

IMPRESSIONS OF RUSSIA

(Continued from page 1.)

might be able to increase their work. The process of selection is not yet completed, but much of the last lot of olden times is gone. The few old tasks was to draw back to the cities and to the industrial establishments those tens of thousands of skilled workers who in times of boom and disorganization, had either gone to the native villages to tend on the fruit of the earth, or had drifted into some other occupation. This recall of the brains and skill of the labor force could be accomplished only by increasing the wages of industrial labor and by making factory life attractive. The personnel of the factories has undergone a remarkable change. Unskilled and semi-skilled workers who had managed subsisting jobs since the war, when production of war supplies and munitions made expansion of factories imperative, have now been relegated to the work they are best capable of doing. The skilled workers are being given the most responsible positions. The schools are being opened everywhere to increase the efficiency of labor. It does not seem as if in present conditions means much more than it used to. Russia is a good stimulus to production. Russia is still poor, very poor. It is only in the process of accumulating a small amount of capital. But the skeleton of the industrial organization has been reconstructed. It stands now firmly on the Russian ground. It has acquired a great number of experienced managers, and the possibilities in Russia natural resources and in the energy of a united working class is beyond possession of state power, are incalculable.

Present Russia is an optimistic country. There is something which binds to guard the head of an average German even if he makes a living. There is something that straightens the back of the Russian worker and makes him look hopefully sturdy even if out of work. This "something" is the consciousness of conquered freedom, of independence, of being one's own master, of better times coming. In no city east of the Rhine is there as much vitality, as much physical vigor and youthfulness as I have found in Moscow. I am told that the same is true about all other cities of the vast Union. You walk out into the suburbs of the city, you enter the streets which are thickly populated by factory workers, you visit clubs, circles, theatres, eating places, and everywhere you find crowds of vigorous young people, poorly but not shabbily dressed, sober, gay, self-assured, alert, intelligent, keenly interested in the life of their plant, their branch of industry, their unions, their club, their Soviet, their government and also in the international situation. No workers here have such an understanding of the world situation as the Russian workers. But we are not so much interested here in the mind as in the body of the Russian proletariat. The revolution has certainly hardened those millions of men and women. They have gone thru years of half a pond of bread so dilly rations, years of typhoid fever, cholera, pneumonia, Volga starvation, they have fought on numerous fronts, cheerfully clad in the bitterest cold; they have looked death into the face so many times that they are no more afraid of anything. The younger set has grown up country to country, war and revolution. Hard times are natural to them. Now life turns to them its smiling face.

of young working girls who, books in hand, hurry to their weekly class, where they receive instruction in "Leninism"; it sparkles in the eyes of matura workers who walk to the meeting of the Factory Committee. Their lives are not easy. An American worker does not put up with as little as they receive. Some stranger who has no understanding of the revolution, world, of course, think their life miserable compared with the life of their Western brothers. Well, they are better.

Russia is a country of feverish intellectual activity. I claim to have an eye for books. And I wish to state that I am stunned, overwhelmed by the amount and the variety of books that have been thrown on the market in the last two years and are being poured in great torrents at present. Sometimes I have the feeling that Russia is doing nothing but printing and publishing books. There are literally hundreds of bookshops in Moscow. There are scores of agencies serving the provinces. There are publishing houses in every important provincial center. There is hardly a shop in Moscow, but I have seen them reading all these books? I asked my friend, the chief of the book section of the Government Publishing Office. The reply was, "Everybody." Most of the books are being purchased by individual readers, but loads are also being acquired by libraries and institutions. The ordinary book is unbound the well printed, and its price is somewhere between 50 cents and one dollar. There are, however, many expensive books, art books, de luxe editions of authors. There is a market for every one. "The Revolution," said to me Comrade Losovsky, "has been

the big historic plot that crossed and increased the fertile soil of the nation and made it receptive for intellectual life. What we witness now is only the beginning. What we shall accomplish in three years, is beyond imagination."

The public press is keeping pace with the output of books. The press has nearly approached the pre-war daily circulation, which, deducting from the latter the black hundred papers and the numerous official publications which nobody ever reads, is a figure of today numerically much stronger than it ever was in Russia. Magnificent all kinds of professions, sexes, and ages, also feature this era of reconstruction. All streets are alive with newspaper kiosks which also sell popular books in Russian. Of the books, the literature on Leninism is mentioned. It is no exaggeration to say that whole libraries have been published about Lenin, be-

ginning from heavy volumes three to four hundred pages strong and down to small pamphlets and picture books. No nation ever loved a leader the way Russia loves and reveres Lenin. Lenin's death is a greater reality to the Russian workers and peasants than he even was when he lived among them.

The Russian masses love Lenin, and to his memory they love their proletarian country. Let anybody dare put a hand on their Soviet Republic, they will be met with such a conflagration, such an outburst of fighting energy as the world has never witnessed herebefore. This I felt yesterday when the Germans' silly invasion of Berlin. This one feels when one comes in touch with the Russian workers and Red Army men. The Soviet Republic stands firm as a rock on the lore and dedication of the working masses.

MOSCOW, May 12, 1924.

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"The idea becomes power when it penetrates the masses."
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SPECIAL MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENT THE DAILY WORKER

JUNE 21, 1924.

Impressions of Russia - By Moissaye J. Olgin

BEFORE we plunge into a detailed analysis of the Russian economic and political situation, let us cast a glance at the outward appearance of Russian life. We know from statistics that agriculture in Russia has reached 75 per cent of its pre-war output and industry is approaching the 40 per cent mark. To the prejudiced mind it seems a low level, especially in view of the fact that even in 1914 this was not a highly developed industrial country. However, figures alone cannot give an idea of the realities that make up the life of a people, and if comparisons are necessary, we should be made, not with pre-war years of prosperity and economic ex-pansion, but with the years of civil war and revolution, years of economic

depression, he is glad to be left alone, which seldom happens since the government of the workers and farmers is after each of his manipulations. The Negman may fill the theatres of the more conservative kind; he may spend his nights in the shady cabarets that were opened by his fellow Nepmen to satisfy his bourgeois tastes; he may have a banking account and a diamond on his finger. Yet, he is only one of the fact that even in 1914 this was not a highly developed industrial country. However, figures alone cannot give an idea of the realities that make up the life of a people, and if comparisons are necessary, we should be made, not with pre-war years of prosperity and economic ex-pansion, but with the years of civil war and revolution, years of economic

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SECOND SECTION

This magazine supplement will appear every Saturday in The Daily Worker.

A DEMONSTRATION OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN OSAKI

run away to the woods' psychology of capitalist times. We have to learn how to do business, or else we will not retain or develop the conquests of the revolution—this is the prevailing idea. For an outsider who thinks of revolutions only in terms of insurrections, barricades and red banners, it may be strange to discover that a revolution is busy with calculating indexes of prices, with stabilizing the currency, with increasing the output of manufactured commodities, with improving transportation, with taking in a thousand and one fashion around the economic apparatus of the country. The proletariat has conquered power. The proletariat has taken into its hands the reins of the economic organization. It is sometimes almost impossible for me to define whether long as it would be to fight for its

workers of trade unions, clubs of workers and Red Army boys, school faculties of workers, demonstrators of workers. It is enough to have a stroll thru a Russian city to recognize that this is a country, under the dictatorship of workers. The prevailing women's headpiece is a red bandkerchief. The general tone of life, manners, customs are those of the proletariat. There is no roughness or crudity in this life, but there is simplicity, directness, amity and disregard for petrifed conventions. The difference between the worker and the so-called intellectual is gradually disappearing in my dealings with great numbers of Soviet functionaries and trade union people. It is sometimes almost impossible for me to define whether long as it would be to fight for its

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In the sum total of economic and social life, the Negman is of small account. Nobody is afraid of him, and he himself is aware of his position. Life in the general is dominated by the workers in the cities, by the peasantry in the villages. With the workers and every step in a government of workers, state and city and banking institutions former workers, conferences of workers, conventions of peasants,

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A Typical Principal Unbosoms

BY A TEACHER

In the casted hierarchy of education, I am the most tragicomic figure (I guess, if you will). My holy function as principal is to be the religious sense. I don't know exactly what honorable purpose I am supposed to serve. I take orders and give them. I mark and grade. I do nothing. I inspire nobody. I am not conscious of large liberating social aims (I'm an "imaginist" on all pretense to be). I am not even interested in stirring social problems. I pretend to scholarship. Yes, I have external. I am so pre-occupied with the routine of administration and with the anxiety that I find little time for my favorite recreations and no time or disposition for keeping abreast of modern scholarship.

I take virtue day in and day out, but sadly I confess that I have read very few books on Sociology or Anthropology or Economics or Philosophy. Nor have I ever deeply analyzed the social forces that corrupt our American youth.

I am a great success with my teachers, for they know even less than I do (I do the first thing I do). My treatment will sound like a wild exaggeration. I coax or flatter or wheedle or bully them into respecting me. I may whip marks above their heads, and they learn to dance to my syncretized music.

I exact obedience by punishing and humiliating eccentric originality. Naturally, my superiors act no more generously than I do. My teachers fear me. I fear my superiors. And so on up the mount of glory!

Oh, if a principal could only see his mind's reflections in the mirror of truth, he would flee to a monastery to expiate his sins of omission. But principals are notoriously afflicted with optimism. They can't see their own manifest shortcomings. Why should they? Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be ignorant!

I happen to be a principal with conscience. I know how very little I accomplish. Whatever originality does flourish in the school, it flourishes in spite of the official killings. What do we principals know about child nature? What do we know about defective children? What do we know about child genius? (We usually claim them with defective tool). What do we know of the personal life of our children, of their struggles at home, their poverty, their dreams, their discouragements, their thwarted ambitions, their daily drudge environments! What do we KNOW?

We hold monthly conferences so intolerably wearisome and pointless that the serious of superintended priests seem by contrast inspiring. Why are our conferences so deadening, so stuffy, so stultic? For the simplest of reasons. WE HAVEN'T THE COURAGE TO DISCUSS THE VITAL PROBLEMS OF OUR DAY AND GENERATION.

We haven't the courage to defy our meddling and antiquated superiors whose hostility to the fewest signs of sincere democracy has brought the school system to its present unbelievably low level. In the absence of vision and courage, we would use these conferences as laboratory periods for the frank discussion of every issue that troubles the consciences and minds of the common run of men.

Rapidly would we discuss the wisdom on the eternally vital subjects of economic equality, the sex life of boys and girls, the problems of the child, the theory of exploitation, the analysis of class struggle, the history of the profound meanings of evolution, the function of revolution in accelerating the process of evolution, the philosophy of amelioration of the common lot would escape our placid analysis. The school is the laboratory of an informal philosophy of everyday life: that strikes me, in sympathy with modern education, as a worthy ideal in democratic education.

A principal might become a promoter of social enlightenment if he sojourned insights into our nation's ills, judgments, and bravely took a thinker's part in the momentous discussions of a world in progress. As a man. As a disillusioned principal, I have to admit that our educational

system does not seriously concern itself with the problems of the technique of fruitful thinking. Principals are wonderful ignoramuses. Their clerks do not challenge their snarls or to intellectual assertion. Hostile, more routine, bluffer and show, pretense said haunter, polished exterior and dismal interior, bright smiles and right good manners, insinuating to social responsibility, a barren "imaginist" on all driving questions (as though life were a series of yams and nays)—what can we await from little hasydoos parading incognito as principals?

Pity the principal; he can't honestly tell you why he has been promoted to glory and ineptitude. We principals still suffer from mental ankylosis.

Suppose I, as a radical educator, disciple of Montessori, to adopt as their guiding ideals her two doctrines of complete individuality and of complete freedom. What response would words would sound to puppet-principals? Each person manifests a unique way the mysterious life force and attains the direction given by his individual impulses. That the individual in maturing his powers and becoming adapted to social life through education develops best in the absence of conventional restrictions on his individuality.

THE ASS AND THE ELEPHANT

By G. D. BAIL

(With apologies to the honest ones if they will come out from among them.)

Two groups of crooks down in D. C.
Both groups as crooked as crooks can be;
One group was trained by Balaam's Ass,
The other was in the Elephant's class.

The leader of the latter says into its mate,
Let us rob Uncle Sam of his estate;
If we work together in secrecy and stealth,
We will both fall heir to a mint of wealth.

Yonder in the west under sun and moon,
Majestically stands a teapot dome,
Its bowels lined with minerals and oil,
We'll gold brick Uncle Sam, then divide the spoil.

The secretary of the navy being very wise,
Was an expert subject to hypnotic
So the trick was turned, a lease was drawn,
Between midnight and early dawn.

Now says the elephant, we have found a lease,
'Twill be quite easy the public to fleece;
I'll appoint a man to steer the game,
The Ass will see that connest's retained.

Then the Ass began to soliloquize,
'I've got my enemy by the hip and thigh,
'I'll wait 'till nineteen and twenty-four,
Perhaps I'll learn a little more.

Then I'll expose the G. O. P.'s
Hee-haw, hee-haw, hee-haw, hee's
My enemies then will be tramping home,
Bidding adieu to the teapot dome.

But to and behold, these crooks fell out,
With his trunk the Elephant began to scout;
This rolled the Ass, so he spilled the beans,
And now the press is chronicling the scenes.

Ye gods, dear people, where are we at?
Shall we longer support these old stand pat?
It's six of one, half dozen of 'other,
They stick together like big twin brothers.

One group once said, "The public be damned."
They both have managed to grab all the land,
They control all the waters, the air they would scoop,
It is doubtful if forty would harbor these groups.

There are forty-eight states now under the flag,
Not one of which either group could grab;
If we all stand together in one common cause,
We can save Uncle Sam from the capitalists' claws.

Wake up, good people, open your eyes,
You who never have, now use your franchise,
Retire these crooks, send all of them home,
Then we'll recover what's rightfully the dome.

The Farmers and Workers have issued a Call,
For all the progressives to meet in Salt Lake,
And abandon all differences that's kept us apart,
Then all stand together and make a new start.

To do this, the Denby, Doherty, and Falls,
Danaher, Glanville, and Tammany Hall,
Wall Street who now all the presidents name,
Must all, with their followers, get out of the game.

visually." Principals are so accustomed (through sheer mental laziness) to taking the credit for it is for granted that they would each way as impertinent (or at best, as theoretical and visionary) assertion. Hostile, more routine, bluffer and show, pretense said haunter, polished exterior and dismal interior, bright smiles and right good manners, insinuating to social responsibility, a barren "imaginist" on all driving questions (as though life were a series of yams and nays)—what can we await from little hasydoos parading incognito as principals?

Principals not only go on in the vocational classrooms, but they are the citizens of the future should continue to be educated under conditions that tend to discourage initiative and to minimize individuality. It may sound blasphemous to the orthodox, but it is the plainest truth that a majority of principals have their philosophy of education at all. Why, the very endurance test which is imposed upon the candidate for the principalship has no conceivable relation to the human aspect or implications of education. None whatever. The most astounding dillard (so far as an educational insight into the realizing problems of our social life concerned) may come out with flying colors as a principal-elite. Another sign of the long procession of machine men

dedicated to the inspiring mission of turning out (excellent) display of parrots, monkeys, dogs, ozen, asses—but never, never, never, never original, critical and courageous human beings.

Let me ask another thorny question: Are principals of any assistance to their harassed teachers or are they usually an intrusion and a hindrance? The query is its own answer. Teachers who have been in the "system" as long as ten, fifteen, twenty years have confessed that their official superiors, either their lack of ability or lack of tact to them is strictly meaningless.

Principals not only go on in the vocational classrooms, but they are the citizens of the future should continue to be educated under conditions that tend to discourage initiative and to minimize individuality. It may sound blasphemous to the orthodox, but it is the plainest truth that a majority of principals have their philosophy of education at all. Why, the very endurance test which is imposed upon the candidate for the principalship has no conceivable relation to the human aspect or implications of education. None whatever. The most astounding dillard (so far as an educational insight into the realizing problems of our social life concerned) may come out with flying colors as a principal-elite. Another sign of the long procession of machine men

Think how much better it would be for the welfare of education in general, and for the cultural emancipation of teachers and pupils in particular, if in each school teachers and pupils had a vote in the choice of their Guild Governing Committee, to consist of several teachers and several representative students selected, of course, by the students' duly empowered with power to "rule the roost." Democratic tendencies in education. Democratic tendencies in education. Democratic tendencies in education.

Such a radical reconstruction would aim a finely effective blow at the pernicious superior-inferior relationship that exists in the present future of democracy in education. Not until strategically situated superiors have been destroyed in the industrial activities of the rank and file can sincere and far-reaching democracy achieve any distinction or potency in our public school system.

On with the educational revolution! All power to the Teachers' Guild!

A ROYAL BEGGAR



King of Rumania playing to the bankers.

TECHNICAL AID-FREIGHT PICNIC POSTPONED TO JUNE 28—TAKE NOTE

The picnic planned for June 8 by the Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia and the French Relief Committee was postponed on account of the bad weather to June 28, at Stikney Park, Lyons, Mass. Those who had tickets for June 8 can use them on June 28. Those who have not yet procured tickets may get them at the Soviet Relief Committee, 1522 W. Division St., Russian Co-op Restaurant, 724 W. Division St.; Freight office, 1145 Blue Island St.; Great's Restaurant, 3124 W. Roosevelt Road,

On Population and Birth Control

By CHARLES BROWER

PERHAPS you are one of those who, in recent years, have been guilty of thinking about some of the evils confronting society—unemployment with its attendant misery, reduction in the standard of living of the working masses, danger of future wars. Perhaps you are one of those who advocate drastic measures for the elimination of these evils. You may have been converted to such heresies as unemployment insurance, moratoriums on rents for the unemployed, shortening of the working day. Possibly you may have been so far corrupted by the "foreigners" as to believe that the only solution for our present-day evils lay in the elimination of capitalism. If so, then you have been all wrong. Our learned professors have studied the problem carefully. They conclude that our present-day evils are due to overpopulation, there are too many of us on God's earth. The remedy, according to the Prof. lies in (quietly, don't let Mr. Sumner to overhear us)—birth-control.

At the beginning of the last century (to date with the aid of modern statistics. And once again we are told in this time by professors) that the attention of the world was

of them on this planet. Being a preacher, Malthus naturally based his doctrine on a Bible text. "Many are called but few are chosen."

Since the days of Malthus the population of the world has more than doubled and Mother Earth has not as yet collapsed underneath its weight. It still makes its daily round, spinning about the sun as in the good old days, but in recent years economic conditions have again brought the problem to the fore. "Dislocation of production resulting from the war has brought millions of workers (particularly in Europe) face to face with misery and starvation. Large sections of the working class are losing faith in the present system. Such heresies as socialism, communism, bolshevism, are gaining adherents daily. Under these conditions it is but natural that an effort be made on the part of the apologists for the status-quo to divert the attention of the workers from the true cause of their suffering. Accordingly, the doctrine of old Malthus has been unearthed, polished, and brought up to date with the aid of modern statistics. And once again we are told (in this time by professors) that the

first, the chicken or the egg. Another Prof. is more certain. He says: "Such figures, which could be cited more extensively if necessary, make out a fair case for the statement that large families and hardships within the family are too often matters of cause and effect. The destruction of the poor is not willy nilly due to the wicked capitalist who compels them to live in poverty; it is due to lack of intelligence, which depresses their productive value to society, and the ignorance which results in their dividing their meager possessions among many instead of among few." (Mankind at the Cross Roads, p. 323-324, by Edward M. East, Charles Scribner's Sons, N. Y., 1923.)

Hence, according to our learned Prof., the destruction of the poor is due to lack of intelligence. . . . Perhaps he is right, after all. The will to improve on the part of the poor to submit to the rule of the Rockefeller, Morgans, etc., may be evidence of lack of intelligence. It recalls to mind the incident of Judge Gray, who once asked as to whether a certain man was uneducated, because he could not live on his salary of \$17,500 per year. But didn't he know how many American workers earn an annual salary of \$1,000? (Continued on page 6.)

A BERLIN MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION



focused on the problem of population. The cure, by then very simple indeed. All we have to do is practice birth-control, and all the present-day evils will disappear. Listen to one of these Prof.: "Examine the poorer groups are found where poverty and a high birth rate are present. The family with a high birth rate is uncontrolled, the family is dragged down to poverty; if the parents are poor they lack the spirit of control. Whichever be the dominant factor the result remains: poverty and poverty will continue." (The Problem of Population, p. 123-30, by Harold Cox, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1923.) You see, this Prof. is not quite certain as to which causes which—whether the misery and want of the workers was due to capitalism but to over-population. Workers starved because there were too many

of them on this planet. Being a preacher, Malthus naturally based his doctrine on a Bible text. "Many are called but few are chosen." Since the days of Malthus the population of the world has more than doubled and Mother Earth has not as yet collapsed underneath its weight. It still makes its daily round, spinning about the sun as in the good old days, but in recent years economic conditions have again brought the problem to the fore. "Dislocation of production resulting from the war has brought millions of workers (particularly in Europe) face to face with misery and starvation. Large sections of the working class are losing faith in the present system. Such heresies as socialism, communism, bolshevism, are gaining adherents daily. Under these conditions it is but natural that an effort be made on the part of the apologists for the status-quo to divert the attention of the workers from the true cause of their suffering. Accordingly, the doctrine of old Malthus has been unearthed, polished, and brought up to date with the aid of modern statistics. And once again we are told (in this time by professors) that the

we have to be thankful to the learned Prof. for inserting the word "wholly." In other words, he admits that the destruction of the poor is in fact due to the capitalist. Let us say that the great bulk of the men who work in the various industries of the United States receive less than \$30 a week; that perhaps one man in five receives more than \$46 per week, and that every small firm that employs under a tenth, receives more than \$50 per week. In the case of women, these figures are nearly twice so high. In the case of farm labor, they may be cut almost in half. You can judge for yourself how much about the pay envelope of the workers of the present generation. It is obvious that birth-control cannot lessen the number of those already living, then our learned Prof. might reply that we of the present generation have to suffer for the sins of our fathers, for their failure to heed the advice of old man Malthus. Here of course, the Bible would support the Prof. for it says: "And the sins of

the father shall be visited upon the children and upon the children's children even unto the third generation." And who, but an ungodly bolshevik would dare question the infallibility of the holy Scripture?

Here is another gem from the same Prof. (East): "An absolute just wage distribution would not raise the average income of our submerged quarter by any large figure. This is demonstrated by the complete figures for the United States, which are now available." (p. 232.) Well, to me, let us follow his argument and see what we get.

Prof. East states (p. 215) that the national income turns out to be about fifty billion dollars, or close to \$4,000 per capita. Now suppose yours to be an average American family consisting of five. Your annual income should then be \$20,000. Even then it would hardly compare with the income of a New York Judge who reportedly earned, because he could not live on his salary of \$17,500 per year, but didn't he know how many American workers earn an annual salary of \$1,000? (Continued on page 6.)