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# THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER, 1926

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# THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE



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## RUSSIA OF THE HOUR

Giant Battle Ground for Theories of Economy, Society, and Politics, as Observed by an Unbiased Correspondent

BY JUNIUS B. WOOD

AUTHOR OF "THE FAR EASTERN REPUBLIC," "SEEING AMERICA FROM THE 'SHENANDOAH,'" "A VISIT TO THREE ARAB KINGDOMS," ETC., IN THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

**O**UR Union covers one-seventh of the earth's surface" is an expression coined by some forgotten Soviet orator. Others have passed it along until it has become a stock argument to show the position which the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics should occupy in world affairs. The measurement (8,200,000 square miles) is true if four oceans and a dozen seas are not counted, and the argument is sound if affairs of nations, men, or families were dominated by size alone.

### RUSSIA IS CONDUCTING A GREAT EXPERIMENT

Russia is the testing ground for what had been only a theory of economy, society, and politics. The old order, the old life, institutions, leaders, were put aside. Four years of revolution were necessary. Then rebuilding started, machinery of state and industry moved again, and the theories were applied to a mass at home whose past had been submission and ignorance, with little interference and no assistance from without.

The clamor of theory and proclamations has so filled the ears of the world through these years that little has been noticed of the real test which is going on

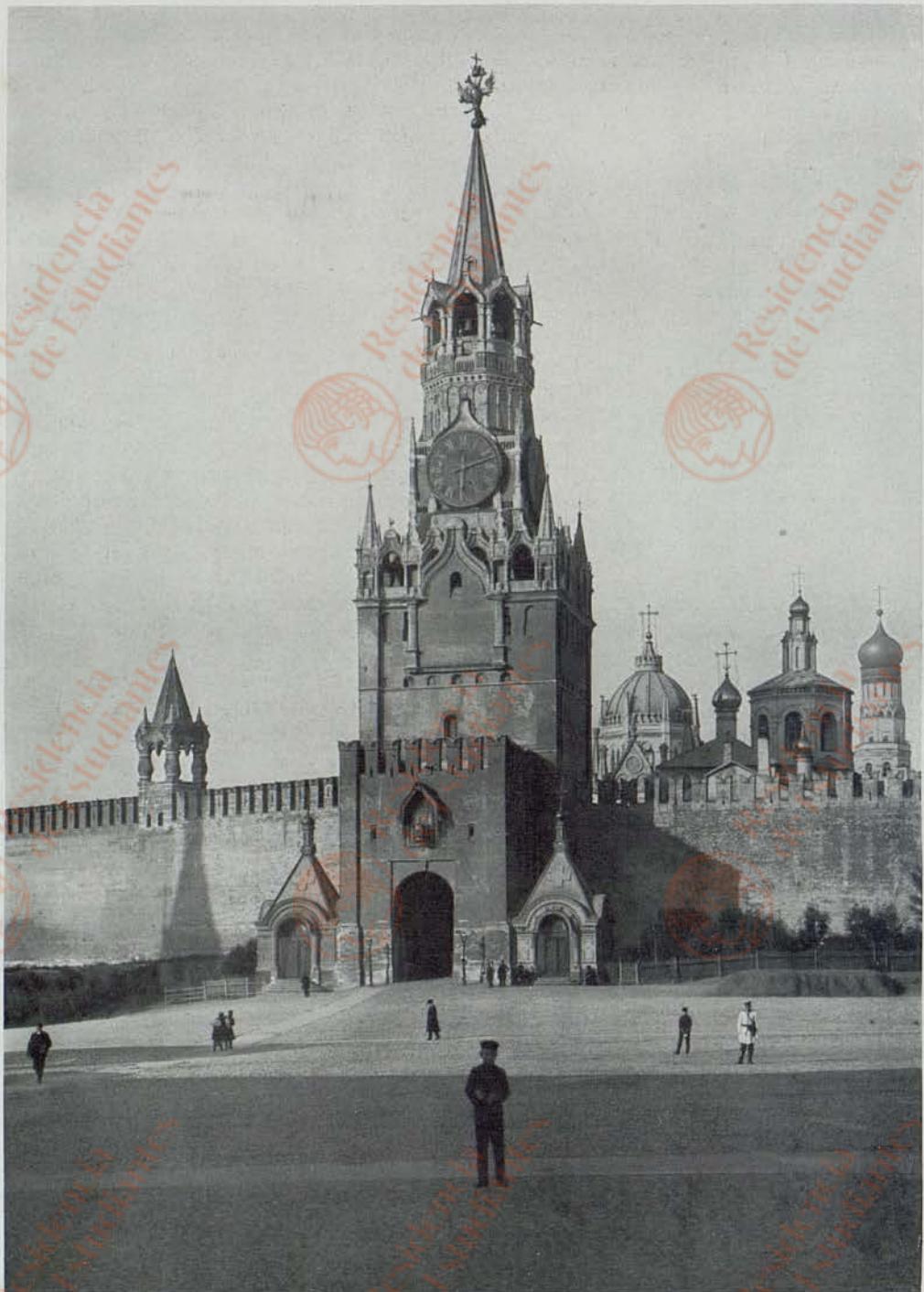
inside Soviet Russia, as theories meet individualism which is so universal in humanity, unwritten rules of life and trade which have developed through the ages, and world laws which centuries have formulated for nations.

Russia is the world's largest country, stretching across two continents, and when theory and practice reach a balance, the test of a new system of government will have world-wide effect.

Soviet Russia has a radio station 650 miles north of the Arctic Circle. Its southernmost frontiers are on a parallel with San Francisco and Norfolk. Between them are as many changes of climate as between Spitsbergen and Cairo.

Ships from its western ports sail into the Atlantic, and its eastern coast is buffeted by the Pacific, just the reverse of the United States, while the distance across the Soviet Union (5,796 miles) is almost twice as far and the train ride three times as long. Russia is the baby giant among nations, full grown but not grown up.

In the north the Samoyed straddles a reindeer and trots across the perpetual snow during the few months that he can travel at all. The new airplanes, which link together the cities of the south, see



Photograph from Gilbert Grosvenor

## THE FORMER STATE ENTRANCE TO THE KREMLIN

From 1647 to 1917 no man passed with covered head through the beautiful Spasskiya, or Redeemer, Gate, built the year before Columbus discovered America. It was used by religious processions entering and leaving the fortress, and by the Tsars for their ceremonial entry at the time of their coronation. The clock tower, 205 feet high (see text, page 529), was constructed by a Scot, member of a race which has played an important rôle in the history of Russia.

other Russians cross-legged on the plodding camels of long caravans, similar to those which traverse the burning deserts of Arabia and Africa.

A Russian ship called at one of the islands off Siberia, the first time in ten years, and the inhabitants inquired about the health of the Tsar. Each year, as the scientific expeditions return from their summer wanderings, they tell of discovering traces of prehistoric ages or forgotten centuries, and at the same time report on vast stretches of country penetrated and explored for the first time. Russia is a land of many modes, the last undeveloped storehouse of the Temperate Zone.

Politically, it is divided into six constituent republics; they in turn comprise 33 autonomous units, each differing ethnologically and culturally. Most of them have their own language, their own customs and costumes, and the babel of tongues becomes even greater from the tribes who are as yet too backward for self-government.

Cities and villages string along the railroads and rivers over all that vast territory. As one rides over the Siberian steppes, a moving speck in the void, the plains seem unending. Then a peasant's cart is seen in the distance, the invariable dog trotting behind. Soon appear other carts, all going in the same direction.

#### RUSSIAN VILLAGES ALL OF A KIND

Then a village of log houses, with perhaps a public building and a departed aristocrat's brick house, always painted white, and the ever-present church, with its five Turkish-shaped towers, the large one in the center for Christ and the smaller ones on the corners for the four Gospels. The train vanishes again over the unending plains, varied only by stretches of forest or hills, which seem to come and go as suddenly as the villages.

It is always the same. Women and children at the station selling food, a couple of good-natured policemen, the crowd of loafers of all ages and garbs, railroad officials bustling with the excitement of the one event of the day.

The station master strides impressively from his office and rings the bell between the waiting-room doors. He returns to

his sanctum for another cigarette and a bit of gossip before he repeats the performance and gives two rings. Another wait, more questions of late arrivals to answer, and he stalks out, sounds three strokes, and this time waits for the train to leave.

Everybody has been gossiping Russian style, waiting for the last bell. Hands full of apples, roast chicken, newspapers, teakettles, dogs and babies, they rush for the train.

#### MOSCOW STILL A LARGE VILLAGE

Moscow, metropolis and capital of Russia, is the largest village in the world. Moscow has its trolley cars, electric lights, tall buildings, theaters, stores, motor busses, and other outward metropolitan manifestations, but at heart it is a village. Leningrad, Odessa, and even some of the cities of the interior have an appearance and an atmosphere of western Europe; Moscow is the heart of Russia and it changes slowly.

Its brick and stone are a mosaic of the Russian spirit—stolid, unsmiling, unpolished, and slow to change. Even the unpainted log houses of the peasant villages seem to reflect age and durability.

Moscow is sprinkled with what is new, but everywhere it speaks of age, from the weather-beaten walls of the Inner City to battlemented monasteries on the outskirts. Broad thoroughfares radiate from its center, but around each corner the streets are narrow, with sidewalks no wider than footpaths.

Fires have wiped it away, invaders, from Tatars to Napoleon, have devastated it, governments have come and gone, but Moscow, stubborn and dull, has persisted. It symbolizes Russia.

It is only a step from Moscow, overcrowded and teeming with its peoples of many races, with rules for every movement and police to enforce them, into the wild, wide open spaces. Wolves and bears still roam in the Moscow district, and when the dull winter dusk comes at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and the country is under its white mantle of snow, hunger drives them to prey on mankind.

They boldly attack villages and, this year, even assailed a railroad train of cattle. No peasant ventures alone far



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Photograph by J. and P. Parikas

## RED SQUARE HAS VIEWED THE PAGEANT OF RUSSIAN HISTORY

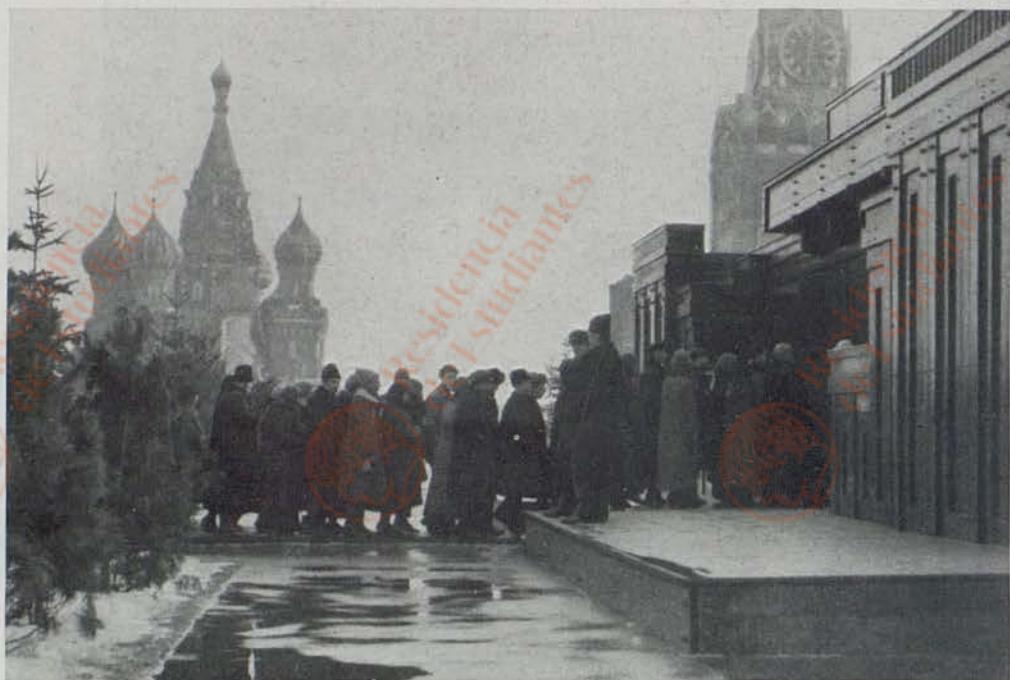
Much of the drama of Russia's grandeur and tragedy has unfolded in this beautiful open space in Moscow. Formerly the scene of public executions, hangings, and floggings when the Tsars ruled from this city; of imperial proclamations and glittering martial parades, and of the terror of bloody revolution, the square's cobblestones now echo to the tramp of Red army and Soviet workers. It lies between the Historical Museum (left center), the Trading Rows (right), and the Kremlin (left).



Photograph from American Friends Service Committee

TRADE IS BRISK IN THE MOSCOW MARKETS

The Communist régime at one time prohibited private trading, but under the new economic laws established by Lenin markets were reopened. At these great open-air bazaars everything from red herrings to samovars, furniture, clothing, or hardware can be purchased. Typical crowds of the capital gather here, the peasants offering country produce, the members of the old aristocracy and middle class, in threadbare garments, selling off odds and ends of articles which once belonged to a life of leisure and comfort.



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

## THE WORLD SHRINE OF COMMUNISM

The squat cube of the temporary wooden mausoleum of Lenin is on the north side of Red Square (see illustration, page 522). This leader of commanding personality died in 1924, but his teachings still live (see text, page 528). His complete works—books, articles, speeches, and some letters—were published in Moscow shortly after his death.

outside his village, and one group of twenty men, fancying safety in numbers, was attacked by a wolf pack. Several were killed and all seriously torn.

The loss in live stock and from other depredations by wolves in the Moscow district is figured by the tireless Soviet statisticians at \$1.45 a year per peasant family.

## RED THE RUSSIAN'S FAVORITE COLOR

A late winter sun was casting its long shadows across Moscow's Red Square, early one evening, as I started for the opening meeting of the Tz. I. K. (Central Executive Committee) in the Great Palace of the Kremlin. Red was the favorite color of Tsar and muzhik, and the Red Square was the Red Square centuries before Bolshevism or Communism adopted the color as its battle flag.

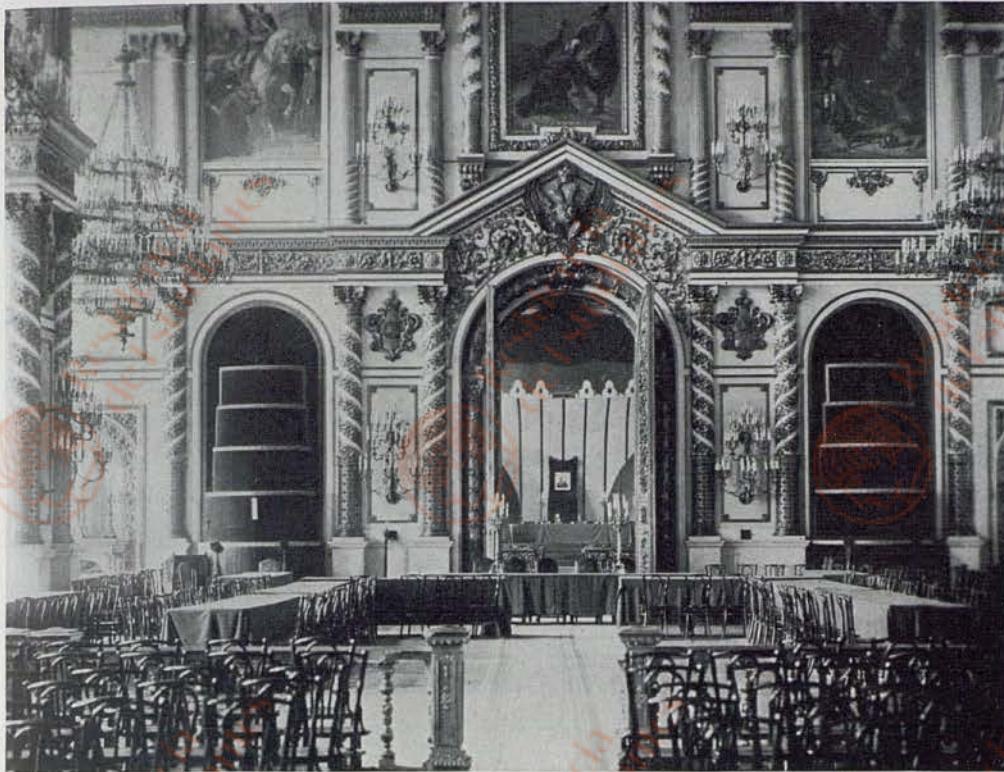
In daylight hours a constant human stream jostles through the towered Iberian Gate in the wall between the Red Square and the Place of the Revolution outside the Kitai Gorod (Fortified City).

Men in sheepskin coats, the greasy leather outside and the fur inside; clerks in glossy leather jackets; officials with beaver collars, briefcases under their arms; women in felt boots; girls in slippers, with bundles, babies, and carts, were tramping through the slush, for this was a winter evening.

Between the gates in the center of the road is a shrine and inside the wall a church. The faithful pause and make the sign of the cross as they pass. Others enter. Patriarchal, bearded beggars, hands outstretched, stand at the doors.

Begging is a lucrative profession in Moscow except for the few days of sporadic police round-ups. Beggars are of all types and both sexes, from infants who toddle underfoot while an older head directs them from the sidelines, to husky rascals faithful to a vow of "I won't work."

One day I asked a familiar member of the profession, daughter of a former Russian nobleman ambassador, why she did not take a few language pupils, especially in English, which now is the popular ac-



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

## ALEXANDER HALL, IN THE GREAT KREMLIN PALACE

This room, named in honor of the Order of St. Alexander Nevsky, founded in 1725 by Catherine I, adjoins St. Andrew's Hall, the former throne room of the Tsars of all the Russias. The walls are richly adorned in pink and gold and the floor is made up of many varieties of wood.

compliment. She replied that she liked the outdoor work, and that begging was much easier and also profitable, averaging \$4 or \$5 a day, more than a commissar's salary.

## VAGABOND CHILDREN CONSTITUTE A MENACE

Differing from the whining beggars are the 200,000 to 300,000 homeless children, pariahs of the social order, ragged, sooty-faced from sleeping in the embers of street repair gangs' furnaces, dirty, diseased, dope-poisoned, and desperate. They run in packs (see page 598).

A gang straggles through the gate, hugging the curb, eyes alert, the world a potential enemy, its plan of action decided. The leader grabs a woman's handbag, a man's fur cap, and overturns an unwary peddler's basket of apples. The basket is picked clean, and with wild screams the

gang is gone, scattering through the streets, policemen and pedestrians in vain pursuit.

In several cities I have seen the homes which the government maintains for these young vagabonds—heritage of war and revolution, but augmented every month by wanderlust—with baths, clean cots, clothes, food, and a caretaker to give them instruction and advice. Personal liberty goes amiss with this social group, too young to appreciate civic responsibility even if they had been taught it.

Police and social workers periodically round up the wild, untamed children and put them in the homes. Without restraint, there is no more hope of keeping them there than if a dog-catcher should turn his day's collection loose in a public park at evening and expect to find it there the next morning. Disease, accidents as they steal rides across the country, hardships,



RUSSIAN BOYS AT PLAY IN THE KREMLIN: MOSCOW



Photographs by Graham Romeyn Taylor

STANDING IN LINE TO BUY CLOTH, AT ONE SIDE OF MOSCOW'S RED SQUARE

This line, even in winter, often formed as early as 8 o'clock in the evening for the sale of the following day. At one time not more than 84 inches could be purchased by any individual. A baby gives a woman a preferred place in the queue (see text, page 575).



Photograph by Junius B. Wood

WORKERS AT A SUMMER RESTHOUSE, MAINTAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

RUSSIAN FACTORY SCHOOL CLASS IN NATURAL SCIENCE

The Soviet Government is making an effort to extend educational facilities to those members of the working classes capable of receiving benefit therefrom. The factory school is one of the means used to do this. Here young workers divide the day into equal periods of work and study.



Photograph by Graham Romeyn Taylor

## THE FAMOUS TSAR CANNON IN THE KREMLIN: MOSCOW

Cast by Tchokhov in 1586, the bore is 40 inches. This photograph was taken on Easter Sunday, 1917, the first Easter after the Revolution. The people thronged the Kremlin to celebrate and many took advantage of their unaccustomed freedom to climb up on the great cannon.

and other natural causes may solve the problem before these young social outlaws become fully grown.

## STREET MERCHANTS ARE NUMEROUS

The crowds elbow through the white-painted brick gates, in and out of the Red Square, between a gantlet of venders. Baskets and clumsy little wagons are on the curb; also flabby, brown, frozen apples for a cent and fat ones, carefully sheltered under blankets, for 40 cents; stands of cigarettes, each with one and a quarter inches of tobacco and three inches of paper mouthpiece; oranges for 70 cents;

cheeses, cut and weighed while you wait; candies collecting dust; dried sunflower seeds, two cents the glassful.

Along the faces of the buildings are the venders of notions; a display of steel engravings and colored lithographs on the sidewalk; women coyly dangling handfuls of homemade brassières, as numerous in Moscow as milking machines at a country fair; tables of books, Soviet in paper covers, and other languages in faded leather.

There are also cobblers with second-hand shoes and rubber heels cut from automobile tires; talkative youths shaking sticks strung with women's garters of gaudy colors and flimsy buckles; displays of socks, stockings, and handkerchiefs; leather and woolen gloves, tin and wooden toys, rubber penny squeakers, shoestrings—a sidewalk department store.

The delegates to the Tz. I. K., alone or in twos and threes, made their way through the crowd. Puddles of water with the first spider webs of the nightly frost alternated with dirty patches of winter ice on the Red Square. Along the terrace where the grave of John Reed, American, has a place in the slowly growing line of departed Soviet leaders, outside the mile-and-a-quarter, 65-foot wall which surrounds the Kremlin, snow showed white beneath the winter grime.

Lenin's temporary wooden mausoleum, a squat cube on the north side of the square, dwarfed by the towering wall be-

hind, is a world shrine of Communism. Sentries on guard and a double line of visitors waits to enter for a glimpse of the leader whose teachings still live. His body lies under glass. The dozen domes in spirals, facets and diamonds of yellow, blue, and green, shaped like inverted turnips, of St. Basil's Cathedral glistered in the setting sun (see page 555).

Legend says that after Ivan IV, better known as the Terrible, started this barbaric gem, he had the Italian architect blinded so that it never could be duplicated. However, the first architects were Russian, though they did not survive the necessary 125 years to see the completion of their dream. The cathedral in which Napoleon stabled his horses is now a museum, and anybody, for ten cents, can lose himself in its eleven dark, little chapels and maze of narrow, winding tunnels.

Through the centuries those bulbous, gaudy domes have looked down on the Red Square, watching Russian history, just as they still rise serene as the square echoes to the tramp of Red army and Soviet workers and the blare of electric amplifiers as party orators hold forth on the platform of Lenin's tomb.

From the stone rostrum in front of the cathedral the ukases of the Tsars were read. Before its doors Peter the Great executed several hundred of the Streltsi, the old Muscovite militia. Here Tsars were proclaimed and pretenders were



Photograph by Graham Romeyn Taylor

#### THE CHAPEL OF THE IBERIAN VIRGIN: MOSCOW

The shrine, with its dome of blue studded with gold stars, stands at one of the main entrances to the Red Square. The picture of the wonder-working Iberian Virgin, in its small sanctuary, is the most famous sacred picture in Moscow. It was sometimes taken to the side of a sick bed, and on these occasions was placed in a carriage drawn by six horses. At all hours of the day and night devout Russians, from prince to peasant, were to be seen crossing themselves at the door of the chapel.

killed. Across that square each proud emperor led the patriarch of the church on a donkey into the Kremlin, through the Spasskiya (Redeemer) Gate, which no man entered from 1647 to 1917 without baring his head (see page 520).

The clock in the Spasskiya tower, 205 feet high and tallest of the nineteen green-tiled towers of assorted shapes around the Kremlin walls, was marking 7 o'clock this springlike evening. Black imperial crests of other days, topping



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

## THE RUSSIAN WORKMAN LIKES HIS MUSIC

The accordion plays an important part in this factory workers' orchestra. The instrument is popular with people of this class.

every tower, stood clear against the blue, unclouded Russian sky.

The delegates were straggling into the Kremlin through the Nikolskiya Gate. It was the shortest path to the Great Palace and their thoughts were on the history which they hoped to write, not on memories of the past.

Two narrow sidewalks separate inside the Nikolskiya Gate. One goes straight ahead along a low terrace outside the arsenal, on which are piled in pyramids the 875 cannons, French, Austrian, Prus-

sian, Italian, captured when Napoleon wrote his epilogue in Moscow, in 1812. The other branches off to the left, on the opposite side of an open court, past the big white building, once the Palace of Justice and now the headquarters of the Tz. I. K., the seat of the government.

## A CANNON-FRINGED WAY

It is a long walk, leading past ancient churches and palaces. The stacks of old muzzle-loading French cannon extend for a block, and then come the barracks, with



SWING HIGH, SWING LOW

These Ukrainian youngsters display the happy temperament characteristic of the people of Little Russia, now one of the six constituent States of the Soviet Union.

a fringe of cannon of the museum vintage.

On the corner is the famous Tsar, 38½-ton cannon, cast in 1586, mounted on fat, ornamented, cast-bronze wheels, with a 17½-foot barrel, covered with embossed figures, and a 40-inch bore, into which a slender man could crawl. Like a large family of aunts, uncles, and children, twenty other weird-shaped cannons, each a souvenir of some Tsar and all equally useless, radiate from it.

As the members of the committee trudged through the melting winter slush

this early spring evening, few gave a glance at the mementos of departed pomp. They turned the corner of the barracks, with its strange fringe of artillery, and passed another open square parked with modern 75's and with soldiers on guard.

That was worth a look, for these might be useful, and the official of any government is interested in the forces which make his seat secure.

Where the sidewalk skirts a corner of the old palace and comes out above the high wall overlooking the river, stands the great Tsar Bell. Why it happens to



ON A UKRAINIAN FARM

Photograph from Keystone View Company

A principal factor in the Russian Revolution, as in the French holocaust of 1789, was the land hunger of the peasantry. The war-ravaged land is once more assuming something of its peace-time aspect, but the old military uniform worn by this farmer is a reminder of the nearness of the bloody years just past.



Photograph by Graham Romeyn Taylor

A HIGHWAY THROUGH THE PINE FORESTS OF THE URALS

In the *troika*, a vehicle with three horses hitched abreast, the middle animal runs between shafts under a wooden arch or hoop, while his side partners are loosely harnessed, with their heads checked up to turn outward.



Photograph by John E. Wilson

## POVERTY'S HANDMAID

This Karelian woman beggar has aged rapidly from hard manual labor and an arduous life. The people of her race live west of the White Sea, on the Finnish border.

be put there, hiding behind the corner, history does not explain. It has been there for 90 years and probably will remain for several more. Tsarina Anna had it cast in 1735, and 101 years passed before it got out of the foundry which burned around it (see page 535).

A 200-ton bell, 66 feet in circumference and 26 feet high, is not to be handled lightly. It has been raised on a stone foundation as high as a man's shoulders, and the broken-out chunk sits on the ground in front as if waiting for somebody to lift it back into place.

When Ivan III, styled "The Uniter of Russia," selected for his home the little hill 130 feet above the river which is now the Kremlin, he picked a site which had the river for protection and was safe from the spring floods. Moscow at that time had been a log city since 1147. A moat was built around the other side, which served the double purpose of defense from attack and protection from the annual fire which destroyed the wooden city outside.

The river was roaring below, this evening, outside of its stone parapet, lapping the Kremlin walls on one side and spreading through the city on the other. Boats were moving in the streets of the temporary Venice.

Each Tsar added a church or another building which was called a palace or tacked on an addition to an old one, as pleased his fancy. Fires were frequent, which made more building, but there never was a complete plan for the interior of the big triangle.

Structures are of all styles, sizes, and ages, and the Bolsheviks have not changed them. Those that were dilapidated have been repaired, walls repainted, interiors cleaned and made habitable.

Most of the officials and party leaders live in the Kremlin. Its historical associations, museums, and art galleries survive; merely the tenants have changed.

The committee meets in what is known as the Great Palace. Its plain white sandstone front is chipped and stained like an old-time warehouse. Soldiers off duty, some with their wives or sweethearts and children, loaf along the sidewalk on top of the wall or sit on the window sills of the palace.

Two at the door ask each person who



Photograph by H. T. Kelsh

## THE LARGEST BELL IN THE WORLD

The quantities of water used in 1737 to put out a fire which caught the scaffolding holding the huge Tsar Bell in the Kremlin caused it to crack badly, letting a large piece fall out (see, also, text, page 531). Back of it is the bell tower of Ivan Veliki, which was completed by Boris Gudunov to provide work for a famine-stricken people (see, also, illustration, page 554).

steps up to show a ticket, passing him with the familiar *Pashaluista* (Please), a polite way of saying "Go ahead" in Russian.

Inside, the narrow entrance is finished in coffee-colored marble, and is neither as large nor as impressive as many hotels or railroad stations in the United States. A wooden stall covered with red bunting was on one side, from which supplies were distributed to each member, several volumes of bulky reports, a lead pencil, and pad of paper, not as generous as the "boodle bags" of American legislatures, which in years gone by contained everything from a hairbrush and fountain pen to an annual railroad pass.

The main stairway which guests of royalty once eagerly mounted is narrow as palace steps go and has the same plain marble balustrade. It is covered with a red carpet, probably the one which the last Nicholas trod.

At the top a narrow passageway on the right goes nowhere, and a broader one on the left leads into the former throne room, where the sessions are held. On the wall of the narrow passageway hangs Yvon's immense oil painting of the Battle of Kulikovo between the Russians and Tatars. It can be seen in its entirety only from the opposite side of the stairway.

## PALACE WINDOWS LOOK OUT ON ANCIENT CHURCH

On the left the windows look out into a courtyard divided between rows of winter cordwood and the Church of the Redeemer in the Wood, the oldest structure in the Kremlin, said to have been built when the hill was a forest.

Straight ahead is a large reception hall. On its far side, breaking into view as one comes up the stairs, is Ryepin's gorgeous oil painting of Alexander III, that giant



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

**"IVAN IVANOVITCH," WHICH IS RUSSIAN FOR "JOHN DOE," HAS A PALACE OF HIS OWN**

One of the great palaces of Moscow has been converted by the Soviet Government into a clubhouse for the thousands of peasants who visit the city. A staff of lawyers and other experts is maintained here at the State's expense to give free advice to the users of the club.

Tsar whose kindly father and weakling son were both assassinated, receiving a group of peasants. Black letters on the gold panel beneath are a quotation from him as he tells them not to believe any of the "foolishness" about land being given to them, but to return to their villages and go to work (see, also, page 548).

On two sides of the reception room were racks of paper-covered books. If Alexander could have visioned that booted peasants tramping up those stairs to make laws for his empire would revile him for that picture of which he was so proud, or that his palace would be a bookstore for revolutionary literature, possibly the history of Russia would have been different.

All around the walls and down the corridors were colored charts, graphs of economic progress, agriculture, health, schools, and other government activities.

To the right of the small reception room is the lofty St. George Room, largest in the palace, 200 x 70 feet and 60 feet high, a vast room without a column to break its

expanse of white marble. A regiment could stand in that room and airplanes fly overhead. Chiseled and painted in gold on each of the small panels of marble, and stretching back for generations, are hundreds of citations of regiments and individuals decorated for heroism with the Cross of St. George.

When the Tz. I. K. meets, St. George Room is the stenographers' work room. Half of it was fenced off, with the Russian for "No Admittance" on the gate. Down one side were long wooden tables on sawhorse legs, where bobbed-haired secretaries wrote and smoked. On the other side were separate tables for members' conferences. Smaller tables were in the windowseats in the open half of the hall. Those wearied with the session could loaf, smoke, drink tea, or play chess.

Down a few steps from this room toward the old wing of the palace is the St. Vladimir Room and the Red Staircase, the latter used only by royalties. The former was a restaurant this evening.



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

## ELECTION OF A RURAL COUNCIL SOVIET

Elections have recently been completed all over Soviet Russia, and about 60,000 women have been elected to the various village soviets, which correspond to our aldermanic councils. Women are showing an increasing interest in political affairs (see, also, text, page 541).

Possibly in the departed days well-trained butlers served collations here.

## ROYAL LINEN PLENTIFUL IN MOSCOW

The royal family table linen—there must have been several warehouses full of it, judging by the assortment which can be bought in Moscow stores—was on the long tables, but the silver and chinaware were such only in name. Girls in white dresses with red kerchiefs around their heads fed the hungry members.

St. Andrew's Hall, a long, narrow, vaulted, overdecorated room, 160 x 70 feet and 60 feet high, is the legislative seat of the Soviet Government. Once it was the throne room, where the Tsars of all Russia, after Peter the Great moved the capital to St. Petersburg, came for their second coronation, carrying out the tradition that a Muscovite ruler must be crowned in Moscow. In those days a throne stood in the farther end of the hall.

For previous sessions of the Tz. I. K. a curtain was dropped in front of the throne. This meeting had more appear-

ance of permanency, though the hall is far from ideal as an auditorium or for purposes of assembly. Special furniture in dark, stained wood had been installed.

A solid partition ran to the lofty ceiling in front of the throne. In its center, the Soviet seal of sickle and hammer in red and gold faced the members. In front of it was a high rostrum, like a judicial bench, for the officers of the meeting and the six presidents of the Tz. I. K., representing each of the six constituent republics. Below that was a speaker's rostrum with microphones to broadcast the proceedings.

## IMPERIAL CREST REMAINS IN THRONE ROOM

The chairs of previous sessions had been replaced by banks of portable seats and desks. A low railing surrounded them; separate coops along the side were for the diplomatic corps, foreign newspaper correspondents, Russian correspondents, and favored visitors; while the general public was far in the rear.



A TEA ROOM À LA SOVIET

Photograph by International Newsreel

This government-operated tea room in Kharkov is filled with Ukrainian peasants, who appear to be enjoying their tea despite the "daintiness" of the mugs.



Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

SELF-EXPRESSION EN MASSE

This is only one of the countless processions that have flowed back and forth through the streets of Moscow since the overthrow of the Tsar. For other articles on Russia published in the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE, see "Young Russia, the Land of Unlimited Possibilities," by Gilbert Grosvenor, November, 1914; "Russia from Within," by Stanley Washburn, August, 1917; "The Rebirth of Religion in Russia," by Thomas Whittemore, November, 1918; "The Ukraine, Past and Present," by Nevin C. Winter, August, 1918.



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

## CAMPING OUT

There are no Boy or Girl Scouts in Soviet Russia, but the Communist Party has organized the "Pioneers" for children of both sexes. This organization teaches them woodcraft and endeavors to inculcate the principles of Communism.

Over their heads, around the capitals of the square, gold-wrapped Corinthian columns, the imperial crest—gold crown and cross and the black two-headed eagle, one claw holding the ball of empire and the other the scepter—looked down on this strange assembly just as it did in royal days. Crests of princes and royal orders were on the marbled walls, more imperial crests on chandeliers, reflected by 3,500 electric bulbs in a thousand mirrored squares.

The tenants were changed, a rostrum and microphone replaced the throne, but it remained the throne room, a monument of Russia, the seat of power.

Where once stood princes and ambassadors the many types of Russia now were sitting. There were peasants and workmen in belted smocks, others in white collars, high boots, and low shoes; conventional-appearing professional men; a Mohammedan wearing a black astrakhan fez; Mongols in flowing coats and fur caps with plush crowns; Caucasians with little embroidered skullcaps; women, bare-

headed, and with kerchiefs tightly wrapped around their heads. Somewhat different from previous years, only one was red.

The Tz. I. K. is a tabloid of the political organization of Soviet Russia, next to the peak of its pyramidal system of government. The peak itself, elected by the Tz. I. K., is the Presidium of twenty-seven members, which includes the six presidents, and is the legislative, executive, and judicial authority, except during the few days of each year that the Tz. I. K. is in session.

The Tz. I. K. has 581 members, divided into the upper house, or Council of the Union, of 450 members chosen according to population, and the lower house, or Council of Nationalities, of 131 members, five from each of the constituent republics and one from each of the autonomous republics or nationalities.

Theoretically, the Tz. I. K. should meet three times a year, rotating in the capitals of the Russian, Ukrainian, White Russian, Transcaucasian, Turkoman, and Uzbek republics. The Tz. I. K. also chooses the



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

"UNCLE PETROVSKY"

G. I. Petrovsky, President of the Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic, is fond of children. He is surrounded here by a group of Pioneers (see illustration, opposite page), to whom he is affectionately known as "Uncle Petrovsky."

Council of People's Commissars, corresponding to a cabinet in other countries. The identical structural organization follows in each of the republics in the Union.

The base of the All-Union pyramid, itself resting on other pyramids descending from the higher soviets of the republics to the voters themselves, is the All-Union Congress of Soviets, a cumbersome body of more than 2,000 members, which is supposed to meet annually in Moscow. Its last meeting was in May, 1925.

It elects the Tz. I. K., which is not so unwieldy. Its members are elected by town, township (volost), and provincial (gubernia) soviets. The gubernia soviets also are elected by the volost soviets. Members of the latter, in turn, are elected by the village and city soviets, and these by the voters themselves.

#### RUSSIAN VOTERS ARE APATHETIC

Every person 18 years old, doing brain or manual labor, except proprietors, is qualified to vote. Propaganda to get out

the voter, especially the women and younger people, is persistent, but the percentage responding is about the same as in the United States. The voter casts his ballot as a member of some group, either in his union, factory, village, or city district.

Voting is on the town meeting order. The nominating committee receives the names of the candidates. It prepares a list. The first name is presented to the meeting. Speeches follow. Hands are raised for and against.

The advantages of heading the list are even greater than on an Australian ballot. Usually all the allotted places are filled before the end of the list is reached.

The All-Union Communist party, according to the figures of the January session of its Central Committee, numbered 643,412, about one out of every 233 persons in a population of 140,000,000. Russians constituted 61 per cent of this total. With candidates the party strength was 1,088,037, about one in 140. Figures on the elections now being held show that



VOLGA BOATMEN



WOMEN'S PHYSICAL CULTURE CLUB PARADING IN THE RED SQUARE  
Games and sports are in vogue in Russia at present among both men and women.

Photographs by "Russ-Photo"



PEASANT TYPES OF OLD NORTH RUSSIAN STOCK



Photographs by "Russ-Photo"

A PEASANT WOMAN EXAMINING AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

More than 20,000 of a well-known American-made tractor are now in operation in Russia.



Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

## TRAM RIDING IN MOSCOW RESEMBLES A NEW YORK SUBWAY AT RUSH HOUR

Despite its medieval background, present-day Moscow has a well-organized street-car service which carries throngs of passengers (see text, page 575).

though only about 10 per cent of the members of the lower Soviets are party members, the party strength increases to between 80 and 90 per cent in the higher Soviets.

By organization and methods which are common to most parties in power, especially if they are minorities, the Communist party controls the government. Communism has ceased to be an obligatory rule of conduct for the country, but there is no reason to anticipate that it will not be the party in control for a long time to come. Like any minority party, the political police are important factors. At present the G. P. U. (gap-pay-oo) (see text, page 566) is a system with which Russia has been acquainted under varying names for generations.

Communism and the Soviet Government are synonymous. It is just as if the officials of any government were also members of a disciplined private organization, and government policies were determined and carried out according to the decisions of the organization of which the officials in control were members.

Consequently, the private session of the Central Committee of the party in January of this year decided the general lines of policy, both domestic and international, for the government. In the same way it decided the policies of the III'd, or Communist, Internationale, the Russian membership being the predominating strength in that organization.

The party's destinies are guided by the Political Bureau of the Communist Party, appointed by the Central Committee—Stalin, Tomsky, Rykov, Bukharin, Rudzutak, Trotsky, Kalinin, Voroshilov, and Molotov. It is the supreme *de facto* power in Soviet Russia.

By similar overwhelming control the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic, Russia proper, embracing 93 per cent of the area and 70 per cent of the population, dominates the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

## THE TZ. I. K. WIELDS A MIGHTY POWER

A meeting of the Tz. I. K. brings out all those individuals whose statements occupy more space in the newspapers and

who are seen less in public than any other officials in the world. Center of interest when he emerges in the corridors is Joseph Djugashvili Stalin—"stalin," meaning steel, having been conferred on him by Lenin when they were exiles together. He would be called director or political boss in any other country.

Russia's strong man and virtual ruler is a Georgian. Tall, slender, with jet-black hair and mustache, stern-faced, sparing of words, but direct and emphatic, Stalin controls the party organization which he has perfected.

Kalinin, "Uncle Mikhail Ivanovitch," as the peasants call him, son of the field and factory, is a contrast, smiling through his close-cropped beard, eyes twinkling behind his spectacles, shaking hands, greeting friends right and left. Peasants have been known to walk 1,000 miles—an old-time peasant must go afoot on an important mission—to tell their troubles to him. Kalinin is the genial president, Stalin the silent political boss.

#### A HARD STRUGGLE AHEAD

The goal which Soviet Russia has set is to industrialize the country until it can supply its domestic needs. It will then be independent of the outside world. The United States is taken as a model, not the countries of Europe, which have developed industry by colonies and foreign trade. Until that goal is reached, or abandoned, no wars of Russia's making need be anticipated.



Photograph by Dr. Vera Danchakoff

#### CUCUMBER MERCHANTS DO A THRIVING BUSINESS

These vegetables are considered an essential of the Russian's dietary (see, also, text, page 528).

With less than 5 per cent of the population industrial, with far too few factories to supply the needs, and with most of their equipment antiquated and worn, a long struggle is ahead. Getting loans from abroad, or long-term credits for machinery and supplies, will only partially relieve the situation. The greatest task is to build up the personnel of skilled workers to run the additional machinery, something which requires years.

Russia has made great strides in education. It plans to have enough schools next year for all who want to attend the lower grades and enough by 1934 to enforce compulsory education. However,



Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

## ANANUR, ON THE GEORGIAN MILITARY ROAD

The fortress contains two old Georgian churches, the remains of a viceregal residence, and a watchtower. It stands at the junction of two valleys, 46 miles north of Tiflis.



Photograph by Graham Romeyn Taylor

## THE GOOSE STEP IN THE CAUCASUS

The Georgian Military Road, a mountain highway of matchless views, connects Tiflis, capital of the Georgian Socialist Soviet Republic, with Vladikavkaz, capital of the Mountain Autonomous Republic.



Photograph by John E. Wilson

## DRAWING RUSSIAN RATIONS

The drawing of rations in Russia by soldiers and civilians was so common that when a soldier saw this picture he suggested the above title.



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

MONUMENT OF TSAR ALEXANDER III IN THE SQUARE OF THE REVOLUTION,  
LENINGRAD

The inscription placed by the Communists on the base of this monument reads: "Scarecrow. My son and my father were executed and I reap the harvest of immortal shame. I am standing here as a cast-iron scarecrow for the country which has forever thrown off the yoke of despotism."

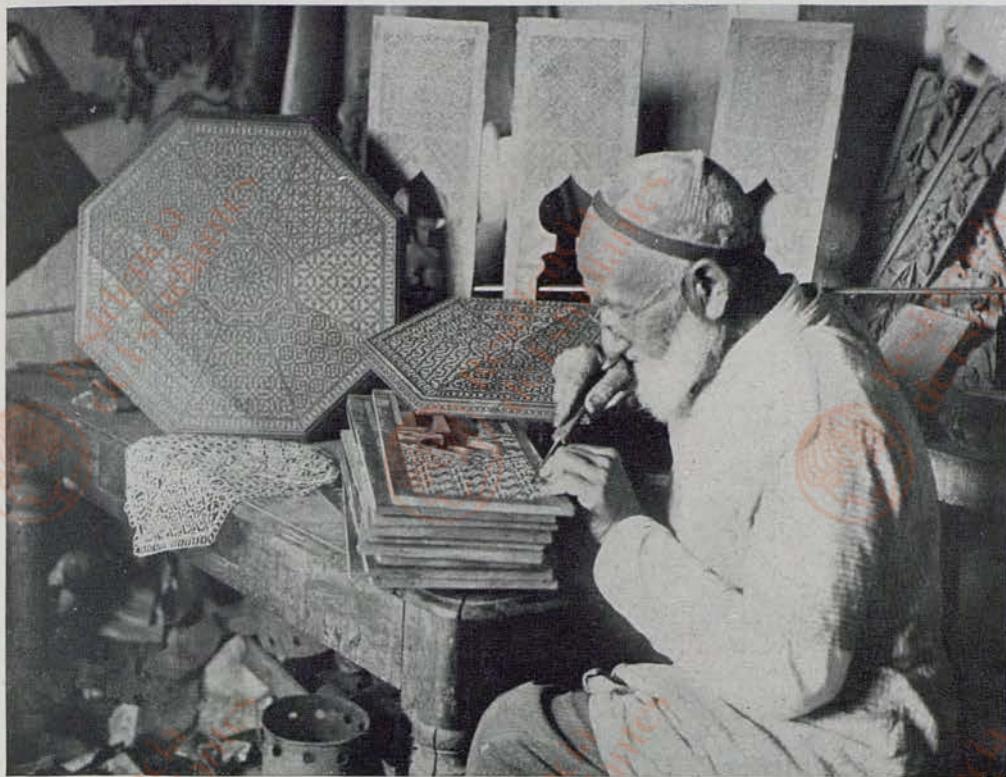
it has found that new schools, in addition to buildings, need teachers. New factories also require skilled workmen.

THE RUSSIAN LOVES HIS COUNTRY  
PASSIONATELY

The Russian is stubborn and patient, ready to eat and drink if he can, but able to go without if he must; easy-going and not over energetic; more capable of absorbing what he is told than of logical

reasoning; sentimental and fatalistic. But he makes progress in his way and the country is going ahead toward its goal, slowly and steadily.

One invaluable asset of Russia, regardless of its party or rulers, is a national spirit among the people. They have a love of country and a pride in their country. Personal discomforts, even marching unarmed to slaughter, as they did during the World War, do not matter if it is



Photograph by "Russ-Photo".

## A WOODCARVER AND MOSAIC WORKER IN RUSSIAN TURKESTAN

for the ultimate benefit of the motherland.

Another characteristic of the Russian, which does not make him less likable, is his love of talk. It is as inborn as a duck's taste for water. Bolshevism inherited the racial trait and fostered it by the democratic teaching that all men have an equal right to express their opinions.

Being a national characteristic, it becomes a factor which must be considered in every activity of the republic or in comparing it with any other country. Possibly the Chinese are more talkative. But a Chinese can talk and work at the same time. A Russian regrets permitting anything to interfere with conversation.

It is a factor in the efficiency of the individual workman, in the management of factories and commerce, and in the carrying through of the national program. So much time and energy is devoted to holding conferences, discussing a program, taking measures, and working out a plan that frequently little time or energy remains to do anything.

"Instead of filling pupils' heads with

drawing, science, mechanics, and chemistry, it would be better to teach rhetoric, elocution, philosophy, and public speaking to engineers," one of the latter sarcastically wrote in the *Krasnaya Gazeta*. "A new machine from Germany was brought to our factory. I was detailed to demonstrate it to the skilled and non-skilled workmen of our union.

"I briskly started to explain its construction. No sooner had I remarked that it was necessary to adopt this European attainment than Ivan Ivanovitch (the Russian John Doe) cheerfully slapped me on the back, shouting: 'That's an idea! We must immediately have a conference to discuss the use of foreign attainments.' We had the conference.

"After three months of endless conference, I was sent to inspect the invention of a locksmith. I was captivated. I declared it a work of genius and recommended its adoption to increase our production.

"The enraptured Ivan Ivanovitch exclaimed: 'A good idea! The question of

improving production has been in the air for a long time. Let's have a conference and discuss it.' The conference on production continued four months.

"Our machines were continuously out of order, and one day I remarked to a workman that he was not handling his machine properly. I mentioned rationalization of production, but got no further. Ivan Ivanovitch interrupted with, 'Just think, that rationalization of production is a question of great importance. We must have a conference immediately.'

"The conference continued for six months, with increasingly bad results for our factory. I protested to Ivan that workmen should devote their time to work. He was overjoyed and exclaimed: 'Good gracious! An idea of genius! We must herald it at a conference.' And we went to another conference."

The social movement in Russia may be divided into three phases: First, to arouse the workers to a revolution; second, to instill the idea in their minds that they were the rulers of the country; third, to impress them that they must produce.

The third stage has now been reached. More and more emphasis is laid on the fact that the worker must produce results and devote less time to theorizing and talking. Stalin recently in one of his rare speeches declared too much time was given to celebrations, meetings, and anniversaries. As practical illustration he cited that the marketing of the grain was costing 13 kopecks a pood when it should cost 8.

#### LIVING STANDARD OF WORKERS COMPARED

The conditions of the workers have been improved. Mere figures on wages do not show it. The average wage in Moscow is \$37.62 a month, or \$62.50 per family, the food cost of the latter averaging \$27.50. Compared to 100 in 1914, the wage index has risen: 1923, 67.2; 1924, 82.5, and 1925, 96.9. At the same time the purchasing power of the rouble in 1925 was 51 compared to 100 in 1914. In some industries, such as textiles, chemicals, and leather, the wage index is 120. Wage increases have gone almost exclusively to the less skilled employees.

However, there is no limit to the salary which a skilled specialist can command.

While wage indices do not show a worker's Utopia, he and his family are incomparably better housed than before. He has an annual vacation with pay. Monthly rents, light, and water are negligible; the unions furnish him country resthouses for the summer, free medical attention when sick, and a pension when he is too old to work.

In addition, the worker has fourteen holidays during the year, on most of which he can parade—six civil, including New Year, and eight religious—so that, counting Sundays and vacations, he plays about one day in four during a year.

#### STRIKES ARE SWIFTLY SETTLED

The Profsoyus, the twenty-three trade-unions in Soviet Russia, had 7,027,291 members in its latest report. About 12 per cent of these are employees in government offices, 11 per cent in the government railway, post, and telegraph services, and 43 per cent in industry.

Though all industries are State-owned, except for a few concessions and very small plants, the unions sign wage agreements, usually for six months. Strikes occur, but there are no arrests. The Central Council of the unions intervenes, and if the strike is in violation of a wage agreement, the strikers are given a definite time to return to work before their places are filled by others. The solution is not difficult, as more than 1,000,000 unemployed are reported in the Union.

The story of the electric-appliance trust, with the "Bell out of order" sign on the push-button at the entrance, does not give name and date, but typifies a carelessness for small details. Personal experience with an appliance purchased from that organization was that, when it broke, the guarantee was airily ignored, the government trust had no facilities to make repairs and offered the surprising advice to patronize a private dealer.

Such factors make difficult a comparison of the national capacity for production with that of other countries.

In Russia, one workman is employed in the textile factories for every 133 spindles; in the United States, one for every 613 spindles, it is estimated.



Photograph by Dr. Vera Danchakoff

## A PIPING SHEPHERD OF THE RUSSIAN RIVIERA

This Crimean Tatar pipes his lay of love or war on the slopes of the mountains, which offer good pasture to the woolly flocks of each village. He calls his land "The Little Paradise," for the southern shore of the Crimean Peninsula is a garden spot of verdure, fruits, flowers, and a mild climate, which, in the days when Tsarhood was in flower, vied in charm with its famed French and Italian counterparts. His race was the last to overrun the peninsula before it fell under the sway of the Muscovite.



Residencia  
de Estudiantes

Residencia  
de Estudiantes

Residencia  
de Estudiantes



RUSSIAN BOYS BRINGING HOME FREE SOUP

So acute was the food shortage for a while in Russia that both the government and various relief organizations had to establish kitchens where the poor might come and receive free meals.



Photograph © Dr. Orrin S. Wightman

RUSSIA'S MARRIAGE MART ON THE VOLGA

Nizhni Novgorod not only is a market where each year hundreds of thousands gather to barter and sell the goods and products of all Russia, but it is a marriage mart as well. Youths and maidens are brought here to meet each other at numerous social affairs with the hope that successful matches may be arranged. Dowries are settled upon and all details taken care of either by professional matrimonial agents or by "amateur" matchmakers, generally relatives.



Residencia  
de los Andantes



554



Photograph © Dr. Orrin S. Wightman

“LITTLE MOTHER MOSCOW” FROM THE IVAN VELIKI TOWER IN THE KREMLIN

Much of the white-walled, golden-headed capital can be seen from this vantage point. Through its heart winds the Moskva River, spanned by its seven bridges. In the distance, to the right, are the five domes and marble-sheathed walls of the Church of the Redeemer. From the Kremlin wide streets radiate to the White City, or outer section of Moscow, formerly the abode of the aristocracy, but now given over mostly to the poorer citizens.



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

SONS OF THE DESERT IN RUSSIAN TURKESTAN

The territory of the Turkomans begins in the west as sand and dreariness, but ends in the east in fertile Fergana. In few places is there enough rain to give an annual house-cleaning to dusty trees and shrubs. Part of this huge region is a steppe tract, but the desert strip extends for 1,200 miles, and makes camel transport a necessity.



Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

THE RIVER FRONT OF SARATOV ON THE VOLGA

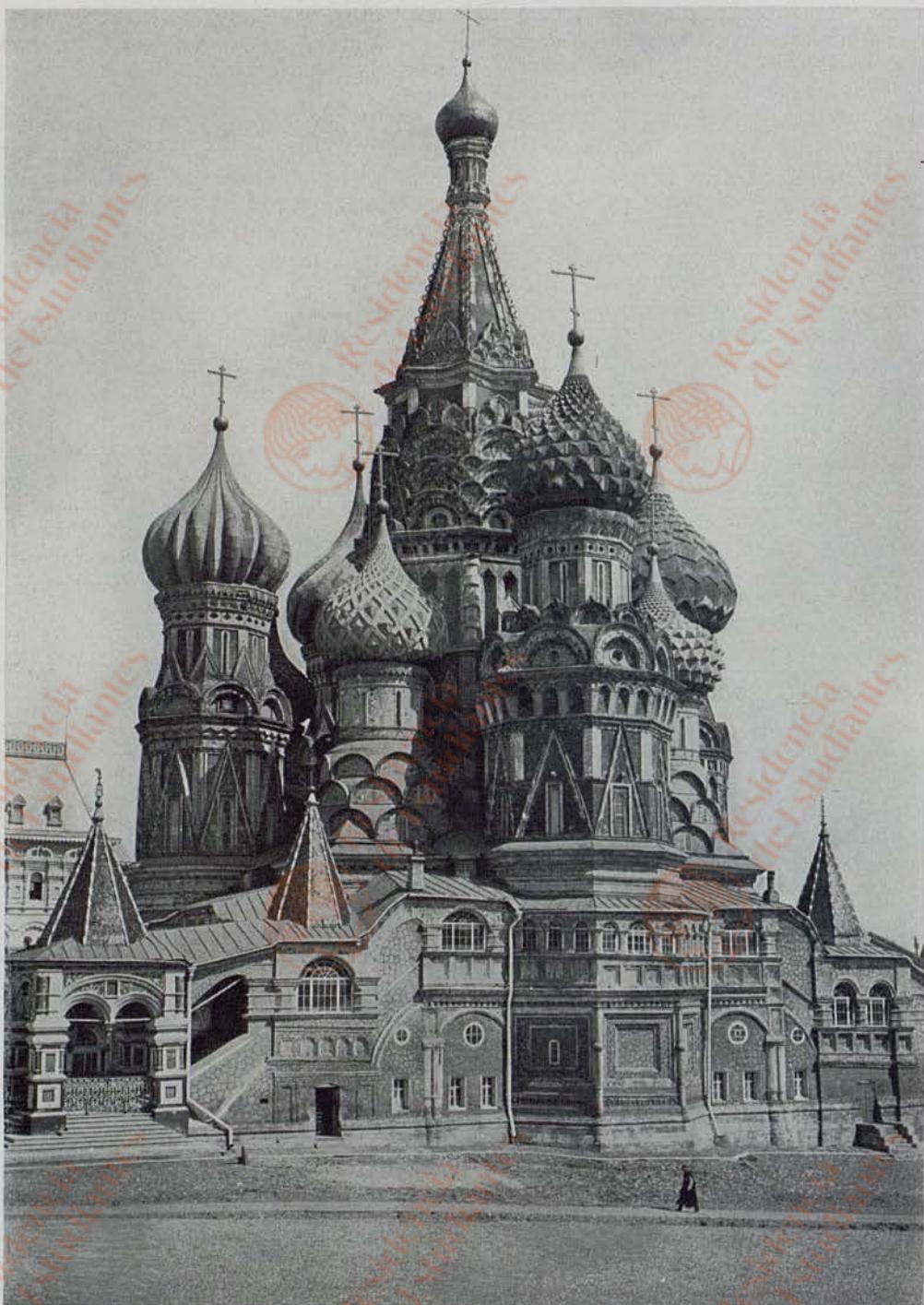
Though this important city was founded to maintain order in the Volga region, it was pillaged several times during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It lies 532 miles southeast of Moscow by rail.



Photograph by Copley Amory, Jr.

SLEDGE TRANSPORT IN THE UPPER KOLYMA RIVER REGION OFFERS A CHOICE OF STEEDS

The Yakutsk Province, through which the Kolyma runs on its 1,100-mile trip to the Arctic Ocean, is now one of the ten autonomous republics of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic (Soviet Russia proper).



Photograph by L. Melano Rossi

#### CATHEDRAL OF SAINT BASIL, MOSCOW

This inspired and varicolored shrine has been aptly termed a "fantastic adventure in stone." It was begun by Ivan the Terrible in honor of the capture of Kazan in 1554, and the blood-thirsty monarch is said to have had the architect blinded, so that he might never produce another like it (see text, page 529).

In Russia there is one workman for every horsepower of industry, and in the United States one for 3.8 horsepower.

Russia has plans for a glass factory which will employ 18,000 men. A publicist figured out that a factory of the same capacity in the United States, with modern machinery and methods, would employ only 850 men.

The steady campaign to improve the output has had its effect in increasing the unit production per worker. When the worn condition of most of the machinery is considered, the unit increase is greater than figures show. The inevitable cleavage, as in industry in any other country, is appearing beneath the surface—on one side the workers or employees and on the other the directors of government trusts or owners of small factories interested in increasing production and keeping down costs.

At first all were workers and the director was a worker of yesterday. Gradually he acquires a different viewpoint.

#### COMMUNIST PRINCIPLE DID NOT WORK

One principle of communism was discarded early when piecework and bonuses were introduced in factories. The Central Labor Council has recommended further changes in the labor laws by which a director can discharge inefficient employees without consulting the workmen's committee and can make separate agreements for more than eight hours' work a day if the total is not more than 192 hours in a month.

Eleven months, instead of five, must precede an annual vacation. Women and children can work nights, and only children under 15 years require special work permits.

The government figures a margin of profit on its industrial trusts of 9.1 per cent in 1923, 10.8 in 1924, and 9.2 in 1925. The profitable trusts earned \$192,000,000 in 1925, while those which were unprofitable on account of nonproductive branches turned in a deficit of \$16,000,000.

Most of these industries were taken over with no original investment. Market prices of their products are two to four times those of the same articles in

the United States, and little or nothing is set aside for replacements, all of which must be considered in the margin of profits.

On the other hand, it must be remembered that, when the Soviet Government finished its revolutionary phase and started reconstruction work, production of industry was practically zero. Just two years ago the figures of these same trusts were only \$85,000,000 profits and \$40,000,000 losses. Also, these profits do not include those from lumbering, banking, mining, trapping, and various natural resources.

The stranger suspects that he is going to meet a tax collector as soon as he hands out several nickels and dimes for the blank on which to write an application for a passport visa, \$2 for having the application received, and \$11 for the visa. The process is repeated every time he enters or leaves the country.

At the frontier is a contribution for the air fleet. Once inside, he must pay \$3.80 to the police for permission to remain.

A stamp of at least three cents must be stuck on every bill. The result is that most persons waive the privilege when a bill is suggested and accept a verbal statement or the cash register's figures. In restaurants this is amusing, as restaurant and hotel bills, in addition to the stamp tax, are subject to a rapidly mounting tax, which starts at 5 per cent when the bill passes \$2.50 and has reached 25 per cent if the amount is over \$37.50.

A hotel guest settles his bill daily to keep down the percentage and a restaurant host requests a separate bill for each guest at his table.

#### NEARLY ALL PAY INCOME TAX

Income taxes start almost from the bottom, but the rates are not high. The Soviet citizen has many other obligations—chemical warfare, air fleet, waifs and strays, unemployed, M. O. P. R. (Society for the Aid of Revolutionary Prisoners), and others which are voluntary, but widely supported.

The tax collector is not brusque, but patiently insistent. If the delinquent—and he can argue for months—has only



Photograph from Keystone View Company

## CUTTING SEED POTATOES IN THE UKRAINE

such property as is exempt from seizure and sale, the collector stamps it, which prohibits it being moved or sold until the tax is paid.

The All-Union revenue for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1926, is estimated at \$2,000,000,000 compared to \$740,000,000 in 1923, and slightly less than \$1,500,000,000 last year. The ordinary revenues last year were \$1,318,000,000 compared to \$425,000,000 in 1923, a great increase in two years.

The principal sources of these revenues last year were: direct taxes, \$306,000,000; indirect taxes, \$302,000,000; customs duties, \$59,000,000; railroads, posts, and telegraphs, \$493,000,000, and State property and undertakings, \$126,000,000.

The revenue from communications, nearly all of which goes back into maintenance, increased nearly five times in two years, while that from State undertakings was practically fourteen times what it was in 1923.

The margin allowed between income and expenses, including purchases abroad, in this year's budget is only \$50,000,000. Soviet financing is committed to a balanced budget for several reasons, keeping

the chervonet at par for one, and the effect is evident in the crop turnover and in commerce.

## OFFICIALS TAKE NO CHANCES WITH INTERVIEWERS

Getting these figures from the Commissariat of Finance was easier than the usual interview. To "interview" a high Soviet official a written list of questions must be submitted. If the interview is granted or the desired information is to be given out, which usually is not the case, written answers are prepared and the official presents the statement in person or through a member of his Presidium.

It seems extremely formal compared to American methods. However, it safeguards against being misquoted and, according to Russian custom, it would be a slight to interviewer and subject to have a subordinate give the information offhand.

Aside from the unquestioned practical value of accuracy, the ceremonial side has that savor of the Orient which so pervades Russia. In China the visitor's status is fixed according to whether the official nods when the call is finished, rises from his chair, steps across the room to



Photograph by John E. Wilson

## WITH ARMS FULL OF FLOWERS AND FOLIAGE TO DECORATE A RUSSIAN HOME

Even the gateposts of a Russian home are frequently decorated with limbs and branches, and refugees used to attach branches to the box-cars in which they traveled.

the portières, walks to the yamen door, or escorts him to the courtyard gate and his waiting ricksha before shaking hands.

## RUSSIA A TESTING GROUND FOR THEORIES

Whether the system of State-owned trusts, industrial and development; marketing through thirteen syndicates and eventually reaching the consumer through big coöperative organizations, and a rigid State monopoly of all foreign trade, which should be so efficient and economical in theory, are not cumbersome and wasteful

in practice is being demonstrated. Soviet Russia will furnish the world test for such economic and political theories.

"Citizen, tell me, please, where is the vodka store," a stranger inquired one blustery winter morning as I was hurrying along at the unseemly hour of 8.

No "Spiritorg" sign was in sight in that block, for the vodka stores are not numerous.

"But there's a queue and I don't see any vodka store. I don't understand," he insisted.



© International Film Service

"LONG LIVE EDUCATION FOR THE PEOPLE"

Their is no banner with a strange device. A thirst for knowledge is one of the most strongly developed characteristics of the Russian people, despite the fact that prior to the revolution of 1905 the policy of the Tsar's Government had been to make university and even secondary education a privilege of the wealthier classes.



Photograph by Graham Romeyn Taylor

## BOLSHEVIK PROPAGANDA ON THE WALLS OF THE CITY DUMA, LENINGRAD

The upper poster shows the red flower of the Russian Revolution being cut down by a skeleton wearing a German helmet, but a hammer in the hand of the international proletariat is descending on the latter. Below, the international proletariat is smashing a cannon symbolizing militarism. This was before the Soviet Government and the German Republic became reconciled.



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

## TYPICAL RUSSIAN SCHOOL CHILDREN OF THE RYAZAN DISTRICT

Their home town is on the banks of the Trubezh, 124 miles southeast of Moscow by rail. These youngsters are more fortunate than some of their little compatriots of smaller localities which have no schools. The Soviet régime has, however, taken up the task of supplying education not only to the more sparsely populated centers, but also to the barely civilized tribes of the frozen north (see text, page 593).

Up an alley in the snow was a queue, bundled women with shawls around their heads, one marshaling them according to a written list, but no store in the alley and none open on the street until 10 o'clock.

It was a galosh queue, the women explained. The government rubber overshoe store was around the corner. They could not form on the street until the doors opened. They had not been able to get in the previous day, and they had come back early in the morning and were reforming the line as it had been when the doors closed.

The queue is an institution in Soviet Russia. Through the days, summer and winter, a queue is in almost every business street in Moscow, its head at a door and its steadily growing tail a block away, in front of the government vodka shops, woolen piece goods stores, cotton print goods, white goods, movie booking agency, theater ticket offices, bus stations, and every place that is popular.

The same goods can be bought at private stores, but government shops do not raise prices as the demand increases. They call it the "scissors," this practice



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

## FIRST STEPS IN THE MYSTERIOUS ART OF LETTER-WRITING

Children of the well-to-do must obtain their education outside the public schools at the present time, for facilities are limited and preference is given those of the manual laborers.

of making an arbitrary price and cost balance, just as imports and exports must balance, which is different from regulation by supply and demand in other countries.

The vodka queues are caused by the government regulation permitting the stores to be open only a limited number of hours weekly in order to reduce consumption. The general merchandise queues are caused by a shortage of supplies.

The latter might be relieved by imports, meeting the shortage and getting more money in circulation, but that is not in accord with the present policy of government financing. Shortage of goods was a handicap in the government grain program, peasants being reluctant to sell grain unless there was something to buy with the money.

## UNION CARDS REQUIRED TO MAKE PURCHASES

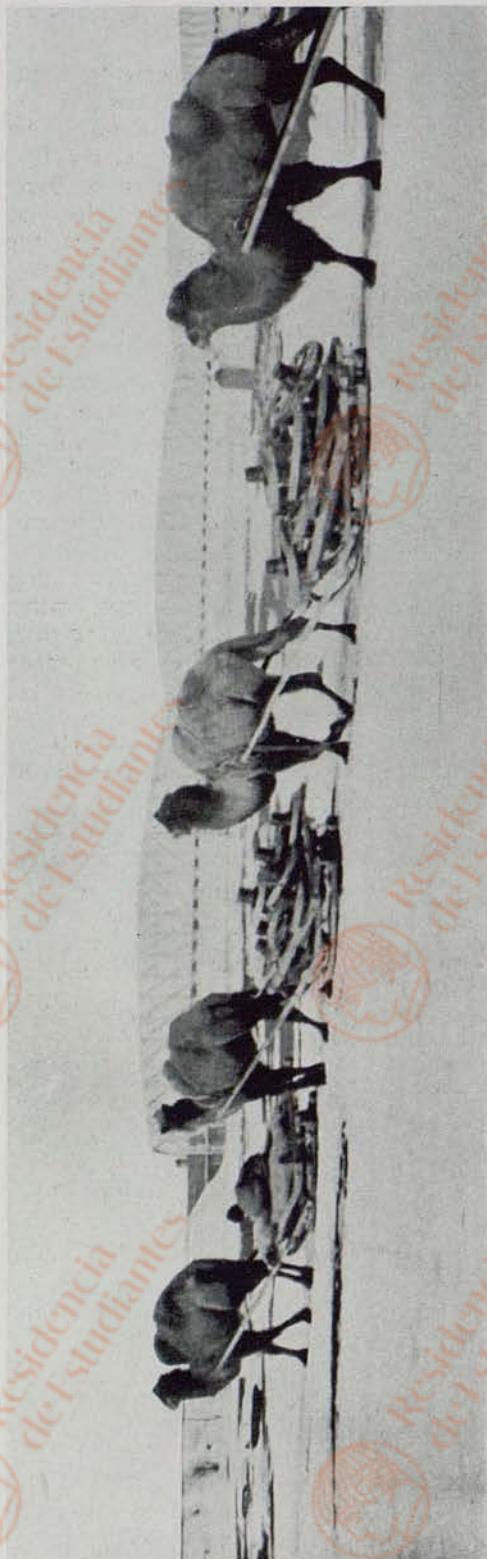
During the galosh famine a pair of overshoes which cost \$1.75 in the government stores found ready purchasers for \$7.50 in private shops. That the dealer

was liable to arrest for speculating did not reduce prices. It was so impossible to meet the demand of the queuers, who stood for days in the cold and slush, that eventually only those with union cards were admitted.

Cards were loaned, and a further regulation required the purchaser of a pair of overshoes to have a note from his or her union secretary saying they were needed. The same queues were in line for summer dress goods in the spring. Only four yards are sold to each purchaser, but the amount is doubled for a union member.

Former rigid restrictions against private enterprise have been relaxed in many places. The rich peasant—ownership of two horses or two cows makes him "rich"—may hire labor and rent land.

The condition of the peasant was shown when the latest tax was promulgated. Out of 24,000,000 peasant families 5,000,000 had annual incomes of less than \$10 per member and were exempt from the minimum 2 per cent tax, while only 3,000,000 had an income of \$100 or more per member and were assessed 20 per cent. Two-



Photograph by Graham Romeyn Taylor

OLD AND NEW WINTER-TIME METHODS OF CROSSING THE URAL RIVER  
Since 1905 Tashkent, capital of the Autonomous Republic of Turkestan, has had rail connection with Orenburg, 1,150 miles to the northwest, on the Ural River. This river, which marks the boundary between European and Asiatic Russia, is spanned by the bridge in the background. The line continues northwest to Samara.

thirds of the peasants have incomes between \$10 and \$100 a year.

Concessions are granted to exploit the natural resources or to manufacture. Individuals may build houses, and 6,899 of those nationalized, each of less than six apartments, have been returned to their original owners in Moscow. At the same time former landowners whose presence is obnoxious are still being exiled.

The foreign-trade monopoly has held firm and become more strict through all criticisms. In the last six months 1,062,730 persons paid \$184,600,000 taxes on private revenues, a good measure of the extent of private business.

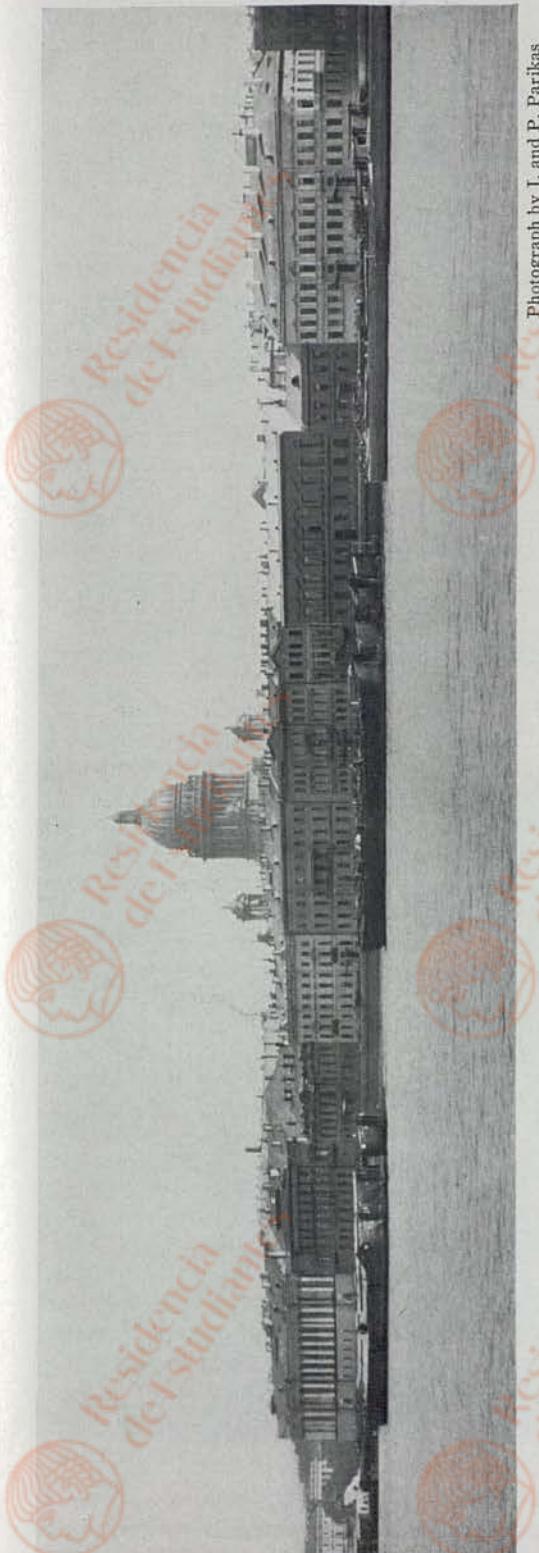
#### THE G. P. U. IN ACTION

The vigilant G. P. U. sees that none escapes, and many a tearful story of political persecution which goes across the frontier is identified on closer inspection as merely the wail of another impounded tax-dodger.

The G. P. U., a name formed from the first letters of its long Russian title, is not a new institution, merely a new name, in Russia. It is the successor of the Okhrana under the Tsar, with its 40,000 to 50,000 informers and a smaller number of paid agents permeating every class of society. The Cheka of the Revolution was a transition between the two.

The scope has been enlarged by uniformed ranks of police and soldiers. Such a surveillance, with its absolute power, is a system with which the Russian has long been familiar.

"Where's Ivan Ivanovitch? I saw him last night," may be a question at the afternoon tea.



Photograph by J. and P. Parikas

PETER THE GREAT'S CAPITAL FROM THE BANKS OF THE NEVA  
Leningrad, as Petrograd is now known, is seen to best advantage from the river front, with St. Isaac's Cathedral looming over all. With the disappearance of the old order, "the window toward Europe" has fallen from its high estate as a bustling, cosmopolitan metropolis.

"Lubianka," is the awed whisper.

The answer is perfectly clear. Ivan "sits," the vernacular for being in jail, in Lubianka, the imposing building which formerly was an insurance company's offices, the red clock of which now glows through the night over Lubianka Square, the dreaded preliminary jail and headquarters of the G. P. U.

Just what Ivan has done to get himself within the clutches of the law is usually a surmise, even among his closest friends. However, it is quite certain that the G. P. U. has some information. The arrest is not a haphazard happening.

He may have been speculating with government or coöperative funds in his charge, smuggling in violation of the foreign-trade monopoly, leading a private life which was not exemplary, or indulging in activities which did not contribute to the stability of the government.

However, the scene enacted during the hours he was supposed to be peacefully sleeping in his home is a familiar picture. Around 1 o'clock in the morning a chugging motor truck has stopped in front of the building where he, and possibly his family, have a room. Other tenants may have been awakened, but they do not open doors or stick their heads out of windows when a motor chugs in front at that hour of the morning. Their curiosity is bridled until the truck is gone and the building has a tenant less.

The detail, usually two agents and two policemen, enters Ivan's apartment. There is no rough work unless the host starts it. The visitors are polite, but firm and thorough. In fact, they are so meticulous that usually they express regret to other members of the family for the necessity of disturbing them, and present



YOUNG BASHKIR CITIZENS OF THE SOVIET UNION



Photographs by Graham Romeyn Taylor

## HARVEST TIME AMONG THE BASHKIRS OF EASTERN RUSSIA

Some members of this tribe are nomadic, but the majority live in settled habitations, where they raise crops and cattle and keep bees. This strong and independent people formed their own autonomous republic in 1919.



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

NOMADIC RESIDENTS OF RUSSIAN TURKESTAN

There are eight distinct races to be found in this region and many more tribal divisions. Note the primitive grain "mill" operated by the girl on the right and the unpretentious hut dwelling.



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

A NATIVE SHAMAN OR MEDICINE MAN OF THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS, SIBERIA, PLAYING A TAMBOURINE

a paper for their signature to prove that the proceedings have been conducted courteously.

Few questions are asked, but the search is painstaking. Pages of books are ruffled, clothes are examined, as are carpets, furniture, pictures on the wall, even the heating ducts. Such documents as are pertinent or which they do not have time to read are taken along. Ivan goes with them.

The news of the arrest is not in the newspapers the following day and no explanation is asked from the G. P. U., nor would one be given if it were.

In a few days Ivan may be back among his friends, possibly having been merely

suspected of something serious because he was too garrulous. More likely he will "sit" in silence in Lubianka, and the first word to the outside will be that he has been transferred to Butyrki, a prison where relatives can call and exchange a few words with him through an iron grille.

#### EMBEZZLERS ARE NUMEROUS

If he is of sufficient importance, the newspaper may have an item in three months on the arrest and a forthcoming trial. As detected embezzlements were 5,631 in January, all arrests are not news.

Again, he may be sentenced for a definite number of years by executive decree without proceedings in court. The word circulates that he has started for Solovetski Island, the former monastery in the chilly White Sea, or that he is in Siberia,

or that he has received "minus six," which means that he cannot live in the six larger cities of Russia, or that he has a definite residence in some prison.

One merit of this inexorable organization is that it has no favorites. It does not shut its million eyes to lapses of rectitude by its own members or by those in influence in party and state. If anything, their punishment is more severe. Often it acts on suspicions and investigates afterward; unavoidably it makes mistakes, but almost invariably it is right under a system which requires its existence.

Its eyes and ears are everywhere; letters, casual conversations, public meet-



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

## TURKESTAN VERSIONS OF "THE MAN IN THE STREET"

The Soviet Government has completely changed the map of Russian Central Asia by a political rearrangement involving a territory of more than a million square miles in area. Western, or Russian, Turkestan now consists of a series of republics, all a part of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic. The entire Union is therefore a political unit from the Arctic to the Caspian and from Asia Minor across to the Pacific.

ings, government offices and social gatherings, all the acts of 140,000,000 people in their homes or in foreign lands, are within its purview. Even those who merely think of plots and crimes are not surprised if some occult power of the G. P. U. gathers them in. Psychologically as well as directly, it influences the nation.

Felix Dzerjinsky,\* Pole by birth, ascetic, frugal, sincerely devoted to the principles for which he suffered and served imprisonment, was the zealous director of the organization. He was also chief of the Supreme Economic Council. Appre-

hending violators of Soviet laws of economy and trade is the chief grist of the G. P. U.

## FREE LEGAL ADVICE AVAILABLE

Soviet law does not provide any medium between a penalty of ten years' imprisonment and shooting. Theoretically, imprisonment is for reformation, rather than punishment, and if the offender is hopeless, society is better off without him. Capital punishment is possible for practically all offenses against the State, including embezzlement.

Murder, on the other hand, frequently receives what seems a light sentence. Courts impose many sentences of death,

\* Dzerjinsky died July 20, 1926, and was succeeded by Viacheslav Menjinsky.



Photograph by Dr. Vera Danchakoff

A MEETING OF THE SORORITY OF CRIMEAN HOUSEWIVES

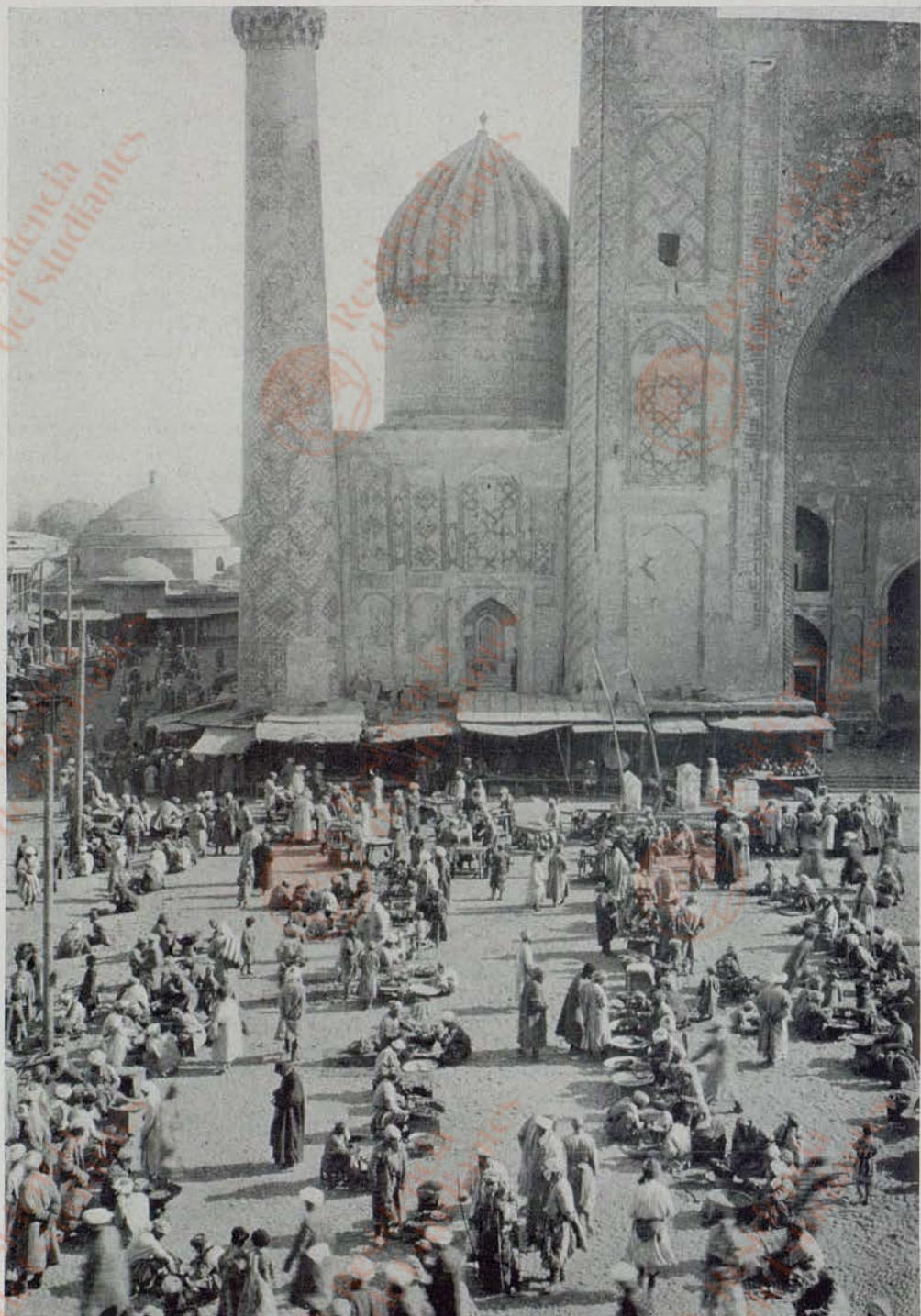
No water is found in the Crimean houses, and each evening at sunset the women go down to the stream which is a part of every village to fill their odd brass pitchers with water for the general use of the whole family. On these occasions they take time to meet in turn at one another's homes and discuss purely feminine affairs, for there exists in the Crimea a distinct line of demarcation in the social activities of men and women.



A POTTER OF RUSSIAN TURKESTAN

The larger jars are used for water and vegetable oils.

Photograph by "Russ-Photo"



Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

## THE FRONT OF THE SHIR DAR MOSQUE IN SAMARKAND

What costume does for Bokhara, architecture did for Samarkand. The crowds which throng the great market place to-day add interest and animation to a historic plaza.

most of which are quietly commuted to imprisonment by the Central Executive Committee.

The courts are always busy. Lawyers are grouped into consultations, where the prospective litigant may come and get free advice which discourages some of the litigation. Each consultation handles a particular class of cases, civil, criminal, children, peasants, alimony, etc.

For a private case a lawyer may receive a fee of \$5 or \$10. The Supreme Court prosecutor's salary is \$67.73 a month. Just as much energy and eloquence result as at a higher paid bar.

The judge and his two assistants, or jurors who pass on the facts, do much of the questioning of witnesses at a trial. The bench may lean back and smoke a cigarette or sip its tea. Spectators do not have such privileges.

The judge must know the law, no small task with much that is new and more that is old. Still, he has considerable discretionary power and above him are higher courts. Of the 3,608 judges 83 per cent are Communists, party candidates, or Young Communists under 24 years of age; 1,416 are peasants, 882 workmen, and 1,310 from other professions.

#### PATIENT POLICEMEN

The Soviet policeman is patient—no shoving, no poking with clubs, no man-handling. If a citizen objects to being arrested, and most of them do, he can say so. The policeman will discuss it. Also, all who are able to crowd within hearing distance join in the discussion. Citizens are especially able to talk a policeman into helplessness.

If there is any slugging, the policeman does not start it. When the prisoner pulls back, the patient policeman pulls toward duty. Others assist in the pulling. As many as six policemen have been seen herding a particularly talkative prisoner.

Street arguments in crowded, shoving Moscow and on cars are continuous. Once I saw a man pull another out of a bus seat. He was tongue-tied and handicapped. The American style, three words and a poke in the jaw, is not known in Russia. Time is not so precious.

One evening I was in a crowd of half a hundred waiting near the post office for

one of the little trolley cars which bob around the inner belt of the city. The Moscow of 1328, around which Prince Ivan built a moat and wooden palisade, is now the Kremlin. In 1534 the enthusiastic builder, Ivan the Terrible, felt an urge for expansion and the wall, which still stands, was extended around the city.

Another century, wars with the Swedes, Tatars, and Poles, brought an outer circle of wall and moat, which is now a boulevard enclosing the White City. Moscow grew, and another rampart, of earth, with fortified monasteries guarding the trade routes surrounded the Outer City of serfs and laborers.

The ramparts now are streets; many of the monasteries of defending soldier-monks are chilly workers' clubs or homes. The city has spread far beyond the old limits, but the plans remain like the cross-section of a tree.

A car circling this seam of city growth arrived. As usual, it was jammed. The crowd fought for the narrow rear step, though not more than half a dozen would be able to force themselves aboard. Enter by the rear and leave by the front platform is one of the rules of street-car riding in Moscow.

The conductor, wedged inside by the crowd, gives the starting bell without regard to whether passengers are getting on or off. With a human fringe like flies on a watermelon the car started (page 544).

Women with babies, citizens with bundles as large as trunks, cripples and policemen may enter by the front platform. Custom also gives a woman with a baby a seat or a first place in any queue.

#### BABIES FOR RENT

The baby privilege has been abused. One shawl-wrapped "baby" in a vodka store queue accidentally dropped and disclosed itself as an empty bottle! Another woman, until arrested, did a profitable trade with galosh-store queues by renting a real baby to women who did not want to stand in line all day. The street-car rule accords the baby privilege to mothers only when the infant is less than 42 inches high. More argument for the conductor.

A policeman on the corner blew his whistle. The car came to a stop across the sidewalk. Just why he should pick on



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THE ARMENIAN BAZAAR IN TIFLIS, A CITY OF TRANSCAUCAZIA FAMED FOR ITS RUGS AND SILKS

that particular car when the same thing happens at every car stop, every minute of the day, only a policeman knows.

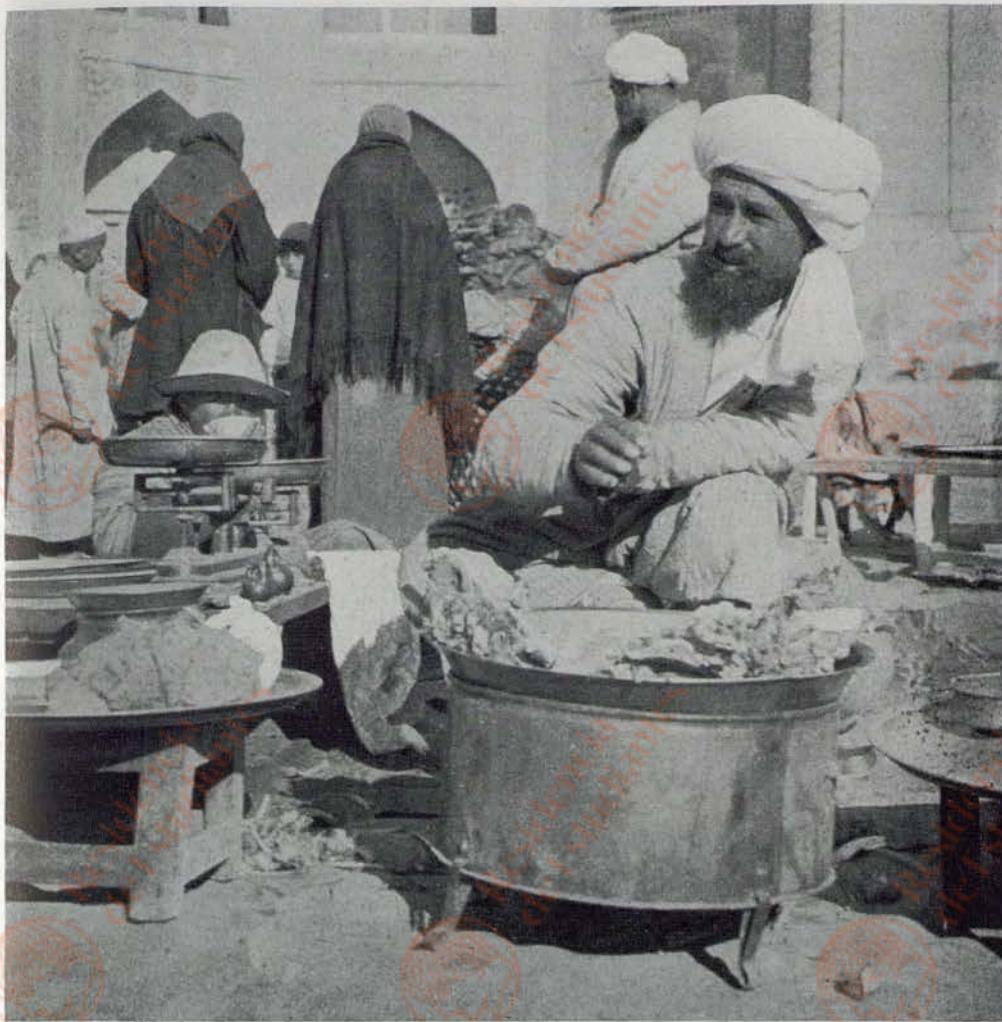
The law walked leisurely over and told a protruding man to get off. He did, protesting vehemently. He had violated a rule against hanging out of a street car and must pay a three roubles' fine on the spot.

A girl in the same position, but grimly holding on with hope that somebody would pay eight kopecks' fare and move forward, joined in the argument. The policeman declared that the man had tried to

get on the car after the bell and must, therefore, pay an additional three roubles.

The man shouted louder. The crowd on the platform took sides, some urging him to pay and let them get home, but the majority berated the municipal street-car service and took the victim's part. The conductress stuck her shawl-wrapped head out of the door and deluged the policeman with a flood of words.

The man, others now talking for him, hooked his toe on the step and grabbed the handrail, the conductress rang the bell and the car started again. The policeman was



Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

THE FOOD MARKET IN THE REGISTAN AT SAMARKAND, SHOWING THE FAÇADE OF THE MOSQUE-SCHOOL OF TILLAH KARI

alone with a few stragglers who had edged up to take part in the discussion.

The whistle blew again. The car stopped, this time across both tracks of the main street with half a dozen car lines. The crowd from the sidewalk sauntered back. The chief actor got off and reopened the debate.

Another young policeman, with a red cap and gray astrakhan ear flaps, pushed into the circle. Everybody on the car took part, all shouting at once. Two more cars followed, absorbed the waiting crowd, and moved up so they could offer suggestions. The cars on the main street were standing for a block in either direc-

tion. The discussion continued for ten minutes.

Then it ended as suddenly and as inconclusively as it had started. The man resumed his toe hold. During the delay several more had butted their way on to the step. The car started. The policeman returned to his corner, and with a wave of his red club signaled that traffic might move again. The man had objected to being arrested, also to paying a fine. He did neither. Everybody had a thoroughly enjoyable talk.

Labor Day and Easter Sunday, the two biggest days of State and church, came together this year on May 1 and 2. It



THE FISH MARKET OF ASTRAKHAN ON THE VOLGA

After the day's catch, the fishing boats line up at the water front to display their finny wares.  
The port is a noted shipping point for caviar.



Photographs by Maynard Owen Williams

DECK PASSENGERS ON A VOLGA STEAMER



Photograph by Graham Romeyn Taylor

## A WINTER-TIME LAUNDRY AT ORENBURG

The "tub" is a hole cut in the ice of the Ural River. Orenburg is now the capital of the autonomous Kirghiz Republic (see, also, illustration, page 566).



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

## LOADING WATERMELONS AT ROSTOV ON THE DON



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

**"SHOOTING" A SCENE FOR A SOVIET FILM**

The moving picture is being extensively used by the Russian Government to inculcate principles of communism among the people. Towns and palaces are put at the disposal of the producers of such Soviet films as "The Machine of Two Worlds, or the Struggle of Giants" (see text, page 596).

was a mean trick of the calendar, for a holiday in Russia always includes the next day to recover from the festivities, and one blue Monday served for both these big events.

**NEARLY EVERYTHING STOPS ON HOLIDAYS**

In Soviet Russia a holiday is a holiday. Everything stops except trains, telephones, and telegraphs. Street cars, busses, post offices, restaurants, take a day off. This year church and State met.

Red predominated among the paraders, who, with banners defying the world, tramped through the Red Square from daylight until dusk, and red was conspicuous among the worshipers who, with burning tapers, marched three times around the churches at midnight, a few hours later.

Communism in its first flush of authority seemed determined to suppress the church. The task was too great, and though it still teaches that religion is en-

tirely unnecessary, propaganda against it flickers only occasionally.

The gaudy anti-Christian weekly has become boresome, the enthusiasts who distributed handbills and argued in front of church doors have disappeared, overt hooliganism under the guise of the Komsomol (Communist Youth Society) is rare, and the government philosophically has adopted the policy that all religion is free, according to the individual's tastes, as long as it does not interfere with the State.

The government says that only 307 of the 19,792 churches, monasteries, and convents in the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic have been converted to other uses. Moscow, "City of Steeples," has hundreds, each with at least five domes of varying hues. Some are kept in repair by their parishioners and others by the State historical organization.

Of the communicants in Russia proper, 80 per cent are Greek Orthodox Catholic, 5 per cent Ancient Orthodox, 6 per cent



Photograph by Gilbert Grosvenor

## A TSARIST MONUMENT TRANSFORMED INTO THE PEOPLE'S THEATER

The Great Imperial Theater of Moscow, where, in pre-Revolution days, operas were sung amid scenes of splendor, has remained a sanctuary of art and beauty under the Soviet Government. Large audiences of cheaply clad peasants may now occupy the Bolshoi's royal boxes and stalls to hear excellent productions encouraged by the régime. Sessions of the All-Russian Congress of Soviets are also held here.

Roman Catholic, 5 per cent Mohammedan, and 3 per cent Jewish.

The once powerful State church is seriously split and the schisms continue. The first secession was the Living Church, with changes in politics and ritual. That has been further divided by those who do not accept the ritual changes of permitting priests to remarry and to shave, though both factions avow support of the Soviet State.

## NEW NAMES ARE SOMETIMES STAGGERERS

"What's her name, citizeness?" a friend of mine asked a nurse, indicating one of a hundred muffled infants enjoying the sunshine and snow in the little park in front of the Foreign Office.

"Yedinstova Mikhailovna," the nurse replied, quicker than it can be written.

Such a name is not to be passed over lightly. It means "unity, daughter of Mikhail." There is also a family name, which is not used for conversational pur-

poses. Names commemorating Lenin, spelled backward for girls, and other revolutionary heroes of party and State are popular, as in any other country. However, the Northwest Region (Leningrad) Industrial Bureau issued a new "calendar of saints," in which utilitarian "monikers" replaced those to which faithful Russians had been accustomed.

In addition to commemorating itself by listing Szpburo, meaning Northwest Region Industrial Bureau, for a defenseless infant, others among the 365 were: Tzika, central committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevik); Rem, revolution, electricity and peace; Taburet, worker's bench; Solidar, solidarity of workers; Dynamo, government electrical trust; Sovnarkom, council of people's commissars; Textilin, government textile trust, etc.

Scattered zealots, invested with minor power and not overly endowed with common sense, have done some things which



Photograph by Junius B. Wood

READY FOR THE JOURNEY HOME  
These "Pioneers," members of boys' and girls' Communist clubs, have been enjoying the pleasures of a summer camp near Odessa. They are carrying books and bread on their hike home (see, also, illustrations, pages 540-541).

were tragic and many to make the new order ridiculous. The official records of one village contain the following:

"To the village priest Fomenko: Tell us, please, why, without obtaining permission of the Communist cell, you have married a couple on the same day as a funeral? The consequence of this was that on the funeral day many persons were intoxicated. We ask you to give an explanation.—THE COMMITTEE."

The incident apparently inspired caution, as the records of a few days later show:

"To THE COMMITTEE: Tell us, please, does our church bell disturb you, and will you be displeased by this clamor?"

To those who have been awakened at all hours of the day or night by the pounding of the bells in Russia, the reply merits approval:

"You must postpone the ringings until 5 o'clock in the evenings.—THE COMMITTEE."

Family affairs also demanded the village committee's attention:

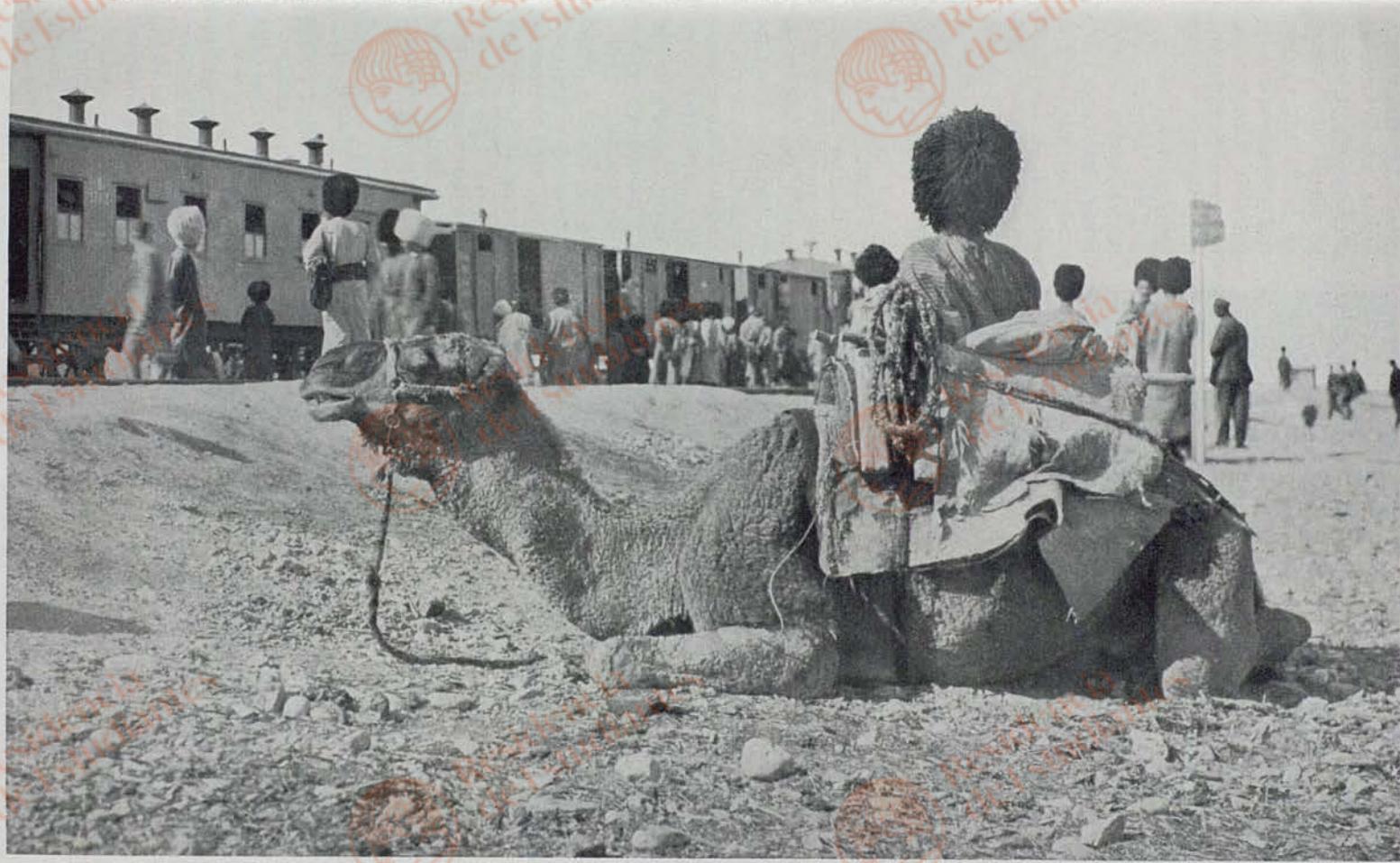
"The Citizen Patkhov asks whether you have anything against his being married in church. He will act according to your permission."

"I allow you to be married in church—Secretary of the Communist cell, KAZLOVSKY"—was the reply.

#### BEWARE OF THE HORSE!

One village committee decided that any peasant who owned a horse was a bourgeois and could not send his children to the public schools.

Such incidents attract attention, but they are severely rebuked by the responsible officials in party or government, who are striving to establish their principles on broad lines and to accomplish results with untrained material. The calendar sowing the seeds of bizarre names was suppressed. The popular changing



Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

THE OLD AND THE NEW IN THE AKHAL OASIS, TRANSCASPIA, AND THE OLD DOES NOT SEEM AT ALL PERTURBED AT THE THOUGHT OF THE TRANSFORMATION



Photograph by John E. Wilson

## THE RISING GENERATION

of old street names is prohibited except by official order.

"Compel a fool to pray and he will split his skull," one of the Communist newspapers quoted from an old Russian proverb in a polemic against the overzealousness of some of its party members.

Soviet marriage and divorce laws have caused as much discussion at home as abroad, and the question is not settled. The original law legalized only the registry office wedding. Amendments recognized unregistered marriages, thus legalizing both church and common-law marriages.

A couple can call at a registry office, go through the formalities, and have the fact that they are married recorded on their cards of identity for 50 cents. In theory,

has increased enormously in the last three years, the registered marriages have slowly decreased.

## CONGESTION DETERS DIVORCE

Getting a divorce, unless both parties agree, is more difficult than it sounds. If either is sick or out of work, the other must pay alimony.

If there are children, their guardianship and support must be provided for. The family property must be divided and the right to a place to live is not the least important of a family's assets. A bride or bridegroom who can offer a place to live as part of the nuptial settlement is a much-courted individual.

Which of the divorcees shall fall heir to the room where they are living is a

either of them can secure a divorce as easily, though the cost is about three times as much. Birth-control operations are legal after the applicant has furnished the authorities with several specified reasons.

The common-law marriage is a fruitful cause of argument, many of the judicial officials opposing it on account of the difficulty of proof, and most of the peasant and women members of the legislative bodies are trying to make it illegal.

Moscow had 1,298 marriages per 100,000 population last year, compared to 1,033 for 1922 in the United States. Divorces were 543 per 100,000, compared to 136 in the United States. Moscow showed a divorce for every 2.4 registered marriages and the United States one for every 7.6 marriages. Though the population in Moscow

problem which deters many a divorce. It is easier to get a husband than to get a room, especially in Moscow. Right of occupancy of a room is a heritage, as was an estate in the old days.

Housing conditions have given rise to many queer laws. Once in a room, a tenant cannot be ejected except by legal process, which usually requires three months. Even a guest who is sheltered for a night has the right to remain.

Every city in Russia except Leningrad—and it is coming there—has a housing shortage. Odessa, whose population has diminished from 631,000 to 316,672, was so demolished in the twenty times it changed hands during the Revolution that there are not enough rooms for the half who remain.

Nationalization of buildings has given the worker a better structure for a home, but there is a question whether the prestige of an ornamental stone front compensates for the discomforts of the over-crowding. Nationalization unquestionably has proved that Nature does not grow apartment houses, and that they are not indestructible. Money is needed both for repairs and for erection of new ones.

The living space for an individual varies according to the total available in each city. In Moscow it is figured at 147 square feet. A family of three would be entitled to three times that amount, and so on with an additional unit for each increase in the family, providing the space can be found.



Photograph by Graham Romeyn Taylor

#### PEASANT WOMEN WORKERS

The peasant women of northern Russia are inured to intense cold and hard labor. These two have been engaged in the rather arduous task of coaling a ship in Archangel harbor. Note the "valenki," or heavy felt boots, which they must wear to avoid frozen feet.

A nine-room apartment which once sheltered a single family will now suffice for at least seven, a room apiece, with the kitchen, bathroom, and corridors filled with boxes and trunks in common. The figures for Moscow show 4.08 workers and 2.57 nonworkers per room in the city. In "peace times" the relative figures were 6.21 and 1.08.

Two developments have come from such family life—cats and the primus. The Russian must have a pet, and only a cat is adaptable for such crowded quarters. Moscow is a city of a million cats. The family must eat and the primus, a



#### RELIGIOUS MENDICANTS

These pilgrims have come into Leningrad from the country to collect funds for the building of a church in their village. Note the icon-decorated trays for receiving the offerings of passers-by. The men in uniform are government watchmen.



Photograph by Junius B. Wood

#### THE NUNNERY OF THE PASSION IS NOW A HOME FOR WORKERS

"Communism in its first flush of authority seemed determined to suppress the church. The task was too great, and, though it still teaches that religion is entirely unnecessary, propaganda against it flickers only occasionally. The government philosophically has adopted the policy that all religion is free, according to the individual's tastes, as long as it does not interfere with the State" (see text, page 580).

temperamental one-burner kerosene stove, has privacy. The exploding primus has more casualties to its record than the Revolution, and the slaughter continues.

#### LIVING EXPENSES VARY WITH WAGES

Workers pay for their living quarters and for light, heat, and water as well, according to their monthly wages. When they are unemployed they do not pay anything.

The nationalized dwellings are thus an indirect government contribution to the worker's wage. Under such rent arrangements, two families may occupy identical quarters in the same building, one paying ten times as much as the other. Those who do not belong to the working class pay an arbitrary rental fixed by the house committee, the dictator of urban life.

Each building has a house committee. It is responsible for the building and its tenants; collects the rents, theoretically furnishes the necessary service, makes the repairs, and turns the balance over to

the municipality. While some house committees do this and all are conscientious in collecting the rents, many never find any balance to turn over to the municipality or for repairs and spend little on service.

In the few apartment houses where elevators still function at certain hours of the day, passengers pay two and a half cents for the ride. As house committees wax individually prosperous, an increasing number become guests of the prisons.

"I know where you can get a three-room apartment for \$2,000," a friend advised me.

That merely meant the privilege of moving in. The house committee must approve the change of tenant, which meant another payment. It would sign a contract specifying how long the new tenant might remain. The rents and other expenses must be paid in addition.

Collecting bonuses from new tenants was lucrative for house committees and no vacant space was ever reported to the



Photograph by J. and P. Parikas

THE MOST RICHLY DECORATED RELIGIOUS EDIFICE IN THE SOVIET CAPITAL

The Church of the Redeemer, erected by the Tsars as a thanksgiving offering after the French invasion in 1812, is built in the form of a Greek cross and covers more than 8,000 square yards. The new rulers of the Kremlin stripped it and other churches of much of their ecclesiastical wealth after the Revolution, and, it is believed, used some of the magnificent jewels which encrusted the icons for famine relief in the Volga region.



Photograph by J. and P. Parikas

THE LEGISLATIVE SEAT OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT

Beyond the Kamenni Bridge rise the battlemented walls of the triangular-shaped Kremlin, formerly the Russian Holy of Holies and the empire's historical shrine (see, also, text, page 534). In the throne room of the Great Palace, where once stood princes and ambassadors, booted peasants and somber-garbed professional men now sit to make laws for the Union, and the Soviet seal of sickle and hammer fronts the double-headed eagle of the imperial crest.



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

## POTTERY ROW AT A FAIR IN THE POLTAVA REGION OF THE UKRAINE

municipality. That practice has also been made a prison offense, but it continues.

## GOOD THEORY PROVES POOR PRACTICE

The housing situation has been like several other Communist principles, which are ideal in theory, but difficult to work. Obviously, carrying the apartment-house principle of central heating and similar community service through to community kitchens, laundries, bathrooms, and other facilities in theory saves space, labor, and expense. Kitchen and bathroom are dispensed with in each apartment.

However, the buildings which the new government took over were not constructed on that plan. Neither has it had the funds nor the opportunity to construct enough on that type to test whether any large proportion of the population would want such economies at the expense of family privacy, if it were free to choose.

Moreover, the system of rents and house committees brings a situation where nothing is set aside for amortization. Repairs are frequently limited to an annual coat of paint on the outside, and the buildings have deteriorated. Instead of being an income, or even self-supporting,

the system makes residence property a burden on the government.

Local authorities have done much repairing of old buildings and some new construction, but the step expected to bring results is a change in the system, so that private ownership is again permitted and encouraged.

Of Moscow's building program, which included half a dozen large office structures, only the new skyscraper of the posts and telegraphs is to be completed this year. As to residences, a new series of 76 buildings, with group baths and laundries and six community dining rooms, is promised to care for between 5,000 and 6,000 persons.

## CO-OPERATIVE APARTMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN UNITED STATES

The municipal building program this year figures at \$30,000,000, compared to \$1,000,000 in 1923. A considerable portion of this is set aside for loans to encourage private construction. The State retains title to the land and grants ground leases of from 60 to 99 years, with assurance that the building will not be nationalized.

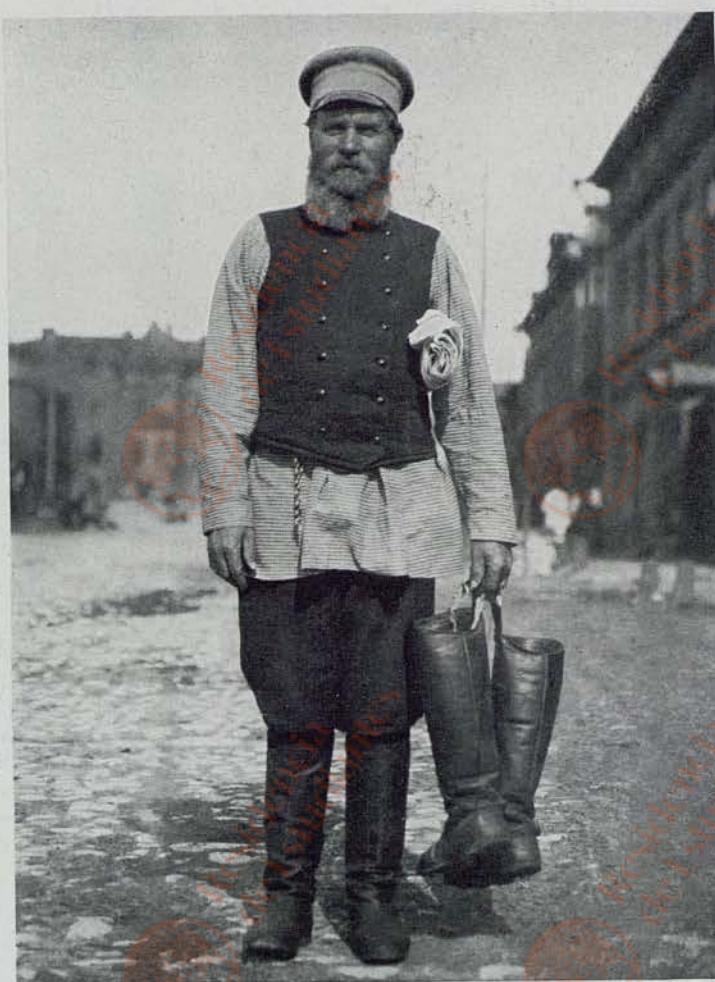
Preference is given to coöperative organizations, but partnerships and individual owners are not barred. The government will grant a building loan up to 75 per cent of the cost, to be repaid in 35 years. Owners control such buildings, including the fixing of rentals, regardless of wages.

The plan as explained by a member of a ten-family coöperative is not much different from similar coöperative buildings in the United States. Six of the members will have four-room apartments with their own bath and kitchen. Cost of each of these apartments is figured at \$4,000, half of which the tenant-owner must pay in the first two years, in addition to his rent, which covers the amortization and interest.

Two upper floors of the building will be finished in single rooms and suites, each with a bath, but all using a community kitchen. These will be rented out.

When the amount of repairs which were necessary to get the wheels of transportation, industry, and almost every activity moving again is taken into consideration, Soviet Russia has a large amount of building to its credit. The largest single piece of entirely new construction is the big hydraulic electric power plant near Moscow, which was dedicated a few months ago. An even larger unit is being constructed in the Ukraine on the Dnieper River.

Another form of building whose results will be shown in future years is the



Photograph by Dr. Vera Danchakoff

A SKILLED LABORER IN SUNDAY GARB

He is returning from market with a pair of new boots for himself and a dress remnant under his arm for his wife.

schools. The Communist theory is that hope for the world movement depends on the coming generation. By teaching the party principles, by instilling the spirit of class consciousness, or class hatred, they feel that in the coming years they will have a united nation devoted to spreading the faith over the world, like the missionary of old.

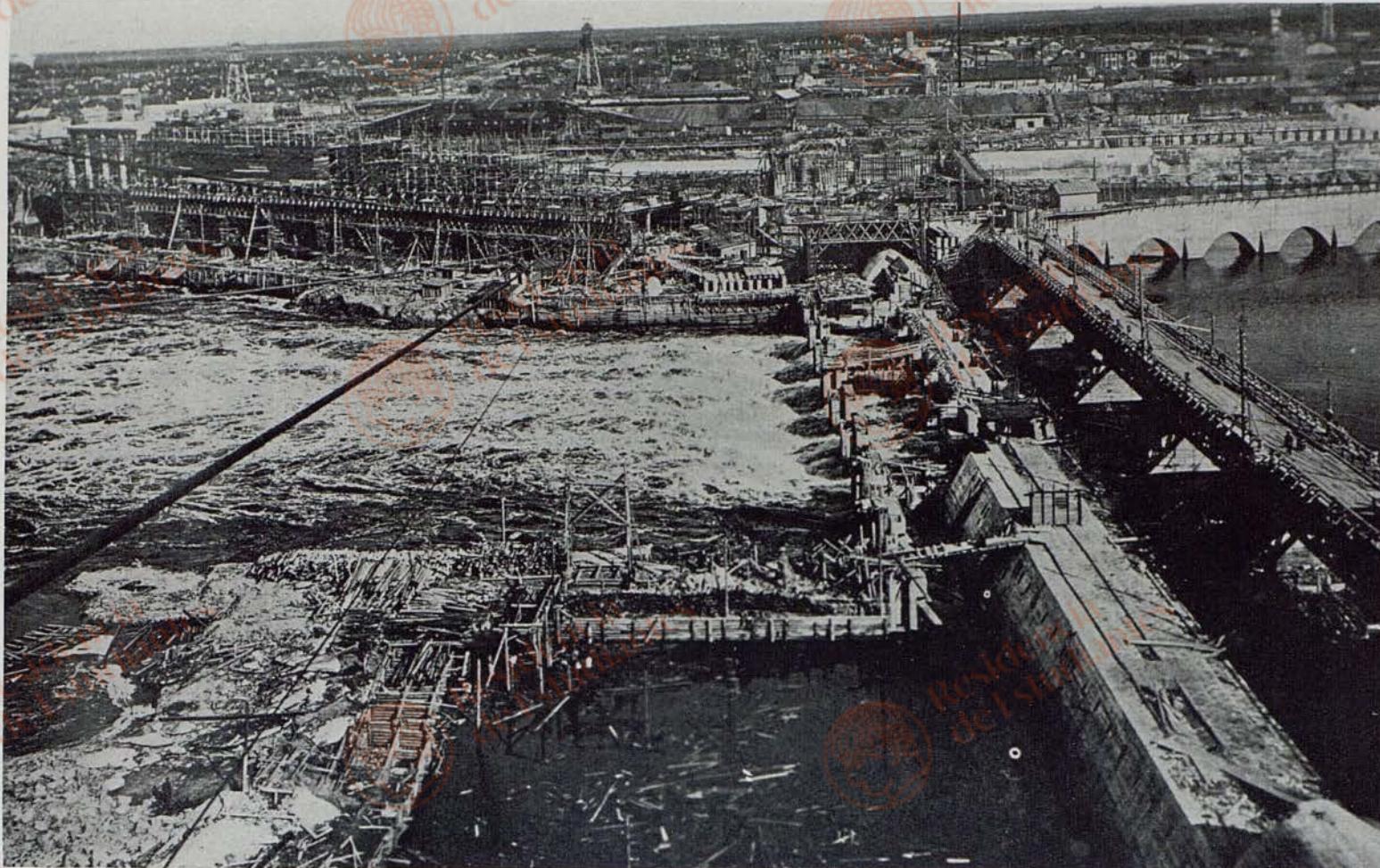
The new education aims to teach the brain to observe and think, not merely to memorize. With general knowledge will come more of democracy and weakening of party dictatorship. The country is slowly swinging back toward practical conventional methods, so that by the time



Residencia  
de Estudiantes



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MINING WHITE COAL

Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

This power plant on the Volkhov River, not far east of Leningrad, when completed, will supply much of the current used in that city. Capable of developing 56,000 kilowatts, it will be the largest station of its kind in Russia.

this new generation is ready there may not be a great abyss between social conditions in Russia and those which other countries have evolved by less violent routes.

#### PLAN COMPULSORY EDUCATION UP TO 16

The program is to have enough schools and teachers, so that the first four primary grades, for children from 8 to 11 years of age, will be free to all by 1927, the tenth anniversary of the Revolution. This is to be extended, with compulsory education, to the five higher grades, up to 16 years, by 1934.

The Russian is optimistic and the figures for the production in crops, industry, and natural resources for 1931 are more striking and detailed than those for 1925; but great accomplishments have been made in education, and the stride is not slackening. The magnitude of the task is indicated by the fact that outside of the towns there were no schools, and the opportunities of these were confined to a few; that at least 90 per cent of the population were illiterate, and that the teaching personnel was proportionately limited.

Schools are not restricted to the centers of population, but are already established among the hardly civilized tribes of the frozen north, the simmering south, and the little penetrated portions of the interior. They have had only their dialects, without written language.

These dialects have been transcribed and are taught under the Soviet theory that each of its many national minorities shall be permitted to retain its own social culture and customs. The alphabets for these dialects is Roman, instead of Cyrillic, which is used in Russia, Bulgaria, and Serbia. Education in Russia is a polyglot task.

With education has come a corresponding increased enthusiasm for research, exploration, and science. So many new cures for all the ailments of mankind were announced that the Commissar of Health called a halt for the sake of disappointed sufferers.

Summer exploration parties, each heralding a discovery of mineral wealth, prediluvian bones, or new flora and fauna, provide thrilling winter reading. Science and art are encouraged and praised. The

Russian Academy of Sciences is under government patronage, for the need of an intelligentsia is realized.

A union member receiving a wage of less than \$37.50 a month, which is the great majority, is not now obliged to pay for the schooling of his children. Those receiving up to \$50 pay 50 cents a month per child; to \$75, \$1.50; to \$100, \$4, and over that, \$6. Household manufacturers and artisans working for themselves also pay \$6.

Members of free professions, clergymen, or tradesmen with first-grade licenses, such as street venders, pay \$8. All others must pay \$15 a child.

When facilities are limited, as they are everywhere, preference is given to the children from the poorer families, which means that the children of the well-to-do for the present must get their education outside the public schools.

#### HIGH-SCHOOL FACILITIES SADLY LACKING

Russia proper, with a population of 92,000,000, has high-school facilities for 22,500 pupils. At first only children of the proletariat were admitted, and even those of the bourgeois who had almost completed their courses were expelled.

Obviously, expelling a bourgeois youth who was about to complete his course in engineering, dentistry, medicine, or even the upper grades of the high school, did not give educational opportunities to others, as none was prepared for that year's studies. The expelled students finishing their courses were permitted to return, and even entrance to high schools is no longer prorated among unions and other organizations, regardless of the mental ability of their candidates.

In this year's apportionment of high-school facilities 42 per cent of the places are filled by competitive examinations, the division being: Rabfaics (adult workers), 8,000; proletarian intelligentsia, 2,500; backward nationalities, 1,750; autonomous republics, 560; soldiers and sailors, 250; by examination, 9,440—total, 22,500.

However, the Russian mind has been accustomed to believe what it is told to believe and, except for a few who have been abroad, the Russian has a gloomy picture of the outside world.

The social literature which the State



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

## MOSLEM PRIESTS OF UZBEK REPUBLIC, RUSSIAN TURKESTAN

Some *mullahs* increase their incomes by fortune-telling, letter-writing, or giving legal advice.

book trusts turn out by tons and the newspaper dispatches from abroad convince him that the workers in other countries are suffering and oppressed, except in the United States, where they are hopeless aristocrats. He generously wants to help them, even if it means more privations for himself.

"We must help the negroes in the United States," said one of these, a gifted linguist and voracious reader.

"What especially are you going to do for them?" I asked.

"Give them schools, an opportunity to go to school."

"They can go to school now."

"But they should have their own schools, where they will not be compelled to study the English language," he insisted.

"What would you teach them?"

"Their own language, the language they speak in their homes, the language of their native country."

As the Russian says when perplexed, "What to do?" A crusader cannot be convinced that he does not have a holy cause.

"I've been told that some American

workmen own their own automobiles," said the director of a bank. A liberal estimate gives Russia 10,000 automobiles, most of them badly worn.

He was assured that the American workman added to the daily danger in crossing the road.

"What is a workman's salary?" he asked.

"Say \$66; some more, others less."

"A month?"

"No; a week."

"What!" he exclaimed. "An American workman must be wealthy! How much does he pay for a room for his family?"

## HARD TO VISUALIZE AMERICA FROM RUSSIA

It is as difficult to visualize the United States from Russia as it is for well-intentioned Americans, who believe that Soviet Russia needs to be saved, to visualize Russia.

The Russian workman's family, who lives in one room with electric light and a bathtub with running water when it is not filled with the winter coal, has made a long step forward. It lived in hovels



Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

## HE DRUMS FOR THE NEW STATE OF UZBEK

This republic consolidates administratively Uzbek territory in Bokhara, Khiva, and Turkestan.

or barracklike company houses before. Merely changed living conditions would not be such an advance for the American workman.

An American negro musical revue was brought to Russia this spring. It gave a snappy performance with the latest songs and dances. Native negro art, whatever that is, was expected and the critics were severe. They "panned" the production as depicting the decadent bourgeois art of Europe and America, not the longings of an "exploited people" or the atmosphere of Africa.

Through all the political and social changes the theater has survived, with a new revolutionary school added which might be called theatrical futurism, or cubism, in vogue. Moscow, Leningrad, and other cities have their Bolshoi theater, where, through the winter seasons, opera is given on four nights of the week and the superb ballet on two (see page 581).

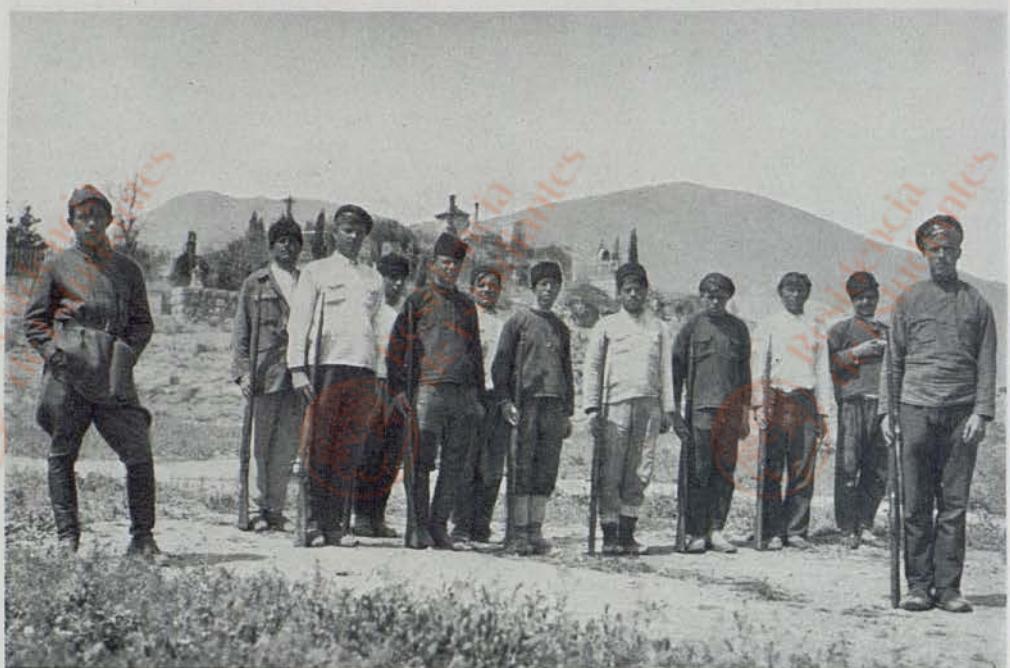
"The only difference is that now we wear red tights or none at all," was the explanation of the changed ballet by one of the ballerinas, prone to exaggeration.

Moscow is probably the one city in the world where tickets for the grand opera can be purchased more cheaply from a scalper than from the box office. Brokers, mostly women, get the tickets at about half the list price, either from the management or from the diminishing number of workers who receive them free, prefer cash to art, and split the difference with the purchaser.

Revolutionary operas, as a general rule, have not met popular approval. Possibly the perspective is too close. The limitation which propaganda places on the scope of an author's ideas is another cause. The old operas and ballets are best for the box offices and they are presented. Opera is no longer free or cheap.

## MOSCOW STAGE EARNS PRAISE OF FOREIGN CRITICS

Each Moscow theater specializes in a particular kind of entertainment, classical drama, comedy, grand opera, light opera, or the new revolutionary stage. The latter, like the Kamerny, strikes a medium between the conventional and the bizarre,



Photograph by Dr. Vera Danchakoff

## THE CRIMEAN RECRUIT'S FIRST DRILL

Due to general poverty, these early lessons are given with substitute equipment.

with vivid, well-staged productions, frequently translations from America, and alleges that it is producing a new art where each part shines out unshadowed by any individual star. Foreign critics praise it highly.

The leaderless orchestra, another application of the collective, is on the same theory. "How do they know when to start?" asked a puzzled peasant. That's the joker. There is always a leader, though he may be in the background.

The most virulent of the new revolutionary theaters is a hybrid of a curtainless Chinese theater, an old-time melodrama and a high-school dialogue. Lights switch off while scenes shift; a stage riot is followed by a long-winded, actionless debate. Plays which might be good are made disgusting by scenes of plain offal.

Its latest effort, "Roaring China," depicted the killing of an American at Ichang, with the actual incident so distorted as to convince the slant-headed audiences that all foreigners in China, except possibly Bolsheviks, should be murdered.

Revolutionary propaganda was the pri-

mary purpose of this home of drama in the raw, though, like most other attempts to change the popular current in Soviet Russia, the play which always gets a full house is the *Mandat*, in which the undoubtedly satirical and dramatic talents of the author-producer are unhampered by teaching a political lesson.

## AMERICAN MOVIES POPULAR IN RUSSIA

The movie is another vehicle for the ubiquitous lesson. The *shinkarstvo*, or Russian bootlegger, who sells samogon in competition with government vodka, is always a bad character; the unswatted fly leaves a trail of spoiled stews and fretful babies; the poor but pretty working girl of other days always has a hard life until her workman sweetheart, with bulging, bare muscles, slugs the wicked general; and indolent capitalists always spend their time in frivolity and carousing.

Enthusiasts of the Association of Revolutionary Scenario Writers complain that American movies, popular with the masses, who would rather be entertained than taught during their leisure hours, picture bourgeois society in pleasant

colors and rarely teach a lesson of struggle and revolution.

Soviet Russia has made a good start toward a revolutionary school of movies, more difficult from the mechanical than from the artistic side. The history of the revolutionary movement provides abundant incidents; there is no shortage of writers and producers to dramatize them, talent is unlimited and unabashed, and crowds (preference given to workers and peasants) swarm to the Muscovite Hollywoods (see illustration, page 580).

Nature is liberal with scenery, the government puts entire cities or palaces at the disposal of the producers, and a picture with 3,000 to 5,000 actors is not unusual, with from 20 to 30 leading parts—so many that they cannot be remembered.

Some of the movie houses were built for that purpose, but many of them are converted halls or hotel rooms, so rapidly has the film increased in popularity. Each of the larger republics has one or more producing companies, and the present overtures to foreign capital to participate in production contemplate that outsiders will also invest around \$50,000,000 in erecting new theaters.

Waiting rooms are an invariable adjunct of the movie theater, being in many instances several times larger than the auditorium. There the audience, while waiting to be admitted before each performance, can gossip, flirt, drink tea, and smoke.

#### LECTURES MOST POPULAR FORM OF DIVERSION

Theaters and movies have their followers, but the entertainment which arouses most enthusiasm is a lecture. It shows the serious trend of the popular mind and the eagerness for information. When Trotsky gave a lecture last spring, mounted police and soldiers were needed to handle the crowds besieging the hall, though all available space had been sold weeks in advance and scalpers were getting \$10 for a ticket.

Trotsky is one of the headliners, but any lecture on any subject and by any speaker can expect a full house and all admissions paid, even though any official's speech is broadcast free by radio. Lecturing and writing for the newspapers under a pen name is a lucrative and per-

missible means for government secretaries to increase their small salaries.

As a lecture draws to its end, scraps of paper on which the audience has scribbled questions begin to drop on the stage, exemplifying the Soviet principle of free and unlimited argument. After two to four hours of talking, the speaker gathers up the paper snowstorm and starts answering.

The real fun begins, as questions usually are pertinent, challenging the speaker's theories, and a Russian audience is not backward in taking sides or voicing its opinions. A good lecture provides a lively night's entertainment.

#### TO DANCE OR NOT TO DANCE

Moscow has little of the frivolous. It has its government casino, the same as in other cities, with baccarat and petit cheval and secret police lurking in the background, assurance to each of the government's patrons that his source of funds will be scrutinized the next day.

Leningrad has its cabarets, tea dances, all-night cafés, and a Saturday night dance until daylight in its leading hotel. The larger Moscow restaurants have orchestras; some have a few singers to justify fancy prices for beer and food, but there is no public dancing.

A Russian takes to dancing as a duck to water. This year saw a long argument whether dancing should be permitted in the workers' clubs, which, with their Lenin corners, are popular adjuncts to every factory or neighborhood.

Most of the workers wanted to dance. The club committees were against the frivolity, however, explaining that amateur theatricals, with parts improvised by members called from the audience, were sufficiently strenuous, and deprecating the fox trot and Charleston, the latter a real danger, as buildings are not overly solid.

A compromise was reached by which a club might have dances for members only if the numbers were alternated with serious talks on the evils of dancing—the usual contrast of fact and fancy in Russia.

Appreciating that life in the capital might be boresome for the bourgeois foreigners necessarily in their midst—diplomats, newspaper correspondents, and itinerant business men—the Foreign Office provided gaiety. It took over the near-



Photograph by Dr. Vera Danchakoff

## WANTED—A HOME

The Russian Revolution and the terrible famines that followed left a vast army of homeless children to wander aimlessly about the streets, absorbing all the vices of such a life and fast developing into hardened juvenile criminals. The government is trying to solve the problem they present (see text, page 525).

palace of a former department-store owner and on New Year's Eve staged the first of the weekly winter balls. There foreigners could meet, dance, eat, and drink as in any capital a thousand miles from Moscow.

Admission was by invitation, and only selected foreigners and Foreign Office representatives received the pasteboards.

The average citizen, even if he had been told, would not have believed that behind the darkened shutters of 6 Mertyv Pereulok a 40-piece orchestra and a negro jazz band were playing in brilliantly lighted

rooms, filled with men in starched collars and dinner jackets and women in evening dress, habiliments now seen only in the movies or on parade floats depicting a social order which has gone.

Soviet Russia is not as straight-laced as it is pictured by those who have never been there.

When summer comes, the face of nature changes like the spirits of the volatile people. Daylight which faded into the winter gloom at 2 o'clock tints the cloudless skies until 10 at night. Dusty roads which were lost under the drifting snows are stirred by travelers, nature smiles, and the lonesome stretches where the wolf packs howled are green and flourishing.

The queues which shivered in front of the bathhouses—"the neatness of Moscow citizens is characterized by eight or nine washing parties a year," says the Economics Department—

are gone and every watercourse is lined with bathers in the garb of Adam and Eve.

## "NOT WILD, JUST ORDINARY PEOPLE"

Soviet Russia says that it welcomes American visitors. "We've never refused one in the last year, except perhaps newspaper correspondents," said a member of the Foreign Office Presidium. "We want Americans to come and see our country and our people. We are not wild people; just plain, ordinary people, trying to put into practice new social theories, facing great obstacles, but slowly succeeding."