

50. DECREE ON MONUMENTS OF THE
REPUBLIC, ISSUED BY THE COUNCIL OF
PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS⁴⁰

April 12, 1918

In commemoration of the great upheaval that has transformed Russia, the Council of People's Commissars resolves:

(1) Monuments erected in honour of Tsars and their servitors, which have neither historical nor artistic value, shall be removed from squares and streets; some of them to be placed in storehouses and others used for utilitarian purposes.

(2) A special commission, consisting of the People's Commissars concerned with public education and the property of the Republic and the head of the Fine Arts Department of the Commissariat of Public Education, is instructed to determine, in agreement with the Moscow and Petrograd Board of Arts, which monuments are to be removed.

(3) The same commission is instructed to mobilize artistic forces and organize a broad competition of projects of monuments to commemorate the great days of the Russian socialist revolution.

(4) The Council of People's Commissars expresses the wish that already on May Day some of the uglier idols be dismounted and the first models of new monuments put up for the masses to pass their judgement on them.

(5) The same commission is instructed speedily to prepare the May Day decoration of the city and the replacement of inscriptions, emblems, names of streets, coats of arms, etc. by new ones, expressive of the ideas and sentiments of revolutionary working Russia.

(6) The regional and *gubernia* Soviets shall act likewise, invariably in agreement with the aforesaid commission.

(7) The necessary sums shall be allocated as estimates are drawn up and are approved.

Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, V. ULYANOV (LENIN).

People's Commissars: A. LUNACHARSKY,
STALIN.

Secretary of the Council, GORBUNOV.