of Mr. B. S. Stomaniakov, Soviet member of the commission.

"The work of the adjustment commission," said Mr. Stomaniakov in his speech of welcome to the German delegates, "represents a new departure in Soviet-German relations, and we must therefore be prepared to meet in our work certain difficulties arising from the novelty of this method, and from the lack of experience on either side. I hope, however, that with good will and the readiness of each side to consider the reasonable interests of the other side, our work will produce positive results.

"The activities of the adjustment commission are simplified by the diplomatic negotiations which preceded them. A number of questions have already been reviewed in those negotiations and do not require the attention of the adjustment commission. On the other hand, one of the basic principles of Soviet-German relations, namely, that the fundamental differences in the two governmental systems must not hinder the future fruitful development of amicable relations between the two countries, was reaffirmed in these negotiations. We must be guided by this principle in the work of the adjustment commission as well.

"The existing treaties between the U. S. S. R. and Germany which have justified themselves over a number of years, must serve as the basis for the work of the adjustment commission.

"In this connection I take the liberty of expressing especial satisfaction over the circumstance that the chief delegate of the German Government in the adjustment commission is Minister von Raumer, who as is well known, took part in concluding the Rapallo Treaty. . . .

"In opening the first session of the adjustment commission I permit myself to express the conviction that through our united efforts we shall be able not only to find a solution acceptable to our governments for the disputed questions here presented, but that we shall make our work a step in the further strengthening of relations between the U. S. S. R. and Germany."

Mr. von Raumer answered as follows:

"Permit me in the name of the German delegation to express our sincere gratitude for your

kind welcome, from which I draw the conclusion that between us exists complete unanimity regarding the tasks of the adjustment commission.

"This commission is an institution which exists only between our two countries. I permit myself to express the hope that our negotiations will be animated with the same spirit as your words. The aim of our commission is to further the mutual relations of our countries. On the basis of understanding that point those difficulties which may naturally be expected to arise in the conduct of these negotiations will be solved.

"You were so good as to recall my participation in the drawing up of the Rapallo treaty. I can assure you that my point of view has not changed since the moment of concluding the treaty in Rapallo. It was therefore with a feeling of deep satisfaction that I accepted from my government the commission to be one of the two members of the adjustment commission from the German side, and I am glad of the possibility to assist in the development of our relations."

### **Memorandum on European Federation**

On May 17th, the French Chargé d'Affaires, M. Helleu, on behalf of his government, informed Acting Commissar for Foreign Affairs, M. M. Litvinov, that the memorandum of M. Briand regarding a federal union of the European members of the League of Nations had likewise been sent to the Union Government for their information, but was still on the way. In addition M. Helleu stated that the government of the French Republic was acting in this instance by virtue of power received from the European States which were members of the League of Nations, and consequently was compelled to limit to these countries the consultation it had been commissioned to carry on.

M. Helleu stated further that "specifically emphasized in the memorandum was the general reservation that the European federation could not be set up against any ethnic groups outside of the League of Nations, and that there could be no question that the European agreement could be directed against any other nation whatever. This matter must, in the opinion of the French government, be accomplished in good faith and cooperation with all other countries or those groups of countries which were to a sufficient degree sincerely interested in a general organization of peace to recognize the importance of a more homogeneous Europe. Furthermore, modern laws of international economics must be sufficiently taken into consideration to seek—in accordance with the views of these countries—methods of simplifying the structure of Europe and thus release from the permanent danger of conflicts, the condition of stability necessary for the development of their own economic mutual relations. In view of this the French memoran-

dum especially provides that the European committee which has been called to serve as the executive organ for the European federation and in which may be represented only a certain number of the European countries, will have an opportunity, every time that it shall be found necessary or expedient, to invite at any moment the representatives of other countries, whether or not members of the League of Nations, who would be interested in the study of any specific question. And finally, the program of work proposed for the approval of the governments approached includes in general a search for all means of cooperation between the European federation and the countries which have not entered therein. The French government would wish that the public opinion of not one of the foreign countries should be mistaken with regard to its true purpose in taking the initiative, which is solely the improvement of the conditions of peace in Europe for the good of all nations."

The memorandum referred to has been received and is in the possession of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs.

#### **Exchange of Notes Between U. S. S. R. and Poland**

On May 31st, Mr. Antonov-Ovseyenko, diplomatic representative of the U. S. S. R. in Poland, handed to the Polish acting minister for foreign affairs, Mr. Vysotsky, the following note:

"The Union Government in its note of April 28th, called the attention of the Government of the Polish Republic to the gravity of the situation created as a result of the attempt to blow up the building occupied by the Diplomatic Mission of the U. S. S. R. in Poland.

"The Union Government expected that the Government of the Polish Republic, which is responsible for the security of the Diplomatic Mission of the U. S. S. R. in Poland, and for guaranteeing to it conditions for carrying on its work in accordance with the usual rules of international procedure, would take energetic and effective measures to terminate the criminal activities of those elements in Poland which are systematically attempting to create serious complications in the mutual relations between the U. S. S. R. and Poland, and who in pursuance of this aim do not hesitate to perform terroristic acts against the diplomatic representatives of the U. S. S. R. Although more than a month has elapsed since the moment of the discovery of the attempt on April 26th, the Union Government is compelled to state that up to this time not only has it failed to receive from the Government of the Polish Republic any answer to its note of April 28th, but it has no official information whatsoever from which it would appear that the Polish authorities had drawn all the proper conclusions from such an important fact as the discovery of an attempt to blow up the building occupied by the Diplomatic Mission of the U. S. S. R. in Warsaw. Not only

have those guilty of the organization of this attempt not been found up to the present time, but there is no official information on the basis of which the discovery of the initiators and executors of the attack of April 26th might soon be expected.

"On the other hand, as is clear from the memorandum hereto appended, notwithstanding the communication from the Warsaw Prosecuting Attorney regarding the decision of the Minister of Justice, Mr. Tsar, to permit the Diplomatic Mission of the U. S. S. R. to examine the material gathered in the investigation, the latter has not only been given no opportunity to examine this material, but has not been able to procure a copy of the minutes of those proceedings of the investigation in which representatives of the Diplomatic Mission participated, nor of the protocol recording the experts' opinion on the bomb found on April 26th.

"The attitude, as set forth above, of the Polish Government and its organs toward the event of April 26th, and the conclusions arising therefrom, have not helped to terminate that dangerous situation in Poland which facilitates the operations of those elements attempting to provoke conflicts in Soviet-Polish relations. These activities have also found their expression in a series of entirely inadmissible attacks of the Polish press against the Diplomatic Mission of the U. S. S. R. and against the Soviet Union which have gone so far as accusations that the attempt of April 26th was organized by organs of the Union Government. Furthermore the silence of the Polish authorities with regard to this attempt cannot fail to encourage the spread of insinuations on the part of malicious elements.

"In view of all this the Union Government is compelled again to call the attention of the Government of the Polish Republic to the resultant situation, straining Soviet-Polish relations, and to the necessity of taking decisive measures with the aim of clearing up the circumstances of the attack of April 26th, finding the guilty persons, and putting a stop to the criminal activities of those elements in Poland attempting to provoke a conflict between Poland and the Soviet Union.

"The Union Government is awaiting substantial information from the Government of the Polish Republic with regard to the attempt to blow up the Diplomatic Mission of the U. S. S. R., and with regard to the measures that have been taken by the Polish Government with the aim of protecting the Diplomatic Mission of the U. S. S. R. from further attacks by criminal elements.

"ANTONOV-OVSEYENKO."

To the note was appended a memorandum in which were set forth facts giving evidence that the Polish authorities, who had first expressed their consent to granting the representatives of the Soviet Diplomatic Mission access to the material collected in the inquiry concerning the at-

tempt, subsequently withdrew this consent, and proposed that the mission procure verbal information from the prosecutor conducting the investigation. The nature of this verbal information, however, compelled the mission to decline further use of this means to acquaint themselves with the material of the investigation of the attempt. In the memorandum it is further pointed out that in spite of requests made repeatedly during a period of more than a month, to the Polish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Soviet Diplomatic Mission was unable to procure either the protocol on the expert opinion with regard to the bomb discovered on April 26th, nor the protocol on the inspection of the scene of the crime which was drawn up in the presence of the representatives of the Soviet Diplomatic Mission.

### Polish Reply

On June fifth, Mr. Antonov-Ovseyenko received the following reply from the Polish Government:

"In acknowledgment of the receipt of your notes of April 28th and May 31st, with regard to the discovery of a bomb in the chimney of the embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Warsaw, 15 Poznansky Street, I have the honor to inform you of the following:

"From the moment of the discovery of the above-mentioned bomb by the Polish defense authorities, the legal authorities charged with the investigation into the matter of finding the guilty persons in the—fortunately unsuccessful—attempt, entered zealously on their activities and have not for a moment relaxed the intensive search carried on for the above purpose. The circumstance that those guilty of the attempt were not apprehended at the scene of the crime as well as the failure so far to establish the exact date of the installation of the electric wire on the house adjoining the building occupied by the embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which in all probability might have taken place even several days before the discovery of the wire, gives rise to serious complications hampering the investigations of the Polish legal authorities.

"Although, as a result of the above-mentioned facts, the legal inquiry is confronted with a number of puzzles extraordinarily difficult to solve, it will nevertheless be carried on in the future with intensified speed and the hope may be expressed that it will be crowned with positive results.

"I take the liberty also of assuring you that the Government of the Polish Republic, attributing great importance to the strengthening and deepening of peaceful relations between the Polish Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, fully acknowledges its obligations with regard to necessity of guaranteeing security and peace to the accredited representatives of the U. S. S. R., on the territory of the Polish Republic.

"AUGUST ZALESKI."

### Esthonian Economic Delegation

On May 30th an Esthonian Economic Delegation of ten members, headed by former Foreign Minister Rebane, arrived in Moscow. In addition to representatives of various State departments there were representatives of Esthonian finance and industry in the delegation. The purpose of the delegation was the further strengthening of Soviet-Esthonian relations which have been developing satisfactorily during the past year on the basis of the trade treaty which went into effect last September. The members of the delegation were given every opportunity to acquaint themselves with the economic situation of the Soviet Union, its import requirements and export possibilities.

### Preparations for Soviet-Chinese Conference

Assistant Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Mr. L. M. Karakhan, has been named the representative of the U. S. S. R. for the Soviet-Chinese conference.

At the meeting that took place on May 20th, between Mr. Mo Teh Hui, representative of the Chinese Republic, and Mr. L. M. Karakhan, it was agreed to settle on the day for the opening of the conference at the next meeting, in order to permit an exchange of the lists of experts of both parties before settling on the date.

On May 25th Mr. L. M. Karakhan sent the list of Soviet experts for the Soviet-Chinese conference to Mr. Mo Teh Hui, accompanied by the following letter:

"Dear Sir, Mr. Plenipotentiary Representative:

"During our conversation of May 20th, when I proposed that we decide upon the date of the opening of the Soviet-Chinese conference, you, Mr. Plenipotentiary Representative, found it more convenient to postpone the naming of the date until our next meeting, at which we agreed to present to each other lists of the experts of both sides.

"I am enclosing herewith a list of the experts who will be included in the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and I have the honor to inform you that in the capacity of official delegate of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I am ready to open the Soviet-Chinese conference provided for by the Khabarovsk protocol.

"Accept, Mr. Plenipotentiary Representative, assurances of my complete esteem.

"L. KARAKHAN."

On May 26th, Mr. Mo Teh Hui sent Mr. Karakhan the following letter:

"Dear Sir, Mr. Official Delegate:

"Your letter of May 26th and the accompanying list of experts has been received.

"On the basis of our conversation of May 20th, I shall within a short period have the honor to negotiate personally with you in order to make

possible that the forthcoming Sino-Soviet conference shall take place in the near future.

"In addition I have the honor herewith to append the list of delegates on technical questions for the Chinese side.

"Accept, Mr. Official Delegate, the assurance of my complete respect.

"MO TEH HUI."

#### Situation on Chinese-Eastern R. R.

In connection with the Soviet-Chinese conference, shortly to be opened, the Moscow press publishes the following account of the condition of the Chinese-Eastern railway since the settlement of the dispute.

The conflict very gravely affected both the operations of the line and its property. At the time of the return of the Soviet administration, at the beginning of this year, some 30 per cent of the track and practically the entire property of the line were in a state of complete disrepair. Traffic had ceased over a large part of the railway. The rolling stock was entirely inadequate to meet the needs of the line and unprepared for the export campaign. Much damage had been done to the stations and other buildings.

About 270,000 square meters of building space were in need of immediate repairs. There was a lack of skilled workers and it was practically impossible to put the commercial activity of the line on a normal basis. The demoralization of the line seriously affected the economic life of Manchuria which had already been experiencing a grave crisis.

The settlement of the conflict at once favorably affected the condition of the railway. The new management and Board of Directors com-

posed on the basis of the Khabarovsk protocol have been working hard to restore the line and make it ready for normal commercial operations. Their efforts have been attended by considerable success. During the first four months of 1930 the line earned over 23 million gold rubles. Its expenditures amounted to 19 million rubles, of which about one-third falls to the share of operations connected with the restoration of the line and the elimination of the effects of the dispute. The questions of personnel have been solved strictly in accordance with instructions from the Board of Directors and with the provisions of the Khabarovsk protocol. There have been no discharges of employees except those specified in the protocol. On May 1, the railway had 22,956 employees on its pay rolls, of whom 11,002 were Soviet citizens and 11,954 Chinese.

At the present time the line is preparing for the approaching export campaign. A plan of current shipments has been drawn up.

The intensive work of regulating the activity of the line is proceeding in an atmosphere of practical cooperation between the Soviet and Chinese citizens, and no unpleasant incidents are reported.

#### Changes in Soviet Foreign Service

Mr. D. V. Kandelaki has been appointed Trade Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Sweden. Mr. S. R. Bogatin has been relieved of the duties of Trade Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Sweden at his own request. Mr. Kandelaki has been People's Commissar for Education in Georgia since 1921.

Mr. J. J. Elerdov has been relieved of the duties of Trade Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Norway and Mr. N. V. Rogozinsky has been appointed in his stead.

## Internal Situation in the U. S. S. R.

**A**N analysis of the present internal situation in the Soviet Union was given in the report made by Mr. L. M. Kaganovich, a member of the Secretariat of the Communist Party, at the Second Moscow Oblast (Regional) Party Conference, held in Moscow the first week in June.

Mr. Kaganovich pointed out that one of the chief changes that had taken place in the two and a half years since the Fifteenth Party Congress was the increasing share of the "socialized sector" in the total production of the Soviet Union, which jumped from 35 per cent in 1925-26, to 51.2 per cent during the current year. In the field of commercial production the increasing role of the socialized sector is still more striking. The total commercial production grew in the same period from 15,500,000,000 to 28 billion rubles,\* that

is, by 80 per cent, while the commercial production of the socialized sector grew from 9 to 21 billion rubles, or by 133 per cent. Thus the share of the socialized sector in all commercial production has increased from 58 to 75 per cent.

In the field of trade turnover, Mr. Kaganovich noted an increase from 29,100,000,000 rubles in 1926-27, to 59,300,000,000 rubles in the present year, and a decrease in the share of private capital during that period from 24.5 per cent to 3.3 per cent.

Especially noteworthy is the growth of the national budget from 6,400,000,000 rubles in 1926-27, to 13 billion rubles in the present fiscal year.

#### Progress in Five-Year Plan

Mr. Kaganovich described the constant upward revisions being made in the Five-Year Plan figures

\*A ruble is equal to 51.5 cents.

as the actual processes of production reveal new capacities for growth, and the corresponding increases made in the construction program.

"Originally, for instance, we planned an output of 800,000 metric tons of pig iron a year for the Magnitogorsk Works." Mr. Kaganovich declared, "Subsequently this program was somewhat increased, and at the present time the Magnitogorsk Works are being constructed with a view to producing two and a half million metric tons of pig iron a year, which will make this one of the most powerful plants in the world. . . .

"The same thing is true of the Stalingrad Factory. We first planned an output of 10,000 tractors a year, and now its capacity is 50,000 tractors annually. Such examples might be given without end. It is interesting to note that some of the saboteurs proposed an annual output of 3,000 tractors a year for the Putilov Works at the end of the five-year period. But already 12,000 tractors are being manufactured at this plant during the present year, and next year there will be 25,000.

"The Five-Year Plan, as ratified by the Congress of Soviets, will be completed in three years in the following branches of industry: anthracite, tractor and automobile construction, oil, peat, building bricks, footwear, and salt. . . . The Five-Year Plan will be completed in three and a half years in the production of benzine and cement, and in four years in iron-ore, pig iron, steel and paper. . . .

"We have also achieved considerable success in transport during this period. By 1929-30 the railroad system had advanced by one-third over the pre-war system, and the freight turnover of the railroads has increased by 58.2 per cent in the past three years. In spite of this increase, however, the growth of production has outstripped the development of the railroads, and transport is one of our 'tightest places.' "

### Improved Conditions of Workers

Mr. Kaganovich did not mince words with regard to the difficulties attendant on fulfilling the gigantic plans before the country, the pressure put on leaders and workers alike. He stated that methods of socialist competition and shock brigades had been most effective as a method of stimulating interest and activity. He said that on March first over 2,000,000, or 65 per cent of all industrial workers were directly engaged in socialist competition of one form or another, and of these one and a half million were members of shock brigades.

According to Mr. Kaganovich the efforts to achieve greater labor productivity on the part of the trade unions during the recent period, have been accompanied by an improvement in the condition of the workers.

"On the basis of the difficulties with regard to procuring commodities, which we are undergoing at the present time," he declared, "some people

have drawn the conclusion that the conditions of the workers are worsening. . . . The facts are that first of all we have a gigantic process of growth taking place in the working class, and consolidation of its ranks. This increase has been due to the drawing into industry of entirely new sections of the population. Unemployment has considerably decreased. There is practically no unemployment among unskilled workers. . . . Most of the unemployed are entirely unskilled workers offering their services on the labor market for the first time. In Moscow unemployment has fallen off by about 40 per cent since last year.

"The share of workers in the constantly increasing national income is growing. . . . Since 1925-26 the average wages of the working class have grown by 46 per cent, and during the first half of the present year they are nine per cent higher than during the corresponding period of last year. Real wages represent an increase of 39 per cent over pre-war wages, or 64 per cent when social insurance and other benefits provided by the state which used to come out of the workers' own budget, are considered.

"Certainly the material condition of the working class is not dependent on wages alone. A large role is also played by our difficulties, chiefly difficulties with regard to commodity supply, and this question rests in the first instance on the condition of agriculture. As a result of the backwardness of agriculture we are now living through a period of great strain in supplying the workers' needs, which we do not attempt to conceal. Notwithstanding an 86 per cent increase in the production of our light industry, we have still felt no substantial weakening of the goods hunger that has resulted from increase in the purchasing power of the people, which in turn causes pressure on the market, shortage of commodities, pressure on prices.

"However, it is not enough to dwell on this side of the picture. . . . Wages under the Soviet Government include social insurance, funds for improving the conditions of the workers, cultural advantages, housing construction, rest homes and so on. In 1926-27, the social insurance budget amounted to 373,000,000 rubles—this year to about 1,400,000,000. Last year over half a million persons were sent to rest homes. Payments are made to the unemployed, and the deductions from the profits of industry for the funds for improving the condition of the workers are being constantly increased.

"During the past two years 1,330,000,000 rubles have been appropriated for workers' housing throughout the Soviet Union. In Moscow alone during the current year 200,000,000 rubles are being spent for this purpose, 40 per cent more than last year. But even this is insufficient, for the urban population increases more rapidly than the housing space. . . .

"If we add to this the fact that we are now devoting greater attention than ever to raising the

cultural level of the workers, to the question of universal primary education, to the training of workers and the children of workers in the factory trade schools, to the improvement of our secondary schools, and if we add further the fact of the seven-hour day, we will then have a clearer picture of the cultural advantages accruing to the working class as a result of the general industrial progress.

#### Agricultural Reorganization

"Our original plans in 1928, when the Zernotrest (Grain Trust) was organized, provided that by the year 1932-33, the Zernotrest should produce 100,000,000 poods of marketable grain. Fifty-five sovhozes were organized. This year we shall receive 50,000,000 poods of grain from these sovhozes. At the present time we have 132 of these new sovhozes established. Some of our sovhozes cover 80,000—100,000—200,000 hectares of land. Farms of this size exist nowhere else in the world.

"On the fields of the sovhozes alone 18,100 tractors are in operation. Even this is not enough. The original program for the sovhozes provided that next year 1,800,000 hectares be sown. Then it was increased to 2,265,000. And now the Central Committee has issued instructions that the Zernotrest seed 4,500,000 hectares this year! According to the control figures of the Commis-

sariat of Agriculture the total seeded area of the grain sovhozes next year will amount to 8,000,000 hectares, which means that they will produce approximately 350,000,000 poods of grain. . . .

"You will remember that it was originally proposed that at the end of the five-year period there should be 22,000,000 hectares seeded by the collectives. And here on the first of June this year, we have already 31,600,000 hectares seeded by the collectives—9,600,000 hectares more than we expected by the end of five years! We already have such examples of the growth of the collective movement as in the Ukraine where 8,900,000 hectares was shown by the collectives, and only 7,700,000 hectares by individual peasants; in the North Caucasus, where 5,500,000 hectares were sown by the collectives, and only two million by the individual peasants, and in the Lower Volga, where the collectives sowed twice as much as the individual peasants."

Mr. Kaganovich stated that on May first about 40 per cent of all peasant households in the grain producing region were organized on a basis of collective production, instead of the two or three per cent so organized two years ago, and that the collectives and sovhozes together will this year produce the major part of the commercial grain crop of the Union.

## Kuibyshev on the Five Year Plan

THE successes so far achieved in the fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan of industry, as well as the shortcomings and requirements for the future were discussed by Kuibyshev, Chairman of the Supreme Economic Council, in the thesis for his report to the 16th Congress of the Communist Party, which opened in Moscow on June 25th. Extracts from the thesis which was published in Moscow papers for May 21st, follow:

"Even in the year 1927-28 the planning tasks of industry (as set forth in the control figures for 1927-28) were actually surpassed both in industry as a whole, and especially in those branches manufacturing the means of production. In all industry included in the plan the actual growth of production as compared with the previous year was 26 per cent as against 24.5 per cent provided in the control figures, and in heavy industry the actual growth was 28.7 per cent as against 21.3 per cent in the control figures.

"The figures for 1928-29—the first year of the Five-Year Plan—showed that the total production of planned industry exceeded the provisions of the Five-Year Plan, the increase in production amounting actually to 24 per cent, as against 21.4 per cent planned.

"This success of the first year of the plan permitted us considerably to increase our plans for industrial production for the year 1929-30, and to increase production by 31.5 per cent, as against the 21.5 per cent originally planned.

"The results of the first months of 1929-30 have shown that although the growth of industrial production has considerably exceeded the expectations of the plan, nevertheless, the decision of the party regarding the control figures for the present year have not been entirely fulfilled. . . . The totals for the first half of 1929-30 show that the growth of the wholesale production of industry amounted to an increase of 29.4 per cent over last year, whereas there should have been an increase of 31.3 per cent. . . .

"The Congress established that the execution of the plan this year will guarantee in the first place a 65 per cent increase in the total production of planned State industry for the first two years of the Five-Year Plan, instead of the 47.5 per cent originally projected, and in the second place, a considerable increase in the rate of growth of industry over that which took place from 1928-29 to 1929-30.

"As regards all large-scale industry in the U. S. S. R., both that included in the plan and that outside the plan, the total production for these two years will increase by about 59 per cent as against 43 per cent according to the plan. As a result, the pre-war output of census industry\* will be doubled during the current year.

\*Census industry includes all industries employing 16 or more workers and using mechanical power, or 30 or more workers without mechanical power.

"In accordance with the strict policy of giving precedence in development to the branches of industry manufacturing the means of production, the total production of heavy industry for these two years will increase (in planned industry) by 88 per cent in place of the 58.4 per cent provided in the plan. This means that the proportion of the output of heavy industry to the output of industry as a whole will increase from the 42 per cent of two years ago to 48 per cent during the present year.

"In the most important branches of heavy industry the growth in production will be as follows:

"**Machine production** in the U. S. S. R. will more than double in the first two years of the plan, exceeding the rate of increase both of industry as a whole and of heavy industry.

"The **Electro-technical industry** will increase its output in 1929-30 2.7 times over that of 1927-28, instead of 1.8 times, as called for by the Five-Year Plan.

"**Agricultural machinery** production will grow by 250 per cent during the first two years of the plan, instead of the 171 per cent originally provided. The output of agricultural machinery during the present year is six times greater than the pre-war figure.

"**Pig iron** production will increase by 66.7 per cent instead of 51.5 per cent as planned, surpassing the pre-war production level by 31 per cent.

"**Anthracite** production will increase by 45.8 per cent during the first two years of the plan, as against 31.6 per cent expected, exceeding pre-war output by 78 per cent.

"The output of **oil** will increase by 37.8 per cent while the plan provided an increase of only 26.5 per cent. This means an increase of 74 per cent over the pre-war output.

"The production of **cement** will grow by 84.9 per cent instead of 63.9 per cent planned, surpassing the pre-war production level by 78.8 per cent.

"**New capital investment** in industry amounted in 1928-29 to 1,800,000,000 rubles (over \$900,000,000) and the plan for the current year calls for an investment of 4 billion rubles, making a total of 5,800,000,000 rubles investment for the first two years, whereas the plan called for only 3,990,000,000.

"As a result of the capital investment during these two years, the basic capital of heavy industry will increase by 75 per cent, and that of industry as a whole, by 52 per cent.

"Concurrently, an intensified utilization of the already existing industrial fund is taking place, due to the introduction of socialist rationalization processes, the non-stop working week and a certain amount—though still far from sufficient—of replacement. The enterprises working on the non-stop working week system employ two-thirds of all the industrial workers. . . .

"The high rate of development of industrial

production has been accompanied by a considerable increase in the number of workers employed in industry (over 520,000 since the 15th Party Congress) and not merely a relative but an absolute reduction in the number of unemployed.

"Along with the entrance into industrial production of hundreds of thousands of new industrial workers, there has also been a marked improvement in the material and cultural condition of the working class, an increase in their share of the national income, and increased attention to their daily needs. These things have come about as a result of increased wages, the introduction of the seven-hour day in a large number of enterprises, decreasing unemployment, an increased social insurance budget (approximately 1,400,000,000 rubles in the present year), and very large investments in workers' housing.

"The growth of socialist industry, increasing in its proportionate strength, role and influence in the general economic structure . . . has immeasurably strengthened the position of socialism in our country, creating a technical and economic base for the decisive swing of the poor and middle peasant masses to socialist organization of agriculture.

"The surpassing of the figures of the plan in quantity production of industry has, however, been accompanied by a falling off in the quality production. The tasks that have been set in the sphere of the productivity of labor, the lowering of first production costs and construction costs have not been fulfilled. . . .

"The Congress considers that economic organs must be made just as responsible for the quality as for the quantity of production, and recommends to all government, economic, trade union and party organizations, as well as to the press, that steps be taken to urge upon the masses of the workers the necessity for a decisive improvement in the quality of production. The Congress further recommends that such forms of labor organization as socialist competition and shock brigades be used for this purpose.

"Noting the failure to fulfill the plan for decreasing costs in 1928-29 (4.4 per cent instead of the 7 per cent required) and a certain doubt with regard to the complete fulfillment of the plan for reducing costs during the current year (6 per cent during the first half year instead of 11 per cent as planned), the Congress, in view of the exceptional importance of lowering the cost of industrial production and of building, proposes that especial attention be given to questions of socialist rationalization through better organization of production processes, increasing the productivity of labor, more rational use of fuel, raw materials, and equipment, reduction of wastage in production, and strict obligation to improve the quality of the product while reducing costs."

The thesis then deals with the special "tight places" in industry on which attention must be concentrated in the next few years. Among these are the power bases of industry—coal, oil and peat—which must be developed to keep pace with the needs of industry; increased production of agricultural machinery, motor transport and chemicals to meet the rapidly expanding requirements of collective agriculture; extension of transport facilities by rail and water; increased production of building materials; further development of export operations; extension of the home raw material basis for light industries to provide for the material and cultural needs of the workers; increased production of machinery construction of all kinds; intensified development of metallurgy.

In conclusion, the following recommendations of the Congress on measures which must be taken to insure the success of the five-year plan are proposed:

(1) Increased application of the method of socialist competition and shock brigades to stimulate the enthusiasm of the workers.

(2) Further measures for the training of skilled workers and specialists, such as the extension of the facilities of factory and trade schools, the reorganization of the higher schools, the promotion of workers on the job to more highly skilled positions, and so on.

(3) The utilization of equipment and plants to their full capacity and the application of new technique.

(4) The transfer of all basic industries to the continuous working week.

(5) Extension of the practice of sending skilled workers and specialists abroad for further training and of inviting foreign engineers and specialists to work in the U. S. S. R.

(6) A careful accounting of the technical improvements introduced in all the foremost enterprises, application of these methods to other factories, and the elimination of any bureaucratic and secretive attitude toward the sharing of experience. The assistance of weaker enterprises by stronger.

(7) The establishment of closer connections between large scale industry and small, local and handicraft industries, with the view of turning minor processes of production over to the smaller enterprises and thus freeing the whole plant of the larger industries for the basic processes.

(8) Completion of the reorganization of industrial management now taking place along the following lines:

(a) Introduction of system of individual responsibility in all lines of industry.

(b) Guarantee to industrial enterprises of a maximum degree of independence in carrying out the tasks set by the plan.

(c) Cutting down of administrative apparatus.

## Ten Years of Soviet Oil

IN connection with the tenth anniversary of the nationalization of oil in the U. S. S. R. the following data has been released concerning the progress made by the Soviet Oil Industry during this decade.

Prior to the revolution the output of oil in Russia was artificially kept down by an under-cover syndicate for the purpose of boosting prices, which led the industry to stagnation. While in 1901 a total of 11,700,000 metric tons of oil was produced, in 1904, the output was reduced to about 10 million metric tons and in 1913 to 9,215,911 metric tons. The civil war led to the complete dislocation of the oil fields.

The Soviet Oil Trusts early embarked upon a scheme of complete reconstruction of the industry. The rationalization of the drilling operations and introduction of the rotary drill has made it possible to reach greater depths and has opened up new resources. In 1920, the first year of nationalization of the oil fields, a total of 3,893,000 metric tons was produced, while during 1929-30 the output is expected to reach 16 million tons, and the plans for 1932-33 call for a production of 40 million tons, four times as much as in 1913.

During the past ten years the investment of capital in the oil industry has amounted to 1,020,000,000 rubles. By October 1, 1929, 70 per cent of the equipment of the oil fields had been replaced by new plants.

The Soviet trusts for the first time introduced cracking plants and other methods rationalizing the refining of oil. At the present time a much larger amount of benzine and valuable lubricants is obtained in Baku and Grozny than before the war when the industry concentrated principally upon mazout and kerosine.

One of the most important achievements of Soviet oil industry has been the construction of two pipe-lines between Grozny and Tuapse and between Baku and Batum, with an aggregate capacity of 3,300,000 million metric tons per annum. The construction of a pipe-line to connect the Caspian Sea with Moscow, over a distance of 1,700 kilometers, is now being discussed. The project involves an expenditure of 80 million rubles and will make it possible to pump 1,600,000 metric tons of oil to Moscow annually.

This development of the oil industry and improvement of the transportation facilities has resulted in a notable increase in the export of oil, a gain of 300 per cent over the pre-war years having been registered in 1928-29. New oil fields have been discovered in the Urals, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kuban, Sakhalin, Shirak, and elsewhere. Prospecting is being conducted on an extensive scale in these and other regions. The oil industry has opened up

five research institutes, the last of them in 1929, in connection with the laboratories and scientific institutions controlled by "Asneft."

## Harvest Prospects

THE latest reports in the Soviet press indicate that on the completion of the spring sowing the plan for a total seeded area, including fall and spring crops, of 134,000,000 hectares—an eleven per cent increase over last year's area, would be very nearly if not completely fulfilled this year. On June 10th, the Ukraine had already exceeded the plan for that section, reporting a total of 27,700,000 hectares sown—12.1 per cent more than last year. The Ukraine reached an especially high record in wheat and rye sowings, which exceeded last year's by four million hectares, and planted a third more sugar beets than last year. In the grain-producing area of the Ukraine 66.8 per cent of the spring crop was sown by collectives and sovkhozes.

This year's sowing campaign in the U. S. S. R., was marked not only by the great increase in the "socialized sector," which will produce the bulk of the marketable surplus this year, but by the increased use of selected seeds and modern machinery throughout the whole country. Almost 100,000 tractors are in operation, and the total value of agricultural machinery now in use in the Soviet Union amounts to 1,500,000,000 rubles as against 922,000,000 rubles in 1926.

As the last seeds are being put into the ground in the extreme Northern sections, the harvest is already under way in the South. Early reports indicate that the winter and spring crops are in a satisfactory condition throughout the country and bumper crops are expected from some regions. Early reports from the South show a yield for the collectives and State farms of from two to three times as much as the national average for last year.

This year's harvest has been planned and prepared for with all the precision of a military campaign. The papers have carried detailed instructions for distribution of labor on the collectives and sovkhozes, repair of machinery, organization of field work, and so on.

Right on the heels of the harvest comes the autumn seeding, plans for which are also drawn up well in advance. The Council of People's Commissars has decreed that 43,000,000 hectares of land are to be sown this fall, 9.6 per cent over the area planted a year ago. The increase in the Ukraine which has already broken all previous records, will amount to 12.3 per cent. Of the area planted 55 per cent of the wheat and 8 per cent of the rye is to be planted with selected seeds.

## Decline in Unemployment

DURING the period from April 1, 1929, to June 1, 1930, unemployment in the Soviet Union was reduced from 1,741,000 to 900,000, and the number continues to decrease. There has been a great change in the composition of the unemployed during this period. There are practically no skilled workers among the unemployed, as the need of industry for skilled workers is constantly increasing. The overwhelming majority of workers registered on the labor exchanges are those having no definite trade, those who have never been union members, and those seeking work for the first time. The latter class is constantly augmented by the increasing number of peasants coming into the cities. During 1928, 3,900,000, and during 1929, 4,200,000 persons left the village for the city.

This condition is fully confirmed by the situation on the two most important labor exchanges in the Soviet Union—Moscow and Leningrad. On April 1st of this year there were 136,600 workers registered on the Moscow exchange. Half of this number had never worked before and had not joined a union. Of this number 110,000 were women, with no qualifications. There are no adult men workers registered on the Moscow Labor Exchange at the present time. About half are young people who have never worked before. Another interesting factor is that according to a recent investigation, almost half of these registered belong to families of which other members are receiving good salaries, which may be the explanation of the fact that many of the workers registered will not take the first job that comes along, but are willing to wait for the kind of work they want. The demand for workers for the new industrial enterprises is growing daily, and now the large collectives and state farms have also become customers of the labor exchanges.

The same situation exists on the Leningrad exchange. Last December there were 129,000 workers registered on the Leningrad exchange, but by March the number had fallen to 24,500, practically all of whom are unskilled women workers and young people.

Special courses are held in connection with the Labor Exchanges through which the unemployed without any training may acquire skill at some trade. These courses are attended largely by women, and the number of unemployed women is thus decreasing constantly.

The present situation in the labor market gives rise to the belief that in a comparatively short time there will be no unemployment whatever in the Soviet Union and that instead of a surplus there will be a shortage of labor for the rapidly growing needs of industry and agriculture.

## New Citizenship Law

A NEW \*citizenship law is being introduced in the Soviet Union, of which the chief points are as follows:

In accordance with the law a single Union citizenship is established for all citizens of the Union Republics. A citizen of the U. S. S. R. is also a citizen of that Union Republic within whose boundaries he has his permanent residence, but if by nationality or birth he considers himself connected with some other Union Republic, he may select citizenship in the latter. Foreigners accepted as citizens of the U. S. S. R. do not enjoy any of the rights nor carry any of the obligations connected with citizenship in any other nation. Foreigners, workers and farmers accepted as citizens of the U. S. S. R. and engaged in work within the borders of the U. S. S. R., enjoy all political rights of citizens of the U. S. S. R. Marriage with a citizen of another country does not affect the citizenship of either party. Minor children of a foreigner acquiring citizenship in the U. S. S. R., acquire Soviet citizenship simultaneously on special declaration of the parent. Soviet citizenship is extended to children over 14 only with their own consent. Children of a citizen of the U. S. S. R. adopted by a foreigner retain Soviet citizenship. Foreigners living on the territory of the U. S. S. R., are accepted as citizens of the U. S. S. R., by decision of the Presidium of the Tsik (Central Executive Committee) of the U. S. S. R., or of the Union Republic where the foreigner resides. The refusal of the latter to grant citizenship in the U. S. S. R. may be appealed to the Presidium of the Tsik of the U. S. S. R. Foreigners living abroad may be accepted as citizens of the U. S. S. R., only by decree of the Presidium of the Tsik. Renunciation of citizenship in the U. S. S. R. is legalized in the same manner. Persons losing their citizenship or being deprived of it may be restored to citizenship in the U. S. S. R., only by decree of the Presidium of the Tsik of the U. S. S. R. The law provides a simplified procedure for acquiring or giving up citizenship in the U. S. S. R. by decision of the Okrug (County) Executive Committees or corresponding bodies and by decision of diplomatic representatives of the U. S. S. R. abroad, in accordance with the residence of the applicant. Citizens of the following three categories: foreigners, workers and farmers, engaged in work within the borders of the U. S. S. R., foreigners enjoying the right of asylum because of persecution for revolutionary activities, and those who change their citizenship as a result of matrimony, may be deprived of their citizenship only by special decree of the Presidium of the Tsik.

\*The above resumé of the law was printed in the Moscow "Izvestia" of June 6th. The official copy has not yet been received.

## Soviet Credit Reform

THE Soviet credit system is undergoing a process of reorganization on the basis of a decree on\* Credit Reform, issued in January of this year. According to this decree, credit institutions are to have a monopoly of credit operations. All commercial credit operations carried on directly between economic organizations are discontinued, and all credit transactions between various enterprises are to be handled by the State Bank.

The main idea of the reform is that the bank must be in close contact with the actual productive and commercial work of every economic unit, particularly in the case of industrial organizations. According to the decree the bank will determine the extent of quarterly credits to be extended to each enterprise in accordance with the financial plan for industry as a whole, its own resources, and the financial condition of the given enterprise.

The reform entirely eliminates crediting through bills of exchange and provides for an immediate settlement for all purchases by cash or check without any advance or commercial credit being given, the purchaser securing the credits necessary to transact business from the bank.

According to the provisions of the Credit Reform Act a contract is concluded between the client and the State Bank on the basis of which clients are required to keep the bank fully informed regarding the state of their business and progress in fulfilling their plans. Thus the State Bank in reality will become a central clearing house for the Soviet Union.

The reform further provides for a complete reorganization of all cooperative banks. The main banks will confine their activities to carrying out the long-term credit operations of the cooperatives and their export and import transactions, and their branches will be dissolved as such and reorganized under the direction of the State Bank.

The elimination of bills of exchange and transition to a system of bank credit does not affect that part of the credit system concerned with foreign trade. In this field the procedure formerly in use will be retained and crediting through bills of exchange will continue.

\*See article on "Soviet Credit Reform" in May 1 issue of "Economic Review of the Soviet Union" for more detailed discussion of the reform.

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# Soviet Meteorology and Hydrology

**I**N connection with the far-reaching programs for industrial and agricultural reconstruction now being carried out in the Soviet Union, the opening up of vast new lands, the development of scientific exploration and the progress of aviation, questions of hydrology and meteorology have assumed unprecedented importance in the Soviet Union. In order to systematize this work, the Soviet government has passed a decree providing for the unification of all hydrological and meteorological departments, including geo-magnetism, into a single hydro-meteorological department. The decree provides that the separate departments which previously existed under the commissariats for transport, agriculture, education and industry shall all be united into a single all-embracing, strictly scientific organization fully adapted to the needs of the various branches of Soviet construction.

The extraordinary variety of the geographical and meteorological conditions in the Soviet Union, combining such widely different features as the extreme North with its polar snows, the Crimea with its semi-tropical climate, the Caucasus with its varied aspects ranging from eternal snows to tropical vegetation, Central Asia with its burning sun, cannot, however, be reconciled in any completely standardized organization. This factor has made necessary the organization of a district system, which permits the utmost attention to local peculiarities, local needs and local interests under unified direction, plan and methods, and a centralized administration. The head of the whole system is the U. S. S. R. Hydro-Meteorological Committee, under the presidency of Professor Vangenheim. In each of the republics is a hydro-meteorological committee, and each area and district has a hydro-meteorological bureau.

A system of such vast scope can only be completely successful if based upon powerful scientific organizations, and the Soviet Union possesses an adequate network of observatories, institutes and other departments of the greatest scientific importance. Some of the oldest of these are the Chief Geo-physical Observatory in Leningrad, with its branch, the Magneto-Meteorological Observatory, in Slutsk; the Georgian Geo-physical Observatory; the Sverdlovsk and Irkutsk Magneto-Meteorological Observatories; the Observatory of the Far East.

There are many other new departments already gaining fame and importance in the various republics, and a series of hydrological departments under the auspices of the State Hydrological Institute in Leningrad. The most important of the 3,000 or more hydrological stations include that on Franz Josef Land (re-

cently renamed Fritzhof Nansen Land), on Wrangel Island, and the Tian Shan station which is 3,700 meters above sea level.

In connection with the development of standardized direction new observatories are to be erected in White Russia, in Ashkabad (Turkmenistan), Stalinabad (Tadjikistan) and elsewhere, and stations will be established at the northern extremity of Novaya Zemlya (Cape Desire), Severnaya Zemlya (Northern Land), and other places.

Thus there is already an extensive network of scientific organizations reaching from Franz Josef Land to the southern borders of Transcaucasia and Central Asia, and from White Russia to the shores of the Pacific.

There is also a network of local weather bureaus under the auspices of the Central Weather Bureau of the U. S. S. R., which was founded in Moscow in January, 1930, under the direction of Professors Tikhomirov, Multanovsky and Puisha for the improvement of meteorological work throughout the Soviet Union and the extension of meteorological and hydrological reports and forecasts.

As a result of resolutions passed by the International Meteorological Conference, the U. S. S. R. has undertaken to transmit a part of its meteorological information for the whole world. The People's Commissariat for Post and Telegraph has allotted for this purpose a "meteorological wave length" of 3,050 meters, especially selected by the International Conference, and the Weather Bureau has already embarked on its international obligations.

Not only are increasing numbers of scientific workers being called on for the solution of practical problems in the mastery of air and water, but the general population is taking part in this work as well. The peasant operating a tractor on the collective farm, the agricultural laborer on the giant State farm, the worker helping to make plans at industrial councils and reckoning meteorological factors connected with industry, are all directly interested in the quickest possible mastery of the elements, and hence in the study of the elements. Though the new cultural opportunities that have been opened up thousands of workers and peasants have been drawn into direct scientific work and research, in which the study of wind and water holds an important place. In order to satisfy this ever-growing demand, the central hydro-meteorological organization has established a system of volunteer correspondents throughout the country. These correspondents, just as the worker and peasant correspondents who send in their reports to the press on matters of administration, industry,

culture, and so on, are instructed to send in reports on local weather conditions. The value of such reports, especially from the remote districts where no regular scientific stations have yet been organized has already been proven.

The unification of the hydrological and meteorological systems has given rise to a number of new problems on which its future development depends. Foremost of these is the training of a well-equipped body of scientific workers. To this end a geo-physical faculty has been established in the First Moscow University, the first of its kind, having sections for the training of climatologists, hydrologists, geo-magnetologists, and so on. Similar courses have been started in Leningrad, Tomsk, Kazan, and other cities.

The elements of air and water can of course only be mastered through the study of natural processes and phenomena throughout the whole world, hence the importance of relations between the unified hydro-meteorological departments of the Soviet Union and similar departments in other countries. Close contact, coordination of the work, and interchange of information and experience between the different countries are essential and the advance in this direction which has been made possible by the unification of this work in the U. S. S. R. has been greeted with satisfaction by scientists throughout the world. The director of this work, Professor Vangenheim, was elected a member of the International Meteorological Committee at the conference held in Copenhagen.

The Hydro-Meteorological Committee of the U. S. S. R. fully realizing the value of close connections with the hydrological and meteorological departments of other countries, is organizing a series of permanent commissions, similar to the commissions of the International Meteorological Committee, including commissions on solar radiation, cloud study, marine meteorology, soil magnetism, atmospheric electricity, and so on. Commissions are also being organized for marine, river and lake hydrology and similar meteorological and hydrological commissions are being organized in the various republics for the unification of the work on their own territories. In addition to the scientists actually carrying on this work, many of the most prominent Soviet and foreign scientists are assisting in this work in an advisory capacity.

## Financing of Social and Cultural Needs

CONSIDERABLE attention is devoted to social and cultural needs in the financial plans of the U. S. S. R. Total expenditures for education, health, labor protection and social

insurance amounted during 1928-29 to over three billion rubles, and during the present year will amount to over four billion rubles (over \$2,000,000,000). These expenditures are distributed among the different branches as follows:

	1928-29	1929-30
Education .....	1,434,000,000	2,115,000,000
Health .....	735,000,000	914,000,000
Labor Protection and Social Insurance .....	865,000,000	983,000,000
Total .....	3,034,000,000	4,012,000,000

From this table it is apparent that the greatest increase has been in the expenditures for education. This is explained by the special efforts that are being made during the present year to increase the facilities for training the skilled workers and specialists necessary for the industrialization program.

The main sources for the financing of education are the State and local budgets which are providing 1,619,000,000 rubles for this purpose during the present year as against 1,086,000,000 last year. On primary and intermediate schools 722,800,000 rubles will be spent, as against 546,000,000 rubles last year, and expenditures for vocational education will be increased from 288,400,000 rubles to 509,000,000 rubles. The appropriations for scientific institutions and activities will be practically doubled during the present year, reaching almost 200 million rubles. A considerable portion of these funds will go to the scientific research work of industry.

The main sources of funds for health protection in the U. S. S. R. are the organs of social insurance, the local and State budgets, and also deductions from the receipts of industry and transport. From these sources 788,000,000 rubles are provided this year as against 633 million last year. The funds are distributed as follows:

	1928-29	1929-30
Medical Aid .....	500,000,000	600,000,000
Rest Homes and Sanitariums..	57,000,000	83,000,000
Protection of Motherhood and Infancy .....	37,000,000	48,000,000

In the medical field the increased expenditures have gone mainly toward improving the quality of medical aid rendered. Hospital accommodations have been increased so that there are now 265,000 beds available in the regular hospitals.

The main expenses for measures of social insurance fall directly on the budget of the social insurance organs. The latter proposes to pay out during the present year 320,000,000 rubles for temporary incapacity to work and 316,000,000 rubles in pensions to labor invalids. In addition the social insurance budgets carry the expense of old age and unemployment insurance. For this purpose it is proposed to spend 112,000,000 rubles during 1929-30.

Insurance for war invalids is carried by the State and local budgets. In addition to 63,000,-

000 rubles spent for pensions to war invalids and the families of Red Army soldiers, over 12 million rubles has been allotted in the present year for pensions to old revolutionary workers, and to workers in the field of science and art. A considerable sum will be spent this year in the fight against prostitution, alcohol, and so on, and in the organization of social work.

## Introduction of Latin Alphabet

THE representatives of the 28,500,000 Turanian peoples of the Soviet Union met recently in Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakstan, to confer on the progress made in introducing the new Latinized Turkish alphabet. In all the twenty national republics with a Turanian population the movement of changing the alphabet is under way, and in some of them the new alphabet is already in universal use. Before the introduction of the new alphabet the average literacy of the population in all the countries using the Arabian alphabet was about 3 per cent. In the short time the Latin alphabet has been in use literacy has grown to at least 10 per cent. In Azerbaijan the percentage of literacy among the Turks is now 18 per cent, in the North Caucasus 16 per cent, in Yakutia 11.7 per cent, and so on.

A large amount of publishing has already been done in the new alphabet. In this respect Azerbaijan takes first place, having published 840 titles in three and a half million copies. Next comes Uzbekistan, with 520 titles and 3,200,000 copies. In the Tartar Republic 156 titles with a circulation of 1,100,000 have been published.

At the exhibition held in connection with the conference the first two books ever printed in the Dunganese language were displayed. The Dunganese people formerly had no alphabet of their own, but made use of the Chinese, Arabian and Russian alphabets, and as a result had no literature of their own. Now they have their own Latin alphabet, in which teaching is carried on in the schools. During the present year 13 titles will be issued in Dunganese.

The North Caucasus was represented by literature in 11 different languages. Books were exhibited in tongues which have never been heard of before, such as the Avarian, Kara-Kalpak, and Kumyk.

Many non-Turanian peoples who have adopted the Latin alphabet sent books in their own language to be exhibited—the Tadjiks, Kurds, Abkhassians, Circassians, Asiatic Jews, and others.

The plenum was presided over by the President of the Commission for the introduction of the Latin Alphabet, Agamali-Ogy, and science was represented by the well known philologists, Academicians Samoilovich, Marri and Yakovlev.

## Fritjhof Nansen

THE news of the death of Fritjhof Nansen caused great sorrow throughout the Soviet Union where he was greatly loved and admired for his scientific achievements, for his inestimable aid to Soviet Russia during and after the famine, for his steadfast sympathy and friendship.

In honor of his memory the Academy of Sciences of the U. S. S. R., of which Nansen was an honorary member, voted to change the name of Franz Josef Land to Fritjhof Nansen Land.

Many scientific and other organizations held memorial meetings, and passed resolutions of tribute to Nansen and sympathy to the people of Norway and his family for their great loss. Numerous articles have appeared in Soviet newspapers and magazines devoted to his life and extolling him for conspicuous scientific and humanitarian work.

Karl Radek, in an article printed in the Moscow "Izvestia," wrote of him:

"Nansen thought of people, of humanity, of what he, a scientist, could do to increase human knowledge. The study of the Arctic would open, perhaps, not only new ways of communication, but would give a better knowledge of atmospheric phenomena which would help in the struggle against crop failure and famine. These were the thoughts that animated Nansen when, fighting hourly with death, he forced the Arctic glaciers to yield their secrets."

Radek described how, at the time of the famine, Nansen appealed to the League of Nations for funds for the starving Russians and how, failing this, he gathered his own funds and organized his own relief mission, in which he enlisted the aid of the people of the different nations.

Another deeply appreciative article was written by Prof. R. L. Samoilovich, who was head of the Krassin expedition which rescued members of the Nobile crew two years ago.

"Fritjhof Nansen is dead," wrote Prof. Samoilovich, "that gifted explorer, noted scientist and great hearted person. . . . There are people who by their mere appearance on the street or at a meeting immediately draw attention to themselves. When by chance you pass such a person you involuntarily turn and look after him. Nansen was like that. Something of exceptional nobility in his whole appearance told you that here was a real person. . . ."

After giving a detailed account of Nansen's Arctic explorations, his important contributions in the fields of zoology, geology, meteorology, and oceanography, Prof. Samoilovich concluded his article with these words:

"Fritjhof Nansen did not belong to those people who can shut themselves up in their scientific work. He was a humanitarian in the best sense of the word. And while the memory of the great scientist, Nansen, will always live in our minds, a deep love for the man Nansen who helped us during the darkest years of famine will always remain in our hearts."

## U.S.S.R. In Construction

THREE issues have already been received of "U. S. S. R. in Construction," the new monthly pictorial magazine published in the Soviet Union by Gosizdat (State Publishing House) in four languages—English, Russian, German and French.

This graphic presentation of the progress of the Five-Year Plan is an essential complement to the vast amount of statistical material that flows from Soviet presses, and the clear cut and beautiful pictures give new substance and meaning to the figures.

The pictures are shot with the same skill as Soviet movies. Here are great oil fields, bristling with derricks like a forest of miniature Eiffel Towers, here a new workers' city rising out of the barren oil lands, surrounded with newly-planted trees and shrubbery, here new machine factories, monstrous steel beauties in construction, finished plants contrasting sharply in their modern lines, light and spaciousness with the dark antiquated structures also pictured. There are pictures of old factories being reconstructed, pictures of steam engines and turbines and ships in the building, giant power plants, of which the most striking is the gorgeous "Zages" plant just outside of Tiflis, reared against the splendid background of the Caucasian Mountains. On the "Gigant" grain farm we see fleets of American agricultural machinery drawn up ready for action, the field editorial office of the "Gigant" newspaper, the camping ground of the workers. Nor is the social and cultural side neglected. There are pictures of children's playgrounds, of clubs, hospitals, libraries where unveiled Turkish women are enjoying the fruits of their new freedom. The workers are shown at their jobs in many of the pictures, which give a clear idea of the safety devices introduced in the factories, and the special working clothing provided.

The magazine has a distinguished editorial board, headed by G. L. Piatakov. Maxim Gorky, A. B. Khalatov, M. E. Koltzov and others are on the staff. The subscription price is \$5 a year, and the magazine may be ordered through the Antorg Book Department, 19 West 27th Street, New York City.

## Khibinsk Apatite Deposits

THE latest surveys of the apatite fields in the Khibinsk tundra on the Kola Peninsula, revealed a total supply of no less than 375 million metric tons of this mineral.

The mining of apatite is developing at a progressively increasing rate. Already 5,000 metric tons of ore have been produced. Of this amount 1,500 metric tons have been exported and the balance is also to be shipped abroad. At the present time about 4,000 people are employed in the apatite mines and the daily output ranges between 400 and 500 metric tons. Work has been started for the construction of a city, to be known as "Apatitovy," to the south of lake Vood-Yavr, calculated to accommodate a population of 25,000.

The Apatite Trust has received instructions from the government to increase its production program for 1929-30 to 250,000 metric tons as against an earlier program of 100,000 tons, and to assure in 1930-31 the mining of 1,000,000 metric tons, against 500,000 tons, as planned originally, with further increases each succeeding year.

The use to which apatite may be applied has now been fully established. Khibinsk apatite is fully adapted to replacing the best grades of imported phosphorites and bones. The phosphorites obtained from the Khibinsk apatite in some cases even exceed the Moroccan fertilizers in quality. The other component part of the ore, nephelin, represents a source of various products. Nephelin contains one and a half times as much aluminum as the Italian nephelin known as "leucit." From nephelin has been obtained ultramarine and soluble glass (silicatel). Among the by-products of apatite are titanium ores. The high vanadium content of the mineral makes it a rich source of titanium white-lead, titanium steel and a very expensive grade of ferrous vanadium. From the apatite may be obtained also fluorine, strontium, molybdenum and other ores.

### Discovery of Great Supplies of Radium

An analysis of the water in the new oil fields of Grozny has revealed a high radium content. The results of the test made by members of the Radium Institute exceeded all expectations. The institute has received word to the effect that a high radium content has also been discovered in the water of the Berekei oil wells in Daghestan.

Owing to the unusual importance of the discovery the Academy of Sciences is sending a special expedition to examine the water of the Grozny, Baku and Daghestan oil districts.

In the opinion of academician Vernadsky, director of the Radium Institute, the discovery will be of the utmost importance to the world radium industry.

## Book Notes

**"VOICES OF OCTOBER—ART AND LITERATURE IN SOVIET RUSSIA."** By Joseph Freeman, Joshua Kunitz and Louis Lozowick. Vanguard Press, New York, 1930. \$4.00.

Here, at last, is a volume that has long been needed—so much has been written of the economic, political and social aspects of Soviet Russia, so little of the state of the arts under the new order. This volume does not claim to be more than a preliminary sketch, but within its limits it gives a revealing picture of the way in which art and literature have become an integral part of Soviet life, of how on the one hand, the great cultural reservoir of the past has been made accessible to the people as a whole and how on the other opportunities for cultural training and artistic expression have been made available for all who want them. This is being done through the opening up of museums, the spread of education, the growth of publishing and distribution of cheap literature, and the stimuli to literary activity offered to workers and peasants as correspondents to the regular press, and through their own "wall newspapers" and literary circles. The opening chapter, by Mr. Freeman, traces the roots of Soviet literature growing directly out of the revolution of 1917, and those bedded more deeply in the past, describes the new literary groupings and the change from the old preoccupation with theory to the new dynamic interest in real life, the purpose animating Soviet writers of moulding as well as reflecting social movements, and the encouragement given under the new regime to varied literary tendencies.

Of especial interest is the chapter on "Men and Women in Soviet Literature," by Joshua Kunitz, in which he treats us to a multitude of choice morsels deftly carved out of the poems and books written since the revolution. All the *dramatis personae* of the great drama of changing social and human relationships flash before us. He pictures the fermenting village, painted in violent colors by Seifullina, from whom he quotes—"Since the year 1917 the city has whipped the village into a whirl. Everything new, new, new. Unfamiliar words, like nails, driven into soft brains used to the humdrum and commonplace. Ways of life, terrifying in their novelty, swooping down in incessant decrees. Everything superannuated condemned to wreckage. . . ." He shows us the new worker-hero whose "love for the factory, the machine, the process of production is one of the dominant motifs in proletarian literature." "The ambition of this worker," writes Kunitz, "has ex-

tended, however, beyond the mere restoring of old factories. He is actually making an effort to industrialize the nation, to electrify the remotest villages, to expand ultra-modern means of communication."

The other chapters of the book deal briefly with Soviet theaters, cinema, painting, architecture and music.

**"ABOUT RUSSIA."** By Sir Ernest J. P. Benn. D. Appleton and Company. \$2.

Sir Ernest boasts that he has never visited the Soviet Union, but picked up his material from the gossip of Tsarist émigrés in the border states. The result is a fantastic hodge-podge ranging from tabloid melodrama to pornographic mendacities of the grosser sort. The volume is a thoroughly unscrupulous compilation of prejudices and hatreds. It concludes with a thinly veiled plea for armed invasion against the Soviet Union.

**"MODERN FARMING—SOVIET STYLE,"** by Anna Louise Strong, International Pamphlets, 799 Broadway, New York. 10 cents.

This pamphlet by Anna Louise Strong, who has lived in the Soviet Union for about ten years, is a timely resumé of the collective farm movement, giving the reasons for the necessity of co-operative production in the U. S. S. R., and describing briefly the methods and progress of the organization of agricultural collectives and tractor stations.

"The harvest this year in the Soviet Union," writes Miss Strong, "is the most important harvest that has ever occurred since pre-historic man first learned to cast grain on the soil for food. A revolution goes on today across the countryside of Russia, a revolution marked by intense struggle, tremendous hopes, fears, mistakes, successes, which is swinging one hundred million of earth's most backward peasants into farming more modern than America. Not only more modern—but totally different in social control and in the possibilities of life open to the tillers of the soil. The harvest this year is being produced by collective farming, which is building the agricultural basis of socialism."

While this pamphlet is a valuable contribution to America's understanding of this movement it must be born in mind that the development in collective farming has been so rapid that much progress has taken place since the writing of the pamphlet.

## Miscellaneous News

### The "Five Year Plan in Four" Loan

ON August 1st the bonds will be issued for the "Five-Year Plan in Four" Loan, which, in accordance with a decree passed by the Council of People's Commissars on February 21st, will replace all previous industrialization loans. Bonds of the First and Second Industrialization Loans and of the Agricultural Improvement Loan, which represent almost 2 billion rubles in credit advanced to the State by workers and peasants during the past three years, will be taken up in conversion for the new loan. The remainder of the new loan will be sold in subscriptions to be paid up in instalments, the amount subscribed being left to the voluntary choice of the subscriber.

The conversion of previous bond issues must be completed by January 1st, 1931. Until that time all holders of bonds who have not changed their loans are guaranteed such forms of revenue from these bonds as laid down at the time of issue. The returns of the new loan will not be diminished, as the interest is fixed at the rate of the Third Industrialization Loan, which has been made a part of the new loan.

The "Five-Year Plan in Four" Loan will now be the only state loan for the financing of socialist construction under the Five-Year Plan. It will be distributed during the years 1930-31 and 1931-32. The work of the credit institutions will be greatly simplified by the conversion of all industrialization loans into a single loan.

### Vocational Education of Jews in R. S. F. S. R.

IN pre-revolutionary years vocational education for the Jewish population was at a very low level. Admission of Jews to the middle and higher schools for vocational training was limited to a definite percentage. Opportunities to study in such institutions were open only to the richer classes of Russian Jewry in those years. For the Jewish youth of poorer families there were an inconsiderable number of trade schools which gave elementary technical training.

During the past twelve years there has been a radical change in the vocational education of the Jewish population. From year to year the number of Jewish students in vocational schools has steadily increased, and in the year 1928-29 there were over 20,000 Jews receiving vocational education in the lower and higher schools of the R. S. F. S. R. In the lower schools in the R. S. F. S. R., Jews constitute 6.5 per cent of the student body, and 11.7

per cent in the higher. The percentage is of course very much higher in the centers of Jewish population such as Ukraine and White Russia. About fifty per cent of the Jewish students in the higher schools of the R. S. F. S. R. are taking industrial and technical courses, the next largest number are specializing in various branches of economics, next in medicine, and the smallest percentage in agriculture.

A large proportion of the Jewish students in the higher schools are women—in the fields of medicine and pedagogy more than half of the Jewish students are women.

### New Statutes of the Soviet Academy of Science

The presidium of the Central Executive Committee of U. S. S. R. has approved the new statutes of the Academy of Science of the Union. In accordance with these statutes the Academy of Science is attached to the Central Executive Committee of U. S. S. R. and represents the highest scientific organization of the Soviet Union. The Academy of Science pursues the following aims: to develop and improve the scientific disciplines, to study the productive forces of the country, to elaborate methods of application of scientific theories to the tasks of socialistic construction of the Union. The Academy of Science is to assist in the elaboration of a uniform scientific method on the basis of the materialistic theory.

The Academy of Science consists of full members (academicians), honorary members, and member correspondents. Its supreme governing body is the general meeting of the full members.

### Institute of Soviet Structure and Law

An Institute for the study of the structure of the Soviet State and of Soviet legislation has recently been established by decree of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R. The aim of the Institute is the scientific study and summing up of practical experiences in the work of the Soviets. For this purpose the Institute will collect all available material regarding the organization and activities of central and local Soviet organs, and all Soviet and foreign literature dealing with questions of law and government administration. The Institute will establish connections between local scientific institutions on Soviet structure and laws, and unite them all under its direction, allotting them definite problems in the direct study of the different branches of the work of the local Soviets. One phase of the work of the Institute will be the establishment of consultation work on questions of Soviet administration and law, and the organization of lectures, special courses and exhibitions.

### Soviet Exhibits Abroad

During the present summer the Soviet Union is participating in a number of international exhibitions.

Soviet arts will be represented at the 17th International Exhibition of the Decorative Arts in Venice by 150 paintings and by examples of sculpture and graphic art. This exhibition will last until October. There will also be a Soviet Department in the International Art Exhibition at Milan this summer where models of the new socialist cities, cinema studios and theaters, books on art, children's books, samples of artistic work of young workers, and so on, will be exhibited. Over three hundred canvases, two hundred drawings, and twenty pieces of sculpture, as well as books on art and children's books have been sent to the art exhibition to be held during July in Berlin. Examples of Soviet graphic art are being shown at the Exhibition of Graphic Arts now being held in London. The U. S. S. R. will also take part in the International Fur Exhibit to be held from June to September in Leipzig, in the International Hygiene Exhibition being held in Dresden, and in cinema and photography exhibitions in Paris and London. An exhibit on "The School and Life in the U. S. S. R." is now being held in Rotterdam.

### New Institute of Science in Georgia

The Government of Georgia has passed a decree providing for the establishment of an Institute of Science which will coordinate and centralize the activities of the eighteen existing scientific institutions in Georgia. Academician Marr has been appointed president of the Institute, Professors Nutzubidze and Djaneladze vice presidents, and Sulakvelidze permanent secretary.

The new Georgian Institute of Sciences will be the highest scientific body in the republic. It will be divided into two main departments—that of natural and mathematical science, and that of social and historical science.

### Opening of Art "Olympiada"

On June 15th the opening of the All-Union Art "Olympiada"—a great festival of the arts of the peoples of the Soviet Union—was held in Moscow. Participating in the "Olympiada" were eighteen national theaters and ten ethnographic orchestras, and the films of nine moving picture organizations of different national republics were demonstrated.

### Statistical Body Merged With Gosplan

According to a recent decree, the Central Statistical Administration of the U. S. S. R. and the Central Statistical Administration of the Union Republics have been abolished, and their functions turned over to Gosplan (State Planning Commission) and the Planning Commissions of the Union Republics, respectively.

### Victor Kopp

Victor Kopp, Diplomatic Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Sweden, died in a Berlin hospital on May 27th.

Mr. Kopp was representative of the R. S. F. S. R. in Germany from 1919 to 1921 and through his negotiations with German officials prepared the way for the future Rapallo policy in Soviet-German relations. In 1922 he was assistant chairman of the Russian delegation at the Moscow Disarmament Conference, and from 1923 to 1925 was a member of the Collegium of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs. In April, 1925, Mr. Kopp was appointed Diplomatic Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Japan, and he has been Soviet Representative in Sweden for the past three years.

### Administrative Appointments

Mr. Moisse Lvovich Rukhimovich, formerly assistant chairman of the Supreme Council of National Economy of the U. S. S. R., has been appointed People's Commissar for Transport of the U. S. S. R. to replace Ian Ernestovich Rudzutak, who has been relieved of the post in order to devote more attention to his duties as Vice-Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U. S. S. R. and of the Council of Labor and Defense.

Mr. Joseph Stanislavovich Unshlikt has been relieved of the post of Assistant People's Commissar for Army and Navy of the U. S. S. R. and Chairman of the Revolutionary - Military Council, and has been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Supreme Council of National Economy.

Mr. I. P. Uborevich and Mr. I. B. Gamarnik have been appointed Assistant People's Commissars for Army and Navy of the U. S. S. R. and Chairmen of the Revolutionary-Military Council.

Current news and summaries of new developments  
in the economic life of the U. S. S. R.  
are regularly printed in the

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## Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union

ON July 21st Mr. Maxim Litvinov was appointed People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U. S. S. R. to succeed Mr. George Chicherin, whose long and severe illness has made it impossible for him to continue in office.

Maxim Maximovich Litvinov was born in 1876. After graduation from high school he joined the army where he became interested in social science and Marxism. In 1900 he became a member of the Kiev committee of the Social Democratic Party. Subsequently he was exiled for revolutionary activities and lived for many years abroad. After the October revolution, Mr. Litvinov was appointed first Soviet diplomatic representative in England. In 1918 he was appointed a member of the Collegium of the Foreign Commissariat, and later Deputy Commissar for Foreign affairs.

In 1919 Mr. Litvinov negotiated the peace treaty with Esthonia and later attended a conference in Denmark where he concluded treaties for the exchange of war prisoners with several countries. He negotiated with England the lifting of the blockade, and concluded the first trade agreements made with European countries. Subsequently he served as the first Soviet minister and trade representative to Esthonia, participated in the Soviet delegation to the Genoa conference and was chairman of the Soviet delegation to the Hague conference. In 1922 he concluded the agreement with the American Relief Administration at Riga.

Mr. Litvinov presided over the Moscow disarmament conference in 1923 and was the chairman of the Soviet delegation to the fourth, fifth and sixth sessions of the League of Nations Disarmament Commission in Geneva. He signed the Kellogg Pact in the name of the U. S. S. R., and was sponsor of the Moscow Protocol carrying the pact into effect. He has also signed a number of treaties with foreign countries including the commercial treaties with Germany and Norway. Mr. Litvinov is a member of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R. and during the past two years has been Acting Commissar for Foreign Affairs.

### Litvinov's Statement to the Press

On July 25th Mr. Litvinov, in an interview with the correspondents of the foreign press in Moscow, made the following statement:

"The decision of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R. appointing me to the post of People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, cannot signify any change in the foreign policy of the Soviet Union. This is the case because I have been working for the past ten years in the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs in close collaboration with my predecessor, Mr. Chicherin, with whom I have actively participated in the planning and carrying out of problems of foreign policy, and for the past two years have been actually in charge of the Commissariat \* \* \*

"The principles of the October revolution form

the foundation of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union, and the defense of the conquests of the revolution against foreign interference or intervention is one of its prime objects. Another and no less important object of Soviet diplomacy is to secure conditions of peace and of freedom from external disturbances for our work of socialist development. Our interest in the preservation of peace is in direct proportion to the magnitude of our plans for constructive work and the rate of their development. Our efforts have heretofore been guided towards the realization of this goal, and they will be so guided to an even greater extent in the future.

"We are confronted with the necessity of building up socialism in one country, surrounded by capitalist countries which occupy five-sixths of the globe. We cannot and we do not ignore this fact, and we therefore endeavor to find and apply methods whereby the two systems can exist peacefully side by side. It has been and will continue to be necessary for us to exert the greatest efforts to check the aggressive tendencies of certain capitalist groups which continually cause friction and conflicts between the two systems, and to endeavor to strengthen and preserve peace among the nations.

"The numerous national, political and economic contradictions, however, which exist within the capitalist world, prevent the adoption of a uniform attitude toward the Soviet Union or of concerted methods of fighting against it. The so-called peace treaties which marked the conclusion of the imperialist war have imposed tremendous burdens upon certain countries for the benefit of others and have enhanced these contradictions by tracing a deep and ineffaceable demarcation line between the so-called victors and the vanquished. In view of our natural sympathy towards those countries in which these burdens fall heavily upon the toilers, and since the states interested in perpetuating the consequences of the above-mentioned treaties and the injustices embodied in them are at the same time the states that pursue the most aggressive and hostile policy toward the Soviet Union, there has

developed a certain community of interests between the Soviet Union and the states that have been the victims of the war. On the basis of this community of interests perfectly correct and normal relations, in certain instances even friendly relations, have developed between the Soviet Union and some of these states, relations which we should like to develop loyally and strengthen in the future. While not aspiring to participate in any combination of one group of states against another, we shall at the same time sincerely endeavor to establish similar relations with all states desiring such relations.

"We do not conceal the fact that with the fulfillment of our plans for increasing economic construction we should like to be in a position to count upon a future expansion of our economic intercourse with other countries. The more this construction work progresses, the greater is the field for the application of foreign technique, of foreign labor, of the products of foreign industry, and even of certain foreign raw materials. But even here we are confronted with the conflicting aspirations of certain hostile capitalist groups which are waging a campaign designed to disrupt economic relations with the Soviet Union. Their efforts are seemingly directed chiefly against our exports, but in reality they are aimed at our entire foreign trade, since the reduction of our exports would inevitably bring about a corresponding reduction in our imports. The inter-depend-

ence of imports and exports through foreign exchange transactions is so obvious that there is no need to dwell on this point. The governments which support this campaign, a campaign originated by insignificant interested groups of our competitors in the export field, and which raise artificial barriers, by legislation or otherwise, against the importing of our raw materials and other goods, must not be so naive as to imagine that these measures will not cause a reduction or a discontinuance of our purchases in those countries. We feel sure, however, that all these anti-Soviet campaigns are doomed to complete failure, as they are bound in the final analysis to hurt not only our interests, but to an even greater



MAXIM LITVINOV  
*People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs*

measure the interests of such countries as might participate in such campaigns. At the present time, when the economic crisis has become so profound and so widely extended, embracing, as it does, nearly all European and non-European countries, the exclusion from world trade of the Soviet Union, a country so vast in extent and of such outstanding economic importance, the only country that has not been affected by this depression, could hardly be regarded as a measure either expedient or in conformance with reality. It is precisely the real interests of the capitalist countries themselves which, if correctly understood, are bound to prompt these countries to maintain and further extend economic relations with the Soviet Union.

"As for ourselves, we are fully cognizant of the indispensability of economic relations and of trade agreements under the given historic conditions. We have therefore not declined in the past nor do we intend to decline in the future to meet with the representatives of other countries and to discuss jointly such problems as may have a bearing upon the interests of the Soviet Union. We shall readily support any move in that direction, and any proposals that may be designed to do away with the possibility of armed conflicts and so secure universal peace. We shall, however, be pitiless in our denunciation wherever we see that the hypocritical mask of pacifist phraseology serves to disguise appetites and interests having nothing in common with peace or with the real interests of the people. We shall confine ourselves to the role of observers in instances where the actual international gestures are not sufficiently clear to us, and require elucidation and exposure. We shall remain absolutely alien and hostile with regard to such international acts as may to any extent encourage the oppression of one people by another or the preparation of new wars.

"We shall be watching with special attention the policies of the countries that are our nearest neighbors where aggressive chauvinist movements have been recently growing noticeably in strength. This situation constitutes a grave menace to the cause of peace. We regard it as one of the most important objects of our diplomacy to strengthen and to develop further peaceful neighborly relations with those countries, in accord with the spirit of our repeated peaceful proposals and of the Moscow Protocol.

"In general we shall adhere to our old and tested foreign policy, aware as we are of its correctness and its conformity with the interests of all peoples, and in the assurance of the growing power of the Soviet Union."

#### Foreign Policy of the U. S. S. R.

In connection with the appointment of Mr. Litvinov as Commissar for Foreign Affairs, the

Moscow "Izvestia" of July 26th published the following editorial:

"Mr. M. M. Litvinov, the newly appointed People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, received the representatives of the foreign press yesterday, and explained the international problems confronting the Soviet government in the near future. It was unnecessary for him to explain any changes in Soviet foreign policy, since no such changes are proposed. Mr. Chicherin relinquished the post of People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs because of prolonged and severe illness. Mr. Litvinov, who has for many years been associated with Mr. Chicherin in the foremost posts of our diplomatic work, correctly emphasized that the foundations of the foreign policy of the Soviet Government remain unshaken, since they steadfastly express the same interests—the interests of the worker and peasant masses. And these interests, in the field of foreign policy, require that two principles be defended: peace, necessary under the conditions of our socialist construction, and the vigorous repulsion of all attempts at interference in our internal affairs.

"In reviewing our foreign policy, Mr. Litvinov devoted special attention to the international significance of our socialist construction and the political conclusions which must be drawn from the fact that all the energies of the country are concentrated in carrying out the Five-year Plan.

"After the international bourgeoisie became convinced of the fact that the Five-year Plan was far from representing a mere program of agitation, many of the foreign newspapers began to regard it as preparation of the Soviet Government for war. Mr. Litvinov emphasized that on the contrary, the Five-year Plan is proof of the fact that our interests are directed entirely toward peaceful construction. He might also have pointed out that even some of the bourgeois papers, as for instance, the Vienna 'Neue Freie Presse' have understood that in the Five-year Plan the integral and essential aspects of our economic reconstruction are realized. The Five-year Plan is not the end, but the beginning of our industrial development. It is understood that it will greatly ease conditions of life for the worker and peasant masses, that in the future it will permit them to rebuild the life of the country without such enormous sacrifices. But it does not permit us to rest on our laurels. And the same motives which impel the government of workers and peasants to bend all its efforts toward preserving peace, will continue to operate in the future.

"Mr. Litvinov also refuted another argument advanced by our enemies. Namely, the assertion that the Five-year Plan is the result of an isolationist policy on the part of the Soviet Government. We are striving to make our country economically strong and independent. But in-

dependence of even the strongest governments in the economic sense does not mean that they are not in need of economic connections with other countries.

"The United States of America—strongest of capitalist nations—which, like the Soviet Union, covers an expanse uniting regions utterly diverse from an economic and climatic viewpoint, unquestionably needs connections with the rest of the world. And the more it grows, the more it understands the necessity for these connections. The process of industrialization of the U. S. S. R. does not lessen our need for connections with the economically more developed countries. Only recently the 'Prager Presse' quite correctly called attention to the fact that collectivization creates a tremendous demand for manufactured products, a demand which even our own industry will not be in a position to satisfy for some time to come, in spite of its rapid development.

"But if the capitalists wish that we should be purchasers of the products of their industry, and the world crisis shows how greatly the international bourgeoisie are in need of new markets, then there must be a stop to the attempts to create difficulties for our exports, because each country can buy only as much as it sells. Mr. Litvinov expressed the firm conviction that the hysterical attempts to create difficulties for our export trade would not lead to the results toward which the enemies of the Soviet country are aiming.

"While giving the economic relations between the U. S. S. R. and the capitalist world the central place in his interview, Mr. Litvinov also threw light on a number of basic political questions. The Soviet Union, bearing on its banner the slogan 'self-determination of peoples' is the opponent of all post-war treaties based on force. This leads to a natural rapprochement with all peoples suffering from the consequences of imperialist treaties and permits entering upon closer relations with some of these peoples than with other countries, notwithstanding the differences between their social systems and ours . . . But this does not mean that the Soviet government is participating in any combinations or alliances whatsoever directed against other nations. It is ready to enter upon business relations with any country based on the mutual interests of both countries party to the agreement . . ."

#### **U. S. S. R. Congratulates Germany on Withdrawal of Foreign Troops**

On the occasion of the evacuation of the Rhine region by the last of the French troops, the following telegram was sent by Mr. Litvinov, then Acting Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U. S. S. R., to the German Foreign Minister, Dr. Curtius:

"On behalf of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I beg you, Mr. Minister, to accept and to transmit to the German Government, congratulations on the event of the completion of the regime of occupation of a portion of German territory by foreign troops, and the restoration of the sovereignty of the German people. The Union Government, which on January 13th, 1923, protested to the whole world against the occupation of German territory, notes with especial satisfaction the restoration of the rights of the German people in the Rhine region."

#### **Tenth Anniversary of Soviet-Lithuanian Peace Treaty**

ON the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Soviet-Lithuanian Treaty of Peace, signed on July 12th, 1920, in Moscow, Mr. Tubialis, acting president of the Lithuanian Republic and president of the Council of Ministers, dispatched to Mr. Kalinin, president of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R., the following telegram:

"On the tenth anniversary of the conclusion of the peace treaty between Lithuania and the Soviet government in Moscow, on July 12th, 1920, looking back on the events of that ten-year period which has been so difficult for the Lithuanian government, I note with a feeling of special satisfaction the constant development of friendly relations between the Lithuanian Republic and the U. S. S. R. and the unchanging sympathy with which the U. S. S. R. has regarded the difficult struggle of the Lithuanian people for independence and for its most sacred rights.

"From the vivid consciousness of this friendship and this sympathy springs my great faith that it will endure, and in the name of the Lithuanian people I express the firm hope that such a solid foundation of friendly relations between the two governments, serving as a firm basis for the cause of general peace, will in the future continue to develop and strengthen to the weal of the Lithuanian people and the people of the U. S. S. R."

The telegram of Kalinin, Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R., to President Tubialis, was as follows:

"In the name of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I ask you to accept greetings on the day of the tenth anniversary of the conclusion of the Soviet-Lithuanian peace treaty.

"The Union Government states with satisfaction that this treaty, together with the treaty of September 28, 1926, has laid an inviolable foundation for the friendly and peaceful develop-

ment of Soviet-Lithuanian relations and assisted in the strengthening of universal peace.

"The people and the government of the Soviet Union, regarding with steadfast sympathy the work which is being done by the Lithuanian people toward strengthening their independence and their national culture, express their sincere desire for the further development and prosperity of the independent Lithuanian Republic."

Similar congratulatory telegrams were exchanged between the foreign ministers of Lithuania and the Soviet Union.

## Soviet Protest to Finland

ON July 17th the diplomatic representative of the U. S. S. R. in Finland, Mr. Maisky, handed the Finnish foreign minister the following note:

"Sections of the border guard of the U. S. S. R. have recently noted the fact that a number of Finnish citizens have been systematically and violently deported across the Soviet-Finnish border to the territory of the U. S. S. R., without the consent of the Union authorities.

"Thus, for instance, Mr. Heikka Isaak, president of the United Trade Unions of Finland, who was arrested by the Finnish authorities on June 17th of this year at Yulivieska Station, on the morning of June 18th was smuggled through the woods near the Finnish border point in the Repola-Tuulivara district into Union territory.

"Peryalya Yukho, a deputy of the Finnish Diet from Teuv was expelled across the border in the above-mentioned district on the morning of June 19th.

"The worker—Khiltunen Aarne from Kuopio was brought to the border on June 17th, and in a half dressed state dispatched across the border into the U. S. S. R.

"On June 21st Korkkhonen Yosif, Ronkonen Matvey and Khumonen Tomas were deported into the territory of the U. S. S. R. The expelled citizens, according to their own statements, proceeded to the border accompanied by ten armed guards headed by their leader Suomis. The guards continued into the territory of the U. S. S. R. for about ten meters, after which they returned to Finland.

"On July 22nd the worker Myaenia Avgust from Kokkola and the farmer Kyukhialia Kalle from Sievi, deputies of the Finnish Diet, were expelled across the border into the U. S. S. R.

"Further, Tabel Emil, deputy of the Finnish Diet from Keli was expelled across the border in the direction of Ukhta, and Lekhto Arvo from Helsingfors, secretary of the Finnish union of

workers in the leather and rubber industry and also a member of the Diet.

"On June 24th Kikhana Karl and Milliomiaki Iokho from Kokkola were deported to the U. S. S. R. Milliomiaki, according to his statement, was arrested in Kokkola by a certain Kaliako and Police Officer Oiksus. Arriving at the frontier, the officer accompanying Milliomiaki, warned the Finnish border troops of what was taking place, and then, changing into civilian clothes, went with the prisoners to the border.

"On June 25th Khiltunen Armas, Petikainen Khugo-Rikhard and Raadelsalm Taipe-Olli were sent across the frontier to the U. S. S. R.

"On June 26th Mirelain Karl, member of the Finnish Diet, and Makelya Yuri from Vlain were deported to the U. S. S. R.

"The instances enumerated by no means exhaust the list of Finnish citizens who have recently been violently transferred from Finnish to Soviet territory.

"The above-mentioned facts are evidence that the illegal transfer of persons who are undesirable from the point of view of certain Finnish organizations and governmental institutions across the Soviet-Finnish boundary to the territory of the U. S. S. R., has become the Finnish method of driving such people from the country. The information which the Union Government has at hand leaves no doubt that both the delivery of these persons at the border and their actual transfer into the U. S. S. R. is carried on not only with the permission, but with the direct aid and participation of the Finnish Government organs and also of military organizations.

"The Finnish Government cannot be unaware of all the foregoing, inasmuch as information regarding the expulsion into the U. S. S. R. of persons active in the labor movement has already figured on the pages of the Finnish press for quite a prolonged period.

"Stating that the systematic violation of the border on the part of Finland even to the extent of armed troops crossing into the territory of the U. S. S. R., is an infringement of the norms of international laws and customs, the Union Government emphatically protests against this procedure.

"The Union Government expects that the Finnish Government will take effective measures to bring an end in the near future to this violation of the border and illegal transfer of Finnish citizens.

"The Union Government expects that the Finnish Government will not delay in taking measures to investigate the instances which have taken place of violation of the Union-Finnish frontier on the part of organs and official persons of the Finnish Government, will hold the guilty persons responsible, and give the Union Government a complete explanation."

## Soviet-Turkish Treaty

ON July 28th ratified copies of the protocol extending the period of operation of the treaty of friendship and neutrality concluded in Paris on December 17th, 1925, and entering into effect at that date, were exchanged between Mr. L. M. Karakhan, Assistant People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U. S. S. R., and Mr. Hussein Rahib Bey, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkey, in Moscow.

The above-mentioned protocol was signed at Angora on December 17th, 1929, and ratified by the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R. on January 26th, 1930.

On the exchange of the protocols, Mr. L. M. Karakhan declared that he was empowered by the Government of the U. S. S. R. to affirm in the name of that government that just as was the case from the moment of signing the Angora protocol of December 17th, 1929, the Government of the U. S. S. R. had not taken upon itself in the period from December 17th until the present day any obligations contrary to the principles of the above-mentioned protocol, and that it was understood that it would not take upon itself any such obligations for the entire period of operation of the aforesaid protocol. At the same time, Mr. Karakhan stated, the Government of the U. S. S. R. expressed the conviction that the friendly relations between the U. S. S. R. and the Turkish Republic would grow steadfastly stronger.

The Turkish Ambassador made an identical statement on behalf of the Turkish Government.

## Italian-Soviet Relations

ON August 2nd an agreement was signed between the U. S. S. R. and Italy regarding the extension of economic relations and the granting of credits on Soviet orders. According to the agreement the Italian Government guarantees the credits on the Soviet orders up to 75 per cent of the amount of each order. This agreement makes it possible for twice as many Soviet orders to be placed in Italy this year as last. The agreement was signed by Mr. Liubimov, assistant People's Commissar for Trade, on behalf of the Soviet Government, and by the Italian Ministers of Finance and Corporations.

Commenting editorially on the signing of this agreement, the Moscow "Izvestia" of August 4th, said as follows:

"The Soviet-Italian agreement signed at Rome must be welcomed as a new step in the developing economic relations between the U. S. S. R. and Italy. At the present time a trade treaty concluded between the two countries in 1924 is in force. On the basis of this treaty trade relations between the U. S. S. R. and Italy are steadily increasing. This process is furthered

by a number of factors of an economic nature. During the post-war years Italian industry has made great advances and is in a position to compete successfully with the industry of the most powerful industrial countries. This fact has made itself felt in Soviet-Italian trade and increasing opportunities are opening up for Soviet industrial imports from Italy.

"On the other hand Italy is interested in procuring many kinds of goods from the U. S. S. R. Italy, as is well known, lacks certain industrial raw materials, in particular such essential ones as oil and mineral ores. Thus Soviet exports to Italy may answer certain very pressing needs of Italian industry. To these two circumstances must also be added the excellent sea connections uniting the two countries and simplifying trade between them.

"In addition to the natural factors favoring the development of Soviet-Italian economic relations it should be noted that in general relations between the U. S. S. R. and Italy during recent years have developed entirely favorably and to their mutual satisfaction. . . . We may expect that the new agreement will have favorable effect on the entire system of economic relations between the two countries."

### Agreement on Sequestration and Levies

On July 26th an agreement was concluded between Italy and the U. S. S. R., which establishes special procedure for sequestration and levying of monies due on government property of either side located on the territory of the other.

In accordance with the Soviet decree of June 14th, 1929, sequestration and levying of monies on property belonging to a foreign government can be carried out only with the previous consent in each separate case of the Council of People's Commissars of the U. S. S. R. This decree, however, applies only to the property of governments applying a similar procedure in regard to property belonging to the U. S. S. R.

Inasmuch as the Italian law of July 15th, 1926, establishes that "no sequestration, confiscation, sale or general executive act against movable or immovable property, loans, credits, shares, valuable papers or anything else belonging to a foreign government may be carried out without the permission of the Minister of Justice," both governments agreed to exchange notes recognizing the principle of reciprocity as regards the procedure of the other country.

Thus the carrying out of any executive acts in regard to property of the U. S. S. R. situated on Italian territory may henceforth take place only with the sanction of the Italian Government in each separate case and similarly the sequestration and levying of monies against property of the Italian state on Soviet territory may take place only with the consent of the United Council of People's Commissars.

## Tenth Anniversary of the Treaty with Latvia

ON the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the conclusion of the Soviet-Latvian peace treaty, August 12th, 1930, the Moscow "Izvestia" published the following article:

"Ten years ago a peace treaty was signed in Moscow between the U. S. S. R. and Latvia. This treaty, in addition to its practical significance, occupies a very definite place in the general system of international relations of the Soviet Republic. The Soviet-Latvian peace treaty is one of the first agreements concluded by the Soviet Government which forced a breach in the blockade and in the united anti-Soviet front created around the country of the October revolution.

"Unquestionably the treaty of 1920 has played a very substantial if not a decisive role in the history of the young Latvian Republic. The treaty with the Soviet Government settled a number of most important questions, without the solution of which the normal existence of the newly organized state would have been practically impossible. In this connection one of the most important articles of the Soviet-Latvian peace treaty is Article 2, containing the recognition by the Soviet Government of the independence and self-determination of the Latvian Government. The Soviet Republic "... actuated by its promulgation of the right of all peoples to free self-determination ... recognizes the unconditional independence, self-determination and sovereignty of the Latvian State ... The Latvian people and land are under no obligation to Russia arising from the former ownership of Latvia by Russia."

"We have quoted these excerpts from Article 2 of the treaty with Latvia because they represent the definite legal expression of the political principles of the Soviet Government, which has always stood for the right of nations to self-determination and has steadfastly carried out that policy during the past years. And if, ten years ago, the conclusion of a treaty with the Soviet Republic was a decisive moment for the guarantee of the independence of the Latvian Republic, then at the present time the treaty with the U. S. S. R. and the entire system of relationships of Latvia with the Soviet Union are actually among the most important elements guaranteeing Latvian independence. This circumstance deserves the consideration not only of the Latvian political leaders, but of the political leaders of the other Baltic states as well. The Soviet Union is the only power with which a newly organized state may build up its relations on the basis of preserving actual self-determination. The peace treaty with Latvia is merely

one of many confirmations of this fact—though one of its most substantial ones.

"The treaty of 1920 was further developed in subsequent agreements concluded between the two countries. The trade treaty of July, 1927, between the U. S. S. R. and Latvia was an important document in the regulation of the economic relations between the two countries. Like the peace treaty of 1920, the trade treaty of 1927 represented a document of great importance not only in practice but in principle. Just as the peace treaty created the preliminary conditions for the independent political existence of the Latvian Government, the trade treaty created a solid economic basis for the independent development of the Latvian economic system on the basis of growing economic connections with the Soviet Union.

"Economic relations between the U. S. S. R. and Latvia have developed favorably during recent years, especially with regard to Latvia. Latvian exports to the Soviet Union constitute 16 per cent of the entire Latvian exports, and the export to the U. S. S. R. of Latvian manufactured goods is more than 50 per cent of Latvian industrial exports as a whole. Soviet freight transit through Latvia amounts to more than two-thirds of all freight dispatched through Latvia. These figures are sufficient to make clear the importance to Latvia of regulating and strengthening economic connections with the Soviet Union.

"Another important event, representing a development of the provisions of the peace treaty of 1920, was the participation of both governments in the so-called Lithuanian Protocol of February 9th, 1929, providing for the extension to the Eastern European states, and in particular in the relations between the U. S. S. R. and Latvia, of the obligation to renounce war as a method of settling international conflicts.

"At the same time cultural relations between the U. S. S. R. and the Latvian Republic have been developing. Of great importance to the cultural life of Latvia was the return by the Soviet Republic of the cultural treasures taken from Latvia at the time of the imperialist war. The development of these connections between the two countries received a further impetus in the organization of a branch of the Society for Cultural Relations with the Soviet Union in Latvia.

"For ten years, beginning with the conclusion of the Soviet-Latvian peace treaty, the economic connections between the two countries have steadily developed. If Latvia is able to build its international relations on the basis of independence from outside influences and will carry on its foreign policy in conformance with the interests of the independence of Latvia and not with the interests of outside countries, then Soviet-Latvian economic and cultural relations

might in the future develop to the satisfaction of both countries. Unquestionably a further and even more rapid development of these connections in the interests of the workers, both of Latvia and of the Soviet Union, is possible. The tenth anniversary of the peace treaty of 1920 must give a new impetus to the efforts directed toward the strengthening of Soviet-Latvian relations."

### Changes in Soviet Foreign Service

Mme. Alexandra M. Kollontay has been transferred from the post of Diplomatic Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Norway, to that of Diplomatic Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Sweden.

Mr. S. K. Klimokhin has been appointed Diplomatic Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Poland.

## Agricultural Collectives

This year has definitely marked the beginning of the transition period from small to large scale agriculture in the Soviet Union. A year ago last May the collective movement comprised only 4 per cent of all the peasant households. On May 1 there were over 82,000 collectives in the Soviet Union. That means that about six million, or one fourth of all the peasant households in the Soviet Union are engaged in large-scale cooperative production. Because of the greater efficiency of cultivating larger land areas this one-fourth of the peasants is able to cultivate one-third of all the land under cultivation in the Soviet Union. In a few months the thousand-year-old boundaries between the holdings of millions of small peasant proprietors have been obliterated, and modern industrial farming has replaced the primitive individual methods of the past. Everywhere the collectives have shown an increase in yield over the individual peasant farms, a lowering of production costs, and a higher standard of living. Statistics show a higher consumption of every type of food product for the members of collectives than for the peasants still operating individual farms.

These collectives are voluntary associations of peasants ranging from loose consolidations of private holdings, sometimes merely involving the joint use of machinery, to various types of highly socialized farms, differing from the sovhozes, or State farms, chiefly in that they are not State enterprises.

Concurrently with the spectacular growth of the voluntary peasant collectives there has been a steady growth of State enterprises guiding the growth of large scale farming along modern mechanized lines. An important role is played by the machine and tractor stations operated by the State. These stations are centers for all the mechanical power and equipment necessary for supplying the production needs of the collectives within a radius of 15 to 20 kilometers. They stimulate the collective movement by making it possible for groups of poor peasants who would not otherwise be able to purchase the necessary equipment, to organize collectives.

Over 25,000,000 hectares of land are operated

in the sovhozes by the State through the various agricultural trusts. Of these 15,000,000 are given over, in some cases to diversified and in some cases to highly specialized forms of agricultural production. Ten million hectares are devoted exclusively to grain production by huge industrial farms under the Zernotrest (State Grain Trust), which now operates 131 large grain farms.

The extent of mechanization of Soviet agriculture may be gauged by the fact that while the value of agricultural machinery and tools on all farms in the Soviet Union in 1926-27 amounted to 988,000,000 rubles,\* it increased to 1,404,000,000 rubles during the past year, and the amount needed to supply the additional machinery for agriculture in 1930-31 is estimated at about a billion rubles. The meagre 500 tractors that plowed the fields of old Russia have swelled to a figure that now approaches the 100,000 mark, calling for half of all the tractors exported from the United States and a tremendous program of construction in Soviet factories, which American experts have been called in to assist. In 1925 there was one combine in operation in the entire Soviet Union. This year 30 or more harvested and threshed the wheat from the fields of the "Gigant" farm alone.

Livestock production received something of a set-back during the period of excesses in the collective movement of last winter, when some of the over-zealous organizers lost their heads and tried to force the peasants to join the collectives, and some of the peasants slaughtered their cattle in resistance to the collectivization movement. The program for the development of animal husbandry in the "socialized sector" in the next few years will unquestionably more than make up for whatever damage was done. Meantime it has been made clear to members of agricultural collectives that only large working cattle is to be socialized on entrance into an artel. On August 26 a statement was issued by the President of the Kolhozcenter (Collective Farm Center) to the effect that the\* Model Constitution

\*A ruble equals 51.5 cents.

\*See April issue of Soviet Union Review.

for Agricultural Artels (Par. 4) does not limit the right of members of agricultural artels to raise young cattle, and to breed and purchase for their own use large and small horned cattle, pigs, and so on. The management of collectives is instructed to give all possible assistance in the proper care of cattle belonging to the individual collective members, such as providing pasture and feed.

## Distribution of Harvest of Collectives

On July 27 the following instructions were issued to all Republican and Regional Collective Centers:

A proper distribution of the harvest and income received from the labor of collective members is of decisive importance of the present time.

The main instructions regarding the distribution of income and harvest have already been given out by the government and the Kolhozcenter. However, a number of the local collective centers have permitted flagrant infringements of these instructions.

The Kolhozcenter of the U. S. S. R. calls the attention of the local collective unions to the fact that such infringements of the basic instructions are not permissible and categorically demands that the collective unions, in their instructions to the collectives, be guided by the previous directions of the government and the Kolhozcenter, namely:

(a) The distribution of income and harvest must be carried out, as a rule, on the basis of the amount and the quality of the labor expended.

(b) Five per cent of the total harvest and of the income from the socialized milch cows of the collective is to be distributed among the members in proportion to the value of whatever of their property has been socialized by the collective.

(c) Assessments for the social and reserve funds are made after deductions have been made for the following: the seed fund, fodder fund for socialized cattle, single agricultural tax, expenditure for payments of insurance on property and seed.

(d) The amount of the assessment for the reserve fund for the present year must be set at 10 per cent, and 5 per cent for the social fund for cultural needs, assistance to those unable to work, for bonuses, and so on.

(e) All other assessments for social funds (for the organization of communal dining rooms, day nurseries, and so on) must be carried out by voluntary methods only, by decision of a general meeting of collective members.

(f) Because of the importance of taking care of the cattle of collective members, the distribution of fodder is as a rule to be considered as part of the payment for wages.

(g) Winter crops planted individually by collective members previous to their entry into the collective remain in the possession of the individual who planted them. The collectives must assist in the harvesting of such crops.

The administration of the Kolhozcenter asks that you immediately withdraw all instructions to the collectives on the question of the distribution of income, which are contrary to these instructions of the government and of the Kolhozcenter, and asks that you do not limit yourselves to the formality of bringing these instructions to the attention of the collectives, but do everything possible to popularize them through leaflets, articles in the press, and other methods.

The method of distributing the income and the harvest is to be determined solely by decree of the general meeting of collective members.

TATAYEV,

*Assistant President of the Administration of the Kolhozcenter.*

## Unemployment Steadily Declines

By September 1 the number of unemployed workers in the Soviet Union had decreased to 500,000. By October, it was estimated that the number would be further reduced by 30,000. This means that unemployment has diminished by 60 per cent during the past year. The actual measure of unemployment is really far less than this, because the abundance of jobs in the U. S. S. R. has created a situation whereby workers frequently give up their jobs if their job or their place of work is not entirely to their liking, sure they will be able to find work elsewhere. Thus a large number of those registered as unemployed are workers who register at the Labor Exchange during the transition period from one job to the next, and whose unemployment is very temporary. The remainder are young people and women applying for work for the first time. Most of these soon find jobs and their places are taken by others.

The problem, then, has become that of finding sufficient workers rather than of finding sufficient jobs. Particularly great is the need of industry for skilled workers. In many districts there is a lack of unskilled workers. The work in the Leningrad port, for instance, is greatly hampered by the lack of stevedores. The building and lumber industries are greatly in need of additional workers. The government farms, already employing 400,000 agricultural laborers,

mechanics, tractorists, and others, need still more workers.

The labor turnover has recently been increasing to such an extent that the People's Commissariat for Labor has issued new rules providing certain advantages for workers remaining steadily at one job, such as better housing facilities, increased vacations after a certain term of service, and opportunities for advancement.

In a recent article in "Izvestia," Kalinin, Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R., discusses the difficulties with which Soviet industry is confronted as a result of the labor shortage.

"This year," writes Kalinin, "there is a dearth of workers in every single branch of labor, not excluding office work. The Labor Exchanges are stripped. The goal of the Five-year Plan as regards unemployment has been reached earlier than that of any other part of the plan."

Emphasizing that this lack of sufficient workers is felt not only in industry, but in agriculture, Kalinin goes on to say that the question will inevitably be asked as to why, with so much labor being done, there should still be a goods hunger. The answer, according to Kalinin, lies partly in the fact of the lower productivity of Soviet workers to whom modern methods of production are still new, and partly in the fact that the majority of workers are engaged in capital construction work on factories and shops, which will later produce articles of mass consumption, and in the building of schools, hospitals, clubs, work on public utilities and road building.

"We are deliberately sacrificing today," declares Kalinin, "in order that we may be better equipped for production tomorrow."

## Light Industry

Plans for increasing the output of light industry during the coming year were discussed in an editorial published in the Moscow "Pravda" of July 30, extracts from which follow:

"An increase of 32 per cent in the production of light industry is planned for the coming year (in 1928-29 the increase in the output of light industry was 19.1 per cent, and in 1929-30, 21.9 per cent), while an increase of 62 per cent is planned for heavy industry. The control figures for the growth of light industry during 1930-31 are an index of the change which has taken place in our economic situation due to the restoration of heavy industry, and its revolutionary growth, and to the collectivization of agriculture. . . .

"It is no accident that right at this time, after the year of great transformation in the development of widespread collectivization, we are laying increased emphasis on the development of

light industry. There is an organic connection between the speeding up of light industry and our victories in the fields of the collectives and State grain farms. It is due to the development of collectivization and to the fact that 200,000 hectares of cotton were cultivated by the grain farms and machine and tractor stations that we surpassed our plan for the planting of cotton by 21 per cent. 1,767,000 hectares of cotton were planted—217 per cent of the 1913 area, and a much larger area than was planted last year. The same thing was true of sugar beets and other technical crops.

"The proposed increase of 32 per cent in the production of light industry is only the first step. Everything possible must be done to reach far beyond that goal.

"The intensified growth of light industry which in the near future must result in a decided increase in real wages and improve the material conditions of the workers, gives rise to new problems for our whole economic system. Heavy industry must be more adapted to serve the needs of light industry. A number of entirely new industries must be established, which will hasten the growth of light industry. . . .

"We must not permit ourselves any longer to occupy the last place in the world canning industry. All the factors are at hand necessary to supply the workers with cheap and varied canned goods during the coming year. We must reorganize our meat industry according to the American system. The meat and canning industries must be prepared to handle millions of head of pigs and cattle which will be produced during the next year or two by the cattle trusts and the collectives. The manufacture of isothermal cars must be developed, and equipment for refrigerators, elevators, factory-kitchens, communal dining rooms—for all phases of the food industry.

"Methods of work must be fundamentally changed in light industry. So far rationalization processes have been applied to light industry least of all. Raw materials must be used economically, and light industry must be more closely connected along scientific and technical lines with its raw material base. Scientific laboratories through which new forms of raw material can be developed, must be widely established.

"The new phase of speeding up light industry must be accompanied by decided improvement in the quality of production. Special attention must be paid to rationalization processes in the shoe industry. In view of the difficulties of obtaining sufficient leather, the use of new materials for shoes must be developed.

"Nor must we neglect the handicraft industries. During the present year the plan calls for the production of 2,500,000,000 rubles worth of goods, mainly articles of wide use, by the handicraft co-operatives alone. . . ."

# Trade Unions in the Reconstruction Period

*Extracts from a report by Nicholas M. Shvernik, member of the Presidium of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, made at the Sixteenth Congress of the Communist Party held in Moscow in July.*

**I**N reporting on the work of the Trade Unions at the Sixteenth Party Congress, Mr. Shvernik stated that along with the achievements in industrial construction a systematic improvement in the material welfare and cultural level of the working class was taking place from year to year.

"If we take the figures for the growth in the number of hired workers," he declared, "we see that in 1927-28 there were 11,456,000 workers, and in 1929-30, 13,129,000, or an increase of 1,673,000. Of these 2,632,000 workers were employed in large scale industry in 1927-28, and 3,029,000 in 1929-30. During the last half year, taking the figures for planned industry under the control of the Supreme Economic Council only, the number of workers has increased by a quarter of a million.

"Concurrently there has been an increase in the number of trade union members: in 1928 our trade unions had a membership of 10,994,000 and this year we have about 12,000,000 members. Among the industrial workers 86.5 per cent of all the workers are union members, and among the workers in general, 80.7 per cent. At the same time there has been a systematic decrease in unemployment. The number of unemployed during the past year has decreased by 750,000.\* During May and June alone the number of unemployed decreased by 300,000. Of the remaining unemployed 100,000 are receiving courses to increase their skill and will be given employment immediately on completion of their courses.

"Unemployment will entirely disappear very soon. We are already experiencing a shortage of skilled and even of unskilled workers. It is not necessary to emphasize the fact that the reduction and finally the disappearance of unemployment will mean a great improvement in the condition of the working class.

## Wages

"The wages of the workers are also growing. The average wage of industrial workers in the past four and a half years has grown by 75 per cent. During that period the average monthly wage has increased from 43 to 76 rubles. The policy of the party and of the new leadership of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions has been to stimulate not only the leading industries but those which have been most backward with regard to increasing the wages of the workers. Therefore from the special fund to

increase wages, amounting to 40,000,000 rubles in 1929-30, 18 million rubles was given to the miners' union, and 11 million rubles to the metal workers' union. According to the control figures for this year the wages of the miners are to be increased by 12 per cent, of the metal workers by 10 per cent, and the wages of the workers employed in light industry are to be increased by 4.6 per cent.

"It would be entirely incorrect to judge of the improvement in the material welfare of the workers on the basis of increased wages alone. The increase in the number of wage-earners in the workers' families which has been noted during the first half of 1929-30 must be taken into consideration. As a result of this the average income of the workers' families has been increased by from 15 to 16 per cent over that of the same period in the preceding year. During the last year there has been a mass movement of workers from lower to more highly skilled jobs, which has also increased the income of the workers' family.

"Real wages for the first half of 1929-30 are 39 per cent higher than in pre-war days, and if payments from social insurance funds, from the fund for improving living conditions and so on, are taken into account, they are 67 per cent higher. However, in spite of this substantial increase in real wages, we still have not achieved as great an increase as provided in the plan.

"By what means can we guarantee the material welfare of the workers and the growth of real wages? There must be a radical change in the work of our cooperatives. The cooperatives must entirely take over the production of food products. The cooperatives must establish an extensive system of vegetable gardens, dairy farms, hog-raising farms, and so on, and systematically lower retail prices. This is the core of the whole question of increasing real wages.

"One of the most important methods of improving the workers' food supply is through communal dining rooms. In 1928-29, 17,611,000 rubles were invested in this work, in 1929-30, 53,500,000 rubles, and it is proposed to invest 200,000,000 rubles in 1930-31. There must be extensive building of restaurants and factory kitchens. The problem of the trade unions will be to see that the quality of the food is improved, to lower the cost, to see to it that more workers are attracted to these restaurants in the main industrial regions such as the Don Basin, the Urals, and so on. The unions must attract the workers themselves and especially the members

\*For latest unemployment figures, see article on page 138.

of their families into the business of assisting in the organization of communal eating places.

### Labor Conditions

"In 1928-29 over 54,000,000 rubles was appropriated for labor protection, and in 1929-30, over 179,000,000 rubles. But in spite of the increased appropriations for this purpose, the funds have not been fully expended, as a result we have seen an increase in the number of industrial accidents in certain individual enterprises... Everything possible must be done to make the trade unions give more attention to this most important of questions—the improvement of the conditions of labor, and to guarantee the entire and prompt expenditure of all funds designed for the protection of labor and safety devices.

"The social insurance budget has grown from 980,000,000 rubles in 1927 to 1,400,000,000 rubles last year. During the last two years 631,000,000 rubles has been spent for temporary disablement, 576,000,000 rubles for medical help. In 1928-29 over 546,000 persons were sent to sanatoriums, health resorts and rest homes on social insurance funds, and 671,000 last year.

### Housing

"During the past three years 1,800,000,000 rubles has been spent on the building of houses. The housing space has increased from 8,599,000 square meters in 1929 to 10,924,000 square meters in 1930. In 1927-28, 2,900,000 square meters of housing space was built, in 1928-29, 3,200,000 square meters and in 1929-30, 6,400,000 square meters. Thus it is apparent that the housing space is increasing steadily—the average space per worker has grown in that period from 4.9 to 5.2 square meters.

### Seven-Hour Day

"The seven-hour working day and the continuous working week represent great political victories for the working class. At the beginning of May, 1930, 63.4 per cent of all the workers in industry were on a continuous working week schedule, and 47 per cent of all workers were on a seven-hour day. The transition of all industrial and transport workers to the seven-hour day must be completed in 1930-31, and all workers will be put on the continuous working week during the present year.

### Educational Work

"Illiteracy among the factory workers has been reduced to 14.4 per cent. The best situation prevails in the metal industry where less than 3 per cent of the workers are illiterate. We have greatly increased our efforts to eliminate illiteracy entirely among the workers. In 1928 only 1,564,000 rubles was spent for this purpose, and

in 1929 the sum was increased to 16,800,000. The amount spent on educational work to increase the skill of the workers during the same period was increased from 632,000 to 17,300,000 rubles. This means that the trade unions now have a real chance to train workers from the ranks to help fill the great need of our industry for technical workers. . . . In general the expenditures of the trade union organization for cultural work among the masses of the workers have increased from 135,000,000 rubles in 1928 to 270,000,000 rubles in 1929.

### Socialist Competition and Shock Brigades

"The most decisive factor in enlivening and improving of the entire work of the trade unions and drawing the workers into more direct participation in production problems has been the introduction of socialist competition and the formation of 'shock brigades.\*' On March 1st two million industrial workers were taking part in socialist competition and a million and a half were enrolled in the shock brigades. According to an investigation carried on by Gosplan, in 491 enterprises investigated, 72 per cent of the workers were actively engaged in socialist competition. More than half of all the technicians and engineers employed in industry are enrolled in the shock brigades. . . .

"The work of the shock brigades has been a very important factor in the fulfillment of the Five-year Plan. Let us take, for example, the figures for last March when, due to the special efforts of the shock troops, production in the metal and machine building industries was increased by 27 per cent over that of January, in anthracite, by 9 per cent, in cast iron by 6 per cent, in steel by 2 per cent, and so on. The productivity of labor in March showed an increase of 7.9 per cent over that in January."

In surveying the work of the production conferences, meetings in which the workers consider practical problems of their industry and offer proposals, Mr. Shvernik stated that the majority of the proposals offered by the workers for improving productivity, decreasing waste, and so on, were accepted by the administration and carried out, and that by this means hundreds of millions of rubles had been saved in industry.

\*This refers to the voluntary mobilization of special groups of workers who make it a point of honor to fulfill and surpass the production tasks fixed by the plan for their enterprise or department.

*Bound Volume VII of the SOVIET UNION REVIEW, 208 pages, containing all the issues published in 1929, as well as a comprehensive index, will be mailed on request. Price, \$3.00.*

## Bubnov on Educational Progress

**O**VER ninety per cent of the children of school age in the Soviet Union are now attending school, according to a statement made by Andrey Bubnov, Commissar for Education of the R. S. F. S. R., in an interview with foreign correspondents published in the Moscow "Izvestia," of August 4th. The interview in part follows:

"It is a well known fact that our country received a miserable cultural heritage from the Tsarist regime. Tens of millions of illiterates, a negligibly small number of institutions for vocational training—especially for training of technicians, engineers and agricultural specialists—and no provision worth mentioning for extra-curricular and pre-school work. In 1914-15 only 48 to 50 per cent of the children of school age could be accommodated in the primary schools, the remainder constituting a reserve to fill up the already numerous ranks of the illiterate adult population of the country . . .

"The growth of the primary school system and the increase in the number of children attending began with the first year of the October revolution. Thus in 1920 the number of pupils reached 9,211,000 as compared with 7,236,000 in 1914-15. This growth was arrested, however, in the heat of the civil war and intervention, and during 1922 the number of schools fell even in comparison with the pre-war days, and the number of children in school decreased to 6,808,000 . . . From the beginning of the period of peaceful construction work, however, our primary education system began to grow. By the school year 1928-29, 9,797,000 children were accommodated in the schools. But the real transition year was 1929-1930, when the number of children accommodated in the primary schools increased by 20.3 per cent. Last year 11,790,000 children of school age, or over 92 per cent, as against the 48 to 50 per cent of pre-war days, attended school.

### Universal Compulsory Education

"According to the plan that has just been ratified universal compulsory primary education will be introduced throughout the whole U. S. S. R. in 1930-31 for children of eight, nine and ten years, and in 1931-32 for children of eleven years. This means that in 1930-31, 14,064,000 children will be in school and next year 16,000,000.

"This swift growth has been dictated by the general course of our socialist construction, especially for the past two years. These new industrial giants—the Stalingrad Tractor Works, the Selmashstroy (agricultural machinery plant) in Rostov, the Turksib, and so on, the industriali-

zation of the country as a whole, the collectivization of agriculture—all these things require a new cultural foundation. The newly built factories and electric power stations, the new collectives, the new tractors, require literate workers to operate them. And the very progress of this construction work has in itself made it possible to speed up the introduction of universal education. This reform, which is such a colossal one for our country, requires tremendous funds. Appropriations for primary education alone in 1930-31 will be 400,000,000 rubles more than for last year. To give a further idea of the rate of growth, I will add that only five years ago our country was in a position to spend only 535,413,000 rubles on our entire national education, that is, only half as much as will be spent during the current year for primary education alone. Tsarist Russia spent 381,000,000 rubles annually on the entire educational system.

"At the present time we are introducing compulsory education for the primary schools (four-year schools.) But we consider this only the first step toward universal compulsory education. Already in connection with the plan for universal education in the four-year schools, we are introducing compulsory education for the following year for all children in the workers' sections and in the cities, who completed the primary grades last year. We are increasing the number of seven-year schools in the villages. We are already laying the foundation for the extension of compulsory universal education to the seven-year schools. . . .

"In all this work for universal education we attach exceptional importance to making the primary school actually accessible to everyone. We must attain an actual and not merely a formal equality in the opportunities for all children in the Soviet Union to attend school. And this is possible only if we give definite privileges to children of the poorer families. The dropping out of children from the primary school before the completion of their course, which although it decreases from year to year, still takes place, is also a matter of social significance. This can be dealt with by giving certain privileges to the children of poor families. That is why one of the most important aspects of the plan is extensive state aid to children of the poorer workers' and peasants' families in the form of supplying school materials, shoes and clothing free of charge, providing free hot lunches, transport, lodging and free tutoring for pupils who are behind, and so on. For this purpose 20,000,000 rubles have been appropriated in the budget alone for 1930-31.

"We cannot limit our work for introducing universal education to increasing the number of schools. We are working at the same time on the problem of improving the quality of our educational work . . . The extent of our concern for raising the quality of the work of our schools may be seen from the fact that in addition to the tremendous expenditures incident to our program of increasing the number of schools, we are at the same time systematically increasing our norms of expenditure all along the line—that is to say, we are increasing the pay of the teachers, and the amount spent on school materials and equipment. To illustrate this, the amount spent per one pupil in the primary school before the revolution was from eight to ten rubles a year; in 1928-29 it was 43 rubles a year; in 1929-30, 52 rubles and it is proposed to spend 68 rubles per pupil during the present school year.

"As is well known, national culture was especially persecuted in Tsarist Russia. Enforced Russification was the lot of all the minor nationalities. One of the basic national policies of Tsarism was to keep these people in darkness. The October revolution brought an end to this disgrace once and for all, and opened up the widest opportunities for the growth of national culture. It is sufficient to say that there are already a number of nationalities which have surpassed the average rate for the U. S. S. R. in the growth of their primary education. In White Russia, the Crimea, the German Republic and the Ukraine universal compulsory education is being introduced earlier than in the R. S. F. S. R. Nationalities which before the revolution were considered doomed to complete assimilation and degeneration, and which had no written language of their own, are today developing an extensive network of schools in their native tongue. Altogether we have schools in thirty-five different languages.

"School books and literature are published in all these different languages. The special national publishing company, 'Centroizdat,' published in 1929 over twenty-eight million 'sheets' (a 'sheet' is a Russian printing term meaning sixteen large book pages containing about 8,000 words), of school books in the language of the various minor nationalities—fourteen times as many as in 1924.

"From the normal schools of the national minorities thousands of teachers are being graduated each year. Our program of universal training provides that the children of each nationality should study in their own language.

"We realize the tremendous difficulties standing in the way of carrying out this great reform, of such historical importance. We are trying to do in a few years what it has taken decades to achieve in a number of capitalist countries. But we are convinced that we shall be successful."

## Reorganization of Soviet Publishing Industry

All State publishing activities of the Soviet Union are henceforward to be coordinated through one central organization to be known as "The United Book and Magazine Publishing Company," or "OGIZ." The new organization is being formed by combining Gosizdat, the State Publishing Company of the R. S. F. S. R., with all the main State publishing companies. Thus, instead of the thirty-five or more independent publishing organizations which formerly existed, there will now be only twelve separate publishing houses which will be connected through a new central company, having branches throughout the country.

The purpose of this step is to organize the publishing activities of the country in such a way that they will be able to meet the growing and complex requirements of the present reconstruction period with its great industrial and social advances. By strengthening the publishing companies, eliminating duplication and concentrating the best literary, editorial and publishing ability in one powerful organization, it is expected to raise the whole level of Soviet literature.

The distribution of books and magazines throughout the entire territory of the Soviet Union will be handled entirely by the distributing apparatus of "Knigocenter," which will be a section of OGIZ. The concentration of book distributing in one central body will make possible a more economical and efficient system of supplying books and magazines to the population. All the printing for the separate publishing companies will be handled by a single trust, the "Poligraphkniga," which will be a part of both OGIZ and the Supreme Economic Council.

The organization of the new company is already under way and will be completed by January 1, 1931. The first step is the combining of all the distributing agencies into Knigocenter.

The primary task of the new organization is the drawing up of the plan of work for 1931, the first year of operation under the new conditions. During the past year the publishing programs of all the organizations which will be combined in OGIZ amounted to 2,500,000,000 "sheets" which was far from meeting the demands of the country for literature. During the coming year, in connection with the new cultural undertakings and the great increase in the number of literate people in the country, there will unquestionably be a great increase in the demand for books and magazines. According to preliminary estimates, the demand will be for about 5,500,000,000 sheets. The condition of the paper supply and

printing industry, however, will probably limit actual production to 4,500,000,000 sheets.

The organization of OGIZ marks a new stage in the development of Soviet publishing and will undoubtedly result in a great improvement in both publications and distribution of books and magazines.

## Improved Living Conditions for Scientists

THE problem of insuring to Soviet scientific workers living conditions sufficiently comfortable to enable them to carry on their work unhampered is handled by a special organization, the "Central Commission for Improving the Living Conditions of Scientists," which was organized in connection with the Council of People's Commissars of the R. S. F. S. R. in 1921.

When the commission was first organized there were 8,000 registered as scientists in the R. S. F. S. R. The number had more than doubled by 1929. These scientists are divided into three different groups: outstanding scientists, of whom there are 552; the main body of scientific workers of 5,950, and 10,000 young scientists who are just beginning their scientific activities.

The type of activities engaged in by the commission has naturally changed with the general improvement in economic conditions. In the period immediately following the Civil War the problem was mainly one of supplying food and the necessities of life to the scientific workers. At the present time the work of the commission consists of supplying stipends for those carrying on academic work, funds for special research, medical help, old age pensions, aid to scientists' families, supplying of living quarters for scientific workers in the provinces, and so on. The commission has established six sanatoriums. Those who can afford it pay for sanatorium care at cost, others are charged one-half or one-third or are treated free of charge, in accordance with their means. For aged scientists, and widows of scientists, homes have been established in Moscow and in Leningrad where they may live and receive whatever care is necessary without cost. There has also been established in Moscow a special dormitory where scientific workers from the provinces receive accommodations at a low rate.

A clinic has been established in connection with the commission which serves the general public and where scientific workers may receive medical treatment of all kinds at a low cost.

The commission gives special attention to improving the housing conditions of scientific workers and through the efforts of the commission special legislation has been passed by the Council of People's Commissars of the R. S. F. S. R.,

granting certain privileges as regards housing space to scientific workers. Scientists are permitted housing space in addition to the regular norm for scientific activities, special space for laboratories and libraries.

Cultural activities are also carried on by the commission. One of its most important achievements was to establish in 1922, the "Central House of Scientists" in Moscow, which on the one hand provides for the cultural needs of the scientific workers themselves and members of their families, and on the other extends its cultural and scientific activities to the general population through lectures, moving pictures, entertainments and exhibits. In connection with the House of Scientists there have been organized eighteen different scientific clubs with over a thousand members—medical, biological, literary, and so on, and a very fine library has been built up.

## International Soil Science Congress

THE Second International Congress of Soil Science, which opened on July 20th in Leningrad, concluded its work on August 1st, in Moscow, after which the delegates went on excursions during which they visited the Volga district, Transcaucasia, the North Caucasus, the Crimea and the Ukraine and inspected agricultural collectives, State grain farms, schools, and industrial undertakings.

More than 530 delegates attended the second congress, including 130 foreign scientists, over twice as many delegates as attended the first, which was held in Washington in 1927. In addition 150 guests attended the sessions. The largest delegation from outside of the Soviet Union came from the United States, which sent 42 delegates; Germany sent a delegation of 32, England, Holland and Japan delegations of 7 each, France 6, Sweden 5, Poland 4, and so on.

The program included all the subjects of greatest interest to the modern soil scientist, such as soil classification, methods of studying the chemical composition and chemical processes of soils, and so on.

The scientific work of the second congress was distributed among nine commissions, which carried on intensive work. Over a hundred scientists participated in one of the meetings of the commission on soil micro-biology. A number of Soviet and foreign scientists, including Professor Albrecht from America, and Professor Azo from Japan, made a number of interesting reports at the meetings of this commission. Professor Polinov, Soviet scientist, read a report to the geographical commission on the new soil map of Asia put out by the All-Union Academy of

Sciences. The reports of several young Soviet soil scientists to the commission on soil chemistry, attracted special interest.

Professor Vavilov of the U. S. S. R., presented a world agricultural map, made by the Leningrad Institute on Applied Botany on the basis of the findings of numerous soil expeditions. A number of other reports by Soviet scientists gave evidence that the science of soils has made great advances in the Soviet Union since the time of the First International Soil Congress.

At the final meeting of the Congress, held on July 31st in Moscow, the directing organs of the International Society of Soil Science were elected. Professor John Russell, of England, was elected president of the society, Dr. Hissink, of Holland, was elected vice president and general secretary, and Professor Marbut of the United States and Professor Yarikov of the U. S. S. R., were elected vice presidents. Professor Tulaikov will represent the U. S. S. R. on the general committee of the society.

Russian was accepted by the congress as an official language for the meetings and publications of the International Society along with French, German, English, Italian and Spanish.

The Third International Congress of Soil Science will be held in England in 1935.

## East-Siberian Region

ACCORDING to a recent decree of the Soviet Government, Siberia will be divided into two independent administrative and economic units—the West-Siberian region, and the East-Siberian region, with Irkutsk as the center of the latter. Kansk, Kirensky and part of Krasnoyarsky Okrugs, formerly a part of the region known geographically as West Siberia, will now become a part of the East-Siberian region. Chitinsky and Sretensky Okrugs and the entire Buryat-Mongol Republic with a territory of about 1,600,000 square kilometers, which formerly belonged to the Far-Eastern region, will also become a part of the East-Siberian region.

The organization of the East-Siberian region is of tremendous significance not only to the region itself but to the whole Soviet Republic, and will greatly simplify the work of regional planning and the economic specialization of the different sections of the country.

The East-Siberian region has extensive power resources and inexhaustible natural wealth. In Angarostroy and Cheremkhovsky coal basins are coal reserves of more than fifty billion tons. There are vast timber lands, iron, silver and lead deposits, gold, manganese, precious stones, salt, mica, fur and fish. Unquestionably East-Siberia will become a powerful industrial center. Already the Cheremkhovsky mines are being extensively developed, new shafts are being sunk,

new mechanical processes are being introduced in the mining of coal and gold and mica, the lumber industry is growing, new factories are projected.

The main problems of the development of the industry and agriculture will be solved through the erection on the river Angara of a super-power hydro-electric station. The river Angara represents a practically inexhaustible supply of power. Its capacity may be measured at approximately 40 million kilowatt hours a year—twenty times as great as that of the Dnieperstroy station.

Agriculture occupies an important place in the economic development of the East-Siberian region. Irkutsk, Kansk and the former Tulunsky Okrugs, and the Buryat Mongol Republic with their enormous areas of land and favorable climatic and natural conditions can be developed into a rich grain growing area. In 1929-30 over a million centners of commercial grain were produced in Irkutsk Okrug alone.

The problem of colonization of this region is of tremendous importance since there are now only about two million inhabitants in the whole area, 18 per cent of whom live in the cities.

The fact that the new region borders on Mongolia means that it will also play an important part in the export trade to Mongolia and China.

## Reorganization of Industrial Administration

Last year a change was made in the organization of Soviet industries whereby all the enterprises of each industry were brought under the control of a central body. A further change is now being made, according to a recent decree, which provides for the decentralization of these concerns. Instead of one center for the entire industry, each branch of industry will be divided into several concerns, depending on the geographical situation of the industry, and the specific features of different sections of the same industry. Thus instead of the single concern, "Steel," there will now be one in Kharkov, uniting the southern and central metal plants, and another one in Sverdlovsk. Similarly two coal concerns are being established—"Vostugol," including the Kuznetsky Basin and Kizelkopi, and "Ugol," which will administer the Don Basin, the Moscow Basin, and so on.

The machine construction industry will be headed by three concerns: heavy machine construction, including mining and factory equipment and oil machinery; transport construction; medium machine construction.

Under this new system an added importance will be given to the role of the presidium of the Supreme Economic Council which will be obliged to coordinate the activities of the two or three different concerns in the same branch of industry.

# Currency Regulations of the U. S. S. R.

## I. Rules Regarding Foreign Currency

1. Every person entering the U. S. S. R. is allowed to bring in foreign currency (money, checks, letters of credit, etc.) to an unlimited amount.

2. Persons arriving from abroad for a temporary stay in the U. S. S. R. may apply to the Customs for a statement certifying the amount of foreign currency brought in by them.

Such a certificate gives the person concerned, during a period of one month after arrival in the U. S. S. R., the right when going abroad of freely taking out a similar amount of foreign currency or transferring same through banking institutions of the U. S. S. R.

Persons in whose favor checks or letters of credit are drawn, have the right during a period of eighteen months to take these documents out of the country when going abroad or transfer same through a banking institution. No certificate from the Customs is required to be produced in these cases.

3. Persons mentioned in Sec. 2 receiving foreign currency by check or draft through a banking institution of the U. S. S. R. may apply to the respective bank for a corresponding certificate stating the amount of the foreign currency received.

This certificate entitles the holder to freely convey abroad or retransfer a similar amount of foreign currency as received, the time limit for such action being in accordance with Sec. 2.

When issuing the above-mentioned certificates, banking institutions must indicate in same in what currency the transfer was effected—Soviet or foreign currency. Cover for retransferring same is accepted by banking institutions both in Soviet and foreign currency. If, however, the transfer from abroad was paid in foreign currency, cover for the retransfer is accepted only in foreign currency.

4. In those cases when persons mentioned in Sec. 2 leave the country after the expiration of one month from the date of their arrival in the U. S. S. R., the export or transfer abroad of foreign currency may be effected by them during a period of eighteen months from the date of their arrival, up to the amounts brought into the country by them or received through the medium of banking institutions, after deducting the sum spent by them during their stay in the U. S. S. R. This amount is calculated on the basis of a minimum living rate of not less than ten rubles for each day of their sojourn.

5. Persons possessing foreign currency for which for some reason a certificate was not

obtained when brought or received in the U. S. S. R., but which fact in accordance with Secs. 2 and 3 can otherwise be proved, must apply to the Special Currency Council if they desire to convey or retransfer same out of the country, independent of the date when they arrived and the amount desired to be re-exported or dispatched.

Note: Special Currency Councils are located in Moscow, Ashkhabad and Khabarovsk.

6. Persons mentioned in Sec. 2 may open current accounts in foreign currency and transfer the latter through the banking institutions authorized to effect transactions in foreign currency.

The State Bank of the U. S. S. R., the Bank for Foreign Trade of the U. S. S. R. and other banking institutions transacting the purchase of foreign currency pay the countervalue in Soviet currency at the current rate.

7. At the desire of a client, banking institutions of the U. S. S. R. mentioned in Sec. 6 may issue against foreign currency—drafts, letters of credit and inland travellers' checks payable in Soviet currency. Should there be any balance on these payment instruments during a period of eighteen months from the arrival of this person in the U. S. S. R., same may be re-exchanged into foreign currency after deducting the minimum living rate of ten rubles for each day spent in the U. S. S. R. (during the first month no deduction is made). The re-exchange is effected by giving the person leaving a payment instrument in foreign currency.

8. The above rules apply equally to transit passengers.

9. At all the Frontier Customs Officers of the U. S. S. R. there are exchange bureaus of the State Bank and other banking institutions of the U. S. S. R. which freely effect conversion of foreign into Soviet currency at the rate indicated in Sec. 6. It is therefore inadvisable to trust the statements of malicious persons regarding difficulties in converting foreign money into Soviet currency at the frontiers of U. S. S. R.

## II. Rules Concerning the Import and Export of Soviet Currency

10. The import of bank notes of the State Bank of the U. S. S. R., treasury notes and coins of the U. S. S. R., as well as payment instruments drawn in Soviet currency, with the exception of documents indicated in Sec. 11, is allowed only on condition of proof being presented that same were exported from the U. S. S. R. before August 1st, 1926.

11. The import of, (a) checks and other pay-

ment instruments drawn in the currency of the U. S. S. R. against special current accounts opened with Soviet banking institutions for settlements of foreign trade transactions (foreign trade accounts), (b) checks and other payment orders drawn against the accounts of foreign correspondents with Soviet banking institutions (Loro accounts) and (c) travellers' checks of the State Bank of the U. S. S. R.—is allowed up to an unlimited amount.

The import of drafts drawn in the currency of the U. S. S. R. is allowed to an unlimited amount if same have been exported under permit of the Special Currency Council of the People's Commissariat for Finance, Moscow.

12. The export of Soviet currency, with the exceptions indicated in Sec. 11, is prohibited beginning from August 1st, 1926.

The payment instruments indicated in Sec. 11 may be exported up to an unlimited amount. The export of drafts drawn in Soviet currency is effected by permission of the Special Currency Council of the People's Commissariat for Finance of the U. S. S. R.

13. In Soviet currency not declared by persons who arrive in the U. S. S. R. at the Customs examination, is confiscated. Soviet currency declared by persons who arrive in the U. S. S. R. at the customs examination is put into custody. Should same have been exported before August 1st, 1926, the proofs are examined by the Currency Administration of the People's Commissariat for Finance and if considered satisfactory, the currency is allowed to be taken into the U. S. S. R. In the absence of proof or when the proof presented is found to be unsatisfactory, the owner of the currency is given a period of six months either to take the money out personally or to authorize another person to convey same abroad on his behalf.

Neither the Customs nor any other institution of the U. S. S. R. accept orders for the return dispatch of the Soviet currency put into custody by the Customs authorities.

## New Health Center in Leningrad

A HUGE health center was recently opened in connection with the Leningrad textile industry, the only institution of its kind in the Soviet Union. The health center is situated in the heart of the textile factory district, where it serves a population of over 125,000, and is unique in that it unites in one place all types of preventive and medical care of the surrounding population. It includes dispensaries and polyclinics for children and for adults, an institute for the care of mothers and infants, special divisions for the treatment of intestinal diseases and nervous disorders, a diagnostic clinic, dispensaries for tuberculosis and

veneral diseases, an X-ray clinic, a dietetic department, a health center for the prophylactic care of children and adolescents, a well equipped division for physio-therapy and many other sections.

Special attention is devoted by the new institution to problems of child hygiene. The children coming to the clinic are at the same time put under home observation by the doctors and nurses. Housing and family conditions are carefully studied. The same system is used in the case of adult workers employed in sections of the textile industry, where health conditions are not good and will eventually be extended to all adults among the population it serves.

The cost of this health center, including equipment made in Soviet factories, was about two million rubles. When it is in full operation it will have a staff of about 600 medical workers.

A similar health center is already under construction in the Narvsky district of Leningrad, and it is planned eventually to care for the health of the entire population of Leningrad through institutions of this sort.

## International Architectural Competition for Ukrainian State Opera House

An International Architectural Competition is being held for a plan for a new State Opera House with a capacity of 4,000, to be constructed in Kharkov, capitol of the Ukraine.

Twelve prizes are being offered for the best projects, ranging from 1,500 to 10,000 rubles, to be paid in the valuta of the country of the architect winning the award.

Plans of architects outside of the Soviet Union must be mailed not later than December 25, 1930. The plans will be exhibited in Kharkov in January.

The competition committee has issued a prospectus, giving general conditions and detailed specifications for the Opera House in English, German, French, Russian and Ukrainian. Copies may be obtained through the Soviet Union Information Bureau, 1637 Massachusetts Avenue N. W., Washington, D. C.

## Administrative Appointments

Mr. Maxim M. Litvinov has been appointed People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U. S. S. R., in place of Mr. George V. Chicherin, who has been relieved of the post at his own request, due to severe and continued illness.

Mr. Nicholay N. Krestinsky has been appointed First Assistant Commissar for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Leon M. Karakhan has been appointed Second Assistant Commissar.

Mr. Nikolay A. Uglov has been relieved of the duties of People's Commissar for Labor of the U. S. S. R., and Mr. Anton M. Tsikhon has been appointed to the post in his stead.

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- Guide Book to the Soviet Union. International Publishers, New York, 1928.
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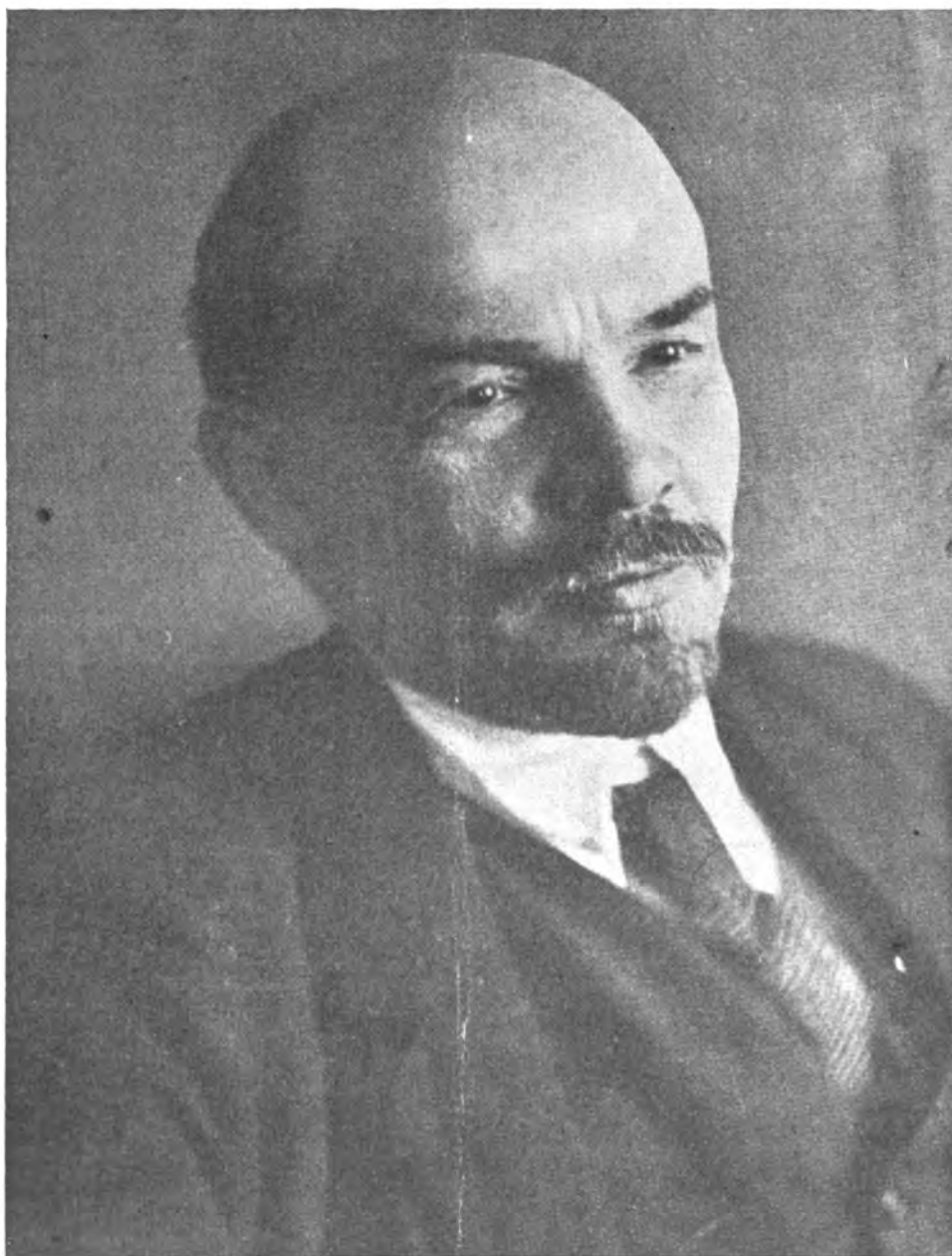
November 7,  
1930

**Beginning the Fourteenth Year  
Great Eastern Flight  
Program for Shock Quarter  
American-Soviet Trade  
Calendar of Events for 1929-30  
Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union**

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VLADIMIR ILYICH ULIANOV—LENIN

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## Beginning the Fourteenth Year

THE Soviet Union completes its thirteenth year on November 7. On September 30 it concluded its second year under the Five-Year Plan for the development of the country. As the result of two years of effort gross production in both industry and agriculture considerably exceeded the progress scheduled in the original Plan. The integration of agriculture through the replacement of the small peasant holdings by large-scale mechanized units had far exceeded the progress envisaged in the Plan.

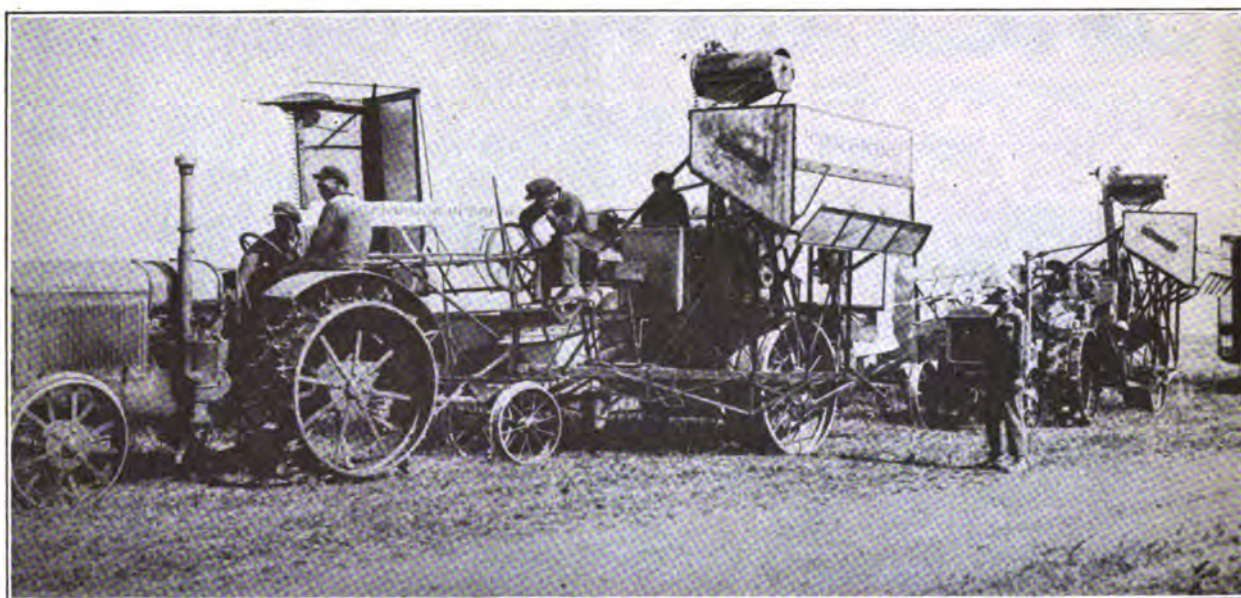
During the year the major emphasis was placed on reorganization of agriculture, where, in grain culture particularly, the general retention of primitive methods on small, uneconomic individual farms was holding back the whole national economy, in a country where nearly 80 per cent of the population lives by the soil. The objective was to apply to agriculture the scientific-technical advantages of large-scale factory production. The change involved a complete social reorientation affecting the lives and thought of millions of people. The original Five-Year Plan anticipated the amalgamation of 20 per cent of the peasant holdings in collective farms by the end of five years. Before the end of the second year 30 per cent of the peasant farm area was being so operated. In general the productive results were conspicuously above those of the outmoded system of individual hand tillage. The individual peasant got more out of his share of the collec-

tive effort than he could out of his small individual patch.

Two major construction projects included under the Plan were completed during the year. They were the Turkestan-Siberian Railway, nearly 1000 miles long, connecting the cotton belt in Soviet Central Asia with the grain and timber lands of Western Siberia, and the Stalingrad Tractor Plant, designed to have an output of 50,000 tractors a year. The railway was completed a year and a half ahead of the original estimates, at considerably less than the estimated cost. The Stalingrad tractor plant was also completed ahead of schedule.

### The Five-Year Plan

The Five-Year Plan was an outgrowth of the system of national planning to coordinate the economic development of the country which was established by Lenin as the basis of socialized productive life. The Plan represents an effort to raise the economic power of the country and lay a solid foundation for orderly future development along lines of modern technique. The Plan provides for a rapid expansion of industry, so that at the end of the five-year period the Soviet Union will be an industrial-agricultural country rather than an agricultural-industrial country. In the original Plan the increase of industrial output during the period was fixed at 133 per cent. The increase in agriculture was fixed at 55



PART OF THE BATTERY OF 230 COMBINES ON THE "GIGANT" FARM

per cent. The Plan provided for total new investments of \$33,300,000,000 during the period, including \$8,500,000,000 for industry and \$12,000,000,000 for agriculture, with generous sums for transport, electrification and housing.

### Agriculture

The original Five-Year Plan envisaged the organization of 20 per cent of the area of the peasant farms in collectives by 1933. The advance has been much faster than anticipated. During the past summer 30 per cent of the area was organized in collectives. The idea fully justified itself economically. Productivity was higher in the collectives with their superior machinery and more scientific methods, than in the individual peasant farms. The peasants who pooled their land in collectives got more out of it than the peasants who stuck to their individual strip-farms. More productive still were the State factory-farms, including large-scale fully mechanized grain areas; the largest farms in the world. About 10,500,000 acres were sown in these farms during the past summer. The workers on these farms receive wages, like workers in industry. The new settlements, built to accommodate them and their families, are based essentially on urban standards of living. In facilities for culture and recreation and other indicators of community life they offer a great advance over the old-style Russian village.

The total sown area in 1930 was 130,400,000 hectares, as compared with 120,400,000 hectares in 1928 and 116,675,000 hectares in 1913. Area sown to grain was 102,614,000 hectares, as compared with 98,262,900 hectares in 1928 and 102,700,000 hectares in 1913. Of the total sown area

39,000,000 hectares were in collective farms and 4,000,000 in the State farms.

The year was a better crop year than 1928. The grain harvest, for which specific totals have not yet been received, was the best since the war. The yield per hectare was materially higher than in 1928. There were large increases in the sowings of the technical crops, notably cotton and sugar beets. The cotton area was estimated at 1,525,000 hectares, as compared with 1,036,000 in 1929; the area in sugar beets was 1,142,000 hectares, as compared with 748,000 in 1929; the area in flax was 1,801,000 hectares, as compared with 1,613,000 in 1929. The total cotton crop was estimated at 1,294,000 metric tons (unginned), as compared with 976,000 in 1929.

On the other hand there was a serious decline in livestock of all sorts. This came about largely during the winter and early spring when local authorities in many sections were displaying an excess of zeal in pushing the collectivization idea. Peasants who felt themselves subjected to pressure to join the collectives in many cases slaughtered their stock. The central authorities curbed the over-zeal of the local officials and an educational campaign on the advantages of collective stock-breeding was pushed forward. By summer the downward movement in the supply of livestock was checked.

### Industry

During 1928-29, the first year of the Five-Year Plan, the industrial output exceeded the schedule. The Plan called for an increase of 21.4 per cent. The actual increase was 23.4 per cent. This margin of surplus led to the ambitious program of accelerating the tempo of increase in order to complete the Five-Year Plan in four years. Ac-

cordingly the "control figures" for 1929-30, fixed by the State Planning Commission, called for an increase in the industrial output of 31.5 per cent, instead of the 21.5 per cent in the original Plan. The enhanced program was not fully carried out, owing to a number of causes. However, the actual gain of 24.2 per cent (preliminary figures) registered for the year was substantially above the original Plan.

Numerous difficulties naturally attendant on such a rapid transition to industrialization were faced during the year. Chief of these was the difficulty of securing adequate trained personnel. The accelerated Five-Year Plan has absorbed the labor surplus which two and a half years ago reached a peak of 1,500,000 unemployed. There is a labor scarcity, which in the sphere of skilled labor reaches an acute shortage. Thus a number of the larger new plants opened during the year were behind in reaching scheduled productivity. In other cases production has not been up to scheduled quality. The labor shortage was accentuated by the large crop, which drew many industrial workers back to the fields during the latter part of the summer. The strain placed upon the railways by the large industrial construction program formed another serious problem involving the entire system of distribution.

This general situation is being met by a great expansion of the schools for training skilled workers and of the technical colleges. It is also being met by the importation of foreign skilled workers to supplement the considerable force of foreign engineers already at work in the Soviet Union. In connection with the transport problem, early in the year a large delegation representing the Commissariat for Transport went to the United States to make an intensive study of American railways and equipment, and Mr. Ralph Budd, President of the Great Northern Railway, was engaged under a technical assistance contract to study the Soviet railway system and make recommendations for its reorganization.

The number of "technical assistance contracts" with foreign engineering firms and individuals was materially increased during the year. New

contracts signed during the year with American firms included those with the Austin Company of Cleveland, Albert Kahn, Inc., of Detroit, the Andrew G. McKee Company, Koppers Construction of Pittsburgh.

Despite the various handicaps the industrial progress during the year exceeded by a generous margin the predictions of unprejudiced foreign observers.

The actual per cent of increase in key products from the previous year, as compared with the increase under the Plan and the increase under the control figures, was as follows:

	<i>Per cent Increase Actual</i>	<i>Per cent Increase Plan</i>	<i>Per cent Increase Control Figures</i>
Oil	26.0	12.1	18.2
Coal	17.6	13.4	27.2
Pig Iron	24.0	22.0	37.5
Steel	17.6	..	29.2
Ro'led Steel	14.5	11.1	23.7

The output of cotton cloth decreased 16.7 per cent from that of 1928-29, owing to shortage of raw material during the latter part of the fiscal year. The wool industry increased its production 12.3 per cent. Other increases were: linen 12.8 per cent, leather 27.4 per cent, shoes 61.2 per cent, matches 46.7 per cent.

The output of electric power increased 43.2 per cent and was over five times the pre-war output.

The costs of production were cut down during the first eleven months of the year by 7.1 per cent. This was better than the 4½ per cent during 1928-29, but was under the control requirement of 11 per cent. While the industrial output was up 24.2 per cent, the number of workers increased 13.4 per cent, indicating a higher degree of production per man.

Capital construction in industry during the fiscal year amounted to 3,730,000,000 rubles (\$1,920,950,000), or 83.1 per cent of the amount fixed in the control figures. During the previous year it was \$864,685,000.

The system of the continuous working week, with rest-days arranged on a stagger system, one-fifth of the workers absent every fifth day and the machinery operating every day, was



WOMEN TRACTOR MECHANICS

greatly extended during the year. On October 1, 1930, 66.6 per cent of all industrial workers were under this system, as compared with 24.1 per cent one year previous. The seven-hour-day was also extended. On August 1, 42.5 per cent of the working force were on this schedule, as compared with 19 per cent one year back.

As a net result of the two years of the Five-Year Plan the industrial output increased by about 56 per cent. The original schedule called for an increase of 47.5 per cent. Industrial production for 1929-30 was about double that of 1913.

In the interests of efficiency a reorganization of the set-up of the individual industries was effected during the year. Under the old form the industries were divided into trusts for productive purposes and syndicates which had the functions of marketing and coordinating. This division has been abolished. There is now instead the Unified Oil Industry, the Unified Coal Industry, etc., in each of which a central organization has complete control over production, distribution and planning, with the largest possible degree of initiative retained by individual plants. Particular emphasis is laid on the responsibility and the initiative of the executive heads of the individual plants.

### Transport

The outstanding event in transport during the year was the completion of the Turkestan-Siberian railroad, which will bring Siberian grain and timber to the Soviet cotton belt in Central Asia, and open a territory rich in mineral wealth and forests. It promises a great stimulus to the development of one of the most backward and primitive sections of the Soviet Union.

Railway freight operations for the year showed a marked increase in freight traffic—the gross increase was 36.5 per cent during the first eight months. None the less the freight traffic fell behind the steadily increasing demand and there were signs before the end of the year that the available rolling stock was being used to the limit. Extensive plans for improving the system have been adopted for 1930-31. The freight operations for the year 1930-31 are estimated at over 31 billion ton-kilometers greater than those originally estimated for the final year of the Five-Year Plan.



CONSTRUCTING A SILO ON "GIGANT"

### Foreign Trade

Soviet foreign trade showed a substantial growth during the year, though this growth was handicapped by the world-wide fall in commodity prices. The drop in the world-prices for raw materials particularly lowered the prices of Soviet exports. The figures for nine months, the latest available, show exports of \$374,199,000 and imports of \$415,545,000. The figures show an increase of 16.8 per cent in exports and of 35.0 per cent in imports over the same period of the previous year.

### Finance

The credit system of the country as affecting industry and trade was reorganized and simplified during the year in conformance with the highly socialized economic structure.

The rapid economic expansion evoked a commensurate expansion of currency in circulation. The note issue of the State Bank increased 46 per cent during the period from October 1, 1929, to October 1, 1930. During the same period the gold fund of the department of issue of the State Bank increased 93 per cent. The total currency in circulation increased from 2,288,600,000 rubles\* September 1, 1929, to 4,173,900,000 rubles September 1, 1930, an increase of 82 per cent. This expansion reached its peak in September, after which a gradual contraction became noticeable.

### Education

The exigencies of the Five-Year Plan called for a marked expansion of schools for technical and engineering training. The educational program for the year

was marked by an intensive effort to increase the facilities for such education.

Expenditures for popular education for the fiscal year 1929-30 were well over a billion dollars. They were \$738,000,000 in 1928-29. In the spring of 1930 the number of pupils in the public schools reached 13,500,000. In 1928-29 the number was 11,914,500. Universal compulsory primary education is to be inaugurated during 1931.

It is estimated that 450,000,000 copies of books were printed in the Soviet Union during the past year, upwards of 40,000 titles. Nearly one-fifth of the output represented books printed in the

\* A ruble equals 51.5 cents.

languages of fifty national minorities. The copies of books published reflected the steady increase in literacy and was nearly four times the pre-war output.

#### Plans for 1931

At the close of summer the fiscal year was changed to coincide with the calendar year, beginning January 1, 1931. Hitherto the fiscal year had ended September 30. The change was made largely because of the difficulty in including full annual statistics on agriculture in a fiscal year ending September 30.

An intensive program of speeding up the output was inaugurated for the three-months' interval between the close of the fiscal year 1929-30 and the beginning of the fiscal year 1931.

Before this change in the fiscal year was made the tentative control figures for 1930-31 called for an increase in industrial production of 48 per cent, compared with an increase of 22.1 per cent provided in the original Five-Year Plan. In agriculture the control figures for 1931 call for an increase of 12 per cent of the sown area. It is anticipated that the collective farm area will expand from 30 per cent to 50 per cent of all peasant holdings, and the State farms are scheduled to increase to 9,000,000 hectares (22,230,000 acres), of which half will be sown to grain. It is anticipated that the "socialized sector" in agriculture, including the State and collective farms, will produce 85 per cent of the marketable grain, two-thirds of the industrial crops and one-third of the live stock. The tractors employed on farms next year will have a total horsepower of 2.2 million, as compared with approximately a million horse-power this year.

#### Foreign Relations

The thirteenth year of the Soviet State opened rather auspiciously as far as foreign relations were concerned. A protocol had been signed October 3 for the resumption of Anglo-Soviet relations and the tone of the negotiations was a good augury for the future. Ambassadors were exchanged at the end of the calendar year and a brisk trade revival followed. The first move



DNIESTROSTOL 810,000 H. P. ELECTRICAL STATION, IN CONSTRUCTION

toward a provisional settlement of the controversy over the Chinese-Eastern Railway was made toward the end of November when the Mukden Government consented to negotiations on the basis of the *status quo*, before the Chinese seizure. A protocol defining these terms was signed December 22 at Khabarovsk, capital of the Soviet Far Eastern Region, by Soviet and Chinese representatives. Through traffic on the Chinese Eastern was begun January 22.

Subsequent developments of the Chinese Eastern controversy were not so happy. After a time sporadic raids on the railroad by White guard bands were resumed. According to the protocol Chinese and Soviet commissioners were to meet in Moscow in January to effect a

permanent settlement. The Chinese delegation did not arrive until March and negotiations were not begun until October. They are still pending.

The relations with Great Britain took a more normal course. On April 16 a provisional Anglo-Soviet trade agreement was signed and on June 22 a provisional fishing agreement. Credit conditions in respect to the trade between the two countries improved steadily. Another trade agreement of significance was signed with Italy at the beginning of August. The Italian Government agreed to guarantee to Italian exporters 70 per cent of the credits on Soviet orders.

Despite these tangible accomplishments the year was a difficult one in many respects. In January an unexpected attack on the Soviet Union was launched from several quarters, with the religious situation as the ostensible basis. The attacks gathered momentum steadily over a considerable period of weeks. In one phase they took the form of an attack on the Russian Orthodox Church by a rival clerical organization. The Tsarist émigrés contributed to the situation by a series of fantastic stories emanating from Riga, Berlin, Paris and other points.

Gradually a reaction set in. The heads of the Russian Church, the Chief Rabbi of Minsk and others repudiated the stories in interviews given to foreign correspondents. Reputable American

correspondents, some of them sent to the Soviet Union especially to investigate the situation, sent reports contradicting the wild stories.

The agitation over the religious question died away, but it was almost immediately replaced by a series of equally fantastic stories about huge Soviet "dumping" operations which were demoralizing markets. These stories embraced trading operations that never took place, they even included stories of dumping operations in countries with which the Soviet Union had no commerce. In the aggregate they attributed to the Soviet Union an export volume which it could not hope to achieve under the most favorable conditions for many years to come. In general the stories assumed that for some suicidal reason the Soviet trading organizations insisted on embarrassing the national economy of their country and handicapping the Five-Year Plan by deliberately selling Soviet products abroad below the market price. Obviously nothing could be gained by such a policy but a loss. Of course the world-wide overproduction in many commodities and the general economic depression contributed to these stories.

The most serious practical result of the agitation was the issuance of an executive decree in

France forbidding all imports from the Soviet Union under certain classifications, including lumber and agricultural products, except by special permission of the Ministry of the Budget. The French Government explained the decree on the ground that the balance of Franco-Soviet trade had been unfavorable to France. Shortly after this decree was issued the Council of Commissars issued a decree for the curtailment to the minimum of purchases in countries that barred Soviet exports. This action by France followed a long period of agitation against the Soviet Union in that country, fomented largely by Russian émigré groups, which during the present year utilized the mysterious disappearance of one Koutiepoft, a former Tsarist leader, to intensify their propaganda.

In July Maxim M. Litvinov became Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs, replacing George Chicherin, who had been inactive for several years on account of ill health. Mr. Litvinov pledged himself to continue the policy established by the Soviet Government under Mr. Chicherin, of which the foundation is to cooperate with other countries for the development of peaceful relations and commerce.

## American-Soviet Trade

AN interesting study of American foreign trade for the first six months of 1930 was issued by the United States Chamber of Commerce on the basis of trade figures of the Department of Commerce. These figures showed that the Soviet Union was the sixth best foreign customer of the United States during the period. In 1929 its rating was sixteenth. Moreover the study showed that the Soviet Union was the only major foreign country to increase its imports from the United States as compared with the same period of the preceding year. The figures of American exports to the six countries, with the percentage of increase or decrease in the trade this year, as given by the Chamber, are as follows:

	Value of U. S. Exports	% of increase or decrease
Canada .....	\$371,221,000	— 26.1
United Kingdom ....	338,610,000	— 15.8
Germany .....	133,114,000	— 26.2
France .....	110,836,000	— 9.6
Japan .....	97,047,000	— 23.3
Russia in Europe ...	73,232,000 *	+ 137.2

In the list of countries furnishing American imports "Russia in Europe" stood thirtieth, with a total of \$11,211,000 for the period. The in-

\* This does not include American exports to the Asiatic borders of the U. S. S. R., which amounted to \$2,200,000 for the period.

crease over the same period of 1929 was only 8.2 per cent.

This is an interesting statistical commentary on the weird tales of the wholesale "dumping" of Soviet products in the United States this year that have been circulated by certain irresponsible or interested persons. The figures show that during the half-year period under consideration American exports to the Soviet Union were more than six and a half times American imports from the Soviet Union.

For the Soviet fiscal year ending September 30 Soviet trade organizations made purchases in the United States aggregating \$145,000,000. Their sales of Soviet products in the United States were \$32,000,000. This makes a total business turnover of \$177,000,000. Before the war American-Russian business averaged about \$45,000,000 annually, or about one-fourth the present total.

The purchases and sales during the fiscal year 1928-29 were respectively \$107,651,000 and \$30,749,000. In other words, during the year ending September 30, 1930, Soviet purchases in the United States increased about \$37,350,000 and sales of Soviet products in the United States increased \$1,250,000. The ratio is about 30 to 1 in favor of the American trade balance with the Soviet Union.

The increase in American-Soviet trade during the year was achieved in the face of more than usual difficulties. American-Soviet business was subjected to a series of attacks calculated to destroy business confidence and impair credits conditions essential to the development of business. These attacks had a wide range. They included a number of rather clumsy "documents" purporting to show that the Amtorg Trading Corporation was fomenting political conspiracies in the United States and that Soviet purchasing agents and engineers admitted to the United States came not for business but to spread "propaganda." They included a sensational yarn that officers of Amtorg had engaged in smuggling into the United States Swiss watch movements valued at somewhat less than \$1,000. These stories were front-page sensations for many days, but no attempt was made to determine the truth about the "documents" and their origin and none was made to clarify or push the charge that officers of Amtorg were engaged in the irrational occupation of hazarding a legitimate business of \$150,000,000 a year for the doubtful advantages of a smuggling operation involving goods worth a few hundred dollars gross.

Other stories circulated were to the effect that the Soviet Union was "dumping" huge quantities of coal, lumber, manganese, pulpwood and other commodities on the American market, demoralizing American industry. These stories were without foundation. The "huge" American imports of Soviet coal amounted to about one-tenth of one per cent of the American production. They consisted of special-grade anthracite which is sold to the American distributor in Boston at a figure above the American price. The lumber represents a similar small quantity, mostly high-grade spruce sold at market or above market prices. The Chiaturi manganese fields in Russia have been a main source of supply of the American steel industry for half a century. It is sold here at the world-price. As for pulpwood, American paper mills have to import over 50 per cent of their supply. Until the Soviet pulpwood began coming on the market there was virtually no real competition for the Canadian pulpwood. The Soviet imports have been small, but they have furnished a salutary competition in this important trade. If it were withdrawn, the effect would be noticed in the future price of American newsprint paper.

One of the yarns which was sensationally displayed for a few days was to the effect that Amtorg was flooding the American market with cheap candies and ruining the American candy industry. Figures of the Department of Commerce show that imports of Soviet candy in 1929 totalled less than \$50,000, and they have not been increasing appreciably in 1930. The total value

of candy produced annually in the United States is about \$400,000,000. Obviously Amtorg could give away all its imports of Soviet candy as a charity without disturbing the American market.

Other stories flung upon the American market were to the effect that a system of forced labor at starvation wages was in effect in the Soviet Union. At the time these stories were circulated the industrial managers in the Soviet Union were feeling the effects of the labor shortage, which was resulting in a steadily increasing labor turnover in industries generally. So many new industries were opening up that it was difficult for the older plants to hold their men. In other words, there was the opposite of forced labor. As for wages in the Soviet Union, they are about double the pre-war wages in Russia. It is interesting to note that the cash wages of Soviet coal miners are now higher than those in England or Germany. In addition they receive many social services gratis.

Along with stories that the Soviet Union was swamping the markets of the world with exports, came stories that the country was on the verge of complete economic collapse. In the spring and early summer there were stories that there would be a complete crop failure. These were still circulating when there came competitive stories that grain exports from the Soviet Union were flooding over the entire world.

The pre-war grain exports from Russia averaged about eleven million tons. During the past few years the grain export has been negligible. This year's crop was a good one, owing to the success of the collective farm movement, and two months ago the Soviet press predicted a substantial surplus for export. This has been estimated at from one-fourth to one-third the pre-war export. There was no mystery about this. There was no excuse for the contradictory stories ranging from complete crop failure to a huge crop that would burst over the rest of the world. During the summer the Soviet press gave accurate official reports of the progress of the crop. They told of the moderate increase in grain sowings, the generally good conditions, the greater productivity of the collectives and the State farms.

All these diverse stories seriously impaired credit conditions in relation to American-Soviet trade. They have been a serious embarrassment to the Soviet trading agencies in this country and they have rendered a distinct disservice to American business men interested in Soviet trade.

According to the figures of the U. S. Department of Commerce, American trade with the Soviet Union for the past five and a half years has been as follows:

	American exports to U. S. S. R.	American imports from U. S. S. R.
1925	\$68,900,000 (*)	\$13,200,000
1926	49,900,000	14,100,000
1927	64,900,000	12,800,000
1928	74,100,000	14,000,000
1929	84,700,000	22,500,000
1930 (6 mos.)	75,400,000	11,200,000
Total	\$424,900,000	\$87,700,000

(\*) Including flour valued at \$20,000,000 purchased because of the poor harvest of 1924.

From the above figures it will be noted that American exports to the U. S. S. R. were nearly five times the American imports from the U. S. S. R. for the five and a half years. The balance of trade in favor of the United States was \$347,100,000. During the first six months of 1930 it was \$64,200,000.

The following are some of the items of import from the Soviet Union on which loose stories of "dumping" have been circulated:

**Anthracite:** Soviet anthracite did not come upon the American market until 1929. The amount received during that year, according to the Department of Commerce, was 113,170 tons. This was 26 per cent of the total import of anthracite. In the first five months of 1930 Soviet imports were 89,193 tons. The total production of coal in the United States in 1929 was over 600,000,000 tons, of anthracite 76,640,000 tons.

Soviet anthracite imported to the United States is special high-grade anthracite. It is sold to the importer at Boston at a price of from \$2.10 to \$2.50 per ton above the mine price of American anthracite.

The cost of American anthracite per ton c. i. f. Boston is as follows:

Quoted price, less discount	\$8.10
Loss on degradation, 3% fines	.45
Railroad freight to Philadelphia	2.09
Ocean freight Philadelphia-Boston	.75
Total	11.39

The cost of Soviet anthracite per ton c. i. f. Boston is as follows:

Price of coal, c. i. f. Boston	\$10.45
Loss from degradation, 11% of fines at 15c per 1% of fines per ton	1.65
Total	12.10

The American imports of a limited quantity of foreign coal are due to a demand for special grade coal not produced in the United States.

It has been stated that the Soviet Union planned to ship 5,000,000 tons of coal to the United States during the present year. The total exports to all countries in 1929 were 423,486 tons.

The money wages of a Soviet miner are 4.20 rubles (\$2.15) for a six-hour day. This is 36 cents an hour. In addition he receives free social insurance against disability or unemploy-

ment, free club and recreation facilities, free working apparel, free or nominal rent, free light and fuel, and a 28-day vacation with pay. These services add the equivalent of 14.4 cents to 18 cents an hour to his wages, bringing them to 50.4 cents to 54 cents an hour.

British coal miners receive \$2.23 in money for an 8-hour day. This is 28 cents an hour. Social insurance, free or cheap coal, etc., according to official British estimates, bring these wages up to \$2.52 a day or 31.5 cents an hour. The wages of continental miners are smaller than for British miners.

**Lumber:** The American import of wood and manufactures thereof from the Soviet Union in 1929 (Dept. of Commerce figures) was \$872,217. This was slightly over 1 per cent of the imports from all countries. It was one-tenth of 1 per cent of the value of the mill cut of lumber in the United States in 1928 (latest figures available).

Imports from the Soviet Union were begun after 1926 at the instance of prominent American firms in the industry which were alarmed at the speedy depletion of certain kinds of lumber in the United States. The imports consist of spruce, pine and fir. Imports of the last two are negligible in quantity and steadily decreasing. The United States produces little spruce. The better kinds of soft lumber do not compete with spruce. The imported spruce sells at 30 per cent higher than domestic soft woods.

**Pulpwood:** American imports of Soviet pulpwood began in tentative shipments in 1929, amounting to 6,481 cords. Soviet exporting organizations planned shipments of 300,000 cords this year, but the imports probably will be below this figure. The total imports of pulpwood and wood pulp into the United States in 1929 from all countries formed the equivalent of about 4,000,000 cords of pulpwood. Pulpwood imports alone amounted to 1,450,224 cords. The American paper industry has to import over 50 per cent of its pulpwood, and the percentage has tended to increase of late years. The prices for Soviet imports are determined by the price level of the world market. Because of its superior quality Soviet pulpwood commands a higher price in the American market than Canadian pulpwood.

**Manganese Ore:** The Chiaturi fields in Russia have been a major source of supply of manganese ore for the American steel industry for half a century. They are also a main source of supply for the principal steel-producing countries of Europe. In 1929 the total exports of manganese ore to all countries were 899,969 tons. Of this the United States imported 329,336 tons (Dept. of Commerce figures). American imports from all countries were 661,602 tons. The percentage of domestic production to total consumption was 6.95 per cent. The duty

on imported manganese is one cent per pound (metallic content), or 22.4 cents per ton. The world price of manganese is approximately 30 cents per unit, per ton. Thus the duty amounts to 74 per cent.

Soviet manganese ore, far from being "dumped" in the American market, commands a high price because of superior metallic content.

Prices of imported ores as given in the Weekly Market News Service of the Engineering and Mining journal of July 3:

Manganese ore per long ton unit of Mn. c. i. f. North Atlantic ports, cargo lots, *exclusive of duty*: Brazilian 46@48 per cent Mn., 28c; Indian 46@48 per cent, 28c; Caucasian (Soviet) 52@55 per cent, 30c; South African 52@54 per cent, 28@29c, nominal.

**Matches:** Soviet matches began to come on American market in 1928. In 1929 the importations were 1,012,420 gross, out of total American imports of 10,516,500 gross. Soviet matches imported into the United States are wholly of the strike-on-the-box type. Very few of these safety matches are produced in the United States owing to lack of suitable raw materials. American matches are of the strike anywhere or "book" types. Imported matches make up less than one-tenth of the matches consumed in the United States.

The price received for Soviet matches in the United States is higher than that received in Germany, France, Turkey and other foreign markets. The prices received here have generally been higher than those secured by importing competitors, in particular than those secured by the Swedish Match Trust, which furnishes the major part of the imports.

Various stories have been circulated in the United States during the past few months to the effect that certain imports from the Soviet Union, particularly imports of lumber and pulpwood, were the product of convict or forced labor.

Workers in the Soviet Union are employed through public employment exchanges in which the labor organizations have a directive voice. The exchanges maintain lists of unemployed and in filling vacancies follow the priority rule. The worker applying for a job may take it or leave it, at his discretion. The employer, however, must give the worker provided by the exchange a trial. If he is found unsuitable for the particular work it may refuse to engage him. After a week of trial, if a new worker is found acceptable, he may not be discharged without cause. Workers are protected in their individual and collective rights by the Soviet Labor Code and by collective agreements between the trade union and the management.

In addition to the permanent industrial work-

ers, many peasant workers are employed seasonally in industry, especially in the winter and in the northern forests. Their employment follows the same process as that of permanent workers and they have the same legal protections. In the lumber industry in the north the workers are scattered over hundreds of miles of forests and along the rivers. The idea that such scattered units could be composed of convicts under guard is fantastic. Reputable American importers who have visited the Soviet lumber industry from which exports to America are derived, and officers of that industry, have described the labor conditions in affidavits and denied the use of convict labor.

In contradistinction to the reports about forced or convict labor in the Soviet Union, American newspaper correspondents in Moscow have reported that Soviet industries have been greatly embarrassed in recent months over the tendency of great numbers of workers to migrate from one job to another without giving notice, as a result of which industries are experiencing a turnover of 50 to 70 per cent among unskilled workers. This tendency has been particularly marked among former peasant workers who have entered industry but have not yet adopted the settled habits of the established industrial worker. The many new enterprises being opened, contribute to the migratory tendency. Workers in one industry hear of a new plant being opened with model housing facilities and other modernized social benefits, and they frequently flock in considerable numbers to the new place. These sporadic desertions lower productivity and hence do a disservice to labor in general. An effort is being made by the authorities, with the cooperation of the labor organizations, to remedy the situation, both by making new jobs with full social services harder to get by habitual deserters and increasing the protection for the regular working forces.

All in all the year was one of increasing difficulties in American-Soviet trade. Gains were registered despite the handicaps, but they were largely due to orders for American products which had been planned before the difficulties had developed or could be foreseen. American machinery has been proved to be excellently adapted to the physical conditions in the Soviet Union and to the technical tasks which entail a rapidly increasing outlay for large-scale importation of apparatus. The increasing number of American engineers at work in the Soviet Union—there are now 500 or more—means a steady infiltration of American methods and processes. These engineers are trade-promoters in the best sense, in a very promising market. Trade, however, must follow the channels of least resistance. It can hardly develop in an atmosphere of constant attacks and anonymous scandal-mongering.

## Program for Shock Quarter

The program for the period October-December 1930, set aside as a special quarter by the change of the beginning of the Soviet fiscal year from October 1st to January 1st, has been published. As originally announced, this period is not to be used simply to make up for any shortcomings of the past year, but for renewed efforts to increase production over the requirements of the plan and especially to end the goods hunger.

The Moscow "Pravda" of October 13th carried an editorial outlining the plans for the "shock quarter" which said in part as follows:

"We are on the eve of the third year of the Five-Year Plan of which three months have been set aside as a special shock quarter. The country is entering upon a new period of socialist construction which has a decisive significance in carrying out the general slogan to 'complete the Five-Year Plan in four years.'

"The difficulties we are going through have the specific distinction of being the difficulties connected with a tremendous economic growth, the special difficulties of a reconstruction period which, in Stalin's words 'carry within themselves the means of their own destruction' . . .

"The economic plan for October-December 1930 drawn up by Gosplan and ratified by the government serves as a new proof of the tremendous potentialities of our economic structure. The plan for the special quarter has been drawn up with the view of decisively overcoming the 'tight places' in our economy, of gradually easing the goods hunger, of further strengthening the economic alliance between town and country, strengthening the money system, with a view of mobilizing all the active proletarian forces of the country to fight to make up completely any shortcomings of the past year and to prepare our industry for the third and deciding year of the Five-Year Plan.

"The plan for the shock quarter envisages a growth in industrial production of 46 per cent over that of the fourth

quarter of the last year. This rate of industrial growth is roughly double the average rate of growth allowed for industrial production by the Five-Year Plan.

"Of the total sum of 5,500,000,000 rubles set for production, 3,400,000,000 falls to the share of heavy industry, and 2,100,000,000 to the share of light industry. The decisive stake of heavy industry in the shock quarter is the program for metal and coal. We must mine during the quarter 21,270,000 tons of coal, of which 16,270,000 falls to the 'stoker' for the whole Soviet Union—the Donetz Basin. This program for coal is entirely realizable and must be fulfilled at all costs.

"The success of coal decides the fate of metallurgy which in the shock quarter must produce not less than 1,500,000 tons of pig iron and 1,900,000 tons of steel.

"The most striking feature of the plan for the shock quarter is that we have the opportunity, in complete accord with the decisions of the Sixteenth Party Congress, to go full speed ahead on both heavy and light industry simultaneously. Until recently we have concentrated on heavy industry. We now are in a position, on the basis

of heavy industry and the strengthening of our productive alliance with the peasants, to strengthen the development of light industry as well. In this respect the special quarter is extremely instructive.

"Due to the correctness of our policy with regard to agriculture, in particular to the intensified work in creating a raw material base for the technical crops of agriculture, we have achieved our first real victory in this field during the past year, and new achievements are bound to follow. Due to the fact that the production of sugar beets has more than doubled over that of last year and the tremendous growth of the area under cotton, we are able to increase considerably the production of our sugar and cotton cloth industry. The production of cotton cloth



WOMAN SHOCK BRIGADE MEMBER IN STALINGRAD TRACTOR WORKS

in this quarter must reach about 800,000,000 meters, which is roughly two and a half times the production for the fourth quarter of the past year. The production of sugar will amount for the quarter to about 1,500,000 tons, which is more than the entire production of the sugar industry for 1929-30. The entire production of light industry, including food, for the shock quarter will amount to a little over three billion rubles, an increase of 80 per cent over the fourth quarter of the past year.

"It is clear that such an increase in the production of goods of general consumption will be followed by considerable improvement in the supply for workers' centers. However, this can be attained only under conditions of the most exacting work on the part of the consumers' cooperatives, which are still not reorganized as they should be. During the present quarter closed distributing centers are being re-opened almost everywhere, which will appreciably simplify the business of supplying the workers. The entire work of the organs of supply in the special quarter must be placed under the vigilant control of the workers because on the regulation of the supply of necessities to the workers depends to a very great degree the success of the fight for the industrial plan, both in quantity and quality.

"The fight to come up completely and indisputably to the standards of quality set by the plan for the special quarter must be the center of attention for all organizations. The plan provides for a lowering of industrial costs on manufactured articles by 7 per cent, and an increase in the productivity of labor by not less than 30 per cent. Numerous investigations show that this task is entirely capable of fulfillment.

"The plan for the quarter calls for further consolidation and increase in the number of workers. The army of hired labor must increase from 12,711,000 to about 12,831,000, and the average monthly wages per worker will amount to 82 rubles in the special quarter as against 80.80 rubles in the fourth quarter of last year.

"The plan of capital construction for the special quarter is of great importance inasmuch as it prepares the ground for the development of production in 1931. Capital work in the socialized sector will amount to 3,300,000,000 rubles, of which, roughly, one billion rubles falls to the share of industries under the Supreme Economic Council, 150,000,000 to electrification, 750,000,000 rubles to agriculture and 550,000,000 rubles to transport. . . ."

## Change in Soviet Fiscal Year

**B**EGINNING January 1st, 1931, the Soviet fiscal year will start from January 1st instead of from October 1st as formerly. The reasons for the change are set forth in a decree issued on September 20th by the Central Executive Committee and the Council of People's Commissars of the Soviet Union. The text of the decree follows:

"After the difficult years of civil war the Soviet Government, entering upon a period of restoring its economic structure, inaugurated an economic year beginning October 1st and ending September 30th, in place of the regular calendar year. This decision was made with the purpose of including in the reckoning of the economic year the entire cycle of agricultural production which at that time was based on individual scattered peasant holdings.

"At the present time the tremendous growth of sovkhozes (State farms) and collectives, operating according to plan and carrying out a planned campaign of seeding makes it possible to a large extent to determine in advance the results of the coming agricultural year.

"The successes already achieved in the industrialization of the country and in the organiza-

tion of socialistic agricultural production have greatly strengthened and increased the role of a planned foundation for our entire economic structure. New construction is growing from year to year both in the development of industrial and agricultural production and in communal and housing facilities and the cultural development of the country. This makes it necessary that the entire building season, which comes to an end in November and December, should be included in the planned economic year.

"The Central Executive Committee and the Council of People's Commissars of the U. S. R. therefore decree:

"1. That the economic year be reckoned from January 1st to December 31st, beginning with 1931.

"2. That the Council of People's Commissars of the U. S. R. be instructed to ratify an economic and financial plan and budget for the period from October to December, 1930, not later than October 5th, 1930.

"3. That the control figures, financial plan and single State budget of the U. S. R. for 1931 must be drawn up so that the final economic tasks shall be presented to shops, factories and

other enterprises not later than the end of December, 1930.

"The control figures, financial plan and single State budget of the U. S. S. R. for 1931 must be presented for ratification at a session of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R. not later than the middle of December, 1930.

*"Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R., G. PETROVSKY;*

*"Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U. S. S. R., A. I. RYKOV;*

*"Secretary of the General Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R., A. ENUKIDZE."*

The change in the fiscal year was announced at a meeting of the Supreme Economic Council by Mr. Kuibyshev, chairman of the Council.

"This reform," said Mr. Kuibyshev, in explaining the reason for the change, "is of great significance. Our economists have for a long time advocated a change in the beginning of the economic year as both necessary and expedient. The first of October, which has hitherto marked the beginning of the economic year, is a purely artificial date which does not tie up with the plans of industry, especially with the plans of capital construction. The decision of the government to change the beginning of the economic year is thus in complete accord with the desires of the economists.

"In other fields of our economic structure substantial changes have also taken place which make it expedient to reckon the beginning of the economic year from January 1st. The reckoning of the economic year from October 1st has heretofore been connected with the question of the grain harvest on which our entire economic structure has depended and in this there has always been a large element of chance. Now, however, in connection with the tremendous growth of collectivization and the development of large sovkhozes, the element of chance has distinctly diminished. The government is able to a large extent to regulate the grain collections, seeding and so on.

"The year 1931, according to the decision of the government, will be the first segment of the plan reckoned on the new basis. The drawing up of the control figures for industry for that year must be commenced without delay. At the same time the control figures for the interim from October to December must be prepared immediately. Furthermore, this quarter must not in any event be tacked on either to the economic year 1929-30 nor to 1931, but must be considered an independent sector of the plan with independent tasks to fulfill. In drawing up the control figures for this quarter, as for 1931, it is necessary to be guided by the directions regarding the fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan in four years, in other words, the aim must be to set the maximum rate technically possible for the develop-

ment of production and capital construction. Any tendency to consider the quarter from October to December, 1930, as a period for correcting the results of the past economic year must be emphatically rejected.

"The government has established the briefest possible period for working out and considering the control figures for October to December and for 1931. Therefore the most intensive possible work is required of the sections and planning organs of the Supreme Economic Council of the U. S. S. R. in order to prepare the control figures in the period established. If our efforts are properly mobilized and the necessary organization work accomplished, it is entirely possible to succeed in this task."

After prolonged discussion the conference passed a resolution accepting the proposed period for preparing the control figures. The workers in the planning, technical and economic departments of the Supreme Economic Council have formed themselves into "shock brigades" to fulfill the task of preparing the control figures on time.

## New Soviet Airways

CIVIL aviation has been steadily progressing during the past two years in the Soviet Union, covering ever growing areas in the remotest parts of the country, and even greater developments will take place during the coming year—the third year of the five-year plan for aviation.

During the coming year 26,000 kilometers of airway lines will be functioning throughout the country, closely approximating the length of the airways of Germany and France. The number of planes will be considerably increased and a series of triple-motored airplanes of the type of the "Land of the Soviets" which flew from Moscow to New York last fall, will be put into operation.

The most ambitious feature of the plan for the coming year will be the opening of the longest air route in the world, from Moscow to Weland, in the extreme northeast of Kamchatka—13,000 kilometers, or nearly twice the length of the British line to India.

In 1931 a trans-Asian line, 8,000 kilometers long, connecting Moscow and Vladivostok, via Irkutsk and Khabarovsk, will be established. A Moscow-Irkutsk line, 4,700 kilometers in length, has already been in operation for some years.

Some of the new air lines will be opened in December with tri-motored metal monoplanes of the Junker type manufactured in the U. S. S. R. and fitted with skis for winter work. On December 1 the Yakutsk-Aldan airway will start operation. The airports for this Polar line were constructed with great difficulty in a region of

frozen tundra and swamp land. The town of Nikolayevsk on the Amur River is being made an airport center for several lines connecting Eastern Siberia with Sakhalin, Kamchatka and the Arctic Ocean. Tashkent will be the center of new all-year-round lines to Alma-Ata, Chardjui,

Jarkent, Sergiopol and other towns in Central Asia.

As a result of the Great Eastern Flight completed in September it is expected to open air lines to several of the Eastern capitals in addition to the line to Kabul already in operation.

## Great Eastern Flight

ON September 18 the three Soviet single-motored, two-passenger open airplanes which took part in the Great Eastern Flight through Turkey, Persia and Afghanistan returned to Moscow. A distance of 10,500 kilometers along the route Moscow-Sebastopol-Angora-Tiflis-Teheran-Termez-Kabul-Tashkent-Orenburg-Moscow was covered in actual flying time of 61 hours and 30 minutes. Fifteen days were spent altogether on the trip, six of them in the three Eastern capitals where the Soviet airmen were greeted enthusiastically and entertained by diplomatic and aviation circles.

The flight made a valuable contribution to aviation. Every possible hazard of the air was encountered in the flight which covered a varied route, over the Black Sea, across Anatolia, Transcaucasia, Northern Persia, and the snow-capped Hindu Kush Mountains of Central Asia, 5 kilometers high.

The three planes made the entire flight as one unit, flying in close formation under the leadership of Flight Commander F. A. Ingaunis. The others who took part in the flight were: F. S. Shirokov and Y. A. Shestel, pilots, I. I. Spirin, aero-navigator, A. I. Meuzinod, engineer, and Michael Koltsov, Pravda correspondent. The flight was described by Koltsov in the following cables to the Moscow press:

"ANGORA, September 5.

"The flight from Sebastopol to Angora over the Black Sea and the mountains of Asia Minor was accomplished under great difficulties. The airplanes, which were not equipped with pontoons, encountered a thick belt of squalls, and passed through six severe thunder storms and much rain and hail. The planes were flying entirely blind and were in danger of colliding. The aviators displayed the greatest coolness and endurance under these conditions and by great effort finally reached the Turkish shore safely at the appointed spot. The air fleet landed at Angora at noon and was met by the diplomatic corps, the Soviet representative, Suritz, and representatives of the Turkish Government. Some distinguished German aviators visiting Angora congratulated the Soviet fliers on their difficult achievement."

"TIFLIS, September 8.

"The six-hour flight from Angora to Tiflis was made under very favorable conditions. We

flew in the tail of the same hurricane which lashed us so cruelly with wind and hail on the flight from Sebastopol. Today again we flew over the sea, but this time it was peaceful, blue—pretending that it had never attempted to devour us in that hysterical attack of three days ago. Only the sun flashed back from the snowy peaks, beat in our eyes, blinding the pilots and making it difficult to guide the machines. We flew most of the time at an altitude of three kilometers. Dog cold—below zero. When we suddenly landed in the sizzling heat of Tiflis our heads were like lead. This will not prevent our leaving at dawn for Teheran.

"The sea stage of the flight is over. Next come mountains and desert waste. This will be a difficult test, but the flyers prefer almost anything to that scurvy pitching about over the water. But it's difficult to argue over matters of taste. We'll fly—and we'll see."

"TEHERAN, September 9.

"Today we arrived safely in Teheran, having covered 1,080 kilometers of a difficult mountain route."

"TEHERAN, September 10.

"Two days in Teheran. An unending cinema reel flashes by of diplomats, mule drivers, members of the English colony, women muffled in 'paranjas,' officers, dervishes, lyrical poets and camels. The Persians are very kind and hospitable. The entire crew is greatly concerned over tomorrow's flight, which is the longest lap of the trip—about 1,500 kilometers—and the most difficult. The plane in which I flew from Tiflis to Teheran had serious engine trouble. We fell behind the others and very nearly crashed in the mountains. But, thanks to the grit of the pilot, Shestel, we were able to reach Teheran only a little behind schedule.

"The route of our flight from Teheran to Termez lies almost entirely over unpopulated desert land ridged by shifting sands. The greater part of the flight is over the sandy desert of Karakum. This flight is made difficult by unbearable weather conditions, the dry inland heat, and chiefly the extreme difficulty of taking off in case of a forced landing on the sand. In the event of such landing it would take from five to seven days to reach the nearest center of population on foot. The crew is equipped with col-

ored glasses for protection against the blinding sun, an 'untouchable' reserve supply of provisions, and weapons for protection against wild beasts. We will drink the water from the radiators. However, we hope to do without all these 'conveniences' and to arrive safely in Termez."

"KABUL, September 14.

"Today our air squadron completed the Easternmost lap of the flight, and the stretch of the most unique character—from Termez to Kabul. Taking off at dawn, the aeroplane began to climb immediately, forcing the hands of the altimeter to the limits of the scale. Passing over a series of ever higher peaks and ranges, our planes finally reached the main range of the Hindu Kush Mountains. The summit of Salang pass was filled with dangerous milky smoke, which forced us to fly above the pass. We reached an altitude of five and a half kilometers. The mercury fell to twelve degrees below zero. The sharp decrease in pressure and the rarified air made breathing very difficult.

"In spite of the difficulties of orienting themselves in the tortuous labyrinth of snowy peaks, the pilots were able to cross the Hindu Kush range and reach Kabul in the minimum time of two hours.

"The flight to Kabul was a splendid ending to the painfully difficult route we have flown from Moscow. Now it behooves us to make an equally successful return flight."

"TASHKENT, September 16.

"The return flight from Arghanistan over the Hindu Kush mountains was made under the same conditions as the first trip. And on the next lap a number of most unpleasant and dangerous surprises awaited us, almost spoiling the successful course of our flight. The Hissar ridge far exceeded in hazards all that the flyers had been led to expect of this mountainous region. The separate islands of peaks piled up in a helter skelter, chaotic way—the absence of valleys—made our flight excessively difficult. We were forced to climb to a height of over five kilometers at a temperature of fourteen degrees below zero. The planes were covered with ice. But in addition to the physical discomforts, the flight was endangered by still more serious obstacles. The highest peaks of the range were enveloped in such thick clouds that even at the maximum height the planes were in momentary danger of crashing into the rocks. Following the leading plane over the pass through the milky fog, the aviators were put through the stiffest kind of a test in the art of piloting. Any kind of landing in the event of accident or collision was completely out of the question. In that event both people and planes would have been dashed to pieces.

"In considering this unexpectedly difficult stage of the flight in Tashkent, the crew, wearied by the endless mountains, began to change its

opinion about the Black Sea part of the trip. In discussing the advantages of a sea flight as against the Hindu Kush and Hissar ranges they came to the unanimous conclusion that the latter were far worse. To-morrow the long stretch—Tashkent to Orenburg. We shall try to cover this without stopping at Kazalinsk."

"ORENBURG, September 17.

"We took off at dawn from Tashkent and landed at half past six at Orenburg, after a day in the air. Flying against violent winds we covered 1,600 kilometers.

"The crew is exhausted and is suffering severely from colds. But now there remains only to-morrow's 1,200-kilometer flight to Moscow."

## The Graf Zeppelin Visits Moscow

THE Graf Zeppelin arrived in Moscow on September 10 on its first flight between Moscow and Friedrichshafen, and after flying over the city landed at the Moscow Aerodrome where it was welcomed by a crowd of over 60,000. Dr. Hugo Eckener and his flight companions were received by a group of diplomatic and aviation officials.

Mr. P. I. Baranov, chief of the Soviet air forces, made the following speech of welcome:

"I am happy to welcome you on the territory of the U. S. S. R. on behalf of the Soviet Government. The Soviet public and scientific circles are profoundly interested in the success of air travel, as powerful means of communication between the peoples of the world, and the flight of your dirigible, representing one of the highest achievements of German science, is of especial interest to us.

"Permit me, Dr. Eckener, to emphasize especially your services as the builder and commander of this dirigible. I should like to say further that we particularly welcome the visit of the dirigible as evidence of the friendly relations between the U. S. S. R. and Germany. I am firmly convinced that the visit of the German air ship under your command to the capital of the Soviet Union will serve as a new guarantee of the development and strengthening not only of the friendly relations between the two countries, but of the close contact between Soviet and German aviation."

After other speeches by Soviet and German officials, Dr. Eckener responded as follows:

"In the name of the officers and passengers of the dirigible I thank the Moscow Soviet, the General Secretary of Osoaviakhim and Mr. Baranov for the hearty welcome which has been accorded us. It is a particular pleasure to me to show the people of the Soviet Union the

achievements of German aviation, since the intense interest with which they follow the latest attainments of science is very well known to everyone."

In conclusion Dr. Eckener expressed his regret that weather conditions had prevented his visiting Moscow last year, and said he hoped to repeat the visit in the near future.

As a result of the visit of the Graf Zeppelin great interest has been stimulated throughout the Soviet Union in lighter-than-air craft. A campaign has been started to raise funds to build Soviet dirigibles of the Zeppelin type. Pravda, the Red Army Gazette, and other newspapers, are collecting subscriptions for the first three dirigibles, after which all contributions are

to go into a general fund under Osoaviakhim to aid dirigible construction. A special commission for preparatory and experimental work has been formed.

The Aero-Arctic Commission in Leningrad announced on October 2 that the Graf Zeppelin would make a flight during 1931 from Wardze, Norway, to Fairbanks, Alaska, across Greenland and Grant Land, returning along the Siberian Coast to Wrangel Island, Fridtjof Nansen Land (formerly Franz Josef Land) and Wardze. A number of Soviet scientists are to take part in the flight for the purpose of gathering geographical and meteorological information which will be of value in the development of Northern Siberia.

## Soviet Prisons

THE entire Soviet prison system is being reorganized along lines in conformance with the most advanced ideas of prison practice. The object of Soviet places of confinement is to reform the criminal through work and education and fit him to take his place in a society of workers. The idea is not to punish but to cor-

rect, and the very term "punishment" has been dropped from Soviet jurisprudence. The prisons received from the old regime were totally unfit for the new system. There was no provision in them for shops and schools, and the Soviet Government, while forced to use the old prisons temporarily, has gradually been replacing them



A CLASS IN MATHEMATICS AT THE LEFORTOVO PRISON IN MOSCOW

by modern institutions provided with class rooms, auditoriums, workshops, laboratories, and land for agricultural purposes.

Several fundamental steps have been taken to assist in making the prison system serve primarily for the social rehabilitation of the individual, rather than for punishment. A recent decree by the Council of People's Commissars calls for the replacement of closed prisons, as the basic form of confinement for wrongdoers, by settlements in which the wrongdoers may regain a normal life and be restored to productive work. Under this change places of confinement watched by special armed guards are disappearing.

Prisoners with a special trade are permitted to work at their own trade for wages while serving their sentences. Those without a trade are given technical training. When they leave prison every effort is made to help them find the kind of work they are fitted to do. Already many cases are on record of criminals with several previous convictions to their record being converted into skilled and reliable industrial workers and completely breaking with their former way of life.

In addition to training for special trades the prisoners also receive systematic general education. Every place of confinement has its classes, club, cinema, theater, radio, and so on. The educational work is conducted largely by those of the prisoners who have received the necessary educational preparation. Each settlement publishes its wall newspaper describing vividly the life and work of the place. The prisoners elect their own editors.

The Soviet prison regime is based upon a strictly individualized treatment of each prisoner. The prisoner's social and economic background, education, age, health, and fitness for this or that form of labor are carefully studied. Only after a thorough examination carried out by a doctor, psychiatrist, and criminologist is the prisoner given a work assignment. Soviet criminology and penitentiary practice is based, not on the acceptance of the "criminal type" of the old school of criminology, but on the consideration in each case of the various factors leading to the offense.

Special laboratories and offices for the study of the prisoner's background and personality have been established in the larger cities of the Soviet Union, while in Moscow there is a Central State Criminology Institute. This institute embraces all the foremost scientists in the Soviet Union making a study of crime. Professors Gernet, Liublinsky, Gannushkin and Kanabich, well known for their work in this field, take an active part in the work of the institute.

Although indeterminate sentences have not yet been introduced in the U. S. S. R., the court sentence is not fixed and final, and there are various

provisions for the reduction of sentences. Chief of these is the custom of counting every two days of work as three days of imprisonment, which automatically reduces the term by almost one-third. Paroles and pardons are used extensively, so that practically all prisoners are released before the expiration of their terms. Releases on parole are frequently granted for good behavior. The law permits the different republics to release prisoners on parole after serving one-third of their terms. Finally, the system of leaves of absence for prisoners of the middle and highest grades is applied extensively. Every prisoner passes through three grades—an initial, middle, and highest grade. The grade is fixed with a view of the danger to society of the criminal after the expiration of from one-fourth to one-half of the sentence. Prisoners of the middle grade receive seven days' leave a year, those of the highest grade are given fourteen days. All prisoners who have farms are allowed to go home for the entire summer season regardless of the grade to which they belong, the leave period being counted as part of the term of imprisonment. There is no case on record of any prisoner failing to return from his leave.

Paroles, leaves, and other privileges are granted by a supervisory commission made up of representatives of various public and labor organizations and of government officials, the two first-named groups constituting the majority of the membership.

Life sentences do not exist in the U. S. S. R. Soviet legislation provides for a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years. At the present time a new criminal code of laws is being adopted, reducing this period to five years.

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## Rabindranath Tagore on Soviet Education

**D**URING the recent visit of Rabindranath Tagore to the Soviet Union, arranged through the Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, a meeting was held in his honor at the House of Trade Unions, at which the Indian poet expressed his impressions of Soviet education in the following words:

"I am highly honored at the invitation to appear in this hall and I am grateful to Dr. Petrov for the kind words he has said about me. I am thankful to your people for giving me the opportunity of knowing this country and experiencing the great work which the people are doing in this land. My mission in life is education. I believe that all problems, human problems, find their fundamental solution in education. And outside of my own vocation as a poet I have accepted this responsibility to educate my people as much as lies in my power to do. I know that all the evils from which my land suffers are solely owing to the utter lack of education of the people.

"Our poverty, pestilence, the communal strife and industrial backwardness, in fact all that makes our life perilous, are simply owing to the meagerness of education. And this is the reason why in spite of my advanced age and my weak health I gladly accepted the invitation offered to me to see how you are working out this great problem of education. And I have seen, I have admired, and I have envied you in all the great opportunities which you have in this country. You all know that our condition in India is very similar to yours in this country. Ours is an agricultural population in India and it is in need of all the help and encouragement that you have

needed in this country. You know how precarious is a living which exclusively depends upon agriculture and so how utterly necessary it is for the cultivators of the soil to have education, up to date methods of producing crops, in order to meet the increasing demands of life.

"Our people are living on the verge of perpetual famine and do not know how to help this because they have lost their faith and confidence in their own humanity. This is the greatest



CARPENTRY CLASS IN ONE OF THE NEW POLYTECHNIC SCHOOLS

misfortune of that great people, 300,000,000 men and women burdened with profound ignorance and helplessness.

"So I came to this land to see how you tackle this problem, you who have struggled against the incubus of ignorance, superstition and apathy which were once prevalent in this land among the workingmen and peasantry. The little that I have seen has convinced me of the marvelous progress that has been made, the miracle that has been achieved. How the mental attitude of the people has been changed in such a short time is difficult for us to realize, we who live in the darkest shadow of ignorance and incompetence. It gladdens my heart to know that the people, the real people who maintain the life of society are not deprived of their own rights and that they enjoy an equal share of all the advantages of a socialist community.

"And I dream of the time when it will be

possible for that ancient land of Aryan civilization also to enjoy the great boon of education and equal opportunity for all the people. I am thankful to you all who have helped me in visualizing in a concrete form the dream which I have been carrying for a long, long time in my mind, the dream of emancipating the people's minds which have been shackled for ages. For this I thank you."

## Art Olympiad Awards

THE jury of awards appointed to judge the First Olympiad of the Arts of the Peoples of the U. S. S. R. held during the summer in Moscow has published its conclusions. Altogether



A GROUP OF SINGERS FROM UZBEKISTAN

seventeen national theaters, and ethnographic, instrumental and vocal ensembles and choruses representing fifteen nationalities of the Soviet Union took part in the Olympiad, and over a thousand persons took part in the performances. During the Olympiad thirty different plays and eight concerts were presented, and twenty-eight theatrical performances were given at factories and workers' clubs. Over a hundred thousand persons attended the concerts and 28,000 persons visited the exhibition arranged in connection with the Olympiad. After thorough consideration of the creative activities of all the theatrical and other groups, the jury awarded forty "diplomas of honor" to groups and individuals, each bearing an analysis of the special contribution of the recipient of the award to the development of the arts in the Soviet Union.

The jury was especially impressed by the Rustavelli Theater of Georgia which they felt offered a particularly distinct and noteworthy contribution to world theatrical culture. The Rustavelli Theater, in the opinion of the jury is one of the few theaters to have mastered completely the

problem of a new creative method. In a number of productions, especially in the play "Anzor" presented at the Olympiad, the mass scenes were especially noteworthy. Scenic problems were deftly and simply handled.

The jury noted the important contribution of the White Russian State Theater which has approached the problem of national art not through emphasizing the exotic details of the past, but by careful study of modern Soviet life. The repertoire of this theater was distinguished by its closeness to reality and included a number of plays dealing with Soviet factory life, the Red Army and so on. This theater was also praised for its excellent direction, good acting and clarity of language and diction.

The young Jewish Theater of White Russia has made remarkable progress during the past few years. Its greatest virtue in the opinion of the jury consists in the fact that it has taken a definite stand for repertoire having a social aspect. Through its plays "Botvin", "Girsh Lekker", "Jim Kupperkop", "The Struggle of the Machines," and others this theater has stimulated the growth of Soviet Jewish drama and enriched the repertoire of the Jewish theater generally. The productions themselves and their musical accompaniments were very fine, and the troupe includes a number of gifted actors and directors.

The Uzbek Dramatic Theater, which was established under the Soviet Government, was adjudged by the jury to have made great progress in overcoming the social conservatism of the Uzbek people and in adapting national forms to subjects of contemporary Soviet interest. The two plays, "Khudjum" and "The Cotton Destroyers" produced at the Olympiad illustrated this tendency. This theater, in the opinion of the jury represented a very gratifying sign of the awakening of Uzbek national culture.

The jury placed the Tartar Theater among the foremost of the national theaters of the U. S. S. R. because of its fine group of actors including those who had suffered persecution in their attempts to develop a Tartar theater under the Tsarist regime, and also some very promising young actors and actresses from the students of the Tartar theatrical technicum. They also found that a distinctive group of national dramatists had been developed and that this theater had given the impetus to the founding of a national Tartar opera.

The jury made special mention of the work of the Marisky theater which they considered of exceptional interest. The very fact of the establishing of this theater in one of the most backward sections of the whole Soviet Union bespeaks the success of the development of national culture. The Marisky theater was the youngest of all the theaters represented at the Olympiad, but its work showed great possibilities and ability to keep pace with modern requirements.

## Soviet Kazakhstan



A KAZAK CAMEL RIDER GREETS THE TURKSIB

On October 4th Kazakhstan celebrated the tenth anniversary of its establishment as a Soviet Republic. This vast region covering almost three million square kilometers and inhabited largely by nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes, has already undergone astonishing transformations during the past two years with the advent of the Turksib railroad and the developments that have already taken place in industry and agriculture under the Five-Year Plan and it is faced with even greater changes in the next three years.

Kazakhstan offers barely tapped opportunities for the application of human labor and technique. Of 50,000,000 hectares of arable land only 9 per cent are actually in use, and much of that is still worked by the most primitive methods. Over 3,000,000 hectares of land are in the cotton belt, and there is a wide area where kenafa, kendir and the rubber bearing hondrilla plant grow. Kazakhstan is ridged by numerous mountain ranges containing colossal mineral reserves. A recent survey indicated prospects for extensive mining developments in the future, and several rich veins are already being worked there.

The known reserves of coal in Kazakhstan number tens of millions of tons. Iron deposits are estimated at 30 billion tons, copper at 1,114,000,000 tons, zinc at 722,000 tons, lead at 482,000 tons and so on. Kazakhstan is thus the base for Soviet non-ferrous metal production.

Kazakhstan already produces 33 per cent of the raw wool for Soviet industry, 20 per cent of the small hides, 17 per cent of the wheat and 10 per cent of the meat and fats. On the basis of the reconstruction of agriculture which is now under way with its plan for transforming 384,000 nomad families to a settled form of livelihood and the colonization of 65,000 families from other

parts of the Soviet Union on unused land, the role of Kazakhstan as a base for raw materials and food supplies will be greatly expanded. The Five-Year Plan for the region proposes that by 1933 80 per cent of the farms shall be collectivized, that 300 different types of State farms shall be established, covering a territory of 43,000,000 hectares of cultivated and pasture land, with a seeded area of 14,000,000 hectares and a commercial grain production of 6,600,000 metric tons.

Twenty large State farms have been organized, and nine more will be added in 1931, bringing the area up to six million hectares. Twenty-four State farms growing cotton, rice, rubber bearing plants and other technical crops are already in operation, and this number will be more than doubled in the next three years. Thirty-eight large cattle farms with 360,000 head of cattle have been established, and during the coming year it is proposed to raise this number to 223, with about three and a half million head of cattle.

In order to accomplish this program, extensive plans for reclamation and irrigation are under way. Primitive tools and methods are being re-



THE FIRST TRAIN COMES THROUGH ON THE TURKSIB

placed by modern machinery and technique, which necessitates the inauguration of an extensive system of training schools.

The industrial program calls for capital investments of over a billion and a quarter rubles in the five-year period. Anthracite production, according to the plan, is to reach 1,600,000 tons; copper, 30,000 tons; zinc, 25,000 tons; lead, 18,000 tons; superphosphates, 125,000 tons, and so on. One-fourth of the railway construction provided in the transport plan for the whole Soviet Union falls to the share of Kazakhstan. The Turksib will be extended, new branches will be built, and other land and water ways constructed.

## Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union

**I**N connection with the continued anti-Soviet activities of the White guards in Manchuria the consul general of the U. S. S. R. in Mudken, Mr. Znamensky, delivered the following note to Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang on behalf of the Soviet Government on October 7:

"In connection with the continued activities of White guard bands in Northern Manchuria, particularly in the region of the Chinese-Eastern Railway, where they have recently been intensified, the Union Government deems it necessary to call the attention of the Government of the Three Eastern Provinces, to the following facts:

"Article 6 of the Peking and Article 5 of the Mukden agreement of 1924 bind the Chinese Government, on the basis of reciprocity, 'not to permit within the limits of its territory . . . the existence or activities of any organizations or groups having as their aim to oppose by violent means the government of either of the contracting parties.' Furthermore, in accordance with the exchange of notes appended to the Peking agreement of May 31, 1924, the Chinese Government was bound 'to dismiss those former citizens of the Russian Empire, now serving in the Chinese army and police force, who personally and by their activities threaten the security of the U. S. S. R., which obligation is confirmed by a second declaration, attached to the Mukden agreement of September 20, 1924, and providing for 'necessary measures to put an end to the activities or dismissal' in the case of former citizens of Russia employed in different forms of government service by the Government of the Autonomous Three Eastern Provinces of the Chinese Republic, in so far as by their presence or their activities they constitute a threat to the interests of the U. S. S. R. Finally, in point 4 of the Khabarovsk Protocol of December 22, 1929, the Chinese authorities take upon themselves the obligation 'to disarm immediately the Russian White guard bands and to expel their inspirers and organizers from the territory of the Three Eastern Provinces.'

"The Union Government regrets that it is compelled to state that not one of the obligations taken upon themselves by the Chinese authorities, has been fulfilled, in spite of constant reminders and demands from the Union Government. The Union Government has in its possession indisputable facts giving evidence of the entirely unimpeded and unpunished work of the White émigrés in Manchuria as well as of the fact that this work has recently been particularly intense. The recent arrival in Harbin of General Dieterichs, appointed by the White guard center in Paris as chief of the Far Eastern division of the so-called Russian General

Military Alliance, and director of anti-Soviet operations in the Far East, was used by the Harbin White guards as the occasion for an anti-Soviet demonstration and agitation for an attack against the U. S. S. R. In the border districts of Manchuria armed White guard bands, well supplied with money and munitions, have been in process of formation for several months. Some of these bands (those of Zykov, Peshkov, Sarayev, Gordeyev, Alla Verdi, and others) have been operating openly in the region of the Western section of the Chinese-Eastern railway, terrorizing the agents and institutions of the road, disrupting normal traffic on the latter and robbing and murdering peaceful citizens, Chinese as well as Soviet.

"The White guard bands are receiving active support and aid from Russian Whites employed in the Chinese police force and in Chinese government institutions who are at the same time active members of White guard organizations. These Russian White guards in Chinese service are carrying on concurrently independent subversive activities, persecuting Soviet citizens and provoking friction and conflicts between the Soviet Union and China. A characteristic example of this sort of work was the recent attempt of White guards employed in the Harbin detective division to print and put into circulation forged handbills, supposed to be the work of communists, provocatively calling for a general strike on the Chinese-Eastern railway.

"The Union Government states that these provocative activities which are increasing because they have gone entirely unpunished, and the open armed attacks of White guard bands, knowingly acting as direct agents of outside forces hostile both to the U. S. S. R. and to China, are directed against the interests of both peoples and represent a serious menace to the preservation of peace and order in the Far East and to friendly relations between the U. S. S. R. and China. The Union Government cannot refrain from making a decisive protest against the failure to punish the above-mentioned activities of the White guards and assumes that the Mukden Government understands the absolute necessity of fulfilling all its treaty obligations. The Union Government expects the Chinese authorities to take immediately the most decisive and effective measures to terminate the above-mentioned activities of White guard organizations and bands. In particular the Union Government insists on the immediate disarmament and dispersal of the existing White guard bands and the expulsion of their members beyond the boundaries of the Three Eastern Provinces; on closing down the functioning in Manchuria of the

anti-Soviet White guard organizations, the confiscation of their property and the arrest and deportation of their leaders and active members; on the dismissal of Russian Whites who are in the employ of the Chinese and are at the same time taking an active part in White guard organizations, and on the absolute termination of the anti-Soviet campaign in the White press published in Manchuria.

"The Union Government is actuated by a sincere desire to continue to pursue the course, as laid down in the Khabarovsk agreement, of improving and strengthening normal relations with the Mukden Government, and hopes that the Mukden Government on its part will take all measures to eliminate the obstacles which the above-mentioned outside forces are placing in that course."

## Chinese-Eastern Railway Conference

THE Soviet-Chinese conference for the final settlement of the Chinese-Eastern Railway controversy, on the basis of the Khabarovsk Protocol of December 22, 1929, opened in Moscow on October 11th, with speeches by Mr. Karakhan, assistant Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union, on behalf of the Soviet delegation, and by Mo Teh Hui, chairman of the administration of the Chinese-Eastern Railway, on behalf of the Chinese delegation. The Chinese delegation has been in Moscow since May 9th, and the Soviet representatives have made repeated attempts to have the conference convene.

The speech of Mr. Karakhan follows:

"Today the Soviet-Chinese Conference provided for in the protocol signed on December 22, 1929, by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Chinese Republic in Khabarovsk, enters upon its activities. This conference, in accordance with the terms of the Khabarovsk protocol, should have commenced work on January 25th of this year but unfortunately, due to circumstances for which the Union Government was not responsible, we are obliged to commence our work nine months late. I should like to express the desire that the circumstance interfering with the opening of the conference on time, should not influence its future course, and should not delay its work which is of such tremendous importance for the people of both countries.

"Our problem at the conference which opens to-day is to a certain degree simplified by the fact that the Khabarovsk Protocol on the basis of which the conference was called, set forth those questions which we are to consider and settle, and that the principles by which we must be

guided in the present negotiations are laid down in the Peking and Mukden agreements of 1924. The policy of the U. S. S. R. with regard to China was fully and clearly expressed in these treaties which represented the actual carrying into effect of the policy which the Soviet Government had established in its communications to the Chinese people as far back as 1919 and 1920.

"This policy, which the Soviet Government has pursued and continues to pursue in its relations with China, was and is a policy of repudiation of all the privileges which the Tsarist Government unjustifiably and violently wrested from the Chinese people, a policy of the establishment of friendly relations on the basis of the complete equality and mutuality of interests of the peoples of the U. S. S. R. and China, a policy of sympathy for the Chinese people in its struggle against the unequal treaties, for its complete independence, and for the wiping out of each and every obstacle placed in the way of its free development.

"The treaties concluded in 1924 between the U. S. S. R. and China opened a new page in the history of the relations of China with the outside world and were the first treaties concluded by China on the basis of actual and complete equality and reciprocity. These treaties were greeted with warm sympathy by all sections of the Chinese people, and strengthened its position in the fight against unequal treaties and for the conclusion of equal treaties for which the treaty between China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was the model. To our regret, China, in spite of the efforts it has made, has not been able up to the present time to model its relations with other countries on the treaties of China with the U. S. S. R. I can here only express my best wishes for the success of the efforts of China in this direction.

"The Union Government, which has steadfastly insisted on the fulfillment of the Peking and Mukden treaties, has observed the spirit and letter of these agreements with the utmost strictness and consistency.

"The sharp conflict between the U. S. S. R. and the Chinese authorities in 1929, which was prolonged for over a half a year, led to the breaking of all relations between the two countries and to the invasion of Soviet territory by armed bands and detachments, which had to be met with corresponding measures. This serious conflict between the two countries was terminated on December 22, 1929, by the Khabarovsk Protocol, establishing peaceful relations on the frontier, bringing back into effect the existing treaties between China and the U. S. S. R. and restoring the normal pre-conflict status on the Chinese Eastern railway. Therefore, along with the treaties of 1924, the Union Government considers the Khabarovsk Protocol a most important act, regulating the existing relations between the

U. S. S. R. and China, and serving as the basis for the conference which we are opening to-day.

"We hope that the Chinese delegation with which we enter upon our work to-day recognizes as we do the Peking and Mukden agreements of 1924 and the Khabarovsk Protocol of 1929, defining the existing relations between our countries, as international acts which have laid down a broad basis for the final settlement of all questions of Soviet-Chinese relations in a spirit of friendship and complete equality, and by which we shall be guided in our work at the conference.

"The strict fulfillment of the obligations undertaken by both sides in the three acts mentioned above will aid the further strengthening of amicable relations between both countries and the successful course of the work of our conference. I hope to hear that the delegate of the Chinese Republic is in agreement with me on this point.

"In welcoming the delegate of the Chinese Government, Mo Teh Hui, and the Chinese delegation, I wish success to the work of this conference, which has as its aim the solution of all questions of dispute between the U. S. S. R. and China, the strengthening of relations between the two great countries and the guarantee of secure and lasting peace in the Far East.

"Permit me to declare the first meeting of the Soviet-Chinese Conference opened."

In response to Mr. Karakhan, Mr. Mo Teh Hui spoke as follows on behalf of the Chinese delegation:

"The repeated declarations to China which were made by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics beginning with the years 1919 and 1920, and on the other hand, the unwavering faith of the Chinese Government and the Chinese people that both great peoples, China and the U. S. S. R., were bound together by an exceptionally deep desire for peace and friendship, led to the conclusion between our two countries of the treaty of 1924 establishing a firm foundation for our mutual relations. China has not for one moment digressed from the observance of the legal agreements concluded between China and the U. S. S. R. and of the spirit of equality and mutual cooperation expressed in them, and has never ceased to be entirely sincere in so doing, in the interests of both peoples.

"However, contrary to expectations, and to our great regret, misunderstandings between the two countries have arisen during the past years. Nevertheless, the Government and the people of China, imbued as always with the desire for amicable agreement between our peoples, are steadfastly striving for friendship, and there is no cessation whatever of our efforts in this direction. Furthermore there can be no doubt that every treaty legally concluded between China and the U. S. S. R. will meet with the strictest observance on the part of China, as a

binding international obligation.

"To-day the Soviet-Chinese Conference opens. It behooves us who are gathered here to settle the questions which we have agreed to consider here with the same sincerity that was displayed during the preceding negotiations. I express the deepest conviction that the work of the present conference will proceed entirely successfully, will achieve the most favorable results and increase the well-being of both our countries."

After these speeches the delegates exchanged mandates. A discussion followed of the question brought forward by the Soviet delegation regarding the necessity for clear and unequivocal recognition by the Chinese delegation of the Khabarovsk Protocol. Further consideration of this question was postponed until the next meeting.

## Soviet-Turkish Relations

ON September 24th, Tewfik Rushdi Bey, Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, arrived in Moscow for a friendly visit, and was met at the station by a group of government officials. In a speech of welcome at the dinner tendered to Tewfik Bey by diplomatic officials, Mr. Litvinov, Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs, spoke in part as follows:

"I am happy to welcome you, Tewfik Rushdi Bey, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of our friendly neighbor, Turkey. Your name has been closely associated with the development of Soviet-Turkish friendship during the past ten years—a friendship which has gone beyond the limits of immediate Soviet-Turkish relations and which constitutes at the present moment an important factor in world politics.

"The Paris treaty of 1925 on friendship and neutrality signed by you, Mr. Minister, will go down into history as a new method of bringing together friendly governments and of consolidating peace. The Angora protocol signed last December, also bearing your signature, serves as a new proof of the mutual confidence of the U. S. S. R. and the Turkish Republic and a new manifestation of the peaceful intentions of our countries.

"Your visit to the U. S. S. R., Mr. Minister, will give you an opportunity of acquainting yourself with the tremendous construction program which the people of the Soviet Union are straining to achieve and which in itself is evidence of their unswerving desire to maintain peace. Turkey is equally in need of peace in order to carry out its internal construction work. The peoples of the U. S. S. R. are following the successes of Turkey on the economic and cultural front with the greatest enthusiasm, because the growth of its powers is a necessary factor for universal peace.

"I again express my joy on the occasion of this meeting with you in Moscow, convinced that this direct contact between the directors of the foreign policy of our friendly nations will aid the successful accomplishment of our task—the further strengthening of Soviet-Turkish friendship, a powerful factor in the struggle for peace."

In responding Tewfik Bey said as follows:

"Permit me first of all to express the great joy which I feel in returning to this country and finding myself among those who are my friends and the friends of Turkey. From the moment of my arrival in Odessa I have been surrounded by an atmosphere of sincerity and real friendship."

"The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Turkey are striving for the development and prosperity of their countries under those conditions of peace which form the basis of their policies."

"As you correctly emphasized, the deep significance of the relations binding the Soviet Union and Turkey, undoubtedly lies in the guarantee of peace and general tranquillity which these relations represent."

"I wish to say further that we are following with the greatest sympathy and attention the efforts which you of this great country and friendly neighbor of ours are making to raise the moral and material level of the peoples of the Union. I am happy to transmit to these peoples, through you, the hearty greetings of the Turkish nation."

In the conversations which took place during the visit of the Turkish foreign minister between officials of the Soviet Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, Tewfik Bey and the Turkish ambassador to Moscow, representatives of both sides found that the interests of Turkey and of the U. S. S. R. with relation to essential matters of international policy, entirely coincided. It was the unanimous opinion at the conference that there was not a single question which might cloud the complete accord between the two countries and that on the contrary their relations would take on an even closer and more friendly character in the future.

## Soviet Note To Finland

On September 28th the following note was sent to Mr. Artti, the Finnish envoy in Moscow, by Mr. Litvinov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs:

"In reply to the note of the Finnish Government of the 16th of this month, transmitted through the diplomatic mission of the U. S. S. R. in Finland I have the honor to request you, Mr. Minister, to bring the following to the attention of your government:

"The Union Government cannot ignore the fact of the systematic violation of the frontier by the violent transfer of Finnish citizens to the territory of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, irrespective of the reasons for

the transfer, and has found it necessary to protest against this to the Government of Finland. In making this protest the Union Government hoped that the Government of Finland would express absolute dissatisfaction with the situation created on the border, a situation endangering the friendly relations between the two countries, and would take effective measures both for the punishment of those responsible for the expulsions and for the prevention of similar expulsions in the future."

"Unfortunately the Union Government is compelled to declare that the answer of the Finnish Government is entirely unsatisfactory and that it carries no assurance of a sincere desire on the part of the Finnish Government to guarantee a normal situation on the border. This is fully confirmed by the fact that even after the receipt by the Finnish Government of the July 16th note of the Soviet Diplomatic Representative, further violations of the border took place."

"Thus for instance, on August 6th of this year the following persons were violently expelled from Finland: Vartiainen, Kyytinen, Mod, Tossavainen and Khonganen. Among these are a municipal chairman and his assistant. The fact of this expulsion, as well as other facts enumerated in the Soviet note of July 16th, is established beyond dispute and can under no circumstances be denied."

"In the Finnish note of the 16th of this month, after an attempt at complete denial of the actual facts of the expulsions, an attempt is made to justify the violation of the border on the ground of 'a widespread popular-patriotic movement in Finland.' This justification is in itself a confirmation on the part of the Finnish Government of the very facts which they attempted to deny in the same note. As a matter of fact the Finnish Government would have no need to refer to the 'patriotic movement' if it had not actually permitted the acts which gave rise to the Soviet protest. By its reference to a patriotic movement the Finnish Government evidently wished to say that the aforesaid movement was accompanied by illegal acts and violence toward Finnish citizens with which the Government was not in a position to cope, and that among such acts was included the illegal transfer of citizens across the border of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The Soviet Government is quite aware from the Finnish and foreign press of instances of Finnish citizens, including municipal officials and members of the highest legislative body of Finland—the Diet—being arrested, compelled to give up social and elective posts, abducted and beaten by private organizations and persons participating in this movement to which, obviously, the Finnish note refers when it speaks of the 'popular-patriotic movement.' As long as the actions of these persons are carried on within the borders of Finland they are the internal business of Finland itself, but when these private organizations and persons consider it possible to deport illegally to Soviet territory compatriots whose presence is inconvenient to them and political opponents, and to do this without the consent of the Soviet authorities, then the Union Government cannot accept by way of justification any reference to 'patriotic' or other motives. It is moreover inconceivable to us that the Finnish Government itself should consider the violation of the border and the endangering of normal neighborly relations with the Soviet Union as a patriotic act."

"As an additional justification of the expulsion of Finnish citizens across the frontier, the geographical conditions making it difficult to prevent the crossing of the border are cited in the note of September 16th. This point might be taken into consideration to a certain extent in individual instances as for example in the case of criminal elements from Soviet prisons and places of detention who had reasons to count on Finnish sympathy and on the slackening of the vigilance of the Finnish border guards in their favor. The Soviet Government has more than once had to call attention to such slackening of vigilance in cases of separate groups of counter-revolutionary White guard terrorists and members of espionage organizations crossing to Soviet territory from the Fin-

nish side. But this slackening of attention takes on a very special significance when it is a matter, as in the present instance, of systematic mass expulsions of Finnish citizens across the border, openly accomplished, published in the press, and—worst of all—with the active cooperation of local official persons. In the Soviet note of July 16th concrete instances of active assistance of persons in authority were enumerated, and even the names were given. The additional information may now be given that a certain policeman, Tolonen, took an active part in the above-mentioned case of the deportation to the U. S. S. R. of Mr. Kayani, a municipal official, and in the beating of Vartanen and Tossavainen. If the Finnish Government wishes, written depositions of Finnish citizens who have been subjected to expulsion and torture, established by medical examination, can be furnished. Both military guards and local officials took part in these actions. It is necessary to point out instances of beating and torture because these facts are entirely contrary to the assumption expressed in the Finnish note that these persons crossed the border voluntarily.

"When it is proposed to persons brought to the border who have already been beaten and tortured that they cross the border under pain of further torture and even of losing their lives, they can hardly be said to have 'voluntarily' crossed the border. These cases may be characterized as violent expulsions quite as correctly as those cases in which Finnish citizens are physically taken across the border by members of military and other organizations.

"With regard to the statement expressed in the note that the Finnish Government is ready to receive back the Finnish citizens deported into the U. S. S. R., the Union Government on its side will place no obstacles in the way of any of these persons who wish to return to their native land and again give themselves into the hands of those very organizations and persons of whom they have been the victims. But even in this event the Soviet Government will have no guarantee that these same persons will not again be illegally dispatched across the border, unless the Finnish Government condemns these expulsions and takes effective measures to prevent their recurrence in the future. The Finnish note alleges that the Finnish citizens participated in criminal activities, from which it follows that the Finnish Government must be well acquainted with these citizens. It is rather surprising that these citizens, alleged to have broken the laws of Finland, not only were not detained by the legal authorities in accordance with these laws, but were given, with the connivance of the representatives of the Finnish authorities, the opportunity of escaping Finnish justice, and that not only were those guilty of this connivance not held responsible, but were officially described in the note as participants in a patriotic movement.

"The protest of the Soviet Government refers to numerous entirely definite and fully established cases of the violent expulsion across the Finnish border of Finnish citizens by persons and organizations enjoying the protection of the Finnish Government, with the cooperation of Finnish officials. It is difficult to understand therefore, to what extent the responsibility of the Finnish Government is diminished by the fact referred to in the Finnish note of five cases of crossing the border over a period of two years by private persons for whose action the Union authorities can take no responsibility. The Union Government, by the way, knows nothing of these cases, and has previously received no information regarding them from the Finnish Government. Therefore this question has no relation to the protest of the Union Government.

"The Union Government finds the answer of the Finnish Government to its note of July 16th entirely unsatisfactory, and is compelled to insist on the immediate cessation of violent expulsions across the border. The Union Government awaits information regarding the measures taken by the Finnish Government to prevent similar incidents in the future and regarding the punishment of the persons guilty of the violation of the frontier.

"If the Finnish Government abides by the position set forth in its note of September 16th, then the Union Government will be forced to draw the conclusion that the Finnish Government is not interested in maintaining friendly relations with the Soviet Union.

"Accept, Mr. Minister, assurances of my complete respect.

LITVINOV."

### Anglo-Soviet Negotiations

On September 30 the members of the Soviet delegation to the Anglo-Soviet commission on debts and counter-claims arrived in London. On October 2 the first organization meeting of the commission took place and representatives of both sides exchanged mandates.

### Soviet-Mongolian Conventions and Treaties

During May and June representatives of the U. S. S. R. and of the Mongolian Republic met in Ulan-Bator and signed a number of conventions and treaties regulating certain economic problems of interest to both countries. Among the conventions signed was one on sanitation, one providing for joint efforts to stamp out animal diseases and one simplifying the formalities connected with the crossing of the frontier by Soviet and Mongolian citizens. The Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R. has ratified all of the conventions and treaties concluded at the conference.

### Changes in Soviet Foreign Service

Mr. Leon M. Khinchuk has been appointed diplomatic representative of the U. S. S. R. in Germany in place of Mr. Nikolay Krestinsky, who has been relieved of the post.

Mr. Khinchuk was born in 1868, and after completing his education in Russia studied philosophy in Berne. He took part in early revolutionary movements in Russia, was formerly a member of the Central Committee of the Menshevik Party, and joined the Communist Party in 1919.

In 1926 Mr. Khinchuk was elected a member of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R., and was president of Centrosoyus for several years. He was appointed Trade Representative of the U. S. S. R. in Great Britain in 1926 and was a member of the Soviet delegation to the international economic conference in May, 1927. Since 1927 Mr. Khinchuk has been Assistant People's Commissar for Trade.

Mr. A. P. Rozenholtz has been appointed Assistant Commissar for Foreign and Internal Trade of the U. S. S. R., in place of Mr. Khinchuk. Mr. Rozenholtz was formerly Assistant Commissar of Workers' and Peasants' Inspection.

# Calendar of Events, 1929-1930

## 1929

### January \*

- 25—Ratification of Treaty of Friendship and Commerce between the Soviet Union and Yemen.
- 25—Convention signed in Moscow providing for a Soviet-German adjustment commission to meet annually for the consideration of all questions arising between the two countries.

### February

- 9—Protocol providing for the immediate carrying into effect of the Kellogg anti-War Pact signed in Moscow between the U. S. S. R., Poland, Latvia, Esthonia and Rumania.
- 27—Turkey joins Moscow Protocol on Kellogg Pact.
- 27—Soviet Oil Syndicate concludes agreement with Anglo-American Company providing for normal sale of Soviet oil products in England.

### March

- 1—Berlin police arrest Vladimir Orloff, Alexander Guman-ski and other "White" émigrés for fabricating documents purporting to incriminate Senator Borah and other Senators and the Soviet Government. A police raid on the forgery factory conducted by these men revealed dummies of the famous "Zinoviev letter" forgery. The forgers were later convicted by the Berlin court.
- 10—New Soviet-Persian convention signed at Teheran confirming complete customs autonomy of Persia.
- 20—New contract with Freyn Engineering Company for construction of Soviet metallurgical plants announced.
- 31—Arrival of British industrial delegation representing over 100 firms to study economic possibilities of Soviet Union.

### April

- 1—Elections to Soviets throughout the U. S. S. R. end.
- 3—Soviet-Finnish customs and navigation convention signed.
- 3—Persia adheres to Moscow Protocol on Kellogg Pact.
- 5—Lithuania ratifies Moscow Protocol.
- 17—Litvinov, Chairman of the Soviet Delegation to the sixth session of the Preparatory Disarmament Commission, speaks at Geneva urging that the commission undertake a real solution of the problem of disarmament and offering the Soviet draft convention on proportional progressive reduction of all armaments.
- 18—Following failure to vote on Soviet disarmament project, Litvinov presents new resolution on reduction of disarmaments which is subsequently shelved. Soviet resolution on chemical warfare offered by Litvinov.
- 20—Danzig adheres to Kellogg Pact and Moscow Protocol.
- 23—The maximum program for the Five-Year Plan of Economic development for the period from 1928-29, to 1932-33 is ratified by the Council of People's Commissars.
- 23-29—XVI Conference of the Communist Party of the U. S. S. R. meets in Moscow. Resolutions passed to push industrialization and collectivization programs.

### May

- 17—Trade treaty between Esthonia and the Soviet Union signed at Reval.
- 17—Announcement of technical assistance contract concluded with Albert Kahn, Inc., for designing of \$30,000,000 tractor plant at Stalingrad.
- 20—Opening of the Fifth All-Union Congress of Soviets. Six chairmen of presidium headed by Michael Kalinin,

and all members of Council of People's Commissars, with Alexey Rykov as Chairman, reelected.

- 27—Announcement that ten-year technical assistance contract between International General Electric Company and Soviet State Electrotechnical Trust, becomes effective.
- 29—L. B. Kamenev appointed chairman of Chief Concessions Committee to replace Mr. V. N. Ksandrov. Nikolay Bukharin appointed to Mr. Kamenev's former position as head of the Scientific and Technical Department of the Supreme Economic Council.
- 31—Soviet protests rald by Chinese police and White guards on the U. S. S. R. general consulate at Harbin and arrest of Soviet citizens which took place on May 27th.

### June

- 4—Technical assistance contract announced at Dearborn with Ford Motor Company for organization and operation of Soviet automobile factory to produce 100,000 cars a year.

### July

- 10—Seizure of Chinese-Eastern Railway by Chinese authorities, accompanied by ousting and imprisonment of Soviet officials and railway workers and massing of Chinese troops and White guards along Manchurian border.
- 13—Note from Soviet Government to Chinese Government protesting above action and proposing immediate conference and cancellation of illegal orders.
- 17—First American business men's delegation organized by American-Russian Chamber of Commerce arrives in Moscow.
- 17—After vague reply from Nanking Soviet Government reiterates proposals and recalls all diplomatic, consular and railroad officials in China.
- 25—Third Industrialization Loan of 750,000,000 rubles floated.
- 29—On the invitation of Arthur Henderson, British Foreign Minister, Valerian Dovgalevsky, Soviet representative in France, arrives in London to discuss question of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

### August

- 6—Special Far Eastern army formed for defense of the Chinese frontier.
- 19—In a note to German Government for transmission to China the Soviet Government calls attention to persistent raids and attacks of Chinese troops and White guard bands on Soviet territory.
- 21—Official copy of Kellogg Pact, ratified by all signatory and adhering countries, delivered to Mr. Litvinov by M. Herbetie, French Ambassador to the Soviet Union, on behalf of the United States Government.
- 26—Decree on continuous working week for all State institutions and industrial undertakings issued by Council of People's Commissars.

### September

- 1—"Land of Soviets," makes first landing on American soil at the Island of Attu, on flight from Moscow to New York.
- 6—Formal complaint made to German Government, acting as intermediary in Soviet-Chinese controversy, against attacks on and imprisonment of Soviet citizens in Manchuria.
- 9—Soviet note to China through German ambassador lists further attacks by Chinese and White guard bands.
- 11—Contract announced with Allen and Garcia Co. to act as consulting engineers for Soviet Coal Industry.
- 13—Soviet note to China through German ambassador cites outrages and killings of Soviet citizens in Manchuria.

\* A calendar of events covering the period from November 7, 1917 through 1928 may be found in "The Soviet Union," published by the Soviet Union Information Bureau.

- 13—Andrey Bubnov appointed Commissar for Education of the R. S. F. S. R. to replace Anatole Lunacharsky, who becomes head of scientific institutions.
- 17—Soviet Government, in note to China through German Ambassador calls attention to fact that Nanking has nullified its own proposals for Soviet declaration made August 28th, and cites further instances of border attacks.
- 24—Decree on introduction of five-day week in Soviet industrial enterprises and offices, with one day out of every five for rest.
- 28—Soviet Government warns China that it will take retaliatory measures to protect Soviet citizens on Chinese territory if persecution and execution of Soviet citizens in Manchuria do not cease.

#### October

- 3—Anglo-Soviet Protocol providing for the resumption of diplomatic relations signed in London.
- 12—Soviet note cites constant firing by Chinese troops and White guards along Amur River and warns that protective measures already undertaken will be continued.
- 20—Tadjikistan proclaimed a Constituent Republic of the U. S. S. R., increasing the number of Federal States in the Soviet Union from six to seven.

#### November

- 1—"Land of Soviets" arrives in New York, completing 20,000-kilometer flight from Moscow.
- 15—Announcement of final execution of contract with Austin Company for designing and construction of Nizhni-Novgorod automobile plant.
- 15—Gregory Sokolnikoff appointed Soviet envoy to London.
- 22-27—Soviet troops occupy Manchuli, disarm 8,000 Chinese soldiers and return to own territory.
- 27—Chang Hsueh-liang telegraphs acceptance of Soviet terms (as per July 13th) of restoration of status quo on Chinese-Eastern Railway for negotiations for settlement.

#### December

- 2—U. S. Secretary of State Stimson sends communication to Nanking and Moscow (the latter via France) reminding both governments of their obligations under Kellogg Pact.
- 3—Soviet Government replies to Stimson's message stressing consistent peaceful policy of Soviet Government. At Soviet-Chinese conference in Nikolsk-Ussurisk Mukden representative agrees to accept Soviet terms, and both sides sign agreement to terminate conflict.
- 5—First All-Union Congress of "shock brigades" opens in Moscow.
- 7—Commissariat of Agriculture of the U. S. S. R. uniting the work of agriculture commissariats of the separate republics established, with Yacov Yacovlev as People's Commissar of Agriculture.
- 17—Soviet-Turkish Protocol providing for the extension of the treaty on friendship and neutrality signed at Ankara.
- 21—Sir Esmond Ovey, British Ambassador, presents credentials to Michael Kalinin.
- 22—Soviet-Chinese Protocol providing for complete restoration of status quo ante on Chinese-Eastern Railway is signed at Khabarovsk.
- 25—Soviet Government mobilizes resources to help in search for wrecked American aviators Eielson and Borland, in response to appeals from U. S. Department of the Interior and Senator Borah.

### 1930

#### January

- 21—New Customs Tariff Law enacted.
- 22—Resumption of Trans-Siberian travel over Chinese Eastern Railway.
- 23—Central Statistical Administration of the U. S. S. R. abolished and its functions turned over to Gosplan.
- 25—Mr. M. M. Vladimirsky appointed People's Commis-

sar of Health for the R. S. F. S. R. in place of Dr. N. A. Semashko.

#### 30—Decree on Credit Reform.

#### February

- 8—Trial of seven counterfeiters of Soviet money ends in Berlin with three acquitted and four amnestied.
- 10—People's Commissariat for Trade of the U. S. S. R. issues decree reorganizing Foreign Trade apparatus.
- 13—Decree on reorganization of State Industrial Administration.
- 14—Muhammed Asis Khan, new Afghan Ambassador, arrives in Moscow.
- 15—New contract announced appointing Albert Kahn, Inc., consulting architects for building industry of Soviet Union.
- 21—Decree on issuance of "Five-Year Plan in Four" Loan to replace all previous industrialization loans.
- 25—Chief Concessions Committee of U. S. S. R. agrees to proposal of Lena Goldfields to arbitrate questions of dispute.

#### March

- 1—New Single Agricultural Tax Law enacted.
- 2—"Dizziness from Successes," article by Joseph Stalin, written to curb excesses in organization of agricultural collectives, published in Soviet Press.
- 2—Model constitution for agricultural collectives published.
- 26—Technical assistance contract with Andrew G. McKee Co. for construction of giant steel plant in Urals announced.

#### April

- 5—Decree on "new exemptions for collectives and their members" issued.
- 14—British section of all Union-Western Chamber of Commerce opened in Moscow.
- 16—Provisional Anglo-Soviet Trade Agreement signed in London by Gregory Sokolnikov and Arthur Henderson.
- 26—Attempt to blow up Soviet Diplomatic Mission in Poland narrowly averted.
- 27—Completion and official opening of Turksib Railway.
- 28—Soviet Government calls upon Polish Government to take decisive steps to terminate conditions permitting terroristic anti-Soviet acts.

#### May

- 1—Lena Goldfields recalls all employees in the U. S. S. R.
- 1—Regular passenger service opens on all lines of Dobrolet (Soviet Commercial Air Fleet) with four new lines added to thirteen already in operation.
- 6—Chief Concessions Committee declares Lena Goldfields concession dissolved by action of Lena Goldfields Company.
- 9—Chinese delegation to Soviet-Chinese conference for final settlement of Chinese-Eastern Railway dispute arrives in Moscow.
- 27—Death of Victor Kopp, Diplomatic Representative of U. S. S. R. in Sweden.
- 31—Second Soviet note to Poland regarding attempt on Soviet Diplomatic Mission in Poland.

#### June

- 1—Franz Josef Land renamed Fritzhof Nansen Land in recognition of the explorer's services to the Soviet Union.
- 5—Poland informs U. S. S. R. of "difficulties" of apprehending persons guilty of bomb attempt.
- 11—Moissaye Rukhimovich appointed People's Commissar for Transport of the Soviet Union in place of Ian Rudzutak.
- 12—Decree on reorganization of system of railroad administration on basis of one-man management.
- 13—New citizenship law issued.
- 15—Opening of All-Union Art Olympiad in Moscow.
- 16—First meeting of Soviet-German Adjustment Commission.
- 17—First tractor constructed by Stalingrad tractor plant.
- 22—Provisional Anglo-Soviet fishing agreement signed.

*July*

- 1—Opening of All-Union Pedagogical Exhibition in Leningrad.
- 17—Soviet Government protests to Finland against illegal deportation of Finnish citizens over Soviet border.
- 20—Second International Soil Science Congress meets in Leningrad.
- 21—Maxim Litvinov succeeds George Chicherin as People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union.
- 23—Decree providing for reorganization of all higher schools along specialized lines, combining theoretical and practical work.
- 23—Decree on liquidation of okrugs (counties).
- 25—Sixteenth Congress of Communist Party opens in Moscow.
- 26—Conclusion of Soviet-Italian Agreement on Sequestration and Levies.

*August*

- 2—Agreement signed between U. S. S. R. and Italy on extension of trade relations and granting of credits on Soviet orders.
- 6—A. M. Tsikhon appointed People's Commissar for Labor of the Soviet Union in place of N. A. Uglanov.
- 14—Decree providing for introduction of universal compulsory primary education throughout the U. S. S. R. in 1930-31.

*September*

- 15—Announcement of technical assistance contract to build largest coking plant in Europe with Koppers Construction Company of Pittsburgh.
- 20—Fiscal year changed to coincide with calendar year, beginning January 1, 1931.
- 21—Dispatches in Soviet papers tell of attacks by White guard bands on Western section of Chinese-Eastern Railway.
- 28—Soviet note to Finland protests continued expulsions of Finnish citizens across Soviet border.

*October*

- 2—First meeting of Anglo-Soviet commission on debts and counter-claims.
- 5—"The Moscow News," a five-day weekly, first English newspaper to be published in the Soviet Union, appears.
- 13—Soviet-Chinese conference on Chinese-Eastern Railway opens in Moscow.

## The Five Day Week

A YEAR ago the Soviet Government adopted the novel plan of reducing the normal working week to four days of work followed by a day of rest. In order to keep the factories and offices going all the time, the workers were divided into five equal groups, four to work and the fifth to rest on each day of the five-day week. It was proposed originally to put over two million workers on the five-day week within a year, a figure already exceeded, and to continue this until all the Soviet factories and offices were working under this scheme.

The Soviet press, in reviewing the results of the reform for the past year, reports many points of interest. Complete industries are now operating under this plan, including some of the most important, such as oil, coal, transport, paper, etc., while the chemical, metal, electrical, and other industries are running close seconds, with 70 per cent to 90 per cent of their workers enjoying the five-day week. While production has generally increased from 10 to 25 per cent and accidents have noticeably fallen off, both the increase and the decrease are particularly striking on Fridays, Saturdays, and Mondays. This is attributed to a lessening of fatigue as well as of drunkenness.

Among the principal, though indirect, beneficiaries of the reform has been the Social Insurance Department, whose funds have been drained much less heavily this year than in past years, owing to the reduction of accidents and illnesses among workers, as well as to the sharp decline of unemployment, the new scheme having provided jobs for about 400,000 workers. The full effect of the reform will be even greater, as the introduction of the five-day production week throughout industry will require from 700,000 to 800,000 additional workers, and labor is already scarce in the U. S. S. R.

The life of the Soviet worker has taken on some new aspects. He no longer has to lose time going to government offices during working hours, but visits them during his free day, as the government offices work every day, without any interruption. He goes to his club or attends the theater whenever he happens to be free, as the workers' clubs are now working seven days per week and two shifts per day, thus catering to all the shifts at all hours of the day. Many of the theaters are giving two performances per day and all of them play every day of the week, including Sundays and holidays. Sunday queues before the cinemas have practically disappeared as every day is Sunday to one fifth of the workers. The workers' families share the same benefits, as the clubs and other cultural institutions make a special point of providing entertainments for the wives and children of the workers.

Current news and summaries of new developments  
in the economic life of the U. S. S. R.  
are regularly printed in the

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## Miscellaneous News

### First English Paper Published in Moscow

ON October 5 "The Moscow News," the first English language newspaper to be published in Moscow, made its appearance. The new paper will be a five-day weekly, to conform with the five-day week of Soviet industries and offices, and is published especially for the benefit of the English-speaking specialists working in the Soviet Union as well as tourists, students of English, and interested persons abroad. In addition to general world news it contains articles on current topics of Soviet political and industrial life. Anna Louise Strong, well-known American writer and lecturer, who has lived for many years in the Soviet Union, is the managing editor of the paper. Assisting her are Maxwell Stuart, formerly editor of the "China Outlook"; Herbert Marshall, of the London Film Guild; Ed Falkovski, Jack Chen, Fred Ellis, and many others. Louis Fischer, Rosa Hanna, and Eve Garrett Grady are among the regular contributors. The paper has special features, including a humorous column and an illustrated page, as well as cartoons, sport notes, and so on. Articles of especial interest in the first number are one on "Verblud," the unique giant farm and training school of the Grain Trust, by Anna Louise Strong, and one describing the manufacture of Soviet combines, by Lem Harris.

The paper is being financed for the first year by the Ogoniok Publishing Company of Moscow with backing from institutions and firms employing English-speaking specialists and from Soviet schools where English is taught. It is expected to become rapidly self-supporting. The subscription price of the paper is \$3.00 per year, \$1.75 per half-year, and it may be ordered by sending check, draft or money order to the Moscow News, Strastnoi Boulevard II, Moscow, U. S. S. R.

### Vital Statistics of the U. S. S. R.

A group of Leningrad demographers headed by Professors Payevsky and Novoselsky have completed a comprehensive work on the death rate and duration of life of the population of the U. S. S. R.

The work represents the results of two years of scientific investigation and offers a complete picture of the vital statistics of the Soviet Union today as compared with pre-revolutionary Russia. Since 1897, according to the findings of the demographers, the average duration of life has

increased by 10.5 years in the case of men and by 13 years for women. The death rate has dropped from 30.9 to 22.5 per 1,000.

A new demographic institute has recently been established in connection with the Academy of Sciences in Leningrad. The main object of this new scientific institute will be to make a study of the question of births and deaths in the Soviet Union and in other countries. As its first task it will undertake a calculation of the proportion of the various age groups in the population of the U. S. S. R. to be used in connection with problems of labor distribution.

### Growth of Consumers' Cooperatives

On May 1, 1930, the total number of shareholders of the consumers' cooperatives of the U. S. S. R., amounted to 43,200,000, against 22,600,000 on October 1, 1928.

The capital stock of the cooperatives was 369,200,000 rubles on October 1, 1929, as compared with 180,700,000 rubles on October 1, 1928, while the cooperatives own capital amounted to 1,188,000,000 rubles on October 1, 1929.

The retail turnover of the cooperatives has increased from 7,283,000,000 rubles in 1927-28, to 8,755,000,000 rubles in 1928-29. On May 1, 1930, the number of shops totalled 128,000, as compared with 73,505 on October 1, 1927.

The capital investments of the cooperatives amounted to 300,000,000 rubles in 1929-30.

A plan was adopted by the Cooperatives' Congress recently held in Moscow, for the further extension of the consumers' cooperative movement. The plan provides for a number of measures to bring up the number of shareholders to 71,000,000, the capital stock to 700,000,000 rubles and the retail turnover to 12,000,000,000 rubles during the fiscal year of 1930-31.

It has been decided to allot 662,000,000 rubles for capital construction work by the consumers' cooperatives.

### Latin Alphabet

The introduction of the new Latin alphabet has been completed in Azerbaidjan, the North Caucasus, Turkmenistan and Kirghizia. The use of the Arabian alphabet has been entirely abolished in these places. Within a few months the transition from the old to the new alphabet will have been completed in a number of other national republics. During the past year the use of the Latin alphabet has spread to 36 nationalities of the Soviet East, with a population of 28,000,000. Among these peoples 10 per cent are already literate in the new alphabet. In the Tartar Re-

public the number of literates has increased to 22 per cent and in the Crimea to 30 per cent. A negligible per cent of these people were literate when the old alphabet was in use.

### Growth of Soviet Press

The circulation of newspapers in the Soviet Union has almost tripled in the past four years. In 1927, the combined circulation of all the newspapers in the country amounted to 7,684,000 copies. During the present year the total circulation has reached 22,330,000

copies. At the present time there are 630 central, republic and regional papers, in addition to hundreds of local papers. There are over a thousand factory and shop papers, and over 300 papers published by agricultural collectives. In connection with the elimination of the "okrug" (roughly corresponding to county) and the increasing importance that will be given to the "rayon" (township) in economic and cultural development, it is planned to establish up to a thousand rayon papers.

### Increase in Food Industry For Next Quarter

The Trade Commissariat of U. S. S. R. has outlined the following plan of production for the State food industry for the next quarter ending December, 1930.

Branches of industry	Measure unit	Production for October-December, 1930	% of growth as compared with the last quarter of 1929
Sugar .....	Tons	1,775,000	176
Flour .....	Tons	2,648,000	172
Vegetable oil .....	Tons	136,600	122
Canned food .....	Cans	169,700,000	435
Fish .....	Tons	466,000	197
Confectionary .....	Tons	102,000	263
Macaroni .....	Tons	29,000	176
Butter .....	Tons	178,500	564
Meat .....	Tons	210,000	187

### Soviet Government Represented at International Red Cross Conference

A Soviet delegation took part in the 14th International Red Cross Conference which was held in Brussels from October 6 to 11. Mr. S. M. Lazarev represented the Red Cross and the Red Half Moon societies of the U. S. S. R. at the conference, and Mr. D. V. Bogomolov, coun-



YOUNG PEOPLE OF MANY NATIONALITIES ATTEND FIRST ALL-UNION CONGRESS OF CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS IN MOSCOW

selor of the Soviet embassy in London, attended the conference as the representative of the Soviet Government.

### Academy of Science for Georgia

So rapid has been advance of science in the Georgian Soviet Republic during the past year that it has been decided to reorganize the recently established Georgian Institute of Science into an Academy of Science. During the past summer about twenty-five scientific expeditions — ethnographic, archeological, geological and others were

fitted out by the various Georgian scientific organizations. The rich collections gathered by these expeditions will serve as material for the research work of the Academy of Science. Professor Marr, formerly President of the Institute, has been elected President.

### U. S. S. R. in Salonica Industrial Exhibit

The first international industrial exhibition opened at Salonica on September 24. The Soviet Union was represented at the exhibition by examples of its industrial production, agricultural equipment and machinery. In describing the Soviet booth the "Balkan Gazette" said as follows: "This great country, occupying almost half of Asia and Europe which has not yet completely wiped out the traces of its civil war, has enthusiastically set about the job of restoring its industry and trade. The success of the Five-Year Plan must be considered assured."

### Soviet Fleet in Stamboul

On October 4 the Soviet fleet arrived at Stamboul after a day and night of naval training operations. At 8 o'clock the ships entered the Bosphorus and fired a salute, which was answered by the Turkish battery. The ships remained at anchor in the harbor.

### Children's Press Congress

During the summer the first All-Union Congress of "detkors," or children's newspaper correspondents, met in Moscow. The children correspondents in all parts of the Soviet Union write accounts of local events for children's magazines and newspapers just as the worker and peasant correspondents do for the general press.

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Twenty Cents

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**Some Volga Peasants Write a Letter**  
**Women and Soviet Elections**  
**A Visit to the University of the North**  
**Gains on the Collective Front**  
**The Five-Year Plan of the Arts**  
**Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union**

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## An Open Letter from the Peasants of a Volga Collective

*The following open letter to all poor and middle individual peasants from the members of the Demian Bedny Agricultural Collective of the Novo-Annensky district on the Lower Volga, was published first in a local paper and later in the magazine, "Krasnaya Niva." The letter, which is written as an appeal to individual peasants to try out the new collective way of farming, recounts the experiences of one of the many thousands of such collectives which are now operating throughout the Soviet Union. Many of them are much smaller and less successful than the one here described, many of them are much more advanced, using large batteries of tractors and other modern machinery. The experiences of this one may be taken as typical of all the better organized collectives in their early stages.*

COMRADES! A year ago many of us were still individual peasants. Only ten months have passed since the time when we combined our small, wretched holdings into one great kolhoz (collective), and began to rebuild our life on a new socialist basis. In the beginning many of us had little faith in this business, some grew frightened and in the spring even left the collective entirely. But, comrades, none of us have now any doubt that the collective way is the truest way, and the best for all poor and middle peasants. Indeed, how can there be any doubt of this when in the first year of its existence each household receives from the collective an average gross income of 1,275 rubles. We are already receiving from two to three times as much as last year when we were working individually. But perhaps you will say that is just because there was a good harvest, or because tractors have been given us. No, comrades. To

be sure, our harvest this year was not bad, but we have no tractors, and we have received no gifts at all. Besides, in this year's harvest right in the very same settlements, on the very same land, with the same equipment and the same draught power, we collectivists got double the crop of our individual neighbors. What is the meaning of this? How could such a thing happen? It is about that, comrades, that we want to tell you through the pages of the Leninist Pravda, so that you will be convinced of the advantages of the collective.

### Eight Hundred Farms Combine

We joined together, about 800 households from fourteen settlements in Novo-Annensky rayon. Endless torture to our peasants was the old communal land usage with its hated system of far-away, scattered, irregular strips, which gave us no chance to get to our fields quickly nor culti-

vate them properly. So, for instance the allotments of the peasants of Martynovskoye were seventeen kilometers from their village, and cutting through their fields were the allotments of the peasants from the khutors (small villages) of Rodinskoye, Solovieskoye and Lepeshovskoye. There was only one way out! Away with boundaries—on to the kolhoz! So the party advised, and so we have done. We united all the cut up and scattered land into one great farm, and immediately all our torment was ended.

The main point is that *no sooner had we combined into a kolhoz than we began to work in an entirely new way: organized, consciously, so much better and more efficiently than when each worked separately on his own small allotment.* That was already evident in the spring seeding campaign. Whereas last year, when the majority of us were individual peasants, we sowed an average of eight hectares per farm, *this year when we were united in a kolhoz, we sowed an average of seventeen hectares for each of us,* and this with the same number of people, the same amount of inventory and even a little less working stock.

It is here that we come to the tremendous advantages which are due to collective labor alone. We began our preparations for the spring sowing early. As early as two months before the beginning of the work we already had an exact plan of our entire sowing campaign. We knew in advance everything that we would need to insure the largest and best possible seeding. Gathering into the collective all of our seed, working stock, fodder and equipment we inventoried, checked, cleaned and repaired everything in good time, and stocked up with everything that was lacking, so that at seeding time everything needed was at hand, and everything was in its proper place. That is what it means to work according to plan.

We equipped a communal courtyard, where we kept all the work animals. They were fed there all winter, under the special supervision of two veterinarians. As a result our animals started work in such an improved condition that each team averaged 8.5 hectares of cultivated land, while the teams of the individual households worked not more than five hectares each.

And the people were organized in this way: the entire kolhoz was divided up into brigades of from thirty to forty people from the same settlement. The brigade itself elected a foreman, and if he was unsatisfactory, he was replaced. Each

brigade was given one section of land, equipped with all kinds of implements and the necessary number of work animals so that each brigade could fully work its given section of land. Each brigade was sub-divided into groups for different kinds of work, in accordance with the desires and abilities of each: groups to plow, to harrow and to sow. Each group was required to stick to its own work for the whole period. For carting water and supplies, preparing food and so on, special workers were appointed who did just one job the whole time. Special workers were also selected whose sole job was to look after the cattle. Each one minded his own business and had



THRESHING TIME IN A VOLGA COLLECTIVE

no need to worry about any of the rest of the work.

What was the advantage of this system? Tremendous. (1) None of us could be pulled in all directions, like the individual peasant, putting our hands into everything, but accomplishing little; (2) each of us becoming more and more accustomed to one special kind of work, learned to do it constantly better and more quickly; (3) to follow plowing immediately by harrowing and harrowing by seeding makes it possible to conserve more moisture in the soil, on which to a great degree the harvest depends. There you have the advantages of our organization of labor. Could anything like that be accomplished on a small individual farm?

#### Who Works Most, Receives Most

But all that would still not have been enough if we had not known in good time how later we would distribute the harvest. We therefore as early as April made a strict agreement that the

most correct way would be to divide the income on the basis of labor alone, that is, those who worked most would receive most, but those who could work, but would not and did not, should not receive a kopek, because without labor nothing is created.

How much is each one to earn with us? When we reckoned up the entire number of working days needed for the year, and divided them among the able-bodied members of the kolhoz, it came out that we could guarantee to each able-bodied member an average of 180 working days a year. Considering that even with a middling harvest the average daily income would come to about 1.24 rubles, each able-bodied member can count on not less than 223 rubles, and since there are an average of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  able-bodied workers to each family, the very lowest net profit to each household in the collective would be 501 rubles. How is it that with us one may receive an income double that of the individual household? That is very simple. Labor is terribly unproductive in the individual household. If it were possible to organize the work of an individual household properly and economically, then all the work on a small farm for the year could be done in not more than 175 working days. As a matter of fact you are busy not 175 days, but almost the whole year. . . .

### Spring Seeding Begins

And so, having agreed beforehand how we would divide our income, and with our workers, equipment and cattle well prepared, we entered upon our spring seeding well organized and with great enthusiasm. Some brigades challenged others to socialist competition. The brigades of Kosovskoye and Rodinskoye khutors worked so energetically that they increased the cultivated area of each household to an unheard of amount—11.5 hectares, and the Demenskoye brigade increased their seeded area per family to 10.6 hectares. When they heard that the Golovskoye and Dubovskoye khutors were lagging behind, that they were skeptical, lacking in group spirit, a prey to the rumors and provocative acts of the kulaks, then the brigadiers of Kosovskoye and Demenskoye went to the aid of the Golovskoye peasants, shattered all their doubts, pulled them together, and showed them how to work better and more quickly. And things began to boil everywhere. The work went faster, more energetically, each one felt that a whole army was behind him, that they were all pulling together, helping each other, that each was interested in his own work and in the success of the whole thing. So we worked for about a month and a half, using every day we possibly could for seeding, and as a result we did not leave a single scrap of land unseeded, and we even plowed three extra allotments of outside land which

were not being used by their owners and so increased the seeded area of the kolhoz not by thirty but by fifty-eight per cent, and to each family now falls a hundred per cent more seeded land than last year, while even the most industrious of the individual peasants for all their efforts increased their seeded area by no more than twenty per cent. That is what collective labor means. But wait—even that isn't all.

### The Fight Against Drouth

To increase our seeded area is not the most important thing under our conditions. Our steppe suffers from drouth. Our yield therefore is low (not more than seven centners a hectare) and often our crop fails entirely. We are not used to combatting this danger as should be done—indeed, each one separately, on his own small farm, was not in a position to do this. Little fall plowing has ever been done here. Often the seed was just scattered over unplowed land.

No one used any kind of crop rotation. We had no selected seeding, and indeed could not have had in our individual allotments where weeds grew quickly. It is clear that under such conditions the land became more and more exhausted, and that the harvest dropped lower and lower. And so we decided: here we are a single great army, let us attack this evil in an organized way, and carry on our work so that a *harvest will be assured in any kind of weather*. What did we do next? First of all we increased the fall-plowed area up to sixty per cent of the entire spring area. Then we plowed the entire area twice while it was under snow in order to retain the moisture. Next we set about cleaning the seed; we cleaned all of our seed, and sowed eighty per cent of the area with selected seed. Everything that needed to be protected against blight was treated with acid. We did away with the old wooden harrow entirely. Instead of broadcasting the seed, we seeded in rows, with drills. As a result of all this our seeds came up 100 per cent, while our individual peasant neighbors did not even take the trouble to find out what portion of theirs came up, and our crop yield was even better than the bumper crop of 1909. The average wheat crop for all fourteen khutors (wheat makes up sixty-two per cent of all our crops) is up to twelve centners a hectare, and in some of the separate khutors as high as sixteen or more centners a hectare, while our neighbors are getting not more than seven centners from a hectare in this year's harvest. The quality of our wheat is unprecedented—much higher than that of the individual peasants. Just by keeping clean the selected wheat given to us last year we have received 22,000 rubles additional income. There is the "secret" of our large income for you. Just one year of collective work, and see how the productivity of our fields

has grown already. Is any further proof necessary of the advantages of collectivization?

### Kulaks' Share Surpassed

So you see, comrades, all the yarns of the kulaks and near-kulaks that the collectivists are lazy fellows, that nothing will come of it all, that we neither sow nor reap, that the kolhozes are the ruin of the peasants and so on—all this is the deliberate slander of our enemies, malicious lies of our exploiters, who thrive on the beggar's portion of the poor individual peasants, and who know that collectivization means the end of their profits. The kulaks make out that they feed the whole country, that now there will be famine without them. Nonsense. *We have not only equalled the kulaks' seeded area but we have surpassed it.*

To be sure, it is not enough just to cover the seeded area of the kulaks. We know that the marketable surplus of the kulaks has always been much higher than that of the other peasants. How do we stand in this respect—have we equalled the kulaks in our marketable surplus? Yes, we have not only caught up to them but outstripped them. The marketable crop of the kulaks on the Lower Volga never exceeded forty-five per cent of their entire crop, and in our collective we have already produced sixty-one per cent marketable grain, and furthermore, eighty-seven per cent of our whole commercial production is the highest grade of selected wheat. Isn't that pure gold toward a tractor? "But"—say our enemies—"you are probably selling everything, giving everything to the government, and keeping nothing for yourselves for food." Nothing of the kind. Enough remains so that each may eat his fill. Of our total crop of 89,000 centners, 37,000 centners is left for food, seed and fodder, or an average of 6.1 tons per family.

### The Harvest

To harvest such a large crop in time, and from an increased area (12,160 hectares) is an extremely difficult business, the more so that part of the more backward members fell under the kulaks' influence and withdrew from the kolhoz. But what cannot be surmounted by one person alone can always be surmounted by the collective. We carried on such intensive preparations for the harvest that when we made a survey (ten days before the harvest) everything turned out to be in complete readiness, so that we still had time to repair all the harvest implements of the individual peasants in our kolhoz workshops. We reached an agreement with the deserters, organized them into brigades, and as soon as the grain was ripe, all together, as one, we went to the fields and worked so that instead of twelve days as we had figured, all the grain was cut in nine days.

In order to make it possible for all the women

to take part in the harvest, we organized eleven children's day nurseries and playgrounds. The housewives all helped in the stacking of the sheaves and worked so energetically and efficiently that the Demenskoye brigade, for example, under the leadership of the *seredniachka* (middle peasant woman) Piganova, doubled its allotted task. Everyone was seized with the fever of socialist competition. The shock brigades of Demenskoye and Martinovskoye khutors increased their harvesting to five hectares a day (with two horses) and the average for the whole collective, using oxen for the most part, was 5.5 hectares to each reaping machine. While each reaper in the collective cut up to forty-nine hectares during the harvest, the reapers of the individual peasants cut only fourteen hectares on the average. So you can see, comrades, that in the collective each machine does about three and a half times as much work as on the individual farm.

When our grain was already stacked the individual peasants had still not finished cutting theirs, and we had to give a hand to the poorer peasants; we cut 108 hectares for them, and stacked forty-six. The individual peasants in many khutors have still not been able to thresh even a single centner, and we have threshed about 8,000 centners. Our threshing is going forward at such a rate that each 36-inch threshing machine turns out daily (with two shifts) upwards of 330 centners, while the individual peasants can only thresh 130 centners with the same machine because their stacks are so widely scattered. That is what collective labor means!

### Advantages of the Collective Way

Think well, comrades, about our work and about our results. Indeed, all this was accomplished without tractors, without complicated machinery, almost entirely without credits (which we did not need), but simply by combining the peasant equipment and by collective labor. Each of you may do the same thing, and soon you will get the same results. Can there really still be any doubt of the tremendous advantages of collectivization? We are convinced that you will say firmly: "The collectivists are right, and we must all go the same way!"

That is what our neighbors are already doing. Those who left the kolhoz are now cursing both the kulaks and themselves, and are knocking at our door again. And although by their leaving they disorganized much of our work, still we understand that this was because of their backwardness, and so we are taking them back again. The farther we go, the more the peasants are thronging to us. In June forty-five households joined the collective, in July seventy-two more, and in the first twenty days of August eighty-three more families came in.

We are writing to you with the challenge to go the same way. And the sooner the better it

will be for you. Then you will understand at last that this is the only real way—the best way for all poor and middle peasants. Our way, the way of powerful and collective labor—is the way of great advancement and awakening, the way

which will quickly improve your condition, and lead you to a better, happier future.

*The letter is signed by forty-five peasants of the kolhoz "Demian Bedny," Novo-Annensky Rayon, Lower Volga.*

## Gains on the "Collective Front"

ON October 15, designated as "Harvest and Collectivization Day," reports of the progress of the collective movement were published in the press throughout the Soviet Union. A summary of the main facts brought out in the reports follows.

Hardly more than a year ago, at the beginning of the harvest season, only about 4 per cent of the peasant farms of the Soviet Union were united into collectives. Now one-fourth of all the peasant households are collectivized, and the collectives have become the decisive factor in the agriculture of the chief grain producing regions. There are now a series of whole districts entirely collectivized, which have already completed the productive cycle. There is not a single county in all of the Soviet Union without its collective farms, and in the chief grain growing regions there is not a single village without collectives.

The collectives have become one of the strongest factors in the increase of agricultural production. Their spring sowing covered 36,000,000 hectares of land, estimated as 12,000,000 hectares more than the collective members could have sown as individual peasants. The collectives have five and a half million work animals, five and a half million cows, and 39,000 tractors are at work on the collectives' fields.

The following table gives a picture of the growth of collectivization in the past few years.

*Seeded Area of the Collectives*

1927 .....	800,000 hectares
1928 .....	1,400,000 "
1929 .....	4,300,000 "
1930 .....	36,000,000 "
Goal set by Five-Year Plan for 1933.....	20,000,000 "

It is estimated that the collective members are able to use their agricultural machinery one-third more than the individual peasants, which makes it possible for them to use more modern and perfected types of machines, which in turn means better cultivation of the soil and higher productivity.

On the whole the fields of the collectives are plowed more deeply, fertilized more extensively, and sowed with cleaner and better seeds than those of the individual peasants, with the result that their crops are from 15 to 30 per cent higher than those of the peasants who still work alone, while production costs are lower.

The artel type of agricultural collective, which received official approval last spring as the most desirable type of collective for the present period, has fully proven itself as the most popular and effective type of collective organization among



A COLLECTIVE MEMBER READS THE NEWS TO AN ILLITERATE SISTER

the peasants. Of all the agricultural collectives now in operation, 73 per cent are artels, 8 per cent communes, and 19 per cent "societies for the joint cultivation of the land."

For the most part the achievements of the collectives have been the result of a group of peasants simply combining their equipment and using it jointly. Recently a large number of middle peasants who formerly held somewhat aloof from the collective movement have been entering the collectives. It was estimated that over half a million peasant households have

joined the collectives since the harvest returns proved without doubt the advantages of collective labor.

### Machine and Tractor Stations

Three years ago the first machine and tractor stations, or MTS, as they are called, were organized in the U. S. S. R. Last spring there were 357 in operation. These stations, operated by the government, through the "Tractorcenter," have large batteries of tractors and other agricultural machinery with which they plow the land and harvest the crops of entire communities under special contract. The peasants supply the labor power for the field work and are paid in accordance with the rates fixed by the Commissariat of Labor and the trade unions. The crop is divided between the stations and the peasants in a proportion stipulated in the contract. All fields are plowed collectively, as one great field, without regard to boundary, which in itself increases the cultivated area by about 6 per cent. The machine and tractor stations supply selected seeds, and teach the local peasants the use of tractors and harvesting machinery.

About 10 per cent of the collectives this year had contracts with the machine and tractor stations, and altogether 1,990,000 hectares of land

were seeded by the MTS. Estimates of harvest results show that the collectives served by the stations harvested crops from 30 to 40 per cent higher than those of the individual peasants and also much higher than those of the collectives not served by the stations. As a rule the collective members who formerly seeded a bare two or three hectares per household as individual peasants have increased the seeded area per family to ten and twelve hectares through the MTS. In the chief grain growing regions the MTS tractors work from 2,000 to 2,500 hours in the course of a year.

To the machine and tractor stations already operating, 812 new ones will be added by the Tractorcenter during the coming year. According to the plan these stations will work 20,000,000 hectares of land, and will serve 3,000,000 peasant households. It is planned to establish large numbers of the stations in all the important grain growing districts. Of special importance is the plan to establish thirty-one machine and tractor stations in the Far East, where thousands of colonizers will found new settlements. This will open up a new chapter in pioneering history, as the plan is to have the batteries of machinery already on the spot and the land cleared before the new settlers arrive.

## State Farms on the Increase

TWO years ago the Zernotrest (Grain Trust) was organized for the purpose of establishing large scale, mechanized grain farms throughout the Soviet Union. It is now operating 142 of these farms, occupying an area of 16,000,000 hectares,\* and controlling 10,000 tractors and 50,000 harvesting machines. The results of two years' work indicate what an important role these large grain farms will have in solving the agricultural problem of the Soviet Union.

During the year 1929-30 over a million hectares of land were seeded by the sovhozes of the Zernotrest or seven times as much as the preceding year when the total seeded area was 158,000 hectares. Through their technical equipment, modern methods and labor organization the sovhozes produced favorable results even in the first year of their existence. This year their productivity greatly increased, and the total harvest of the grain farms of the Zernotrest amounted to about 18,000,000 centners,† or nine times that of the preceding year. The grain

farm "Gigant" alone harvested over a million centners of grain from an area of 113,000 hectares. Due to the mechanization of the work production costs in the sovhozes have been considerably lowered. This applies particularly to "Gigant" where, in 1928-29, the production costs per pood of grain was reduced to 85 kopeks, and in 1929-30, according to preliminary estimates, to 50 kopeks.

### Many New Farms in 1931

In 1931 there will be an increased development of the grain farms. It is planned to increase the number to 231 in the course of the year. The seeded area is to reach 4,500,000 hectares, 775,000 hectares in winter grain, and 3,725,000 in spring grain. The individual sovhozes are also to be greatly strengthened. The present average area per sovhoz of 56,900 hectares is to be increased to 73,900 hectares. In 1928-29 the largest sovhoz covered 124,200 thousand hectares, in 1929-30 170,800 hectares, and in 1931 the organization of five giant sovhozes with an area of from 250 to 300,000 hectares each is projected. The number of tractors operated by

\*A hectare equals 2.47 acres.

†A centner equals 220.46 pounds.

sovhozes of the Zernotrest in 1931 will reach 23,000, and 4,200 combines will harvest and thresh the crop from more than half of the entire seeded area in 1931. This year, for the first time, a considerable section of the seeded area will be given over to cultivated crops. Four hundred thousand hectares will be seeded to corn, and a hundred thousand to soy beans. This will be of great assistance in developing the livestock industry.

In the plan of the Zernotrest for 1931 great attention is given to the training of qualified workers to carry out the program. At the present time the Zernotrest has at its disposal five agricultural colleges and twelve technical schools training specialists for its grain factories. In addition to this 31,000 tractorists are now being trained by the Zernotrest.

### Specialized Farms

In addition to the large grain farms, the state operates a great many other large farms specializing in certain products, among which the most important are the following:

The state cattle breeding trust "Skotovod" has 128 farms covering 15,000,000 hectares, with about a million head of cattle. The hog trust, organized in 1930, already operates 275 farms with 150,000 hogs. In the course of the next year the number of farms will be increased to 520, occupying 2,000,000 hectares of land, and raising 190,000,000 hogs. The sheep trust has 116 farms covering 12,000,000 hectares of land, with 2,650,000 sheep. The poultry trust, established in 1930, operates 65 poultry farms, with over 300,000 fowl. Incubators are being built for 6,000,000 eggs, and chicken coops for 25,000,000 hens.

The sugar trust has 786,000 hectares of land and 180 sugar refineries. This year the sugar trust harvested 160,000,000 centners of sugar beets, in addition to 3,000,000 centners of wheat. The trust has 25,000 head of cattle.

The State cotton farms at the present time cover 75,000 hectares and are expected to reach 222,000 hectares in 1931. This year the State cotton farms harvested 1,000,000 centners of cotton, and are expected to yield five times this amount next year. The flax and hemp trust operates 58 farms with 468,000 hectares of land. The seed trust runs 43 farms with 871,000 hectares, half of which will be seeded this coming spring. The dairy trust has 42 farms, with 1,450,000 hectares of land and 35,000 cows. There is also a dairy and vegetable trust with 100,000 hectares of land and 60,000 milch cows. In 1931 the trust will have 250,000 cows, and is expected to produce about 1,700,000 metric tons of vegetables.

A State farm with 50,000 reindeer is being organized in Parakolsk Valley, between the Bering and Okhotsk Seas.

## The Lenin Agricultural Academy

THE Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences of which Professor N. I. Vavilov is President, is at the head of all the agricultural research work in the Soviet Union. The original suggestion for the organization of such an academy was put forward at the first Congress of Soviets of the U. S. S. R. in December, 1922. The organization was not finally perfected, however, until 1929 when the former State Institute of Experimental Agriculture, the Reclamation Institute, the Meadow Institute and a number of other scientific institutions were all combined into the present Institute.

At the present time the Academy consists of a number of different institutes corresponding to different branches of agricultural science, and a number of special institutes covering narrower fields.

Among the main departments of the Academy, the following should be noted:

*The Institute of Large Scale Socialized Farming and Agricultural Economics.* The institute represents the center of scientific research work in the field of economics and planning of the agriculture of the U. S. S. R. and in the organization of large State farms.

*Institute of Plant Breeding.* The aim of this section is the thorough study of cultivated plants as well as useful wild plants, selection and appraisal of different varieties. The work of collecting specimens of plants from all countries of the world is concentrated in this division. The institute has a huge collection of plants, including 27,000 varieties of wheat, 18,000 varieties of beans and so on. Altogether there are over 300,000 specimens of plants from all over the world.

*The Institute of Agricultural Mechanization,* which is concerned with problems of structure of machinery as well as its use.

*The Institute of Soils,* which studies problems of soil science and general agriculture with special reference to the socialist reconstruction of agriculture. The institute determines the most fertile sections, establishes the type of farming best adapted to different regions, estimates the areas on which it is profitable to use machinery of different types, works out methods of restoring the fertility of exhausted soils, and so on.

*The Institute of Reclamation and Irrigation,* which is creating a scientific basis for the practical measures carried on by the government in reclaiming of difficult regions, and the organization of large State farms and collectives on the reclaimed land. This institute also is working on the problem of irrigating the arid and semi-arid regions of the U. S. S. R.

In addition to the institutes enumerated, there

are institutes specializing in animal husbandry, dry farming, micro-biology and others already operating or in process of organization. All of these institutes maintain first-class scientific laboratories. Old experimental stations are being reorganized under the direction of the Lenin Institute, and a new chain of stations will be established, so that during the coming year there will be more than 300 experimental stations throughout the Soviet Union.

The Lenin Agricultural Academy has a very rich library, the beginnings of which date back to 1837. There are 340,000 volumes in the library, of which one-third are in other languages than Russian. Each Institute has a special publishing department which published the findings of its scientific workers.



THE LENIN AGRICULTURAL ACADEMY AT DETSKOYE SELO, NEAR Leningrad—FORMERLY THE ALEXANDROVSKY PALACE

## Labor Protection in the Villages

ACCORDING to a recent decree all individual peasants or collectives are required to provide social insurance for hired workers. Social insurance regulations formerly applied only to the agricultural workers employed on state farms. The text of the decree follows.

*The Central Executive Committee and the Council of People's Commissars decree:*

### I.

1. All peasant establishments, individual or collective, are required to insure their hired workers, men and women, through the social insurance organization.

2. Peasant households, to whom the temporary regulations regarding "the employment of help by working peasant enterprises" apply (this refers to the middle peasant.—Ed.) are obliged to make payments to the social insurance fund amounting to six per cent of the wages.

3. Kulak households are required to make pay-

ments to the social insurance fund amounting to 22 per cent of the wages.

4. Collectives are required to make payments to the social insurance fund amounting to 16 per cent of the wages for hired workers employed by them in enterprises for the working up of agricultural products (flour mills, oil mills, cheese manufacturing, distilleries, etc.), and also in the commercial enterprises run by the col-

lective (warehouses, offices, stores, etc.).

For all other hired workers the collectives are required to pay social insurance amounting to 10 per cent of their wages.

**Note:** This does not apply to combinations of collectives (unions, sections, etc.) nor to other cooperative organizations outside of the collectives. Workers employed therein are insured on the general basis.

5. Land societies and groups of peasant households hiring herdsmen in common, are obliged to pay social insurance for them to the amount of 10 per cent of their wages.

6. The social insurance payments are made by the employers out of their own funds without any deductions from the wages of the insured.

If the employer fails to make his payment on time, the sum due may be recovered legally, together with an obligatory fine.

7. Working men and women who must be insured on the basis of the present decree, are entitled to receive the following through the social insurance office:

- (a) doles for temporary loss of ability to work, including pregnancy and childbirth;
- (b) invalid pensions;
- (c) special sums for clothing and food for new-born infants;
- (d) special sums for burial expenses of members of the family;
- (e) unemployment doles.

In addition to this they and the members of their families are entitled to receive medical aid on the same basis as industrial workers and members of their families.

In case of the death of a worker the mem-

bers of his or her family are entitled to a sum for burial, and to a pension in case the provider of the family dies.

8. Instructions regarding the present decree are published by the Union Social Insurance Council. In the instructions are given the methods for reckoning and paying of insurance dues, and also the conditions, forms and duration of the assistance provided through the social insurance office.

In addition to this the instructions also describe the provisions that are made in the case of workers employed for a short period by poor peasant households which do not come under the social insurance requirements.

9. The present decree goes into effect:

(a) From January 1, 1930, with regard to the amount of insurance payments for hired workers in kulak establishments;

(b) from October 1, 1930, in its other sections.

## II.

10. The present decree replaces the decree of the Central Executive Committee and the Council of People's Commissars of October 23, 1929, regarding social insurance of persons employed in peasant establishments. (Collected Laws of the U. S. S. R., 1929, No. 68, Art. 637.)

*Chairman of the Central Executive  
Committee of the U. S. S. R.,*

A. CHERVIAKOV.

*Vice-Chairman of the Council of Peo-  
ple's Commissars of the U. S. S. R.,*

V. SCHMIDT.

*Secretary of the Central Executive  
Committee of the U. S. S. R.,*

A. S. ENUKIDZE.

The Soviet Government has recently passed a new ordinance regulating labor conditions on kulak farms. According to this ordinance the employer is obliged to sign a labor contract when employing an agricultural worker, which must be countersigned by the Agricultural Laborers' Union, and registered by the village Soviet.

The contract must state just what the worker is to receive in kind, which must not be reckoned as more than one-third of the total wages. The employer is obliged to provide the worker with suitable housing accommodations, and the same kind of food as is used by the employer's family. If the worker becomes temporarily disabled he is entitled to live in the house of the employer for two months free of charge, and also to receive free food during this period. In case of dismissal the worker is entitled to live in the employer's house for two weeks without paying rent.

## Compulsory Primary Education in Effect

THE decision of the Soviet Government to introduce universal compulsory primary education during the present year marks a turning point in the development of mass education in the U. S. S. R.

The main features of the decision are as follows: (1) a more rapid rate in the introduction of universal education; (2) a decided change in the direction of compulsory education; (3) extension of compulsory education to all age groups of children; (4) the extension of the principle of universal education to the seven-year schools; (5) an improvement in the quality of universal education through the establishment of polytechnical schools, the training of new teaching staffs and so on.

The number of children attending primary schools grows from year to year. In pre-war times it was 7,000,000. During the past few years the increase has been as follows:

1927-28 .....	9,798,000
1928-29 .....	10,266,000
1929-30 .....	11,638,000

Thus 60 per cent more children were accommodated in the primary schools during the past year than before the war. During the present school season it is expected to increase the number to over 14,000,000. If to this number is added the 3,000,000 "over-grown" children of from 11 to 15 years who will be taken into primary grades this year, and the 2,000,000 pupils studying in the primary grades of the seven-year schools, it will be seen that the total number of pupils in the primary grades this year will amount to 19,000,000, or double the number accommodated last year.

In introducing universal compulsory elementary education special attention is being given to the villages and to the culturally backward national regions of the U. S. S. R. This is illustrated by the following table:

*Pupils in Primary Schools*

	1929-30	1930-31	Increase
For the entire Soviet Union	11,638,000	14,064,000	21%
In the cities.....	1,976,000	2,270,000	15%
In the villages.....	9,662,000	11,394,000	22%
For the separate Republics			
R. S. F. S. R.....	7,883,000	9,700,000	23%
Ukraine .....	2,475,000	2,817,000	13.8%
White Russia.....	485,800	566,000	16.5%
Transcaucasia .....	411,200	630,000	52.1%
Uzbekistan .....	155,400	240,000	54.4%
Turkmenistan .....	37,700	58,000	53.8%
Tadjikistan .....	24,500	53,000	116.3%

As the above table shows, the rate of increase in the number of pupils is much greater in the villages, where the proportion of children attending school is far lower than in the cities, and in

the culturally backward republics, than for the U. S. S. R. as a whole.

Universal compulsory primary education as now being introduced throughout the Soviet Union applies to all children from eight to ten years, and also to the "over-grown" children between eleven and fifteen who have not hitherto attended school.

The carrying out of this program requires that 50,000 new teachers be prepared in the shortest

possible time for the primary schools. Intensive work is under way in the construction of new school buildings, the repair of old buildings, the preparation of additional school materials and books. This task must be completed throughout Russia within the next two years. A slight extension of time is being given in the case of the country districts of some of the most culturally backward national republics and some of the most remote regions.

## A Visit to the University of the North

*Translated from an article by L. Polsky which appeared last summer in "Nashi Dostizhenia," ("Our Achievements") a magazine edited by Maxim Gorky.*

Deep in the woods of the former Alexandrov-Nevskaya Lavra in Leningrad, formerly a famous monastery, is the Institute of the Peoples of the North. It is housed in the building formerly occupied by the Petersburg Religious Academy.

In the corridors of the Institute, in its impressive entrance hall, up and down its stately stairways, young people are thronging noisily. Suddenly, through the din and laughter, I hear a sad Asiatic melody. The sound of a woman's voice from a far room. Who is singing—Buriat or Mongol? The dry Asiatic steppe rises before me,—endless, overwhelming. And the hot sand of the desert seems to fill the room as the sad, oppressive song continues.

But around me is merriment. The hospitable youngsters greet their visitor warmly, smile, shake hands heartily. The words of an old teacher who worked for a long time in Yakutia come to my mind:

"See that you do not confuse your future acquaintances of the Mongol race—to a European they all look exactly alike. Do you remember Blok's poem? One flat, stony face, with squinting eyes, stiff, dishevelled hair, a squat broad nose, and a low forehead. Sometimes, you know, it used to be painful for me in the class room. I felt as though I were at a masquerade where all the guests wore the same kind of masks."

Hoping to dispel the impression of those words I look around me at the faces of the students.

Little is known of these people among us, and still less is written. And yet here, studying the dialectics of history, learning to compute the tangent of a straight angle, are people who two or three years ago did not know what a pencil was, who wore shoes of reindeer skin, used weapons made of bone.

### Students of Many Races and Tribes

In the wild taiga (the vast marshy forests of Siberia) live the Yukaghirs. Only 441 of them are left. They are the Mohicans of the North.

They also have sent their delegate here. In Leningrad, as in his native taiga, this Yukaghir prowls through the "forest of formulas." Soon he will return to his own tribe, and the tribe will gather in his wigwam. For the first time they will hear in their own native tongue how they must live and work in order not to die out altogether.

A broad-shouldered Laplander, with an earthy face, in European clothing from the Leningrad Clothing Trust, is going over lists of students at the table. This Laplander is secretary of the students' committee. He knows all his comrades by their first names. But that is not quite true either, because many of his comrades, especially those from beyond the boundaries, have no first names. The students from Mongolia and from Tanu-tuva have last names only—Sarga, Asse, Chambam, Khorlo. The Institute must give them names as well as an education. In the long list of students' names I read the names of forty-two different nationalities occupying this building! Have you ever heard of the Lamuts, Evenkas, Samagirs, Negidaltsi, Ezids, Yuraks, Shors, Uighurs? Probably not. Esquimaux, Chukchi, Orochons, Yakuts, Uds, Golds, Kamchadales, Kurds, Tadjiks, Aleutians, Uzbeks, Baluchi, Tibetans, Buriats—altogether there are 320 students here, 200 from the North and 120 from the East. The Tungusians are the most numerous. There are fifty-seven women in the student body.

The Institute developed out of a group of twenty-six students from the North which was organized in 1925 in connection with the Rabfak (Workers' Faculty) of Leningrad University. A year later a Rabfak for the peoples of the North and East was established in Detskoye Selo. In 1926 a group of seventy Kalmyks and Tungusians studied the poems of Pushkin in the same place where the young Pushkin himself studied a century before. Did the author of "Memories" dream that "the wild Tungusians and the Kal-

myks of the steppe" would ever read his poems in the self-same gardens where he wrote them? It was not until 1927 that the Northern Rabfak was transferred to the Alexandro-Nevsky Lavra, and only recently was it reorganized into the Institute of the Peoples of the North. Some of the students are already in their fourth year.

### A Three Months' Journey to School

A map of the U. S. S. R. hangs in the office of the head of the teaching staff.

"The red lines," he explains, "represent the routes our students have taken to come here. This one, for instance, unites Leningrad and the Chukotsky Cape. It takes the Aleutians three months to go home—by train, boat, dog team and reindeer. And in that three months' journey they drop back many centuries into the past. Our students enjoy reading Wells—they understand his 'Time Machine' very well."

Never before has a student body been made up in such strange and fantastic ways. In the winter after the number of students for each tribe has been allotted, the local selection of candidates takes place. Special commissions are formed under the native executive committee which instruct the villages to choose their most active young people to send to the Institute. Students from beyond the border are enrolled through their country's representative in Moscow.

In the early spring, when the nomadic Kalmyk tribes begin their wanderings, when the first calves appear in the herds of the Tungusians, when the pike and other fish fill the nets of the Ostiak fishermen, and prickly blue flowers cover the bare Mongolian steppe—then the large-boned, strong-footed young folks, future students of the Institute of the Peoples of the North, bind up their sacks of reindeer fur, fishskin or camel-hide, and start on their way.

The young people left behind in the native villages watch enviously the preparations of the lucky ones to leave. Only the dark, older people of the village are silent and hostile.

By autumn they reach Leningrad. Aleutians from the Komandor Islands, Mongolians from Ulan-Bator, Esquimaux from the Bay of Providence arrive by the same train at the Metropolitan station in Leningrad. These students will be the future leaders in the far border regions of the Soviet Union. Their native land, thousands of versts away, has been awakened only since the October revolution. The National policy of the Soviet government has blown new breath into these dying tribes.

Fishing cooperatives, fur stations, traveling medical and veterinary units, reindeer raising collectives, alphabets and books where there has never been a written language before, Red Tents and radio instead of Shamanist rites—all these things are transforming the taiga. To direct the process of economic and cultural re-birth of

these backward tribes, enthusiasts of the new life are needed—people to break through the eternal ice of the Siberian rivers. The Soviet border-lands await trained organizers for their native government apparatus, teachers acquainted with their way of life and speaking the language of the Orochon and Chukchi pupils. The Institute of the Peoples of the North is providing them.

My Ostiak guide takes my over-coat at the door of the men's dormitory. Remembering that a recent sanitary inspection in Moscow showed the draymen's home to be among the cleanest, the students' quarters among the messiest, I am prepared for anything. But that does not apply to these Northerners. Everything is scrupulously clean. There are many pictures on the walls. Everywhere there are books—"The State and Revolution," "Martin Eden," "The Quiet Don." What a thirst for reading these students have developed! Over two hundred newspapers are received by the Institution. The students have their own paper too, "North and East." It hangs on the wall, attracting the eye from afar with its rich Oriental color and design.

### Writers and Artists of the North

Once a year the journal "Taiga and Tundra" is issued. Formerly the "Strange Peoples of Siberia" were described only by occasional travellers, by police officials collecting reports about them, by the missionary fathers grieving over the spiritual poverty of their savage flock.

Now the Yakuts and Buriats are writing about themselves. First of all they are demanding the restoration of their ancient tribal names. The Russian colonizers have fastened on them in scientific literature the insulting names given each other by hostile tribes. Thus it seems, there are in fact no Samoyeds nor Kamchadalovs—there are instead the Ninetsi and the Evens.

The students make thorough studies of their own tribes, and the results of their work are turned over to the Russian State Museum. An exhibition of the art of the Peoples of the North held there last winter was the event of the art season. These untrained artists with their primitive but penetrating perceptions have produced pictures of their native life which are arresting in their simplicity. The native inscriptions accompanying the pictures correspond to their subject matter. "Here lived the Samoyeds. The Reds came to them. They were hungry. The Reds gave them bread. Then the White guards tormented them. This was on the Obdorsk river." The work of the Yakutian sculptor Opinko, shown at the exhibition, was especially delightful. The students show a great penchant for art of all kinds. Recently an audience of Golds, Orochons and Tibetans watched raptur-

ously a performance of Molière's "Tartuffe" put on by their fellow students.

Molière and the Stone Age! Where else could such a meeting take place? After that it is no surprise to see an Esquimo tinkering with a radio set.

Twenty Mongolian students live in a special group. These students have only just arrived and do not yet speak Russian. An older student from the same tribe who has learned Russian has been assigned to help them and act as their interpreter.

#### New Life for Ancient Tribes

One of the teachers explained to me how difficult it was to teach, as they often must, with no school books which the pupils could understand. There are still very few native teachers, and many Russians are studying the languages of the North in order to help in this work. In the beginning teaching must be carried on largely by sign-language and pictures, and if it were not for the extraordinary zest of the pupils for knowledge it would be an impossible task.

"Hunting and fishing are among the subjects on our curriculum," one of the teachers tells me. "Our students do not go to the North with a University diploma—they must be specialists of the taiga and tundra. Each summer we send a group of students 'praktikants' to Novaya Zemlya and to the Turukhan region, to spend a year. As teachers, librarians, cooperative workers, village Soviet workers or organizers of collectives they have a chance to test out in practical work what they have learned, after which they return to Leningrad for another year to complete their studies."

It is late in the evening when I leave, carrying with me the friendly yellow faces of my new acquaintances. Again I remember the old teacher's warning about the one flat face of the whole Mongol race. His judgment was patronizing and untrue. There is no such thing as the single high cheek-boned Asiatic mask the old teacher imagined. The narrow, oblique eyes of each student burn with a separate fire of newly awakened thoughts.

## Women and Soviet Elections

ALL signs point toward increased activity over that of previous years on the part of the women of the Soviet Union in this year's election campaign, which is already under way. The increased participation of women in public affairs is due to many factors, among which are elimination of unemployment, the advances in "liquidating" illiteracy, the development of the collective movement, which offers many new cultural advantages to the peasant women, and the constant opening up of new fields for women's labor in industrial construction.

The steady growth in women's activity in the past years is indicated by the fact that while only 11,000,000 women voted in the 1927 election campaign out of a total of 34,000,000 voters, over 19,000,000 women out of a total of 47,-



A TURKOMAN WOMAN SPEAKS AT THE OPENING OF THE ASHKABAD TEXTILE MILL.

000,000 voters took part in 1929. Of especial interest is the growth of women's activity in the backward regions where women still go veiled and where the fight against emancipation of women has been waged by the men with such bitter and sometimes bloody hostility.

The following table showing the increased percentage of women taking part in the elections during the last two campaigns, tells the story:

#### Women's Part in Elections

	In the villages		In the towns	
	1927	1929	1927	1929
R. S. F. S. R. ....	29.9	46.9	50.5	64.4
Ukraine .....	38.6	53.7	—	68.5
White Russia.....	26.4	42.4	46.4	61.7
Transcaucasia .....	33.5	47.4	47.4	62.2
Turkmenistan .....	2.5	60.9	43.7	50.2
Uzbekistan .....	15.7	45.5	37.9	55.0
U. S. S. R. ....	31.1	48.5	49.8	60.3

The most rapid rate of increase in the number of women taking part in the Soviet elections is naturally to be found in the Central Asian Republics where the women had the farthest to go, and the very vigorousness of the campaign to free women in those sections has meant in some cases that once aroused they have gone even further than the women of other sections of the country formerly less oppressed.

Peasant women are playing an increasingly active part in the village Soviet elections. From 3,800,000 peasant women who took part in the village elections in 1924, or 19.9 per cent of the total number of voters, the number increased to 10,227,000 in 1929, or almost half the total number of voters.

Even more significant is the growth in the number of women elected as members of the village Soviets. In 1929 over 192,000 women, or 20 per cent of the entire number of Soviet members, were elected to the village Soviets, and 3,667 women, or 7 per cent, were elected to be presidents of village Soviets. Over 9,000 women or 20.2 per cent were elected to the presidency of rayon (township) Soviets, and so on. In the different sections connected with the village Soviets about 256,000 peasant women are doing active work of one kind or another.

In the city Soviets the role played by women is still higher. There they have one quarter of all the seats, and in the Okrug (county) Executive Committees they constitute 16 per cent of the members. The women of the Soviet Union participate in all branches of the government up to the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R., on which there are 137 women, or 15.4 per cent of the membership.

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## **Five-Year Plan of the Arts**

THE Five-Year Plan is functioning just as vigorously in the realm of culture as in the industrial life of the Soviet Union, and the control figures of Gosplan for 1931 include definite goals to be reached in the field of art as well as economics.

According to the control figures, it is planned to spend 127,500,000 rubles on the development of the arts in 1931, a large part of which will go to the building of new theatres and cinema houses. Special attention is given in the plans to cinema development. The capacity of the cinema houses will be doubled during the coming year. In factory districts 165 new cinema theatres will be built, and a thousand new projecting machines will be installed in workers' clubs. Five thousand new stationary projecting machines will be set up in the villages, and 10,000 travelling cinema outfits will be established. In 1931 about one-fourth of the new pictures will be "talkies," and 1,500 talking picture projectors will be installed. In connection with the reorganization of the schools along polytechnical lines, 2,000 schools will be equipped with motion picture machines. Such an extensive program naturally requires a large number of trained workers, and in connection with this program courses have been established to train 21,000 "cinema specialists." Factories producing cinema equipment will also be greatly expanded.

Fifteen and a half million rubles have been appropriated for the building of new theaters. During 1931 it is planned to lengthen the theatrical season so that it will continue throughout the year. The theaters are all to be run on the "continuous working week" basis, so that workers may have a chance to attend the theater no matter when their one rest-day out of every five days may fall. A large number of traveling theaters to serve the more remote districts have also been established.

Music also has its place in the Five-Year Plan. It is planned to increase greatly the number of concerts, not only in the important centers, but in smaller places. New symphony orchestras will be organized, greater facilities for musical education in the schools will be provided, and special instructors will be sent to the villages to assist in the musical training of peasants so inclined. Production of musical instruments of a type popular in Russia, such as the accordion and the balaleika, will be greatly increased.

Opportunities will be provided for upwards of 64,000 students to receive an artistic education, and special art courses are being organized in the villages to accommodate as many as 110,000 peasants.

## Foreign Relations of the Soviet Union

“ON October 9 the special representative of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Chinese Republic in Mukden handed to the Consul General of the U. S. S. R., Mr. Znamensky, the following note from the Mukden government:

### Mukden Note

“In answer to the note of the Soviet Government transmitted by the Consul General of the U. S. S. R. personally to Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang, the Political Committee of the Northeast informs you that they have long since undertaken and actually put into effect measures to terminate the activities of the Whites. In particular with regard to the White guards mentioned in the Khabarovsk protocol, the administration of the Hirin and Heilungkian provinces and also of the Special Region was promptly informed of the necessity of deporting the persons enumerated. Later renewed orders were given regarding the necessity of a careful search for the above named persons in order to carry out the above instructions.

“With regard to the arrival in Harbin of General Dieterichs, leader of the Whites, as soon as the news of this was received orders were immediately given for the careful investigation of all the circumstances of his arrival and all the conferences and meetings therewith connected, and for the immediate termination of activities of this kind. Orders were further given for the deportation of Dieterichs, if he should still be in Harbin, and for the punishment of his followers after the establishment of their guilt in this connection.

“In order to bring an end to the armed attacks of the White organization in the region of the Chinese Eastern railway we sent troops to search for, capture and expel them. For the past half year several military detachments have been engaged in searching for and dispersing the Whites and at the present time they are continuing these operations more intensely. Recently additional military forces were dispatched for the complete liquidation of the armed White detachments. We are not slackening our attention to this question.

“With regard to the White Russians who were employed in the Chinese police force or in government institutions, it is necessary to point out that all these persons, who are working at the present time in Harbin, are old inhabitants who came here many years ago. At that time China accepted them for work on the basis of general humanitarian ethics.

“The sole desire of these persons was to find means for subsistence and therefore they were not in a position to maintain a hostile attitude towards the Soviet Union or China. To drive them all out without definite grounds would not be in accordance with the dictates of humanity. At the same time it is of course necessary to watch their activities carefully. If they carry on their duties peacefully then it would be awkward to expel all of them. But at the slightest sign of any improper actions on the part of these employees, no indulgence whatever will be shown them.

“With regard to preparations for the printing of provocative proclamations in the name of alleged communists, these actually were prepared by Russian Whites employed in the Harbin detective department. The police administration of the Special Region established that this was the result of the personal work of certain persons for the purpose of getting money. In order to warn others against similar actions Fedorov and several others have already been punished by law.

“With regard to the carrying on of anti-Soviet propaganda by the White press, orders have been given by the chief administration of the Special Region to carry out thorough and careful investigation. If the White guard papers publish unsuitable comments regarding the Soviet government then it is necessary, of course, to put a stop to this and not to listen to any instigation. In general China has no intention whatever of protecting the Russian White guards or supporting them. As an example of this we cite the affair of fourteen Whites who, headed by Khedelev, attempted to get through to Blagoveshensk in order to blow up the Russian troops there. Receiving information of this, the Vintzian police administration immediately arrested all these persons and are now carrying on an inquiry. This circumstance is evidence of the fact that we are actually carrying out measures to terminate the activities of the Whites, and that we have absolutely no intention of permitting their activities or supporting them. Of this we can give complete assurance to the Government of the Soviet Union.”

### Editorial Comment of “Izvestia”

The Moscow “Izvestia” of October 19 commented editorially on the above note as follows:

“The answer of the Mukden government contains a number of important admissions confirming again the complete soundness of the Soviet demands on the question of the activities of the

White guards. While Nanking in its time attempted to prove that the White guard detachments in Manchuria were 'a Soviet invention,' Mukden not only does not deny the existence of these White guard bands, but itself refers to the instructive incident of the discovery in Manchuria of a White guard group preparing to cross over to Soviet territory with hostile designs. The reference of the Mukden note to the scandalous history of the provocative forgeries calling for the strike on the Chinese Eastern railway, distributed by the White guards from the Harbin detective division, is proof that the Mukden government recognizes the fact of the provocative activities of the White guards who are employed by the Chinese Government. As is well known one of the demands put forth by the Soviet Government was the dismissal and punishment of the active participants in White guard organizations who made use of their positions in the Chinese service for anti-Soviet ends.

"Another point deserving attention is that the Mukden government in contradistinction to that of Nanking does not attempt to completely repudiate its treaty obligations. Whereas the representative of Nanking at the Soviet-Chinese conference preferred at its first meeting to evade answering the direct question regarding the recognition or non-recognition of that protocol, the Mukden government in its note itself refers to the protocol and even states that it is being carried out in full.

#### *Answer of Mukden Not Satisfactory*

"In spite of all this the answer of Mukden cannot be considered satisfactory. The Soviet note was based on generally known, indisputable and concrete facts regarding the unpunished provocative work of the White guards. The statements and assurances of the Mukden government are in the most flagrant contradiction to these facts. The local Chinese authorities are carrying on a struggle with the White guard bands only in words and on paper. In actuality these bands are organized without hindrance and operate unpunished on Manchurian territory, threatening the Soviet border regions and disrupting the work on the Chinese Eastern railway. At the same time we again have news from Harbin today of the killing of railroad workers by the White bandits. Innumerable White guard organizations are openly carrying on their anti-Soviet work throughout Manchuria and the provision of the Khabarovsk protocol requiring the expulsion of the organizers and inspirers of the White guard detachments, remains, in spite of the Mukden assertion, a dead letter. The Chinese authorities are not taking the slightest measures against the active White guards who are employed by them and the famous forgery

with the call to strike failed to go through merely because the whole affair was exposed in time by the Soviet Consul. It is useless for Mukden to attempt to assure us that everything is fine; on the contrary, the unruliness of the White emigration encouraged by the failure to punish it, permitted and even supported by Chinese authorities is more than ever a serious threat to normal Soviet-Chinese relations in Manchuria. The Mukden government can not wave away this situation merely by writing notes about it.

"The Soviet note of October 7 enumerates a number of the minimum necessary measures which must be taken to stop the destructive activities of the White guards. Only the carrying out of these measures can give conviction to the promises and assurances of the Mukden government and only by passing from words to deeds can that government guarantee friendly and neighborly relations between the two countries, and their successful and efficient cooperation on the Chinese Eastern railway."

#### **Note of Karakhan to Mo Teh Hui**

On November 10 Mr. L. M. Karakhan, Assistant Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U. S. S. R., and Soviet representative at the Soviet-Chinese conference, sent the following letter to Mo Teh Hui, representative of the Chinese Republic at the Conference:

*"Dear Sir, Mr. Plenipotentiary Representative :*

"In connection with the series of conversations which have taken place between us, and particularly in connection with the conversation of November 6 during which we considered means of eliminating the obstacles to further work of the Soviet-Chinese Conference, and also in view of the request of Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang made on October 29th of this year to inform him by what means it would be possible to remove the obstacles preventing the proper development of the conference, I have the honor, Mr. Plenipotentiary Representative, to inform you as follows:

"The Union Government has insisted on the strict fulfillment of the obligations taken upon itself by the Chinese Government in accordance with the Khabarovsk agreement, inasmuch as only thereby can peaceful, neighborly relations and normal work on the Chinese Eastern railway, as well as the successful course of the Soviet-Chinese Conference which has opened in Moscow, be assured.

"The Chinese Government in extending the powers of the Chinese delegate to this conference, has thereby fulfilled its obligations in accordance with the Khabarovsk agreement with regard to the section concerning the scope and work of the conference.

"In its note of October 9 the Mukden Government, confirming the obligations undertaken by the Chinese side in the Khabarovsk protocol

with regard to the White guards, again emphasized its readiness and determination to take measures with regard to activities of the White guards directed against the interests of the U. S. S. R. on the Chinese Eastern railway and toward the sharpening of the relations between the U. S. S. R. and China.

"Finally, the present régime on the Chinese Eastern railway shows that China is also in general fulfilling its obligations under the Khabarovsk protocol with regard to the section concerning the railroad.

"The points of the Khabarovsk protocol touching upon the workers and employees on the Chinese Eastern railway, the restoration of consular institutions of the U. S. S. R., and the guaranteeing of normal operations to Soviet economic organizations, have also been fulfilled.

"Therefore, insofar as the basic provisions of the Khabarovsk protocol may be considered fulfilled, and inasmuch as you declared to me in our conference of December 6 that there is not and cannot be the slightest doubt of the necessity of preserving the régime on the Chinese Eastern railway restored by the Khabarovsk protocol in accordance with the Peking and Mukden treaties, the Union Government sees no obstacle to entering upon the consideration at the Soviet-Chinese conference of concrete questions regarding the Chinese Eastern railway, trade and diplomatic relations, and so forth.

"Thus until such time as the present situation on the Chinese Eastern railway is changed at the Soviet-Chinese conference through a change in the régime of the railway by mutual agreement, or through the purchase of the road by the Chinese Republic—the situation now existing on the Chinese Eastern railway by virtue of the Mukden and Peking agreements must be subjected to no change through unilateral, arbitrary acts of either side.

"The regrettable experience of the conflict of 1929 should, I think, be a convincing proof of the necessity for the observance of this condition by both governments.

"I hope that this proposal of the U. S. S. R., dictated by a sincere desire for the successful continuance and consummation of the work of the Soviet-Chinese conference, and hence for the creation of a solid, normal basis for friendly and good relations between the two countries, will be accepted by the Government of the Chinese Republic.

*"Please accept, Mr. Plenipotentiary Representative, assurances of my complete respect."*

"L. KARAKHAN."

#### Karakhan Replies to Second Note

After receiving Mo Teh Hui's reply to his note of November 10, Mr. Karakhan wrote him again as follows:

"Acknowledging receipt of your letter of November 17, I am obliged to express my extreme

amazement at the fact that you consider your own statement of November 6, as quoted by me in my letter of November 10, contrary to your actual statement, and on this basis protest against its publication.

"Your statement of November 6 quoted in my letter represents nothing new as you reiterated it in negotiations with me June 8, June 21, July 4 and October 8. During these negotiations you attempted to convince me that the Chinese Government, particularly the Chinese authorities of the Three Eastern Provinces, have observed and continue to observe the Khabarovsk protocol and hence that there was no need of a new formal recognition of the Khabarovsk protocol by the Soviet-Chinese Conference.

"The Union Government could not, however, content itself with the mere statement of the fulfillment of the Khabarovsk protocol and insisted that this statement be actually carried out.

"Therefore, when the Chinese Government, particularly the authorities of the Three Eastern Provinces, began to carry out previously unfulfilled points of the Khabarovsk protocol, and when you, Mr. Plenipotentiary Representative, told me in our conversation of November 6 that there was not and could not be the slightest doubt of the necessity of preserving the régime on the Chinese Eastern railway restored in conformity with the Peking and Mukden treaties by the Khabarovsk protocol, the Union Government then found it possible to enter upon the discussion of further questions, subject to the deliberations of the Soviet-Chinese conference.

"Your statement of November 6, against the publication of which you protest, is also in full formal agreement with the document quoted below and signed by you as representative of the Government of the Chinese Republic on the Chinese-Eastern railway directorate, and as chairman of that directorate."

Mr. Karakhan then quotes the minutes of the meeting of the directorate of the Chinese Eastern railway on January 10, 1930, presided over by Mo Teh Hui, at which the Khabarovsk protocol was discussed and it was decided that "the articles of the Soviet-Chinese agreement concluded in Khabarovsk on December 22, 1929, be accepted for guidance and execution by the directorate and management of the Chinese Eastern railway." The note then continues as follows:

"In view of the above I cannot accept your protest, as it is completely unfounded. I must express perplexity over the explanations given in your letter regarding your statement of November 6, as those explanations are in surprising and inexplicable contradiction to the repeated statements of the Chinese side, and to the official document of which you are aware.

"At the same time I must note that your letter of November 17 does not contain a sufficiently complete and clear statement to the effect that

by virtue of the Peking and Mukden treaties the present régime on the Chinese Eastern railway must not, in whole or in part, be subjected to any change by unilateral and arbitrary actions by one or the other side, and that any change in the régime of the Chinese Eastern railway in any of its parts can be effected only through mutually agreed decisions. Your letter of November 17 contains such ambiguous expressions regarding the undeniable obligation already undertaken by the Chinese in the Peking and Mukden treaties of 1924 and the Khabarovsk protocol, and confirmed by official statements and documents emanating from representatives of the Chinese Government, that this unexpected position cannot but create serious misgivings.

"The Union Government therefore considers it necessary to declare with special persistence and emphasis before the representatives of the Chinese Republic and authorities of the Three Eastern Provinces, the complete inadmissibility of the arbitrary and unilateral actions in relation to the Chinese Eastern railway, for precisely such actions created in 1929 a serious menace to the peace and neighborly relations between the U. S. S. R. and China.

"I note that as a result of my letter of November 10 you accept the Soviet proposal to take up at the Soviet-Chinese Conference the discussion of concrete questions of the Chinese Eastern railway, commercial and diplomatic relations, and so on.

"L. KARAKHAN."

*Note*—According to latest reports the Soviet-Chinese Conference will be re-convened in Moscow December 4.

## Sovnarkom Answers Soviet Trade Restrictions

**A** RESOLUTION to cut down purchases in all countries establishing special restrictive measures against imports from the Soviet Union, was passed by the Sovnarkom (Council of People's Commissars) of the U. S. S. R. on October 20. The text of the decree follows:

*The Council of People's Commissars of the U. S. S. R. decrees:*

To instruct the People's Commissariat for Foreign and Internal Trade of the U. S. S. R. to take the following measures with regard to those countries which establish special restrictions not extended to other countries, for trade with the Soviet Union by the adoption of special measures of a legislative or administrative nature hindering the normal importation of Soviet goods into these countries:

1. To discontinue entirely or cut to the minimum orders and purchases in such countries;
2. To discontinue using the tonnage of these countries;

3. To establish, in connection with the People's Commissariat for Transport, special restrictive rules for the transit of goods originating in or coming from these countries;

4. To take measures, jointly with the People's Commissariat for Transport, to stop entirely or cut to the minimum the use of ports, ways of transit, and bases of the Soviet Union by these countries for transit of re-export operations.

*Chairman of the Sovnarkom of the U. S. S. R.,*

A. I. RYKOV.

*Moscow, Kremlin, October 20, 1930.*

### Statement by Rozenholtz

In an interview published in the Moscow press of October 22 regarding the campaign against Soviet exports, Mr. A. P. Rozenholtz, Assistant Commissar for Trade of the U. S. S. R., made the following comments:

"The Soviet Government cannot remain a passive spectator of the anti-Soviet actions with which this campaign is accompanied. When the French Government recently established a special régime for the importation of a number of Soviet articles, our diplomatic representative in Paris made an emphatic protest against establishing special regulations for trade with the Soviet Union not extended to other countries. The French Government attempted to justify its decree by an utterly unfounded reference to reciprocity. The monopoly of foreign trade existing in the Soviet Union and the Soviet license regulations apply equally to all countries, and we should have no ground for complaint if the French Government had issued similar regulations for all countries. We cannot, however, be reconciled with the passing of special regulations with regard to the U. S. S. R., and it was against this that our protest was directed.

"Nor can we, furthermore, confine ourselves merely to protests, if they do not accomplish their purpose. The decree of the Council of People's Commissars instructs the People's Commissariat for Trade to take the necessary defensive measures against the artificial barriers and restrictions which are created by special laws and regulations. That is the meaning of the Sovnarkom decree."

### Changes in Soviet Foreign Service

On October 30 Alexander A. Bekzadian was appointed diplomatic representative of the U. S. S. R. to Norway in place of Mme. Alexandra Kollontay, who has been transferred to Sweden.

On July 11 Mr. Daniel I. Petrovsky was relieved of the post of trade representative of the U. S. S. R. in Austria, and Mr. V. F. Ivanov was appointed in his stead.

## Indictment of "Industrial Party" Members

ON October 11 the Soviet press published the indictments against the eight Russians whose trial on charges of plotting the overthrow of the Soviet Government through widespread damage to Soviet industry and an armed uprising assisted by foreign intervention, opened on November 25.

The indictment is based on confessions made by the prisoners giving in detail the history of the counter-revolutionary organization through which they operated, its attempts to ruin the Soviet economic structure, its connections with émigré counter-revolutionary organizations and official circles of other countries in preparation for armed intervention, and its concrete plans for the formation of a reactionary government to be ushered in by military dictatorship, for which the cabinet had been chosen.

The confessions describe the existence of a central counter-revolutionary organization of engineers and former bourgeois specialists with representatives in the most important Soviet departments and industries. The organization was called by its members the "Industrial Party," and has been operating with the "Peasant Party" of Kondratiev and others whose leaders are to be tried later. According to the confessions this party maintained connections with the "Trade and Industry Committee" of former Russian industrialists in Paris who, in turn, were in direct personal touch with French government circles, and leading persons in other countries.

The confessions brought out that this organization has done everything possible to bring about disorganization and crisis in Soviet industry and national life through direct damage to industrial undertakings, through drawing up faulty plans, giving incorrect estimates, diverting enormous sums to useless enterprises, sowing discouragement among the masses, promoting treason in the Red Army, and carrying on military and economic espionage. The direct purpose of these activities, according to the confessions, was to prepare for a rising at home and intervention from without which were to have taken place in the summer of 1930, but which were postponed due to the unfavorable international situation and to the increased strength of the Soviet Union. The summary of the charges, as published in the Soviet press, follows:

### Summary of Charges

The criminal anti-government activities of the Central Committee of the Industrial Party for the past two years have consisted in the following:

(a) Continuing and strengthening the general damaging operations for the purpose of effecting disorganization of the economic structure—work which was begun by the Engineering and Technical Center before the organization of the Central Committee of the Industrial Party;

(b) Special damaging work to destroy planned construction by the creation of crises in fuel supply, metal supply, electrical power, the textile industry, and other branches, directed toward bringing about a general economic crisis in 1930—the year set for foreign military intervention—with the aim of simplifying and aiding such intervention;

(c) Special espionage work at the behest of the French General Staff and the Trade and Industry Committee in France to inform them of facts regarding the economic situation in our country and special secret information with regard to defense—for the purpose of facilitating foreign intervention.

(d) Military work designed to disorganize the Red Army, and the preparation of treacherous actions on the part of its separate sections and commanding staff—with the same purpose of facilitating foreign intervention;

(e) Diversion activities directed especially toward the destruction of the productive powers of Soviet industry and the rear of the Red Army directly at the moment of intervention.

The nature of these criminal activities fully justifies the indictments drawn up on the basis of Article 58, paragraphs, 3, 4 and 6 of the Criminal Code of the R. S. F. S. R.\*

On the basis of the above activities the following persons are turned over to the Special Sessions Court of the Supreme Court of the U. S. S. R. for trial:

### I

1. Ramsin, Leonid Constantinovich, born 1887, citizen of the U. S. S. R., professor of the Moscow High Technical School and Director of the Fuel Institute, by his own confession a member of the illegal Industrial Party.

2. Kalinnikov, Ivan Andreyevich, born 1874, a citizen of the U. S. S. R., occupying the position of assistant director of the Production Section of Gosplan, and professor in

\*Article 58 provides the highest measure of social punishment for the organization of armed uprisings, and participating in attempts for the violent overthrow of the Soviet government.

the Military-Aviation Academy and other higher educational institutions, by his own confession a member of the illegal Industrial Party.

3. Larichev, Victor Alexeyevich, born 1887, a citizen of the U. S. S. R., engineer, president of the Fuel section of Gosplan. By his own confession a member of the illegal Industrial Party.

4. Sharnovsky, Nikolay Frantsevich, born in 1868, a citizen of the U. S. S. R., professor in various higher educational institutions, President of the Scientific-Technical Council of the Supreme Council of Public Economy, member of the illegal Industrial Party.

5. Fedotov, Alexander Alexandrovich, born in 1864, citizen of the U. S. S. R., professor in higher educational institutions, president of the Collegium of the Scientific-Research Textile Institute, by his own confession a member of the illegal Industrial Party.

6. Kuprianov, Sergey Victorovich, born 1871, citizen of the U. S. S. R., technical director of the Textile Section of the Supreme Economic Council of the U. S. S. R., mechanical engineer, by his own acknowledgment a member of the illegal Industrial Party.

### The Charges

The charges against the above-named persons are as follows:

1. Having entered at different times into damaging organizations in different branches of industry, and having set themselves the task, by the use of different forms of sabotage, of causing the greatest possible injury to the economic structure of the U. S. S. R. in order to harm the Soviet Government and simplify conditions for the restoration of a bourgeois government, they have carried out these damaging activities over a number of years. They joined together for this purpose, on the initiative of Palchinsky, who was executed for his part in the counter-revolutionary organization and for organized sabotage, and of Rabinovich, convicted for his damaging activities at the Shakhta trial, into a single organization, called by them the "Engineering and Technical Center," with the aim of systematic and planned direction of sabotage in all branches of industry.

2. Having subsequently become convinced, on the basis of the growing successes of socialist construction, of the futility of their attempts to hold back that construction and to guarantee the restoration of the economic and political leadership of the bourgeoisie solely by means of sabotage, and having further become convinced of the

necessity of the armed overthrow of the Soviet Government and the restoration of the capitalist order by violence, they reorganized their group with this in view into a political party, calling themselves the "Industrial Party," extended the activities of this organization by establishing connections and co-ordinating their work with other counter-revolutionary organizations being formed at that time, in particular with the counter-revolutionary group of Kondratiev and Chayanov, and took upon themselves the direction of the work of the "Industrial Party" through its central committee.

3. Having become further convinced of the impossibility of organizing an armed uprising within the country, or of the overthrow of the Soviet Government and the restoration of a bourgeois government without help from outside, they entered into relations with the united organizations of the enemies of the people who had fled from the country, former owners of nationalized enterprises, who had organized themselves into the so-called "Trade and Industry Committee," with individual members of which they had been in communication even before that time in their damaging activities, and by agreement with this committee they began to direct their work of sabotage in the direction of preparing favorable conditions for armed foreign interference, receiving financial aid from the Trade and Industry Committee and from foreign governments for this purpose.

4. At the same time, through the Trade and Industry Committee, French government circles, in the person of Poincaré, former head of the French Government, Foreign Minister Briand, and the French General Staff officers, Joinville, Janen and Richard, who worked out a plan for the attack on the U. S. S. R. on the instructions of Poincaré and Briand, became criminally involved in preparations for an armed attack, thereby perpetrating an act of direct state treason.

5. Subsequently, in pursuance of their proposed treasonable activities:

(a) They directed their damaging activities toward the confusion of the economic life of the country with the aim of bringing about crises in the main branches of industry in 1930, that is, the time set by the French General Staff for military intervention in the U. S. S. R.;

(b) Having established, by agreement with the French general staff, direct personal connections through special arrangements with official persons in the French service,\* citizens K and R., they received and carried out the instructions of the French general staff with regard to espionage, acquiring, in accordance with the instructions of the staff, necessary information of a

\*In Moscow.

secret nature concerning the military strength and defense preparations of the U. S. S. R.;

(c) On the instructions of the same general staff, they organized a special military group, having as its purpose to prepare the disorganization of the Red army even to the point of separate treasonable acts on the part of sections of the army at the time of intervention.

(d) On the suggestion of the same French General Staff they formed within their organization a diversion group to help foreign military intervention by blowing up public utilities, power stations, railroads, military factories.

*All of these actions come under Article 58, paragraphs 3, 4 and 6 of the Criminal Codex of the R. S. F. S. R.*

The charges against the other two members of the Industrial Party are as follows:

## II

Ochkin, Vladimir Ivanovich, born 1891, citizen of the U. S. S. R., scientific secretary of the Fuel Technical Institute and director of the scientific research section of the Supreme Economic Council, by his own confession a member of the illegal Industrial Party, is charged as follows: that, having joined the organization of the Industrial Party and being aware of its aims and purposes, he carried out its instructions, and in particular entered into direct connections, for the purpose of espionage and treasonable activities, with citizens K. and R., officials in the French service, transmitting necessary and secret information, receiving and carrying out their instructions—which comes under Article 58, paragraphs 3 and 6 of the Criminal Code of the R. S. F. S. R.

## III

Sitnin, Ksenofont Vasilevich, born 1878, citizen of the U. S. S. R., engineer of the All-Union Textile Syndicate—is charged as follows: that, being a member of the same counter-revolutionary damaging organization, and well informed of its purposes, he took upon himself the fulfillment of its instructions in the field of sabotage, and further, personally entered into relations with the active members of the Trade and Industrial Committee during his sojourn abroad, in particular with Konovalov—which comes under Article 58, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Criminal Code of the R. S. F. S. R.

*The indictment, by agreement with the public prosecutor of the Supreme Court of the U. S. S. R., has been confirmed by the prosecutor of the R. S. F. S. R.*

KRYLENKO.

Moscow, November 10, 1930.

# Soviet Films in the United States

**F**ORTY-FIVE Soviet films have been released in the United States by Amkino, the organization representing the motion picture companies of the U. S. S. R. in America.

The most recent film to be released is "The Five-Year Plan," which is based on authentic material and reveals fully, for the first time, the reconstruction work which is going on in the Soviet Union. This picture is divided into the following parts:

In the first part are shown the frontiers of U. S. S. R.—geographical and topographical structure of the border lands, the life and customs of the people of the different races, nations and tribes living on the frontiers of U. S. S. R.—in the remotest parts of the North, East, South and West—in Asia and Europe.

The second part of the picture shows the administrative, planning and economic centers of the Soviet Union, their work for the realization of the Five-Year Plan, different educational institutions, technical colleges, universities, factory-schools, tractor schools for worker and peasant youth, the work of agricultural and scientific expeditions in the North, the Caucasus, the Urals, and other districts.

The third part shows the work going on at the present time, under the Five-Year Plan, in the development of the transport and communication of the country—air lines, new railroads (Turksib), air fields, sea ports and ship-building. This part shows, as well, the most important natural resources of Soviet Russia—lumber, oil, furs, etc., and exports and imports.

In the fourth part is shown the electrification of the country, the construction of the new electrical and hydro-electrical stations and the functioning of completed electrical stations.

Part five shows the industries of the U. S. S. R. in construction and in operation—steel mills, coal mines, oil wells, paper factories, tractor factories, ship-yards—giving a vivid picture of the gigantic work now going on.

In the sixth part is shown the transformation of agriculture based on the collectivization of peasant farms and on the development of large State farms.

Finally, in the seventh part is shown the building of the country—new cities and boroughs, new houses for workers, sport grounds, and homes for rest and recreation.

Some of the most outstanding recent Soviet motion pictures shown in the United States are based on agricultural themes. "Old and New" and "Soil" belong to this category. "Old and

New," directed by Sergey Eisenstein, the director of "Potemkin" and "Ten Days That Shook the World," is an epic of the birth of the new agriculture in the Soviet Union. "Soil," directed by the young but already recognized director, Alexander Dovzhenko, employing entirely different methods from those of Eisenstein, shows the struggle of present day village life in the Ukraine.

Another outstanding recent film is "Storm over Asia," depicting the struggles and aspirations of the Mongolian people. Vsevolod Pudovkin, the director of "Mother," based on Gorky's novel of that title, and "The End of St. Petersburg," has just finished a film entitled "It's a Great Life." Among other recent films released in the United States should be mentioned "Cain and Artem," based on Gorky's novel of the same title, "A Fragment of Empire" and "Children of the New Day."

A number of scientific and educational films have also been released in the United States, among them "Fatigue in Industry," "Pamir," a record of the German-Soviet expedition to the Pamirs, "Forest People," "Afghanistan," "The Law of the Siberian Taiga," "At the Gates of the Caucasus," and "Turksib," depicting the building of the new Turkestan-Siberian Railway.

## Kara-Kalpak

THE Autonomous Area of Kara-Kalpak, which was formerly included within the Kazak Autonomous Republic of R. S. F. S. R., has been removed from the jurisdiction of the Kazak Republic, and will in the future be directly under the Central Executive Committee of the R. S. F. S. R.

Kara-Kalpak is situated in Central Asia in the valley of the lower Amu Daria river, and partly in the desert of Kyzyl Kum. It occupies an area of 120,000 square kilometers and has a population of 370,000. The chief city of the autonomous area is Turtukul (formerly Petro-Alexandrovsk).

The main occupations of the inhabitants are agricultural, as there is practically no industrial development. Cotton and livestock raising are the most highly developed branches. The entire seeded area amounted to 115,000 hectares during the present year, of which 51,000 hectares was occupied by cotton. Sovhozes (State farms) covering an area of 5,000 hectares have been organized in this region. Lucerne, of which a part is exported, plays an important role in the crops of Kara-Kalpak. The region is especially renowned for its production of caracul sheep.

Communications in this region are very difficult. There is not a single kilometer of rail-

road in the entire area. Railroad connections can only be made by way of the Aral sea and the Amu Daria river. In winter the region is almost entirely cut off from Central Asia and from the Center. The only communication is by way of the Turtukul-Chardjui air line.

It is planned to construct a railroad this year, the Alexandrov-Gai-Chardjui line, which will connect the region with the center.

## Book Notes

"THE SOVIETS IN WORLD AFFAIRS," by Louis Fischer. Jonathan Cape and Harrison Smith. New York, 1930. Two volumes; \$10.

Mr. Fischer's book is a complete history of Soviet foreign relations from the beginning of the Soviet Government in November, 1917, to the close of 1929. It presents much detail and considerable material hitherto unpublished and it gives numerous X-ray pictures of the interplay of diplomatic and economic forces under the surface of international affairs during a confused and dramatic period. The work is the fruit of both research and of first-hand contacts, both in the Soviet Union and in other countries.

Mr. Fischer is an American author and correspondent who has spent much time in the Soviet Union during the past ten years. He is familiar with the country and the language. His studies of European affairs and his many contacts in European capitals have given him a broad preparation for his comprehensive work.

"A FORD CROSSES SOVIET RUSSIA," by George S. Counts. The Stratford Company, Boston.

Professor Counts took a Ford to Russia and traveled through the country for some 6,000 miles over roads of all kinds and conditions and through some sections where there were virtually no roads whatever. He visited all sorts of back-country villages where a foreigner was as great a curiosity as a motor car. The book is a highly entertaining story of the adventures and misadventures of a pioneer motor tourist in the wide open spaces of U. S. S. R.

### An Economic Study

*The London Economist*, in connection with its issue of November 1, publishes a 28-page "Russian Supplement." The Supplement sets forth the result of a first-hand study of conditions and progress in the Soviet Union conducted by a representative of *The Economist*. The study includes a comprehensive survey of the economic situation and a statistical appendix.

## Miscellaneous News

### Development of Light Industry

**D**URING the past year industrial production, of both light and heavy industry has exceeded pre-war production by 80 per cent. The main advance has been in heavy industry, which has tripled its production in the past three years, while light industry has increased by 86 per cent. The emphasis on the development of heavy industry and lack of sufficient raw materials have resulted in a severe goods hunger, which however, it is expected will be partly overcome this year due to the large crops of cotton and of sugar beets.

Last year the textile factories manufactured only a little more than 300,000 tons of cotton cloth, although they could have produced twice this amount had there been sufficient raw material. The same was true of the sugar industry, and other branches of light industry. This year, however, due to an increase in the area seeded to cotton by 500,000 hectares, the cotton crop amounted to 1,400,000,000 tons—70 per cent more than last year's crop, which means that the textile factories will come much nearer to filling the demand for cotton goods this year than last.

Preliminary estimates of the sugar beet harvest indicate a crop of 140,000,000 centners, which means that the 180 sugar factories in the Soviet Union will be able to produce 18,000,000 centners of sugar during the coming year, or 123 per cent more than last year, and 25 per cent more than the pre-war output.

The increased emphasis on light industry may be judged by the fact that the program for the "special quarter," October-December, 1930, provides for an increase of one-third in the output of light industry, more than double the increase of the whole past year.

### Increase in Soviet Railway Traffic

**I**N 1929-30 the railway system of the Soviet Union reached a length of 79,934 kilometers. This was 21,385 kilometers more than in 1913, or an increase of 36 per cent.

The Turksib line, 1,142 kilometers in length, which was completed last April, will begin to operate on full schedule on January 1, 1931. Over a thousand kilometers of other new lines will commence operation on full schedule at the same time.

During 1929-30 the Soviet railroads carried 234,911,000 tons of freight compared with 132,-

000,000 in 1913. A total of 132,956,000,000 ton-kilometers was covered, compared with 65,696,000,000 in 1913.

The number of passengers carried by the railroads during 1929-30 was 510,200,000 as against 185,800,000 in 1913.

The amount of labor employed on the railroads has increased 7 per cent in the past year. There are now almost a million railroad workers, of whom 18 per cent have a seven-hour working day. The average wages of railroad workers has been increased by 13 per cent since last year.

### Training the Homeless Children

**"WHAT** has happened to all the 'bezprizornie'?" is a question which is being asked by many visitors to the Soviet Union who have heard exaggerated accounts of the homeless children, a problem which was formerly very grave, but which has been largely solved in the past few years.

The answer to the question may be found in the machine shop of Novosibirsk, run by former "bezprizornie," one of many of its kind which have been established throughout the country.

The Novosibirsk shop was established two and a half years ago, with a carpenter shop which employed twenty-seven homeless children. Since then it has developed into a solid productive enterprise, which turned out work during the past year amounting to about a million and a half rubles, and which expects to add another million rubles to its output during the coming year. The shop has expanded greatly, and now has many different departments—a machine shop, blacksmith shop, and so on, in addition to the original carpenter shop—employing altogether 600 former "bezprizornie."

The time of the young workers employed in the shop is divided between productive work and study courses which have been developed in connection with the institution. Three hundred boys have been "graduated" from the institution and sent to take technical courses elsewhere. Many of these former boys of the streets have been promoted to positions of responsibility within the institution itself.

No coercion whatever is used in getting the boys to work. On the contrary, "socialist competition" and "shock brigades" have been organized voluntarily by the boys. A wide variety of cultural work is carried on within the institution, circles devoted to the arts, study groups, wall newspapers, and so on.

A new factory building will be constructed during the coming year, and it is expected to increase the number of worker-students to one thousand, to be drawn entirely from former "bezprizornie."

#### Return of Giant Meteorite Expedition

Professor Kulik, head of the Academy of Science expedition to Siberia in search of the giant meteorite which fell in 1908, returned in October to Moscow, after spending two years in scientific observations in the region of the meteorite. The report of the expedition is awaited with interest throughout the scientific world. The expedition had to carry on its work in this almost inaccessible region under extremely difficult conditions. All vegetation and animal life has been completely wiped out within a large area of the fall of the meteorite and the ground is gutted with enormous holes. Within a radius of 150 kilometers of where the meteorite fell whole forests of charred trees lie uprooted and symmetrical, their tops all facing in one direction. It is said that New York would have been completely demolished if the meteorite had chosen Manhattan Island for its fall rather than the uninhabited Siberian forest region.

#### Gliding Contest in the U. S. S. R.

The seventh annual contest of gliding planes has just been concluded in Koktobel, Crimea. Twelve aviation and Osoaviakhim organizations participated in the meet, with 200 gliders. Over 3,000 flights were made by the 76 contestants, of whom five were women. The glider pilot Stepanchenko broke a world's record for fancy gliding when he looped the loop three times in his glider. A combined flight of light airplane and glider was tried out at the meet.

#### Bureau of Measures and Weights

The Chief Measures and Weights Chamber of the U. S. S. R. has just been advised by the International Measures and Weights Bureau that due to the high quality of the standard electrical and light measures produced in the U. S. S. R., the Chamber has been included among the six world laboratories entrusted with the scientific and technical work of making light and electrical measurements on an international scale.

#### Administrative Appointments

On October 18 Gregory Fedorovich Grinko was appointed People's Commissar for Finance of the U. S. S. R. in place of Nikolay P. Briukhanov who was relieved of the post at his own request. Mr. Grinko has been Assistant Commissar for Agriculture of the U. S. S. R., and one of the vice-chairmen of Gosplan (State Planning Commission).

Moissaye Y. Kalmanovich, formerly Assistant Commissar for Agriculture of the U. S. S. R., has been appointed President of the Admin-

istration of the Gosbank (State bank) of the U. S. S. R. Ury L. Piatakov, formerly President of Gosbank, has been relieved of the post in order to take up duties as a member of the presidium of the Supreme Economic Council and President of the Administration of "Vsyekhimprom" (the All-Union Chemical Industry).

On November 3 Daniel E. Sulimov was appointed Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the R. S. F. S. R. in place of Sergey I. Sirtsov. Mr. Sulimov is a member of the Central Executive Committee of the U. S. S. R. and has been first Assistant Commissar for Transport since 1927.

On November 10 Gregory K. Ordjonikidze was appointed Chairman of the Supreme Council of National Economy, to succeed Valerian V. Kuibyshev. Mr. Ordjonikidze was formerly People's Commissar for Workers' and Peasants' Inspection, and vice-chairman of the Council of People's Commissars. He has been relieved of these two positions in connection with his new appointment.

Mr. Gleb M. Krjijanovsky has been relieved of the post of Chairman of Gosplan (State Planning Commission of the U. S. S. R.) at his own request, but continues as Assistant Chairman of Gosplan. Mr. Valerian Kuibyshev has been appointed Chairman of Gosplan, and Assistant Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars.

#### New Armenian District

A new Armenian district has been organized on the Black Sea. All of the Armenian villages of the Tuapse and Sochi rayons are now united into a new Armenian county where all the administrative, social and educational activities are carried on in the Armenian tongue.

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