

# USSR

OCTOBER 9 ★ 1946  
IVAN SEGERMAN 846



## INFORMATION BULLETIN

published by

THE EMBASSY OF THE  
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST  
REPUBLICS IN THE U. S. A.



VOLUME VI NUMBER 64



The head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Alexius of Moscow and All Russia (center) with Metropolitan Benjamin of North America and the Aleutians (right) and Metropolitan Nikolai Krutitsky (left).



## CONTENTS

The Russian Orthodox Church.....	3
<i>By G. G. Karpov</i>	
Trade Unionists at Moscow (Pic- tures) .....	6
The Tajik Soviet Republic in the Five- Year Plan.....	7
<i>By Nikolai Mikhailov</i>	
The Soviet Fishing Industry.....	10
<i>By Alexander Malinin and Professor Mikhail Somov</i>	
State Farms (Pictures).....	12
The State Farms of the USSR.....	13
<i>By P. Pelisov</i>	
A Famed Farm Worker.....	14
New Soviet Nurseries Planned.....	15
<i>By Nikolai Shestopal</i>	
Some Stalin Prize Winners.....	16
<i>By I. Petrov</i>	
Plastic and Orthopedic Surgery..	18
<i>By V. Krasilnikov and M. Zheleznova</i>	
Stalinabad, Capital of Tajikistan..	20
<i>By A. Sivakov</i>	
The Kamerny Theater at Moscow..	22
<i>By Mark Levin</i>	
Notes on Soviet Life.....	24

Published by the Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, at 3031 Gates Road, Washington 8, D. C. Issues appear weekly, on Wednesday. Names are added to the mailing list, without charge, upon written request. Material in this bulletin may be quoted or reproduced.

## Religion in the USSR

**T**HE decree guaranteeing freedom of conscience, published by the Soviet Government in 1918, ensures to every religious denomination the right to conduct its spiritual life and services according to its faith, providing only that it does not violate the public peace and the rights of other citizens.

The Constitution of the USSR, subsequently adopted, reaffirms this right and guarantees full freedom of self-administration to religious bodies. No interference is placed upon the religious life of believers or the life of churches in general.

The patriotic role played by the Russian Orthodox Church in the Great Patriotic War is a signal demonstration of the good relations existing between the Soviet State and the Church. Hitler's Nazis, who had believed that the Church would play the role of traitor to the Motherland, were disillusioned when the leading prelates of the Church, scornfully repudiating this insult, bent every effort to rally their congregations in defense of their native land.

Early in 1945, the General Council of the Russian Orthodox Church addressed a message to Christians throughout the world, asking their prayers for victory and the extermination of fascism.

Citing the possible danger of another rise of fascism in the world and urging Christians everywhere to pray and work against the survival of these seeds of fascism, the message said:

"Yet nevertheless voices are sometimes heard calling 'in the name of forgiveness' to pardon the infanticides and traitors! And they come from people who have the hardihood to consider themselves Christians.

"Is it that too little blood has been spilt? Is it that too few tears have been shed? Is it possible that our children, too, will live under the perpetual danger of new wars? May this not be!"



**FRIENDSHIP**—The Dean of Canterbury (center), with Mr. T. A. D'Eye, shown visiting Archbishop Grigorius, then acting head of the Leningrad eparchy, in 1945.



**PATRIARCH**—Alexius, just after his election, is presented with the documents of office by Metropolitan Nikolai Krutitsky (right).



**BISHOPS**—The Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church in their mantles during the election of Metropolitan Alexius as Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia in 1943.

Full freedom of religion has been known in Russia only since the establishment of Soviet power. After the Revolution the Russian Orthodox Church, the State Church of Russia under the tsars, was separated from the State. This measure brought the Church, for the first time in its history, freedom from State interference and the right of self-government.

In Soviet times, especially in the recent period, the Russian Orthodox Church has been a patriotic force, rallying its worshipers to the cause of the defense of the Motherland in the Great Patriotic War, and playing a major role in the effort to exterminate all remnants of fascism.

# The Russian Orthodox Church

By G. G. Karpov

*Chairman of the Council for the Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church  
of the Council of Ministers of the USSR*

**T**HE good relations existing between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Soviet State were exemplified recently by the presentation of the Order of the Red Banner of Labor to the Patriarch Alexius of Moscow and All Russia.

The presentation of the order was made at the Kremlin by Soviet President Nikolai Shvernik. It was awarded in recognition of the outstanding services during the war of Patriarch Alexius, who was active in rallying the faithful to the defense of their Motherland.

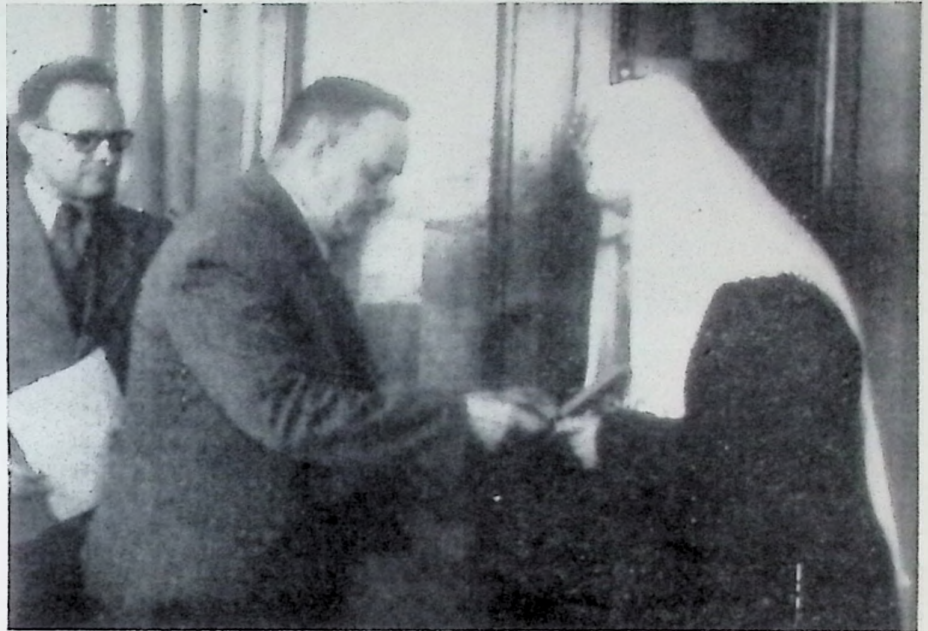
Patriarch Alexius, as head of the Russian Orthodox Church, led the prelates and clergy who during the war took a firm stand against Hitlerism and for the fight of free peoples to exterminate fascism as the suppressor of freedom of faith, the tormentor of worshipping Christians and clergy, and the enemy of the church.

Many clergymen and prelates, together with communicants of the Church, have been honored with decorations in recognition of their work during the war.

Sixty clergymen of the Moscow region, for instance, were recently awarded medals "for valorous labor in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945."

Archpriest Vassili Kopytov, Prior of the church in the town of Yegoryevsk, and the Reverend Zernov, speaking on behalf of the group of recipients, expressed gratitude to the Soviet Government and to Joseph Stalin for the great attention which has been paid to the Russian Orthodox Church and to its servants. The Church, they said, will continue its loyal service to the people and the Motherland.

In the history of the Russian Orthodox Church the period of the Great Patriotic War between the Soviet Union and Hitlerite Germany occupies a very special place. The fascists who attacked the Soviet Union suddenly and treacherously counted on the support of the heads of the Orthodox Church. But they



*Radiophoto*

**AWARD**—Patriarch Alexius of Moscow and All Russia receives the Order of the Red Banner of Labor from Soviet President Nikolai Shvernik.

were far out on their reckoning: the Russian Orthodox Church not only made no concessions to the German fascists but, without hesitation, actively supported the effort of the Soviet people in the struggle with the enemy and became a protagonist of the patriotic movement.

In August 1941, the late Metropolitan Sergius, of Moscow and Kolomna, who was discharging the functions of the Patriarchal head of the Orthodox Church, informed representatives of the press:

"Today, when the blood of our people crimsons Russian soil, when thousands of innocent people are the victims of fascist barbarians, when our women are threatened with dishonor, our sons with slavery, and our whole country with the yoke of oppression, we of the church call upon all worshipers to rise to our country's defense."

On the day of the outbreak of war,

the Metropolitan Sergius addressed a message to the churchgoers of the Soviet Union, in which he said:

"Our Orthodox Church has always shared the destiny of the people. She has borne their trials and been consoled by their successes. She will not desert her people now."

The Metropolitan concluded his message with his blessing on all members of the Orthodox Church who went out to defend the sacred frontiers of their country.

This document was the basis of the patriotic work of the Orthodox Church, whose example was afterwards followed by other religious organizations in the USSR.

On June 26, 1941, between 10 thousand and 12 thousand persons attended the service at the Cathedral of the Epiphany in Moscow, where Metropolitan Sergius conducted a service to pray for the victory of the Soviet forces. After

prayer he delivered an eloquent sermon calling upon the congregation to defend their country and to perform patriotic exploits. Similar prayer services were held in Leningrad, Kiev, Odessa, Stalin-grad, Novosibirsk, Kazan, Kuibyshev, Ufa and many other cities; the churches were crowded. The clergy delivered patriotic sermons in which they appealed to the worshipers to do all in their power to help in defending their land against the invasion of the fascist robbers.

On October 14, 1941, when the Germans undertook their advance on Moscow and the capital was menaced with immediate danger, Metropolitan Sergius addressed another message to his flock:

"With God's help, our people will be enabled as before to stand up for themselves in this year of trial and, sooner or later, will expel the foreign invader."

In November 1941, Metropolitan Sergius delivered his message, *The Hour of Victory for Us is at Hand*, in which he strengthened the people's confidence in victory.

In January 1942, he addressed a reminder to the clergy and congregations in temporarily occupied territory in which he said they should never forget that they were Russians, and he warned them against treachery. In this message he also appealed to them to give the partisans every assistance.

When Metropolitan Sergius died in 1943, his place was filled by the eminent prelate, Metropolitan Alexius of Leningrad, who soon after this was elected Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia by the General Council of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Throughout the nine hundred days of the Leningrad blockade, Metropolitan Alexius remained in the city, holding services and making eloquent and impassioned appeals to the congregation to struggle against the enemy.

Another prominent clergyman of the Russian Orthodox Church who continually encouraged the congregations to withstand the fascist invader in the sacred war was Metropolitan Nikolai Krutitsky, who for the first two war years was Exarch of the Ukraine.

Subsequently, Metropolitan Nikolai

took an active part in the work of the Extraordinary State Commission for the Ascertaining and Investigation of Crimes committed by the German-fascist Invaders on our territory. He regarded this as a contribution to the useful work done by his church for the country's benefit.

Metropolitan Nikolai received practical aid in this work from local clergy of the churches and from the parishioners; they informed him of the circumstances of the destruction of the churches and the plunder of church property, and of the insults and mockery endured by the clergy. Letters with facts bearing on these affairs reached the Metropolitan from many regions temporarily occupied by the fascists.

At the Assembly of prelates of the Russian Orthodox Church which took place in September 1943 in Moscow, a



CONGREGATION—Easter service at Moscow Cathedral.

message was addressed to Christians all over the world:

"With the voice of the Assembly of all the bishops, called in Moscow for the election of the Patriarch, the Orthodox Church appeals to the Christians of the world to make every effort in this world struggle for the ideals upon which Hitler has trampled, the ideals of Christianity, the freedom of the Christian churches, the freedom, happiness and culture of all mankind."

On September 8, 1943, this same Assembly of bishops passed judgment on traitors to faith and country.

Patriotic appeals and addresses were issued by the leading clergy of the Russian Orthodox Church in 1944-1945. These clergymen organized collections of money for the Defense Fund for the construction of tanks and aircraft, for the needs of the hospitals, and for children's institutions. In December 1942, Metropolitan Sergius appealed to communicants to organize a collection of funds for the building of a tank column. More than eight million rubles were collected. Altogether the Orthodox Churches of the Soviet Union collected during the war more than three hundred million rubles in cash; large contributions were made in kind, for the most part in agricultural produce.

The tide of the patriotic movement among the worshiping Christians headed by the clergy of the Orthodox Church surged beyond Soviet borders. Many of the Orthodox churches abroad expressed their solidarity with the patriotic work of the Moscow Patriarchy. Telegrams and letters were received from eminent prelates abroad, expressing solidarity with the Moscow Patriarchy.

The clergy in this country became more and more firmly convinced that the Soviet Government alone had the power to save the Russian Orthodox Church, which faced the same danger of fascist enslavement and destruction as did all else that was Russian.

During the occupation, the Hitlerite robbers strove to use the Church for their own predatory ends. In the occupied territory the members of the congregations themselves frustrated the German plans for making the Church an



**BLESSING**—Metropolitan Nikolai of Kiev and Galich blesses believers from a dais in the middle of the church, during Easter services at Moscow.

instrument in the enslavement of the people.

The Nazis mocked at the worshipers' religious feelings, defiled their sacred shrines, plundered and wrecked the churches and killed the clergy who refused to meet the demands of the German command.

The extremely patriotic position taken by the Church from the beginning of the war was highly appreciated by the Soviet Government, which introduced measures that contributed to the organizational strengthening of the Church and were directed to building up more normal relations between Church and State.

**T**HE Soviet Constitution guarantees freedom of religion to all citizens, as did laws in effect before the enactment of the Constitution in 1936.

With the coming of Soviet power, the church was separated from the State, and the schools from the church.

In the case of the Russian Orthodox Church, the State Church of Russia under the tsars, this resulted, according to leading prelates, in the freedom and self-government of this church for the first time, since in tsarist days it had been virtually a department of the State,

headed to all intents by the tsar.

Nikolai, Metropolitan of Kiev and Galich, commenting in 1943 on this aspect of church history, said:

"In the 25 years of its free life, the Russian Orthodox Church has become internally fortified, has gained in inner strength and has completely forgotten its former service and subordination to the State. The Stalin Constitution confirmed the right of the Church to full freedom, and guarantees the inviolability of this right conferred a quarter of a century ago by the Soviet regime at the very dawn of its existence in our country.

"In these 25 years the Church has had no restrictions on its internal affairs. Nobody interferes with it in the performance of divine services and the mysteries enjoined by its canon and laws.

"Every parish is governed by a Church council, which is elected once every three years. The parishes are united into eparchies, each headed by a bishop. The Russian Orthodox Church as a whole is headed by the Patriarchal Incumbent, the Right Blessed Sergius, Metropolitan of Moscow and Kolomna. [Since succeeded by Patriarch Alexis.] The Administrator of the Moscow Patriarchate, which is the Supreme Church Admin-

istration, is Nikolai, Metropolitan of Kiev and Galich.

"After 25 years of the separation of the Church from the State in Russia, our eyes are turned with sincere gratitude to our Government, which has so wisely and to the benefit of the Church solved the problem of the relationship of the Church and the State."

Although many other religious communities, suppressed and persecuted in tsarist times, exist and enjoy freedom in the Soviet Union, the Russian Orthodox Church remains one of the largest communities of religious persons in the western part of the USSR.

In 1944 the Government set up, to facilitate liaison in temporal matters between Church and State, the Council for the Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church; and, a little later, a similar Council to maintain liaison with other denominations.

Through these bodies, the churches receive permission to establish theological schools, to take over the control of shrines and other religious edifices which are a part of the country's cultural heritage, and maintain contact with State bodies on other matters of a non-spiritual nature.

## Trade Unionists At Moscow

Moscow was the headquarters this summer of the first session of the Executive Committee of the World Federation of Trade Unions. At that meeting the world labor leaders, representing some 70 million trade unionists, decided to seek labor representation in the United Nations organization, and went on record demanding that the Franco regime in Spain be outlawed. American delegates to the session were R. J. Thomas, Vice President of the United Automobile Workers (CIO) and James B. Carey, Vice President of the CIO. The delegates, in addition to conducting official WFTU business, toured Moscow factories and talked to Soviet trade unionists.



**DELEGATES**—The American delegates R. J. Thomas (left) and James B. Carey (right) with M. Tarasov, secretary of the Soviet All-Union Central Committee of Trade Unions.



**CRUISE**—Delegates Jouhaux of France and Thomas of the United States enjoy a trip on the Moscow-Volga canal.



**FACTORY MEETING**—Mr. Thomas speaks to workers at the Stalin auto plant.



# The Tajik Soviet Republic In the Five-Year Plan

By Nikolai Mikhailov

**T**HE Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic this month celebrates its seventeenth anniversary as a Union Republic. A backward, agrarian country with almost no industry in tsarist times, the Tajik Republic made enormous strides after the Revolution, and is well on the way toward another milestone in its economic and cultural progress.

The Tajik Republic, known as Tajikistan, covers an area of 55 thousand square miles in Soviet Central Asia, bordered by Afghanistan and western China.

Tajikistan's population numbers 1,485,000, of which three quarters are Tajiks; the remainder includes Uzbeks, Kirghizians and Russians.

Under the tsarist regime Tajikistan was an oppressed and backward country. The best land and pastures and almost the entire irrigation system were the private property of the Emir of Bokhara

and the local feudal chiefs. The bulk of the population was engaged in stock breeding.

Industry was practically non-existent; before the Revolution there were only two hundred industrial workers all told in Tajikistan. Indeed, the Tajik language contained no word meaning "factory" or "plant." Just before 1914 the coal and oil industry began to develop, but the production level was limited to a few thousand tons.

On October 14, 1924, Tajikistan became an Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, and five years later attained the status of a Union Republic. Under the Soviet regime an intensive industrialization program was introduced, irrigation was expanded, agriculture was collectivized and mechanized, and the people of Tajikistan experienced a veritable economic and cultural renaissance.

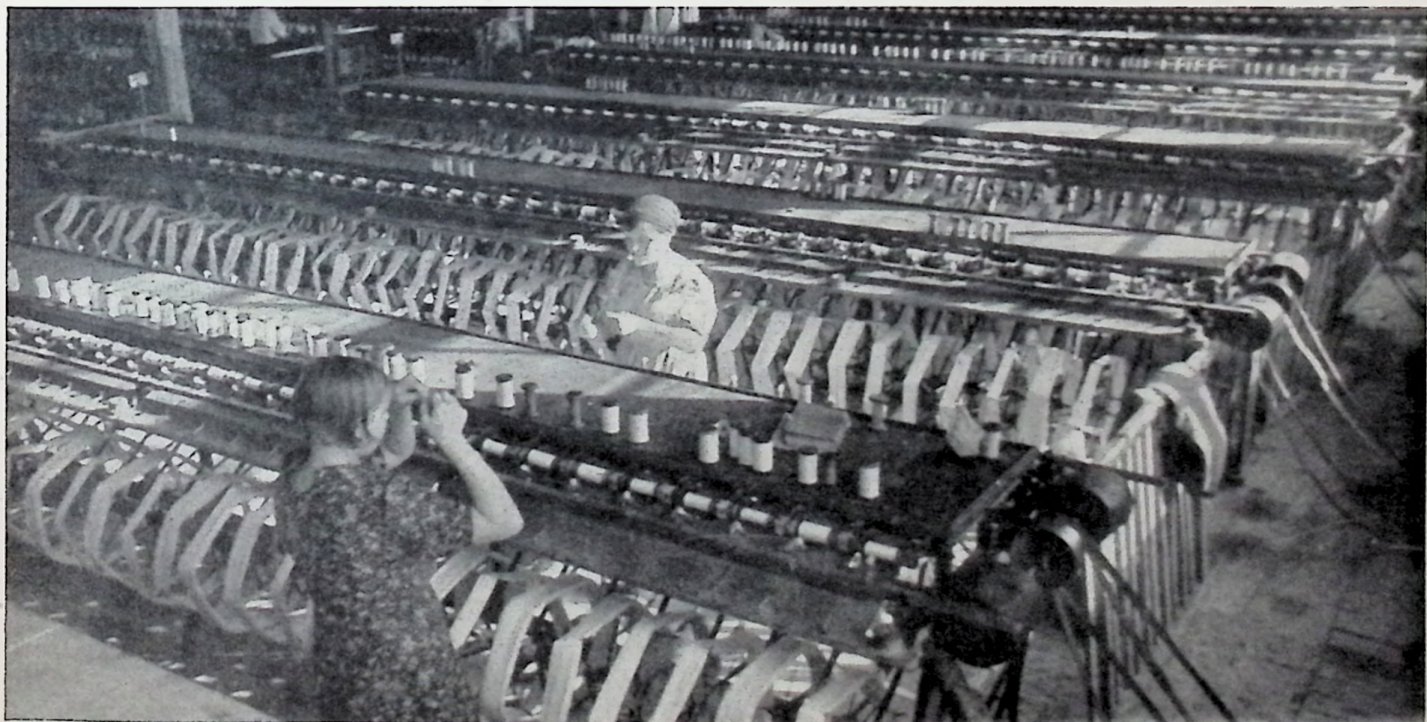
Under the prewar Five-Year Plans

the industrial output of Tajikistan increased more than 240 per cent. The production of coal, oil, gold and non-ferrous metals and building materials was substantially developed, and branches of the textile, food processing and other light industries were established.

Under the Fourth Five-Year Plan the Republic's industrial output is to rise another 56 per cent (above the 1940 level), with major emphasis placed on the development of the mining, textile and food industries.

Large-scale prospecting for new deposits of coal, tungsten, antimony and mercury will be conducted, and newly located reserves of tin and tungsten trioxide will be prepared for exploitation.

The Republic's coal output is scheduled to reach the level of 440 thousand tons annually by 1950. A coal mine with a capacity of 100 thousand tons will be sunk and put into operation, and a nar-



TEXTILES—A shop of the great silk mill at Leninabad, Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic.

row-gauge railway will be built to the Ziddin coal field.

The construction of lead and zinc mines will be begun, and the construction of a fluor spar works will be completed.

In 1950 Tajikistan's textile industry will turn out more than 19 million yards of cotton fabric and more than five and one half million yards of silk fabric. The Stalinabad cotton textile mills will be expanded with the addition of 18,500 spindles. The capacity of other textile mills will be expanded with the addition of another 12 thousand spindles. More than four million pairs of hosiery and more than one million pairs of shoes will be manufactured in the Republic in 1950.

New enterprises to be launched in Tajikistan in the five-year period include a window glass works, two creameries and several machine shops.

The Republic's power base will be enlarged, with the construction of new electric power stations with a total capacity of 28 thousand kilowatts scheduled for completion in the course of the five-year period. Electric power produc-

tion in Tajikistan will reach the level of 180 million kilowatt-hours by 1950.

The Republic's agriculture is also slated for considerable expansion under the Five-Year Plan. In the prewar Five-Year Plan periods Tajikistan's agriculture made tremendous strides.

The key to the development of the Republic's agriculture in Soviet times was the far-reaching program of mechanization and irrigation introduced for the first time on a large scale. More than 50 machine and tractor stations were established to service the Republic's farms with up-to-date machinery.

Immense irrigation systems were constructed in the valleys of western Tajikistan and the adjacent mountains. Outstanding among these are the Vakhsh section of the Great Stalin Ferghana Canal, the Northern Ferghana Canal and the Gissar Canal. These and other irrigation systems reclaimed 725 thousand acres of fertile land by 1938, effecting a sixfold increase in the Republic's cultivated acreage as compared with the 1914 area.

This irrigation program enabled Tajikistan to develop cotton cultivation

on a large scale until today the Republic is one of the Soviet Union's leading producers of long-fiber Egyptian cotton. In 1939 no less than one hundred thousand acres were planted with this fine grade of cotton.

Also grown on the Republic's irrigated farm lands are rich rice crops, the finest apricots in the USSR and the sweetest grades of grapes, as well as apples, pomegranates, almonds, pistachios and walnuts. In the extreme south of the Republic are the only sugar cane plantations of the Soviet Union.

On the non-irrigated lands wheat and barley are grown covering an area of almost one and one half million acres. Cereals and grapes have even appeared on the high slopes and tablelands of the Pamirs. In no country is agriculture carried on at such high altitudes as in Tajikistan, where grapes grow at a height of six thousand feet and barley at ten thousand feet.

Under the Five-Year Plan greatest emphasis will continue to be placed on the cultivation of fine, long-fiber Egyptian varieties. Cotton acreage will be expanded to more than 264 thousand acres in the course of the five-year period.

Exclusive of cotton crops, the area under cultivation (to grain, vegetables, fruits, industrial crops and fodder crops) will amount to more than 2,300,000 acres by 1950.

Livestock breeding, an important branch of the Republic's agriculture, will be further developed in the coming five years. Horses, cattle, sheep and goats graze in the country's mountain pastures, and Tajikistan is famous for its fat Gissar sheep, the largest in the world. Caracul sheep are also bred here. By 1950 the number of head of livestock will exceed four and one half million.

Tajikistan's irrigation system will be further expanded to make possible fulfillment of the Republic's agriculture program. The irrigation of the Vakhsh valley will be completed, and the irrigation systems in the Gissar valley and the drainage canals in the Kanibadam district will be improved and expanded. This program will add some 44 thousand acres of fertile land to the Republic's



COAL INDUSTRY—Buildings of the coal fields in the Isfarlinsky district of the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic.

agriculture in the course of the five-year period.

The conditions of life and culture of the Tajik people will continue to improve as a result of this five-year program for economic development.

In one generation of Soviet rule cultural development has taken such immense strides that it is difficult to find points of comparison between the old and the new Tajikistan. In pre-Revolutionary Tajikistan only one half of one per cent of the population could read and write. In 1939, as a result of the introduction of compulsory education, 72 per cent of the population was literate.

Tajikistan today has seven higher educational institutions, 30 technical schools and a number of scientific institutions functioning under the direction of the Tajik branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Seventy newspapers are published, most of them in the Tajik, Uzbek and Kirghiz languages. Hundreds of public libraries and reading rooms have been established. Tajik drama, music and art are famous throughout the Soviet Union.

Tajik women, who before the Revolution were compelled to wear the veil and live in seclusion, bereft of all rights in the family as well as in society, have obtained equal rights with men, and are today taking an active part in the Republic's economic and social life. Between 1927 and 1939 (the dates of the last two census tabulations) the population of Tajikistan increased 44 per cent.

By 1950 the number of elementary and secondary schools in Tajikistan will be increased to 3,123, and the number of pupils enrolled will reach 301 thousand. The number of hospital beds in the Republic will be increased to 73 hundred. Tajikistan's Five-Year Plan also calls for the construction of more than three million square feet of new housing by 1950, and for the improvement and expansion of public facilities in the Republic's cities.

The people of Tajikistan, continuing the uninterrupted development of their national life, have their sights set on ever higher standards of material and cultural well being.



IRRIGATION—Aerial view of the Vakhsh dam and of a canal leading from it. Irrigation projects constructed in Soviet times increased the Republic's agriculture sixfold.



FLOCKS—Livestock pasturing in the mountains of northern Tajikistan.

# The Soviet Fishing Industry

By Alexander Malinin \* and Professor Mikhail Somov

\* *Chief of the Planning Department of the Ministry of the Fishing Industry of the Western Regions of the USSR*

**F**ISHING has always been a most important industry in the Soviet Union, which is washed by the seas of the Far North, by the Baltic Sea on the west, the Bering, Okhotsk and Japan seas on the east, the Azov and Black seas on the south; and which has such large internal waterways as the Volga, the Ob, the Yenisei and the Lena. In extent, the industry was third in the world before the war, exceeded only by those of the United States and Japan.

The new Five-Year Plan for 1946-1950 outlines measures for restoring what was destroyed by the Germans in the Kuban, the Don and the Ukraine, including the fishing fleets. By 1947, the 1940 level is to be reached again and by 1950 the catch is to be 2,200,000 tons,\* or 50 per cent higher than in 1940.

Like all spheres of economy in the Soviet Union, the fishing industry endured many hardships during the war. Fishing enterprises, as well as the homes of the fishermen, were destroyed in Murmansk by Nazi bombs. The fishing flotilla lost many of its tugboats and barges. The task is particularly great, since as a result of victory the Soviet Union has gained new fishing grounds.

Particularly rapid development is planned for the fishing industry of the Far East, the Baltic, and the Far North. The fishing fleets of the North and the Baltic are to be augmented, and the Far Eastern fishing industries will extend operations to Southern Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands. The industry in these latter places will have to be put on a new footing entirely, as the Japanese industry there never achieved any considerable output of high-grade fish. The greater part of the output of the islands went to make fertilizer for the rice fields.

Kamchatka, the Amur and other Far Eastern districts are to be increasingly

important fishing centers. The Kuban and Don rivers will yield a catch of 150 thousand tons (as against 78,700 tons in 1945). The Ukraine will produce double its present catch of fish by 1950.

A primary requirement is a large number of fishing craft to satisfy the needs of the industry in old fishing waters and to begin operations in Southern Sakhalin, the Kurile Islands and the Baltic. The Ministries of Fishing of the East and the West have begun fishing fleet construction at their yards.

During the next five years, more than 35 hundred motor vessels and more than 10 thousand sail- and rowboats will be built for the fishing fleets.

Special trawler shipyards are to be put into operation, and by 1950, 150 first-class vessels of this type will be built.

Output of fresh frozen fish will be 80 per cent higher than it was before the

war, of smoked fish 50 per cent, and of caviar 80 per cent. Three times as much fillet as in 1940 will be produced, and canned fish output will rise to more than double its prewar level. The Five-Year Plan provides for 13 new canning factories and 30 refrigeration plants to begin work between 1946 and 1950.

Research institutes are doing considerable work in connection with these new plans in evolving improved methods of fishing and handling, oceanographical investigation, and the study of new fishing waters.

The Soviet fishing industry is notable for utilization of all possible scientific and technical aids to ensure maximum catches. Thorough oceanographic studies are constantly made to aid the fishing fleet; planes scout the seas for great schools of fish; and sometimes scientists discover rich fishing grounds where none had been known to exist.

It was once believed, for example,



**TRAWLERS**—Vessels in the port of Parnu, Estonian SSR. New craft of this type are being built.

\* Metric tons (2204 lbs.).

that the fishing possibilities of the Barents Sea were commercially negligible, although these waters, thanks to planned research conducted during the past 26 years, are now among the best fishing grounds in the Far North.

Studies made in 1898 by an expedition headed by Professor Knipovich had indicated an abundance of fish in this sea, but it was not until 1920, in accordance with a decree signed by Lenin, that a state trawling fleet was mustered to exploit this rich field.

A year later, also on Lenin's initiative, a special research institute was set up to study fishing potentialities in northern seas.

This institution in 1930 became the State Oceanographic Institute at Moscow, and its Murmansk branch in 1933 was reorganized as the Arctic Scientific Research Institute of Marine Ichthyology and Oceanography. Here all research for hydrographic and fishing conditions in the Barents Sea is now conducted. The principal task of the Institute is to stimulate the development of the fishing industry in this area.

Scientific work is particularly important in this region because the hydrographic conditions of the Barents are more difficult to determine than those of other waters.

The Arctic Institute possesses special research ships, and its members also often sail with fishing flotillas and conduct observations from various stations.

The continuity of the important observations was interrupted when the Barents Sea became an arena of naval and air operations during the war.

Despite severe losses and difficulties, however, the Arctic Institute in the second half of 1944 resumed its research in the southern sections of the Barents Sea and along the Murmansk coast, although navigation was still very dangerous.

The resulting studies were extremely valuable to the flotillas of fisheries supplying fish for the Army, Navy and civilian population.

In the coming five years, the scientific work which lays the basis for successful fishing is to be extended, in this as well as in other areas.



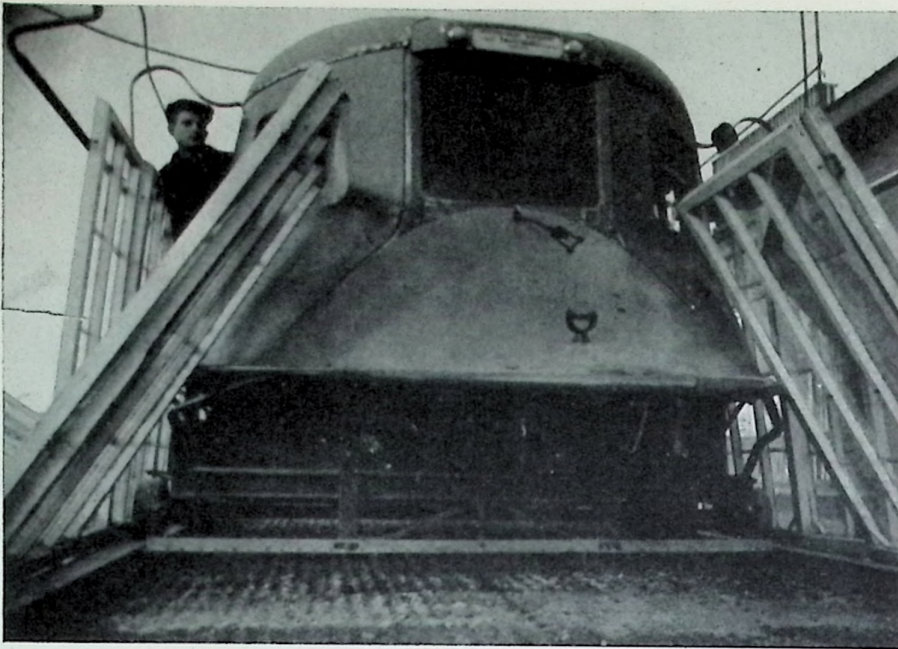
**CANNING**—The Tafuin fish-canning plant in the Far East annually cans two and one half million tins of fish.



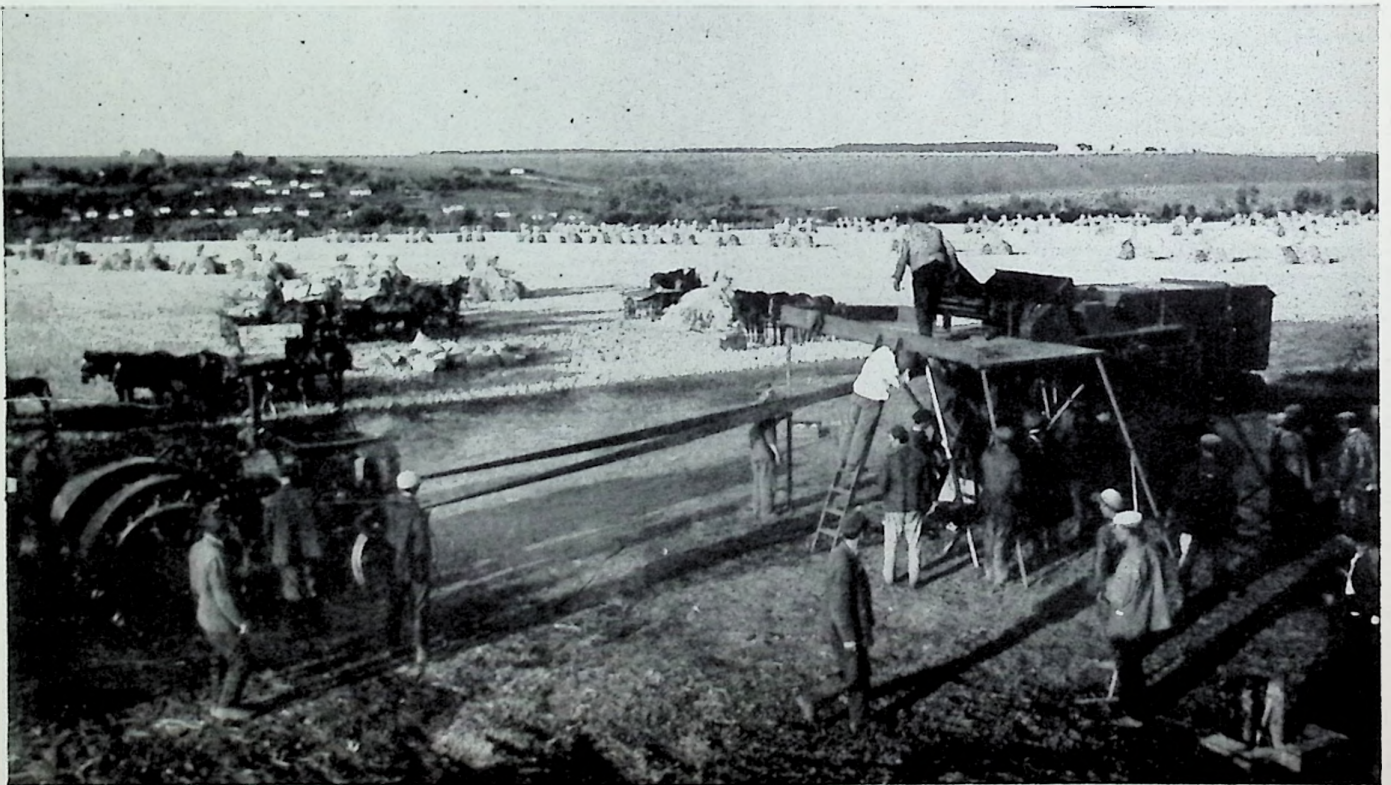
**FISHERMEN**—The fishing boats put out from a port on the Far Eastern coast of the USSR.

## State Farms

State farms, as distinct from collective farms which are cooperatively operated by their members, are operated by the Government. Before the war there were some four thousand state farms in the Soviet Union, employing more than 1,300,000 persons. Farm workers enjoy the same rights as industrial workers; they belong to a trade union and receive annual vacations with pay. Before the war state farms covered 31,500,000 acres and harvested 8,760,000 tons of grain. The Fourth Five-Year Plan has assigned increased production quotas to the state farms in all branches of agriculture, as part of the general plan for expansion of agriculture in the USSR.



MODERN EQUIPMENT—A hotbed combine invented by V. Mkrtychyan, cultivating young growth in Soviet hotbed frames.



THRESHING—Threshing on a farm in the Ukraine. Machinery is extensively used on all Soviet farms to speed and rationalize the work, which is done on a huge scale.

# The State Farms of the USSR

By P. Pellsov

**S**TATE farms were set up on virgin soil in Russia in the first years of Soviet rule. By 1938 there were nearly four thousand state farms functioning throughout the USSR. Some of them are engaged in cultivating grain crops and others in supplying the country with cotton, flax, sugar beet, vegetables, rice, and other crops. A good many state farms are occupied in livestock breeding. Some of them breed pedigree livestock and the rest deliver meat, milk, and other dairy products to the State.

Among the state farms are well-known stud farms, which are doing good work in breeding English thoroughbred horses, famous Russian trotters, and Don saddle-horses.

Employed on state farms before the war were more than 1,300,000 persons. These farm workers enjoy the same rights as industrial workers. They are members of a trade union and annually receive a vacation with full pay.

Every state farm has a school, a club and a medical aid center. In 1938 the sowing area of the state farms reached the total of 31,500,000 acres. Working on the state farm fields that year were 85 thousand tractors and 26 thousand harvester combines. The livestock breeding state farms possessed 3,700,000 head of cattle, 2,800,000 pigs, seven million sheep and goats and two million horses.

The gross output of the state farms is impressive. Before the war the state farms harvested 8,760,000 tons\* of grain and provided the country with 2,070,000 tons of milk, more than 20 thousand tons of wool, 1,500,000 tons of sugar beets and 132,500 tons of cotton.

The state farms played a great role during the war years. Together with the collective farm peasantry they supplied the Red Army and the urban population with grain, meat and vegetables and provided industry with raw materials.

The state farms are spreading the latest methods of farming. Thousands of Soviet state farm agronomists are con-



**RACERS**—Fine race-horses are bred on state farms. Here, young horses are being trained for the track.

ducting extensive work with the aid of scientists. Zootechnicians employed at the Karavayevo state farm have succeeded in developing a new breed of horned cattle, now known as the Kostroma breed. In 1932 the average yield of the Karavayevo state farm milch-cows did not exceed two thousand quarts per head. Thirteen years later, when the herds included the new breed, the average milk yield reached 5,457 quarts per head. One of the cows of the new breed, Poslushnitsa II, established a record when in 300 days of her sixth milking season, she yielded 14,915 quarts of milk.

After several years of experimental work in selective crossbreeding of American Rambouillet with New Caucasus merino sheep, Konstantin Filyansky, a

rank-and-file zootechnician employed at the Bolshevik pedigree sheep-breeding state farm in Stavropol Territory (in the southern part of the USSR), succeeded in developing a new breed of sheep, now known as the Caucasian Rambouillet. Number 8-10, a champion ram of this breed, weighs 315 pounds and yields 47.39 pounds of wool each year. Caucasian Rambouillet sheep are now being bred in other parts of the Soviet Union. Filyansky was awarded a Stalin Prize for his work.

In the first postwar Five-Year Plan, Soviet state farms are faced with the task of planting new extensive areas of wasteland to grain and industrial crops, increasing the herds of pedigree livestock and other agricultural production.

\* Metric tons (2204 lbs.).

## A Famed Farm Woman



DEPUTY—Angelina with another Deputy at a session of the Supreme Soviet.



AT HOME—With her little daughter.

**I**N the Soviet Union, a tractor driver may be a famous and distinguished person. Such a one is Praskovya Angelina, leader of a team of tractor drivers employed at the Staro-Beshevo machine and tractor station, Stalin Prize laureate and Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

She is prominent among the large group of Soviet women in all fields who have attained eminence in public life and public esteem by leadership in their work, whatever it may be.

These women—Members of the Academy of Sciences, Stalin Prize laureates, Heroes of the Soviet Union, Deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, leaders in industry and agriculture—provide living proof of the success in operation of the Soviet Constitutional guarantee to women of equal opportunity with men in all fields of economic, state, cultural and political life.

During the 15 years of her work as a tractor driver team leader she and her colleagues have plowed more than 185,-

000 acres of land. Praskovya Angelina has trained more than one hundred first-class tractor drivers.

For applying improved methods in the use of tractors and other agricultural machines which helped to secure greater crop yields in the collective farms Angelina was awarded a Stalin Prize.

Praskovya Angelina is successfully coping with her duties as a Deputy to the Supreme Soviet. Hundreds of persons from her electoral area come to her to seek advice and aid in personal and public matters. Everyone is warmly received by the Deputy and is assured of immediate attention and all possible assistance.

Praskovya Angelina is married and has three children—two daughters and a son.

Leaders in every field of endeavor, such as Praskovya Angelina, are spearheading the great national effort to fulfill and overfulfill the goals of the Fourth Five-Year Plan for the restoration and development of the economy of the USSR.



AT WORK—Praskovya Angelina (right) instructs the drivers of her team.



# New Soviet Nurseries Planned

By Nikolai Shestopal

THE law on the Five-Year Plan for the Restoration and Development of the National Economy of the USSR for 1946-1950 provides for a 46 per cent increase in accommodation in nurseries as compared with 1940. In drawing up projects for the new buildings and in erecting them, special attention is being paid to all technical and economic factors and to the architectural treatment of them.

The buildings in which the rising generation is to be brought up should not only possess every convenience but should also be beautiful, so that the children are taught to appreciate beauty from their early days.

A number of basic principles underlie the planning of a nursery: sufficient air space (a minimum of 700 to 1,050 cubic feet per child), a large, well planted garden surrounding the building, playgrounds, and building sites which catch the maximum of sunlight.

The unit of the plan is a group of 20 to 25 children with a dormitory, dining room, toilet rooms and a cloakroom. These units are self-contained and isolated from each other in order to minimize the risk of transmitting infectious diseases. There is a general kitchen for the whole nursery, medical rooms, offices and a sufficient number of balconies and verandas.

Plans have been drawn up for nurseries in the rural areas with accommodations for 25 to 44 children, and in the towns with accommodations for 66, 88 and 110 children. The external architectural treatment is designed either for the central or the southern regions of the Soviet Union. In general, the buildings are either of timber or brick.

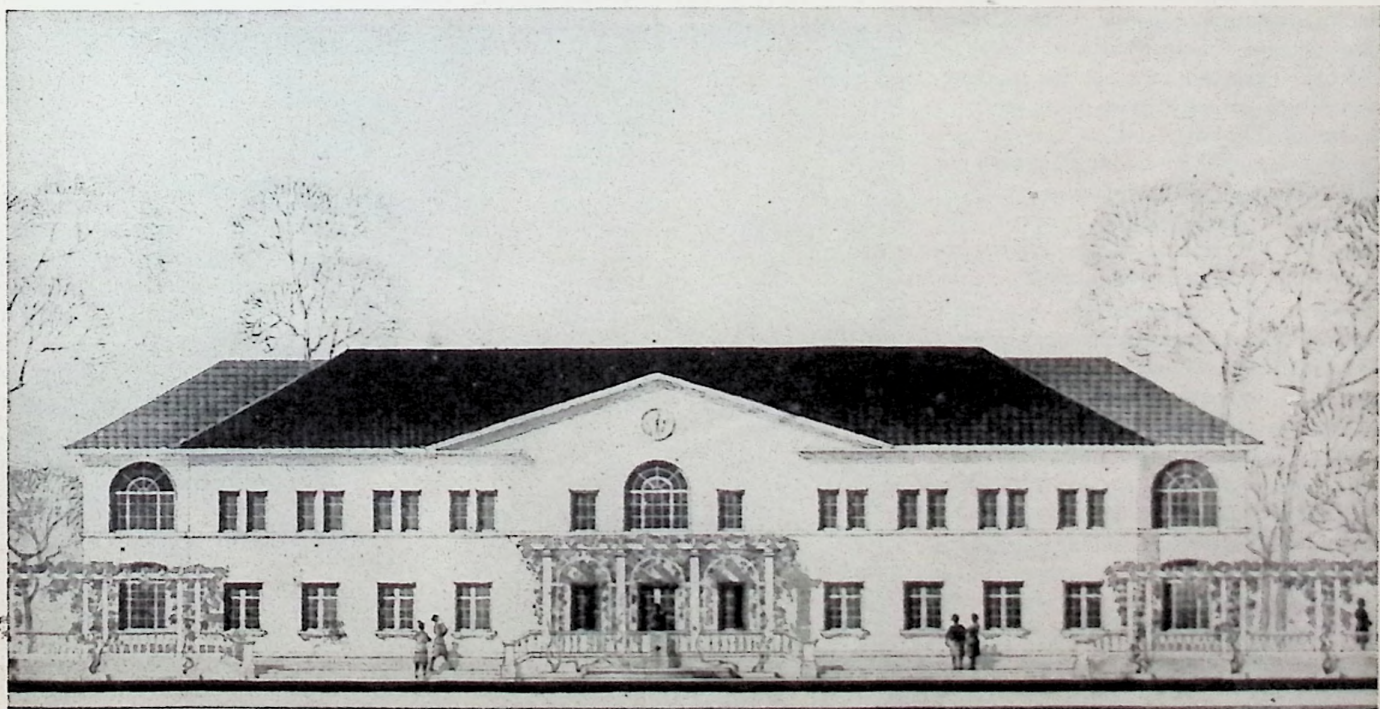
The nurseries in the residential sections of the cities are situated within easy reach of the children's homes.

The health of Soviet children is a

major concern of the State. The provision of a wide network of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens is set forth in the Soviet Constitution, in conjunction with provisions for equality of women in all spheres of economic, state, cultural, social and political life.

It is a cardinal principle of life in the Soviet Union that every child is entitled to proper birth and proper care through childhood. This program begins with prenatal care for expectant mothers. Nursery care of the child starts in infancy if the mother works, and mothers maintain close contact with their children at nurseries established at all factories and enterprises.

Children from four to seven are cared for at kindergartens. Orphans and children of unmarried mothers stay at special homes. A network of children's sanatoriums has been set up for feeble and sick children.



NURSERY—Design for a nursery to accommodate 88 children. The facade was designed by architect A. P. Vellkanov.

# Some Stalin Prize Winners

By I. Petrov

**T**HE AWARD of Stalin Prizes, the Soviet Union's highest award, marks achievement in all fields of science, industrial progress, agricultural production, and the arts.

The prizes given for work done in 1945 recognize the work of persons in widely varying fields.

The decision of the Government in making the awards is an indication of the grand scope science and art have taken in the USSR. This is evident if only from the list of the works in physics, mathematics, chemistry, geology, geography, biology, economics, medicine, history, philology, philosophy and the arts. The list of laureates is remarkable: it includes Academicians, as well as rank-and-file workers and peasants.

In the sphere of science most of the prizes go to physicists. Purely theoretical work is valued as highly as that which has an immediate practical significance.

The prize-winning scientific and technical discoveries, as well as inventions, are of great importance for the further development of Soviet industry and agriculture. Take, for example, the work of a group of geologists who discovered deposits of Devonian oil in the eastern areas of the USSR. About 20 years ago, I. Gubkin, an eminent Russian geologist, proved the likelihood of industrial deposits of oil existing in the region between the Volga and the Urals.

Industrial prospecting in that area proved his prognosis to be correct, whereupon the Soviet Government adopted a decision to set up a new oil center known as the "Second Baku." The discovery by a group of talented geologists of deposits of Devonian oil at a great depth opens entirely new prospects to these districts.

For the first time among the prize winners are men who discovered new technical methods of restoring war-wrecked industry. The fascists developed the science of destruction. The Soviet people replied by making their science creative. Never before has modern society had to cope with destruction on

such a tremendous scale as that wrought by the Germans on Soviet territory. The Germans destroyed with great thoroughness. Engineers who arrived at the sites of gigantic enterprises that had been reduced to ruins found that everything had to be built from scratch.

It had taken some 80 years to build up the Donbas. How many years would it take to restore it after the Germans had been there? Soviet people asked themselves this question, and they found the answer in the new Five-Year Plan for the development of the national economy of the USSR. The Donbas, and with it all the other districts that suffered from the German occupation, are to be restored within from three to five years. This, however, can be achieved only by the introduction of new technical methods. And these have to be found.

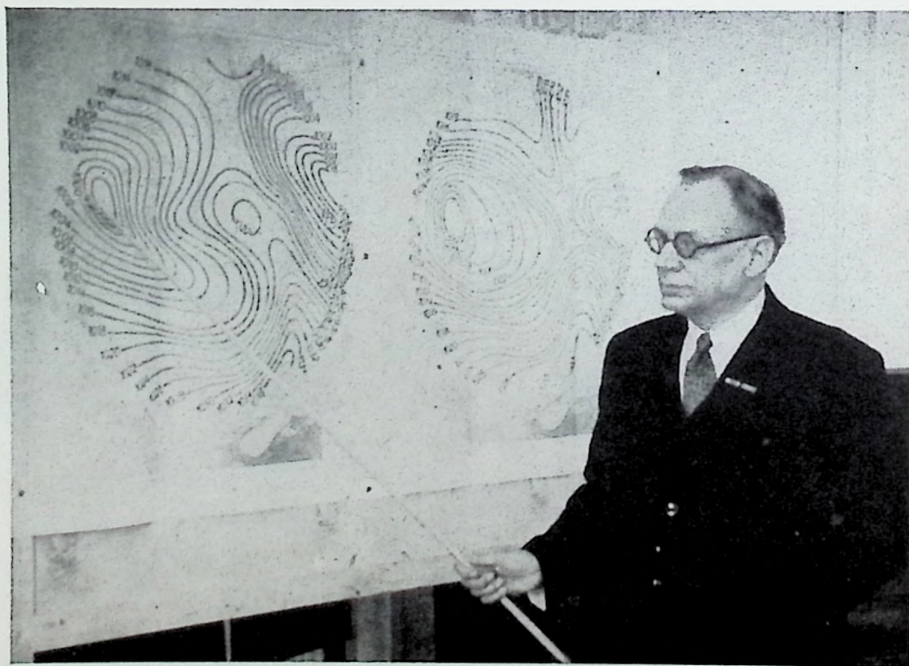
One such method was found at a destroyed plant in Mariupol in the Donbas.

One of the blast furnaces had not only been blown up from within but had been

undermined at its foundations, with the result that it leaned heavily to one side and threatened to fall. Some miracle, however, kept it in place. At first it seemed that the only thing to do was to start dismantling the furnace at once and rebuild it on a new foundation.

A group of Soviet engineers, whose names now figure in the list of Stalin Prize winners (Sergei Krushennikov, Yevsey Kaminsky, Peter Mamontov and others) advanced an extremely bold project which they subsequently carried out. They proposed raising the leaning furnace and shifting it back to its former supports. This was a feat that had no precedent in engineering. The furnace was restored, and the saving in time and expense was very substantial indeed.

One of the awards in the field of technical science went to G. V. Akimov, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, for his work on *The Theory and Methods of Investigating Corrosion of Metals*. The importance



ARCTIC RESEARCHER—Professor Vladimir Vize won a prize for work done for the Arctic Research Institute.



ENGINEERS—A. Tsifrinovich and E. Kaminsky were awarded prizes for their industrial reconstruction work.

of effective ways and means of protecting metals from the destructive action of moisture, atmospheric oxygen and sea and subterranean water is obvious, and Akimov holds the distinction of being the first to publish a major work in Russian in this field.

In the sphere of outstanding inventions one of the prizes was awarded to Kuzma Andrianov and Olga Gribova, research workers of the All-Union Electro-technical Institute, for developing methods for producing organic compounds of silicon. This is the first time anywhere that practicable methods of obtaining these compounds have been discovered.

The discovery is of fundamental importance inasmuch as it bridges the gap between the chemistry of carbon, which is the foundation of the organic world, and the chemistry of silicon, which is the cornerstone of the mineral kingdom. The synthetic substance containing more than 50 per cent inorganic matter which Andrianov and Gribova have produced can be used to replace natural rubber, critical synthetic tars, lacquers and lubricating oils. The two researchers have

made the Soviet Union a pioneer in this new field of chemistry.

Prize winners in the field of geological and geographical sciences include V. Y. Vize, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, the author of a scientific treatise entitled *Principles of Long-Range Ice Forecasts for Arctic Seas*. Vize is the Soviet Union's leading Arctic oceanographer. The work which earned him the award sums up the findings of many years of research by the author and his pupils on prognostication of ice conditions, and treats of the interconnection between seasonal changes of weather and the navigation conditions along the Northern Sea Route.

As was the case with previous Stalin Prize awards, workers and peasants figure among the recipients of prizes for fundamental improvements of production methods. One of them is the widely-known Stakhanovite Yelizar Kuratov, who works as a forgerman at the Molotov auto plant in Gorky. By rationalizing the output of forgings for automobiles, he achieved a substantial increase in the productivity of labor, improved the qual-



DANCER—Galina Ulanova, Ballerina of the Bolshoi Theater, is a prize winner.

ity of forgings, and effected a considerable saving in fuel.

A Stalin Prize likewise was awarded to Eudokia Lebedeva, a team leader of the Combine collective farm in the Stalinogorsk district of Moscow Region, for working out and applying new farming methods and setting world records for cabbage yields in 1944 and 1945.

Both eminent teachers and their already famous pupils are to be found among the prize winners. For instance, People's Artist Agrippina Vaganova, the oldest Russian ballerina, who has trained a number of brilliant dancers, is there with Galina Ulanova, one of the Soviet Union's leading ballet dancers, Vladimir Preobrazhensky and Leonid Lavrovsky.

Prizes also were awarded for plays produced in the playhouses of the leading centers, such as Moscow, Tbilisi and Erevan, as well as in peripheral theaters, which once were dismissed without second thought as "provincial" but which have developed into first-rate art centers in the course of the Soviet years.

The winners of the 1945 Stalin Prizes come from among the many nationalities inhabiting the Soviet Union.

# Plastic and Orthopedic Surgery

By V. Krasilnikov and M. Zheleznova

**T**HE Central Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedics under the Ministry of Public Health of the USSR was opened in Moscow in May, 1921. Its founder, Professor Nikolai Priorov, Merited Worker of Science, has been in charge here since that time.

In the years that have passed since its foundation the Institute has grown into one of the largest scientific institutions in the Soviet Union. Among its professors are Stalin Prize winners famous throughout the country, such as the experts in maxillary facial surgery N. Michelson and A. Rauer, Assistant Professor V. Blokhin, Professor E. Nikiforova, and others.

The Institute has a clinic with 350 beds, which includes departments of orthopedics, general surgery and maxillary facial surgery. During the war more than one hundred beds were added to the clinic, which chiefly served war invalids and wounded as well as members

of the civilian population who were war victims. There were 45 cots in the children's department.

At the present time the clinic is chiefly occupied by war invalids taking treatment for complications resulting from wounds.

The Institute has an outpatients' department with X-ray, orthopedic, traumatological and artificial limbs sections. There is also a large dental department.

The Institute has its own experimental artificial limbs workshops. The Department of Mechanotherapy has divisions of occupational therapy and restorative physical culture.

In 1934 a museum was organized in the Institute where many models of artificial limbs are on display, including those which have been manufactured in the Institute's own workshop.

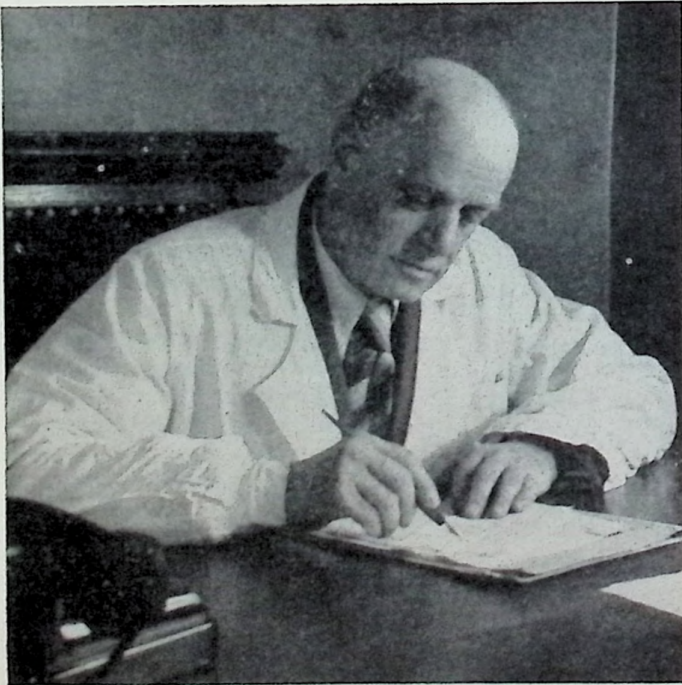
The Stalin Prize winners Professors Nikolai Michelson and Alexander Rauer have devoted almost all their lives to

the treatment of sufferers disfigured by wounds or burns.

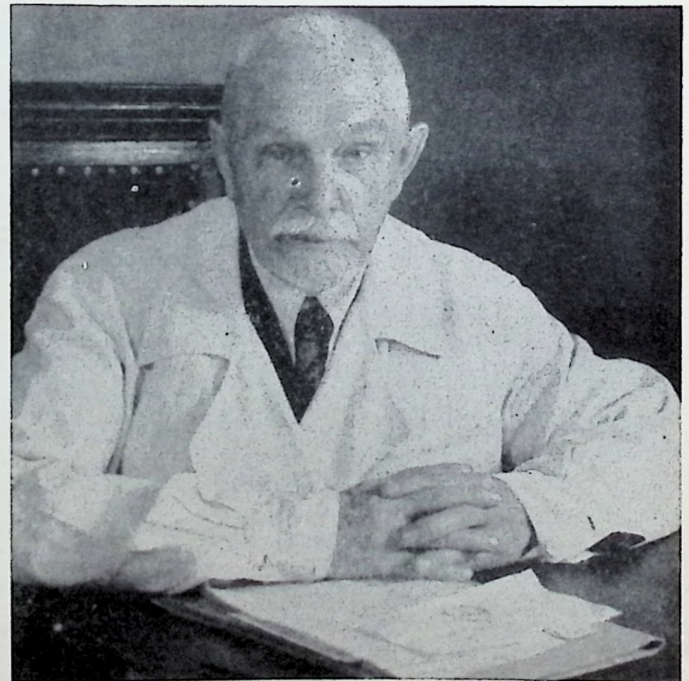
Both of them are well-known specialists in plastic surgery. Michelson, a 62-year-old, youthful looking professor, heads the Department of Face and Mandible Surgery in the Institute's Clinic. Professor Alexander Rauer, Merited Scientific Worker, is, despite his 74 years, the head of a similar clinic where he performs all the most important operations himself. He is a prominent specialist in mandible surgery.

The two professors are firm friends and have worked together at the operating table and on research for dozens of years.

Professor Nikolai Michelson has published 64 scientific papers. His paper on *Transplantation of Cartilage from a Corpse*, published in 1936, was the result of many years of experiment and research; it proved an important medical



MICHELSON—This professor is famed for his brilliant plastic facial surgery, which won him a Stalin Prize.



RAUER—Also a Stalin Prize winner, Professor Rauer is a famous plastic surgeon.

discovery and one that is widely used in both civilian and military hospitals in the Soviet Union.

Michelson's American colleagues, Professors Maligia, Levin and Braun, have also made successful use of his methods in their operations.

Professor Michelson has himself used his own methods of transplanting cartilage from a corpse in eight hundred plastic operations and has saved a huge number of mutilated faces.

Professor Rauer has published 52 scientific papers. The best known of them deal with his original methods of treating ankylosis or stiff joints. His method of transplanting cartilage to the jaw hinges is now used in treating dislocations of the jaw. Professor Rauer's method is widely used abroad.

Since the outbreak of the recent war the two professors have devoted their time entirely to the treatment of mutilated soldiers. The worst cases of face wounds were brought to the Institute—airmen with burned faces, soldiers whose heads were nothing but a bloody mass of raw flesh. The men were still alive, breathing, in possession of their senses, and suffering accordingly.

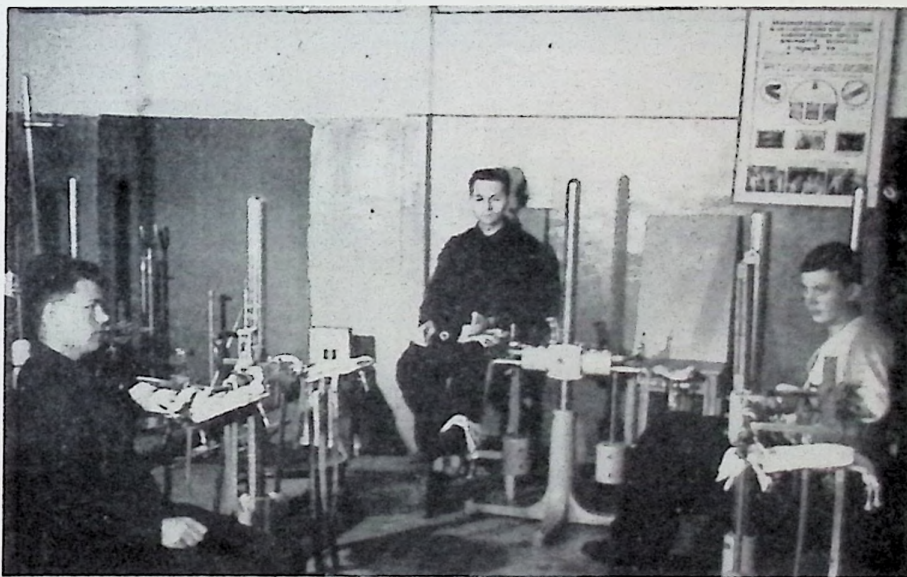
Professor Michelson has photographs of the mutilated face of Red Army Private Avdeyev. They show a man with his upper and lower jaws shattered, his chin hanging unsupported, his teeth gone, his lips and tongue lacerated. He could not eat, drink or speak. Before the operation he was fed through a tube introduced into his nose. Professors Michelson and Rauer fitted together the pieces of the shattered jaws on steel splints. The two jaws were temporarily joined together and soft tissue stitched over them with longitudinal sutures. The tissue supplied by the surgeons and growing in the direction they wished saved the young man's life. The next day Avdeyev began to speak and in two months was discharged from hospital.

"Look at this recent photo of Avdeyev," said Professor Michelson. "It is the face of a healthy young man." All the features were perfect and the operation scars were barely visible.

Senior Lieutenant Bystryakov of the Soviet Air Force was brought to the



PATIENT—This Army man has undergone plastic surgery to rebuild a crushed jaw.



ORTHOPEDIC TREATMENT—Patients taking treatment to correct contractions and stiff joints.

Institute with a gunshot wound of the face. His chin and lower jaw had been shot away. Professors Rauer and Michelson immediately stitched up the jaw and sutured the remains of the chin and cheeks. The absence of a chin was the chief problem. A fortnight later the professors made the young man a chin, similar to his own, of plastics.

Shortly afterward Senior Lieutenant Bystryakov, with a perfectly normal face, was discharged from the clinic and

returned to duty with his Army unit.

An explosive bullet tore off Private Alpeyev's chin. Professors Rauer and Michelson restored the chin by an original method. They took a strip of skin with hair roots from the head, and transplanted it to the chin; they restored the whole of the wounded man's lower jaw. Today Alpeyev has the normal look of a healthy man; a beard has grown on his chin and covers all traces of the operation.

# Stalinabad, Capital of Tajikistan

By A. Sivakov

**S**TALINABAD, capital of the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic, is located in the fertile Gissar valley. One of the youngest cities of the Soviet Union, it was founded in 1925 on the site of a small adobe village called Dushambe. It received its present name when it was made capital of the Tajik Republic in 1929. That year it was linked by railroad with the rest of the USSR.

One of the youngest, Stalinabad is also one of the fastest growing cities of the Union. In 1926 it had less than six thousand inhabitants; by 1939 the population had risen to 83 thousand. Dushambe had neither water mains, electricity nor paved streets; in rainy weather the streets were impassable seas of mud. There were no industrial enterprises and no cultural institutions.

The swift development of the economy and culture of the Tajik people in Soviet times is reflected in the growth of their capital. Scores of industrial enterprises sprang up in Tajikistan under

the prewar Five-Year Plans, twenty of them in Stalinabad.

Today Stalinabad is a large textile and food manufacturing center. It has cotton and silk mills, a clothing factory, flour mills, a tannery and a shoe factory, a meat packing plant and a number of enterprises of the building materials industry. The first hydroelectric station in the environs of the city was erected in 1937 on the Varzob River to supply Stalinabad with power for its industry and public utilities. During the Great Patriotic War a second, larger hydroelectric station was built in the city.

Stalinabad is the hub of the Republic's transportation network, which has grown phenomenally in the last few years. Formerly the only roads in Tajikistan were pack trails, and there were only 20 miles of motor highway in the country before the Revolution. Today there are five thousand miles of good motor highways in the Republic.

Air transportation has also been de-

veloped in Soviet times, and today Tajikistan has as dense a network of air lines as any other republic of the Soviet Union. There is regular airplane service to outlying regions of the country, maintaining contact with areas otherwise almost completely inaccessible. The first wheels the inhabitants of the Western Pamir gorges ever saw, for example, were the wheels of an airplane.

A new highway links Stalinabad to the Ferghana valley to the north, cutting through three high mountain ranges—the Turkestan, Zarevshan and Gissar. Not so long ago there was no road here and these ranges presented an insurmountable barrier between the southern and northern parts of the Republic.

Stalinabad, as the rapidly developing center of Tajik cultural life, draws young Tajik men and women from all parts of the country who come to obtain a technical, or university education. The capital has three higher educational institutions and nine technical schools. Tajikistan as a whole, much less Dushambe, had no such institutions before the Revolution.

One of every five inhabitants of the capital attends higher, secondary or elementary school. Scientific institutions, research stations and laboratories, functioning under the supervision of the Tajik branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, study the history and culture and the natural features of Tajikistan.

Newspapers, magazines and books in the Tajik and Russian languages, published in large editions in Stalinabad, penetrate to the most distant corners of this mountainous country. Stalinabad is also the center of Tajikistan's new national art; in the capital are three Tajik theaters, a Russian theater, the Tajik Philharmonic Society, the Stalinabad Opera House, an art gallery and libraries. These institutions are housed in newly built structures, put up in the last eight years.

The Tajik capital is an extraordinar-



COLLEGE—The Teachers' Training College at Stalinabad.



RECREATION—This artificial lake in Stalinabad, built in 1940, is an attractive recreation spot for the inhabitants of Tajikistan's capital.

ly picturesque city. Situated on the left bank of the Dushambinka River, it stretches out between the river and the slopes of the Gissar Mountains. Stalinabad is a city of terraces which gradually rise from the river bank to the foothills.

The capital is still in the process of expansion. The old huts and *kibitki* (little houses) of Dushambe have long since been replaced by tall, modern apartment houses.

The streets are wide, asphalted and lined with trees. Government buildings flank the main avenue—modern, stone structures, combining the most advanced features of modern European architecture with the traditional Eastern forms.

Stalinabad and its outskirts are graced by many parks, fruit orchards and vineyards. The city literally hides under a canopy of green from the scorching rays of the southern sun.

In the course of the new five-year period, the capital is to acquire a trolleybus service and countless other improvements, in keeping with the general economic and cultural advancement planned for the people of the Tajik Republic and of the entire Soviet Union.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL—One of the modern elementary schools in Stalinabad built in Soviet times. One of every five of Stalinabad's inhabitants attends higher, secondary or elementary school.

# The Kamerny Theater at Moscow

By Mark Levin

ON Tverskoi Boulevard in Moscow, between the Pushkin and the Timiryazev monuments, stands a modest gray building with modern lines and a large awning on the facade with the words "Kamerny Theater" spelled in electric lights.

The Kamerny Theater occupies a rather special place among Moscow playhouses. Founded 32 years ago (it opened in 1914 with a production of *Sakuntala* by Kalidasi, a Hindu playwright,) its career has been a series of ups and downs, successes alternating with failures. But always it has been distinguished for its creative restlessness, an indefatigable quest which does credit to its founder and director, Alexander Tairov, and to its leading actress, Alice Koonen.

Born of the esthetic theater which carried its audience away from harsh reality to the world of pure theater, the Kamerny declared itself an enemy of naturalism on the stage.

Its leaders were repelled as much by

the realism of the Maly Theater as by the psychological nuances of the Art Theater and the latter's striving to reproduce the "life of the human spirit" on the stage. For Stanislavsky of the Art, a play was an opportunity to show a cross-section of life, to break down the fourth wall of some private home and let the audience see what was happening inside and to appeal to the civic consciousness of the spectator. Tairov, on the other hand, held that the theater should be completely apolitical, and sought every pretext for creating a dazzling spectacle, with the actor as the vehicle for conveying the rhythm, the melodious diction and plasticity of movement.

In the initial period of its existence, the Kamerny Theater was a haven for the disillusioned bourgeois intellectual who sought refuge from the turmoil of revolution in the illusory world of theatrical make-believe. Tairov's productions, whether Oscar Wilde's *Salome*, or Racine's *Phedre*, *Princess Brambilla*

after Hofman, or *Girofle-Girofla* by Leconte, posed no social problems.

They were, rather, a spectacular combination of light, color, music and three-dimensional sets against which background the actors moved with the supple grace of athletes. The result was a delightful feast for the eyes and the ears that left the mind blank.

It took years of the new Soviet period before the Kamerny Theater realized that its apolitical productions were alien to the new audience. The epoch of major social movement and advances, the growth of the political awareness of the people and the development of life along truly democratic lines demanded a lofty art that reflected the vital problems of the movement.

The Kamerny Theater, incidentally, is a striking example of an artistic organism which has revised its attitude to art under the influence of the Revolution, which finally induced it to desert its ivory tower and come down to earth and the people. Moreover, the Kamer-



BUDAROV—The actor G. Budarov as Cosme in Calderon's comedy "The Invisible Lady."



VRUBLEVSKAYA—This actress plays the role of Dona Anjela in the same comedy.



ny's career is ample testimony to the solicitous attitude on the part of the Soviet State toward the cultural heritage of the past and of its tolerance of artists who for a long time after the Revolution continued to adhere to reactionary ideas in art.

The development of this theater in Soviet times is indicative also of the diversity of styles prevailing in Soviet art, for although the Kamerny Theater has come closer to contemporaneity, it has retained its individuality.

In an effort to inject a message of social purport into its productions, the Theater turned to American drama, adding to its repertory Eugene O'Neill's *Hairy Ape*, *Desire Under the Elms*, and *All God's Chillun Got Wings* and Treadwell's *Machinal*. Although the theater did not overcome the pessimism inherent in these plays, it accentuated their social conflicts and class character.

A major landmark in the work of the Kamerny Theater was *Optimistic Tragedy* by Vsevolod Vishnevsky, a Soviet dramatist who was subsequently to become permanently associated with this theater. This dramatic play about the struggle of the revolutionary sailors, staged in 1933, was presented with a dignity and simplicity which were new to the Kamerny.

At the same time, the theater did not sacrifice any of the vivid expressiveness and theatricality for which it was famed. Now, however, the theatrical element is no longer dominant, no longer an end in itself, but merely a means to an end to which also are subordinated the sets, the lighting, the plasticity of the actors, their ability to mold figures in bold relief and to present arresting tableaux.

Together with *Optimistic Tragedy*, the theater produced *Egyptian Nights*—a combination of fragments from George Bernard Shaw's *Caesar and Cleopatra*, Pushkin's *Egyptian Nights* and Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*.

Gradually coming closer to life, the theater turned to contemporary themes. Staging G. Mdivani's *Alcazar*, it showed the heroic struggle of the Spanish people against fascist Franco and his German and Italian patrons. In the early days of the war the theater produced an-



"INVISIBLE LADY"—Scene from the third act of the Kamerny production of the comedy.

other play by the same author entitled *The Battalion Goes West*, reflecting the patriotic enthusiasm of the Soviet people who rose to the defense of their country against Hitlerism. In these productions the Kamerny Theater remained true to itself, avoiding subtle psychological analyses in favor of major generalizations and graphic portraiture in the manner of posters.

Returning to Moscow after a period of intensive work during the evacuation, the theater opened with a number of major performances noted for their social ideas. One of them was Vsevolod Vishnevsky's romantic drama, *At the Walls of Leningrad*, which portrays the heroic defense of that city.

In a similar vein is a more recent premiere, *Loyal Hearts* by G. Makagonenko and Olga Bergholts, showing the youth of Leningrad during the blockade. In

these young men and women, gaunt and hollow-eyed from hunger, cold and disease, one feels the tragedy of the beleaguered city and the superb courage and dauntless spirit of the people who stood up against the pitiless bombing and shelling and who in the face of overwhelming odds never lost faith in victory.

Outstanding among the plays produced by the Kamerny in the latter part of 1945 was *The Inspector Calls* by J. B. Priestley, depicting the conflict between selfish interests and higher moral values.

The Kamerny Theater has ambitious plans. It continues its tireless search for a contemporary Soviet play that would reflect the lofty ideas of our times. At the same time, it seeks in our classical heritage for works which will be both entertaining for the audience and will afford the actor opportunities for perfecting his skill.

## Notes on Soviet Life

An exhibition devoted to the memory of Mikhail Ivanovich Kalinin has been opened at the Museum of the Revolution in Moscow. The exhibits include portraits, sculpture, and photographs as well as numerous historical documents portraying Kalinin as a great Revolutionary and one of the most active builders and prominent leaders of the Communist Party and the Soviet State.

Many gifts received by Kalinin from workers, collective farmers and the intelligentsia of the Soviet Union, as well as from abroad, are on display.

★

*Although part of the population of Southern Sakhalin is Korean, there was not a single Korean school here during the rule of the Japanese militarists. With the Red Army's arrival in Southern Sakhalin local Soviet authorities immediately began to open elementary and secondary schools for the children of Soviet citizens. Today there are 50 schools in Southern Sakhalin, 26 of which are conducted in the Korean language. Twelve schools were opened by Soviet authorities on the Kurile Islands, which the Japanese militarists had used exclusively for their garrisons and the erection of fortifications.*

★

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic has conferred citizenship on a group of four thousand Armenians who arrived recently from abroad.

★

*Following extensive restoration work, all large pulp and paper mills in the Soviet Union which were demolished by the Germans during the war have been put into operation. By the beginning of next year the Soviet pulp and paper industry will reach its prewar output level.*

★

A traumatology and orthopedics research institute has been founded in Riga. It is headed by the prominent specialist Professor Machabelli.

*A monument to Maxim Gorky, the great Russian writer, is now being erected on the square facing the Byelorussian Station in Moscow. Death prevented the well-known sculptor, Ivan Shadr, from completing the monument project. The task of finishing this work has been entrusted to Vera Mukhina, noted for her numerous works, including the sculptured figures atop the Soviet pavilion at the International Exposition in Paris. The new Gorky monument will be more than 30 feet high.*

★

The All-Union Society for Relations with Foreign Countries has sent the Tchaikovsky Museum in Klin valuable gifts received from the Music Section of the National Council for American-Soviet Friendship in the United States. The gifts included photostatic copies of reports in American newspapers on Tchaikovsky's sojourn in America in 1891 and an original copy of the program at the inauguration of Carnegie Hall where Tchaikovsky conducted the orchestra. Great interest has been aroused by the collection of phonograph records of Tchaikovsky's symphonies rendered by the best orchestras of America under the baton of world famous conductors.

★

*The Fourth Five-Year Plan allocates 76 million rubles for the construction of medical institutions for the peoples of the Far North—Koryaks, Chukchi, Evenks and others. This year alone, 43 medical institutions will be opened in Kamchatka and Sakhalin. Construction of medical institutions is under way in Chukotka and in the Lower Amur.*

*Three hundred doctors and nurses have been sent to the northern districts of the Khabarovsk region. One hundred and forty doctors, assistant surgeons and nurses have been added to the staff of Sakhalin's medical institutions.*

*Districts which before Soviet times had no medical services now have hundreds of well equipped medical institutions.*

The new theater season has begun in Moscow. The Bolshoi Theater opened with Tchaikovsky's opera *Eugene Onegin*, and the Affiliated Bolshoi with Dargomyzhsky's *Mermaid*.

The Moscow Art Theater launched its 49th season with Alexei K. Tolstoy's (1817-1875) tragedy *Tsar Fyodor Ioanovich*. It is noteworthy that this theater gave this play when it first opened on October 27, 1898.

The Affiliated Moscow Art Theater started its season with the 1,073rd performance of Chekhov's *Cherry Orchard*, which has been shown by this theater with success for more than 42 years.

★

*At the beginning of the fall semester more than 100 thousand students filled the lecture halls, laboratories and classes of Moscow's higher learning institutions. Moscow State University began its 192nd year.*

*Of nearly eight thousand students now attending the University, 17 hundred are freshmen. Three hundred and eighty-two of them were graduated from secondary schools with gold medals and 354 with silver medals. Four hundred and eighteen of them are ex-servicemen who finished secondary school before the war.*

*The number of chairs of the University's 11 faculties is increasing from year to year. Today there are 156 chairs and 10 more will open in the near future.*

★

An expedition of the Marr Institute of Material Culture has for the first time explored the southern coast of the Kola Peninsula. The scientists discovered 15 archeological ruins, including ancient fishermen's settlements.

Particularly interesting are relics of masonwork in the shape of concentric circles and complex labyrinths. The discoveries date back to the beginning of the first millenary BC, and prove that the Kola Peninsula was inhabited in remote antiquity.



# USSR

## INFORMATION BULLETIN

Section 562, P.L.&R.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
PERMIT NO. 5562

USSR  
INFORMATION  
BULLETIN  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Postmaster: Return  
Postage Guaranteed

HENRY G GUZE  
107 SPRUCE ST  
NEWARK 2 N J