

# SOVIET RUSSIA

# PICTORIAL

JAN.  
1924

A GRAPHIC MONTHLY  
REVIEW OF  
RUSSIAN AFFAIRS

20¢



Shall we help the Russian peasants developing their primitive methods of Agriculture—or shall we be instrumental in having called them away from their peaceful endeavors on to the battlefields of war?

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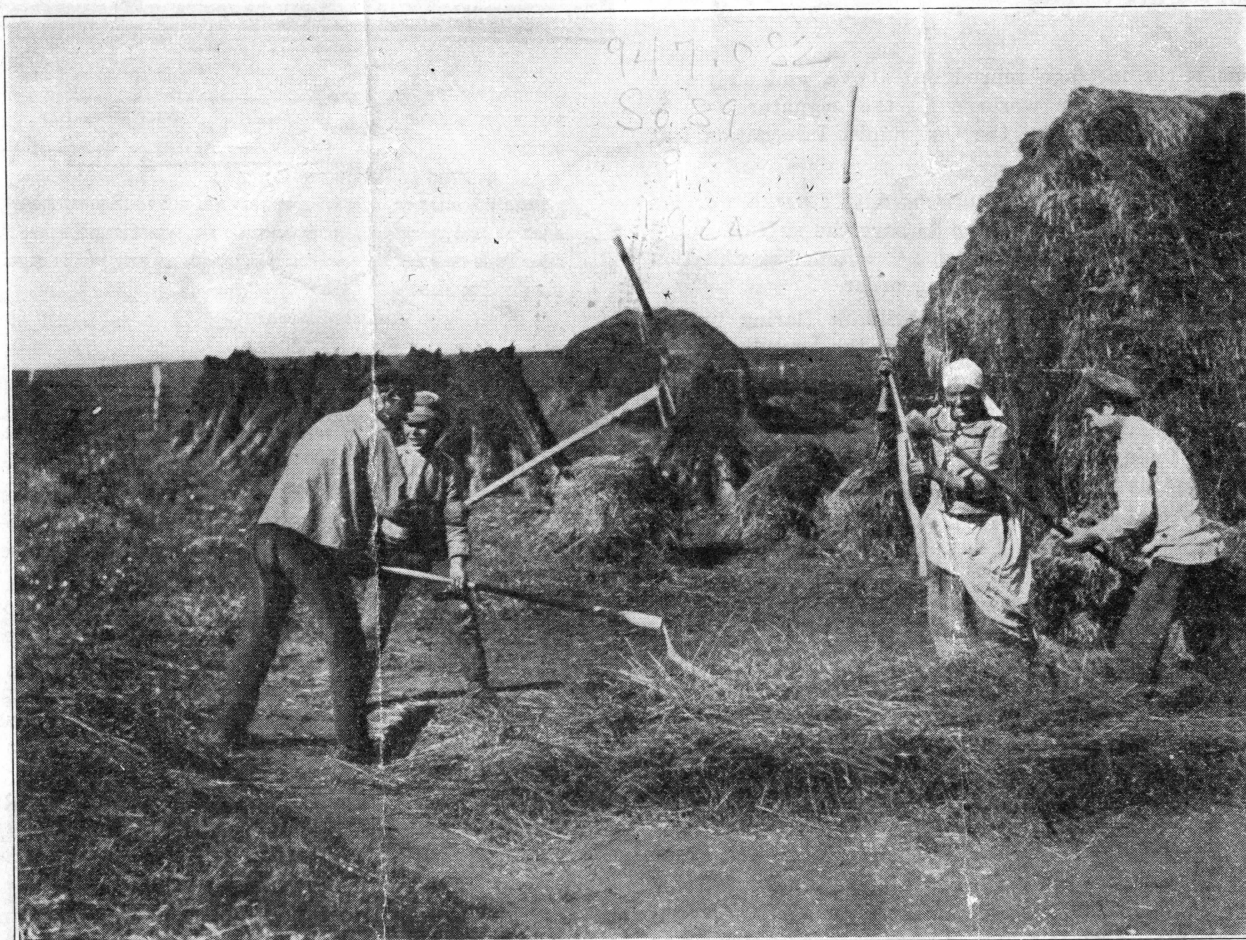
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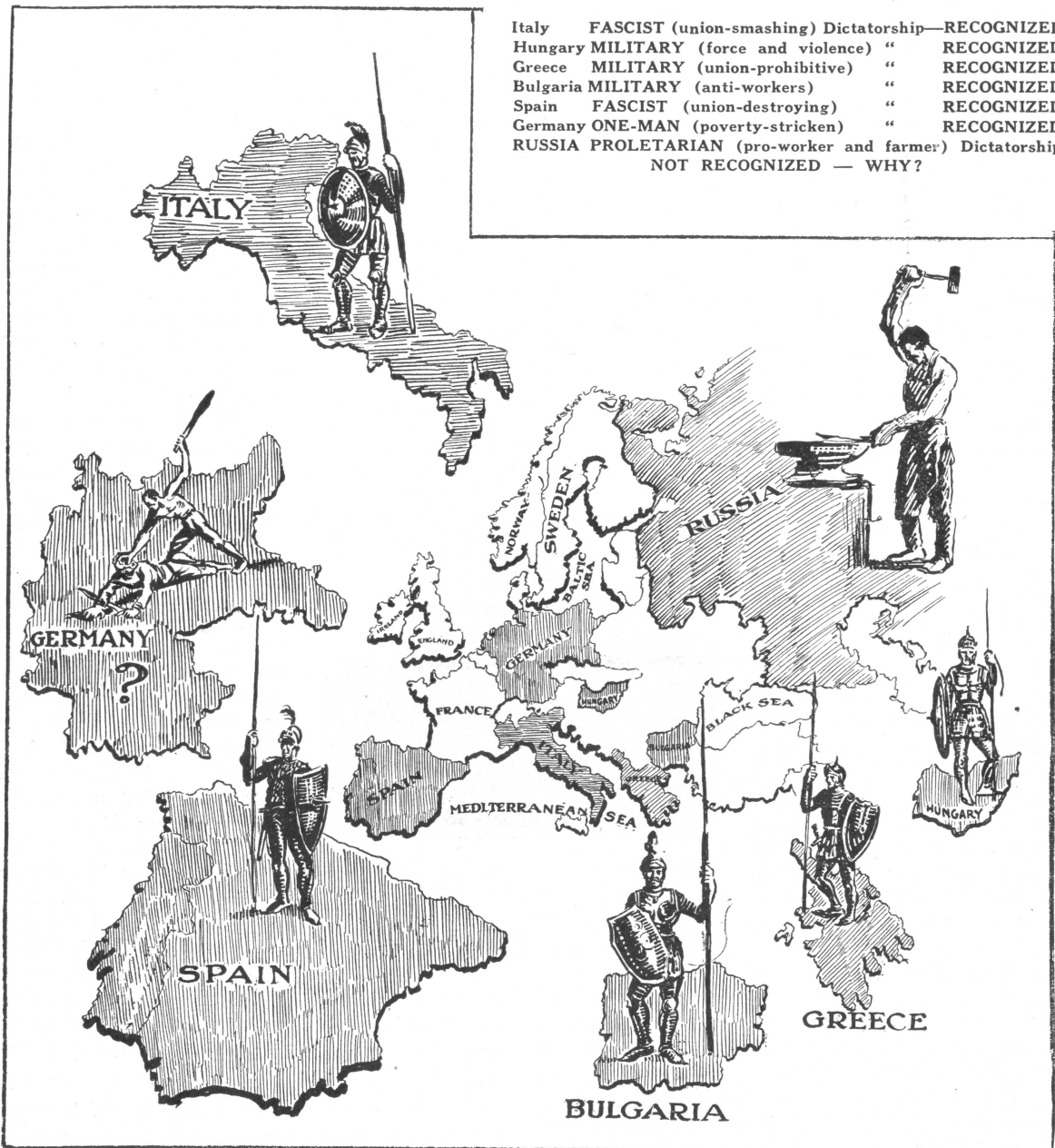


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# SEVEN DICTATORSHIPS

Six of them recognized—Why not the seventh?



**MR. GOMPERS:—**

Enemy of Soviet Russia; colleague of bitter labor haters like Alton B. Parker, Ralph Easley etc., of the Civic Federation; collaborator of anti-Soviet Russian propaganda with such eminent bankers as Cleveland H. Dodge, Samuel McRoberts, and others, “friend” of Democracy; President of the American Federation of Labor: why do you not raise your voice in protest against the recognition by the United States government of the above six anti-labor dictatorships; that of the Fascisti in Italy who have virtually destroyed the Italian Federation of Labor; that of Horthy in Hungary whose terrorist regime delivered to the hangman tens of thousands of workers; that of a military clique in Greece which dissolved all labor organizations and confiscated their treasury; of another clique in Bulgaria which shoots and jails workers and peasants alike in grim impartiality; of the Fascisti in Spain who are destroying all labor organizations in that country; and that of a Stinnes puppet in Germany who condemns the workers of Germany to utter starvation;

While you never fail to condemn and denounce the dictatorship of workers in Russia, which has overthrown the bloody regime of czarism where membership in a labor organization was a crime punishable by exile, which has successfully defended the small land holding peasants against all conspiracies and attacks of the aristocratic land robbers of the ancient regime and their American, English, French and Japanese Allies, and which, for the first time in the history of modern countries and governments, has built up the organizations of labor and has made them the decisive influence in the settlement of working conditions of labor!

# An American Farmer in Russia

By William H. Green.

**W**HAT impressed me most during my visit in Russia is the fact that they don't let lawyers vote. In America, they don't allow anybody else to vote.

I was attending the first international congress of the dirt farmers of the world, held in Moscow this Fall, October tenth to October sixteenth. They think a lot of the farmer-labor political movement in America, and as I went there as vice president of the Federated Farmer-labor party of America, they elected me to the "Presidium." The "Presidium" is a sort of board made up of the presidents or chairmen of the Congress, one of whom presides at each day's session.

This unusual congress was made up altogether of active, hard-working farmers and the indication of it is that the farmers are destined to come into their own.

It is a curious fact that the first fifty-five members of the Constitutional Convention of the United States in 1787 were bankers, lawyers and speculators. Their first purpose was to make good the worthless paper scrip that they held in their bank vaults, of which they owned much themselves. There was not one farmer, laborer or mechanic in the convention which drew up the United States Constitution and ever since then the affairs of the United States have been controlled by lawyers, or by wealthy interests through lawyers.

In Russia, anybody practising law isn't allowed to vote, and that makes a farmer feel good. And at the same time, any girl of eighteen doing any kind of work is a full fledged voter.

At the Congress there were delegates present from fourteen countries speaking seventeen languages. I was one of the first delegates there and I was given living quarters which were almost as grand as the Kremlin, the ancient palace of the czars, in which the congress met. They were in a palace formerly occupied by one of the noblemen of the old regime and the bath attached to my bedroom was one of the largest I have ever seen. But when the delegates began coming in thick there

were not enough palatial rooms for all, so all of us who had arrived there first moved into simple quarters in order that living might be on a basis of equality. And we lived on the simplest food, too,—black bread without butter.

The meeting room was flooded with industrial workers, who came as interested spectators. Most of the speeches were about the agricultural and political needs of the farmers, not only in Russia but in other countries.

What all the delegates emphasized was the fact that henceforth workers and farmers would not be cannon fodder, neither would they pay the expenses of any war. Another way that you might put it is that workers and farmers did not intend any longer to allow Tennyson's fatalistic philosophy for soldiers:

"Theirs not to reason why,  
Theirs but to do or die."

The Soviet government is handling the business of modernizing farming methods in a big broad way. They take young peasant boys by hundreds and thousands and bring them to Moscow. There these young fellows, picked as the brightest from each peasant community are given apartments to live in, free clothing and food, while they take courses in the big universities. They are given the opportunity to learn everything of which they are capable. It is almost impossible to picture on what an enormous scale they are doing this.

This is nothing to what is being done in the installing of great modern machinery for agricultural work. Everyone knows of the movement inaugurated by the Friends of Soviet Russia to send tractors for agricultural reconstruction. Not only American tractors are wanted, but also American efficiency. The peasants send their young men to see the machinery operated and to learn American methods.

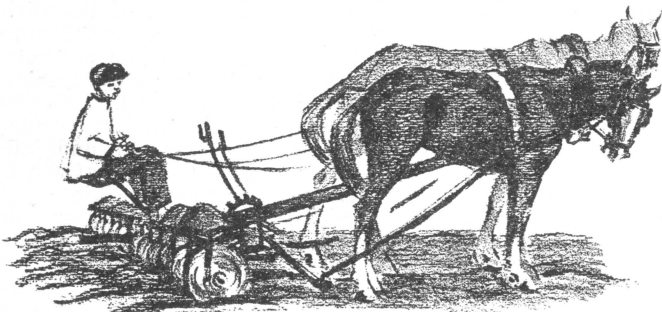
At a great agricultural exhibit which was held while I was there, there was a competition for first place between the different kinds of tractors for farm use. The exhibit was held for the benefit of farmers from all parts of the world.

The International Peasant's council has established an information bureau, for receiving and furnishing information on all farming problems, and an Agrarian Institute which will supply technical and expert information. It will seek the collaboration of expert scientific and agricultural writers. It will have a section on cooperatives, one of the most important institutions for the farming classes.

After they were organized, the council members returned home, charged with the task of organizing the peasants and farmers and bringing them into the council.



**William H. Green, first Vice President of Federated Farmer Labor Party, member of Executive Committee of Farmers International recently formed at Congress in Moscow**



**On the Soviet Model Farm**

## And Yet She Moves

SOVIET Russia is now more than six years old. The Soviet Republic hangs on to live tenaciously and laughs at all predictions of its death. But there are many prophets who hang on just as tenaciously to their prophecies. It is a sorry sight to see the whole procession of them. The whole lot of mourners whose happiness is only impaired by the fact that the subject of their funeral refuses to die.

Great expectations about Soviet Russia's fall, many predictions, and—in spite of all that—Russia goes on living, prospering, building.

### *Calls Russia Workers' Hope.*

"Coming back from Russia I feel in America an unpleasant atmosphere of selfishness," said the Rev. Sydney Strong, Seattle, in a forum address in Ravinia. "Russia is the land of the workers' hopes where people are making a common effort to make life better for all. In America each one seems bent on grabbing what he can for himself from the rest. This capitalistic anti-social spirit cannot last. It is doomed to give way before the pro-social spirit one finds in Russia."

Strong entered Russia at his own expense to see what could be done to broaden religious education in the orthodox church which is now directed by liberal priests in place of the reactionaries who controlled it under the czar.

### *American Bank Signs Contract.*

A contract has been signed between the Russian State Bank and the New York Guarantee Trust Company providing for the acceptance and paying of the Company's chequos in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

### *Tractors to Be Free of Duty.*

In view of the large demand of tractors in the Russian market, the People's Commissariat of Foreign Trade has ordered that until these requirements of the country's rural economy will have been totally satisfied, all tractors imported into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics from abroad shall be free of customs duties.

### *Italy Soon to Recognize Soviet Russia.*

The Secolo, a leading Italian organ, writing on Russo-Italian relations, remarks with a feeling of deep satisfaction Turkey, 38,100 tons—to Denmark. that the deadlock between Russia and Italy has at last

been removed, and trade relations are now further progressing. The Italian business circles have at last come to fully realize the urgent expediency of establishing close bonds with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: indeed the natural resources of the latter will be helpful to Italy by way of relieving her economic dependence on other European markets. Moreover—they agree—both countries have many points of contact in the Mediterranean. The influential paper welcomes the set desire evinced on the part of prominent representatives of the Italian industrial and commercial world to see the full recognition of Soviet Russia: these representative circles believe that such a political act, in which Italy should forestall the other Powers, will have a most favorable effect on the mutual relations between Italy and the Union of S. S. R.



A burlesque on the Fascisti as seen in the streets of Moscow. The "Black Shirt" Movement is not looked upon with much favor here. The Anti-Fascisti Movement in Russia.

### *Fruit Caning in Armenia Resurrected.*

During the current year the fruit preserving industry of Armenia, which had been at a standstill for four years, will again be set going. The preserving factory to prepare over 300 tons of apricot and other fruit preserves.

### *Russian Cereal Exports Grow.*

According to preliminary returns not yet complete, the "Export-khleb" (Cereals Exporting Trust) has, up to October 25 sold 159,100 tons of corn products to Germany, 120,416 tons—to France, 51,603 tons—to Norway, 47,183 tons—to Italy, 46,750 tons—to Turkey, 38,100 tons—to Denmark.

### *Gamblers to Be Exiled by Soviets.*

Russia has established a pale, not for Jews, as in czarist days, but for gamblers, obnoxious speculators and citizens whose usefulness in the upbuilding of the country is questioned by the officials.

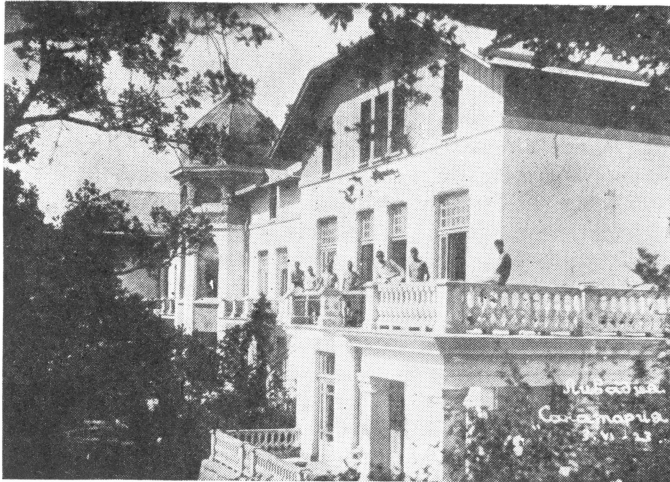
Within the next few days, scores of men and their families, barred from living in Moscow, Petrograd, or any of the big cities, will start for the provinces, while several dozen more will begin the long trek to the Narinsky district of Siberia, the shores of the White sea, or other distant points of exile.

A year ago a decree was issued establishing the right of administrative banishment by the department of the in-

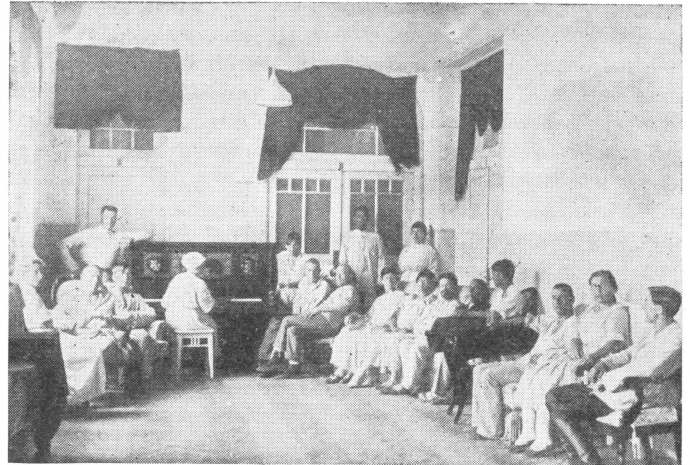
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# PALACES OF RULERS OF YESTERDAY

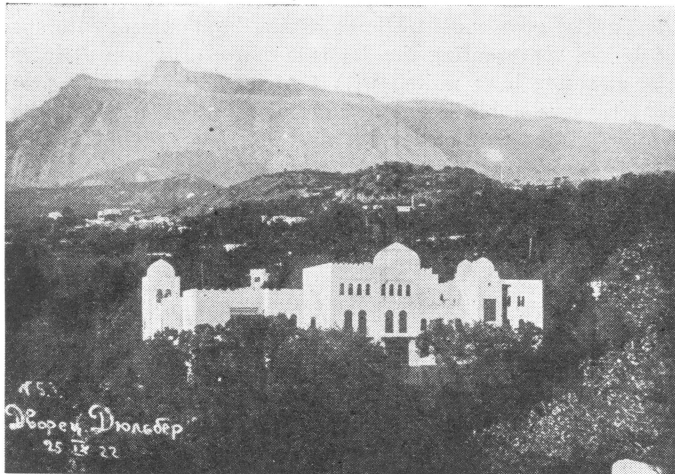
DEDICATED TO THE WELFARE OF THE RULERS OF TODAY



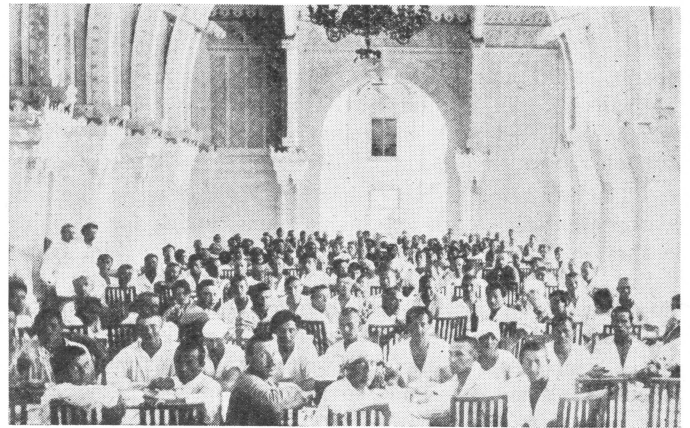
Former Czarist Castle "Livadia," now workers Sanatorium



Reconvalescent Workers in Former Czarist castle "Livadia"



Former "Castle Dulber," now Public Rest home for Workers



Worker Sanatorium "Gursof," Crimean. Former Summer Palace of Exploiter



Children celebrate their Freedom in Russia



Soviet Sanatorium "Browbrow" for workers and peasants children in Crimean. Former Palace of Industrial King

# TRAVELLING IN RUSSIA

By Wm. F. Kruse.

**M**ANY travellers imagine that when they spend a week or two in Moscow they have seen Russia. Moscow is Moscow, but as for Russia—that is another story.

## *A Russian Village*

Ivan Ivanovitch was the name of our host. His was the best house in the village, therefore it bore the town's number and name on a little metal placard. He had been a fairly wealthy peasant, now he had less land than before the revolution, but he was better satisfied. He had enough land to work. No one wanted more land than they could use, he said—there were taxes and then what was the use, anyway. He was well off. His house had three rooms, a good stove and he possessed two samovars.

His wife echoed his sentiments. Their one boy was praised as a good worker by his father. A sturdy, active old grandmother of seventy-six made up the remainder of the family.

There was no store at which things could be bought, hence they had no sugar for their tea. "Neechevo"—(never mind). The "tea" was a locally grown weed substitute; for coffee they burned carrots and used the ash. This and bread, potatoes, when, as in this year, they were plentiful—and this life is heaven, compared with what it was during the Czar's regime.

At night, a dazzling brilliant moonlight. Everywhere singing. Occasionally a harmonica. Sunday in the village.

In front of a dozen houses, groups of young girls,



**Russian Types and Costume**

clad in white from head to foot, singing a high-pitched love song. "The boy follows the girl. Boy why do you follow me. I follow because your eyes are bright. Run home to your mother, boy, and leave me alone." Something like that the words go. Of course the boys do not leave them alone. In groups they visit from one doorstep to the next. And they sing, and sometimes dance. So goes the love-play preliminary to the journey to the altar—and the greatest jollification in all village life, the wedding.

The presence of strangers created quite a stir. Our interpreter was soon on the

job making a speech, all about the wonderful Moscow Agricultural Exposition and the better methods to be seen there. Yes, they were to send one there, he would go next week; then they would hear from their own representative. Then about the youth organization, the Komsomol. They would be glad to hear from the Kazan headquarters of the youth.

To show their gratitude for this attention on the part of the strangers they escorted us to our domicile with songs and music. Next morning at daybreak, out again on the road, but not too early to see the patient plodding old Russian peasant already at his task of scratching the earth with a stick to bring forth bread.

**What could a few tractors do here?**

## *Down the Volga*

A mighty river and a beautiful one—the Volga. Navi-



**Metal Workers Clubhouse in Kharkov Built by Trades Union Funds after the Revolution**

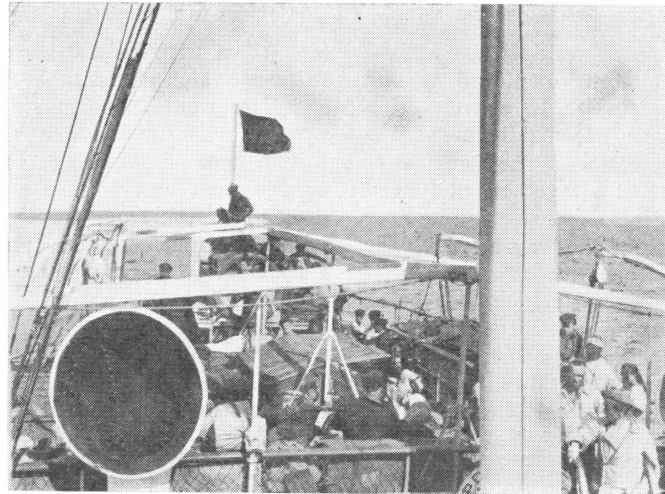


**Labor Monument in Kazan erected in Honor of Revolution**

gable for over two thousand versts by big, speedy river steamers as commodious and comfortable as any ocean liner, the five-day journey downstream is a never-to-be-forgotten joy.

From Nishni-Novgorod, scene of Russia's most colorful annual market, there is a trip of one day and night to Kazan, capital of the Tartar Republic. The same time takes one to Samara, somewhat smaller but equally beautiful. Then Saratov, nestling among countless little limestone hills. Still another day finds one in Tsaritzin and the last in Astrachan with its fisheries and lumber industry. It seems as tho the planners of these cities must have intuitively felt the one-day travelling capacity of these then undreamed of ships.

These are the big stations, there are dozens and dozens of smaller ones, just a barge moored to the shore and a dozen peddlers' shacks where bread, butter, sausage, and melons are eagerly bought by the passengers. At every station there is a wild scramble to get on and off the ship to patronize these markets. Here first, second and third class mingle indiscriminately in haggling over the price of a crock of boiled milk or the quality of a melon. Next to "semetchky" (sunflower seeds) Russia's chief crop would seem to be "arbusse"—a melon that seems a cross between our water melon and the "honey-dew". In inward appearance it is like the former but size, shape, flavor and outward appearance are like the latter. There seem to be millions of them at every station and every good Russian



Down the Volga on Soviet Ship flying Red Flag

considers it his personal duty to reduce the visible supply as quickly as possible.

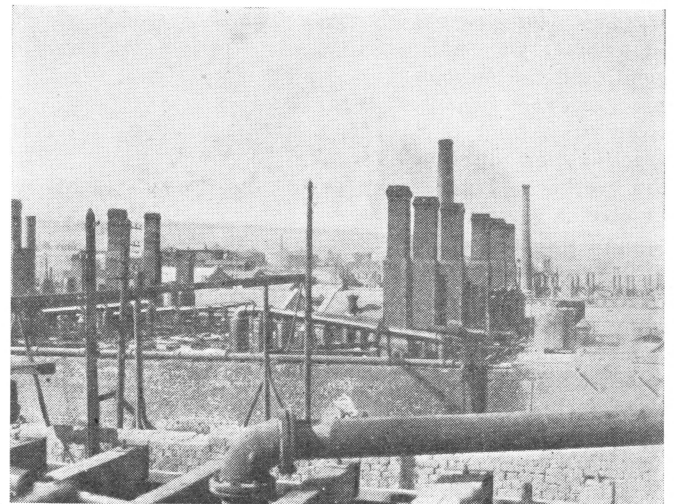
The cities are generally some versts back from the banks to escape the annual Spring floods. Thirty feet above the present water level one can see the marks of other heights plainly written on the sandstone banks while the gullies cut in those same banks attest to the ruthless force of the River God unchained. At this season the water is very shallow, in many places the boat must proceed cautiously, foot by foot, with a man at the bow, measuring rod in hand, calling out the depth readings to the bridge. For the most part the river is placid enough now also, but as we near Tsaritzin at night so fierce a gale blew up that the ship could not proceed against it, and had to anchor in midstream.

Everywhere are evidences of industrial revival, dozens of great log floats and heavily laden freight ships throng the river, at every station one hears the untranslatable chantys of the stevedores as, hand over hand, they hoist great barrels and bales out of the hold. At every station, pushing, shoving, striving humanity—all loaded down with an amount of baggage apparently more staggering to our imaginations than to their backs—food vendors crying their wares—Gaypayoo, the general police force, young strong and wide awake fellows—then three whistles, the gang plank is hauled in, a few belated strugglers jump for the ship—and so on down the Volga.

*Concluded on page 22*



Touching up the Heroin in Azerbeidjan Movie



Kerosene Destillery in Baku



## Housing of the Workers in Russia

THE HOUSING question in Russia is very acute. Various measures have been and are being employed to end the shortage, or at least to mitigate it. In a proletarian state such as Russia the authorities are mainly concerned with the housing of the working classes. The housing of the peasants is a different question altogether, and need not be considered here.

Below we give some examples of the way in which the housing of the workers is being dealt with.

The textile factories in the central region, not being built in the towns, have always, even before the war, been faced with this question. The old factory owners solved it by creating huge barrack-like unhealthy dwellings which was not so evident during the civil war, the fact that it was completely impossible lacked the most common conveniences. During the world war the great influx of workers into the factories owing to army requirements caused terrible overcrowding, and although this evil to carry out repairs and re-decorations made the housing crisis no less acute. The shortage of fuel for heating purposes caused dampness and further dilapidation. With the institution of the new economic policy and the formation of the trusts the position was very serious. But immediately the industry began to revive, the Textile Trust took the question of housing the workers in hand.

At first it confined itself to repairing the existing accommodation, but this, of course, was not sufficient, and the Moscow Textile Trust soon began to discover ways and means of erecting new dwellings for the workers. Later it appointed a special commission, of which several well-known architects were members, to draw up plans for such dwellings. The task was not an easy one, for the comfort and new cultural needs of the workers had to be reconciled with the strictest possible economy in construction. The idea of common sleeping rooms (such as often existed in the old type of dwellings) was rejected, and it was decided for the independent family use. The old many-storied barracks type of dwellings, with long dark corridors and tiny rooms, was also rejected.

On the other hand, the so-called "two-storied cottage" type, containing two or four homes, found favor, but had to be rejected partly on account of the high cost of equip-

ping them with central heating and common kitchens, the work of which would be done by the factory staff.

This would have meant additional housework for the women, who for the most part also work at the factory. A compromise was therefore reached, with the approval of the men and women workers themselves, and it was decided to construct three-storied buildings 96 feet long, with wide light corridors from which eight or nine separate flats open on the same story. Each dwelling will cover an area of 250-300 square feet, and consist of two rooms and a parlor. There are cloak rooms for each story and a common kitchen on the second floor, the whole of each house being centrally heated.

Another venture is that of a garden city for printing

workers which is being built at Ptrovka along the Yaroslavl-Moscow railway. The accommodation is provided by simply-built houses each containing two dwellings, designed to accommodate one or two workers each, and several larger flats for families. Nearly half an acre of garden space is allotted to each house. The scheme provides for corporate life also, and common kitchens, baths, wash-houses, creches, kindergartens, libraries, etc. are being built. In addition, a large park is being laid out, as well as kitchen gardens for common use. Already eight such houses have been built, and it is hoped to complete the whole garden city by the tenth anniversary of the revolution (November 1927). There will then be 305 houses, providing accommodation for about 3,000 workers.

During the current building season the Moscow Soviet is completing buildings containing a total of nearly 5,500,000 cubic feet

and providing accommodation for 4,500 workers.

In addition, over 20,500,000 cubic feet of buildings will be constructed at the expense of the State, about 27,000,000 cubic feet by private enterprise providing dwellings for about 20,000 people. In addition, over 8,500,000 cubic feet are to be constructed with the participation of foreign capital and over 17,000,000 cubic feet by co-operatives.

The comparatively extensive building operations in Soviet Russia at the present time stamp over the face of all Russia its policy of reconstruction.



Labor Temple in Moscow Formerly Club of Nobles