

Information Bulletin

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Nazi Aggressors at the Bar of Nations

NEW TIMES wrote editorially:

The trial of major German war criminals which opened in Nuremberg, November 20th, is being followed with strained attention by the whole world. In the dock sit the ring leaders of the gang of Nazi marauders who, for more than a decade, wielded the power of the state in Germany. Instigators of aggressive wars are being tried by the nations for the first time in history; for as we know, attempts of international justice to bring the German criminals of World War I to book ended in a wretched fiasco.

First Judgment

Hitler Germany plunged the nations of the world into the most sanguinary and devastating of all wars. Her leaders were confident that they could commit blood-thirsty aggression with impunity.

"Victors are not judged," they cynically declared to encourage their accomplices in conspiracy against the world; and they ignored the very idea of a possibility of their own defeat. But the diabolical plan of enslaving humanity and the self-styled German "masterpiece" came to naught, their war machine was smashed; their country, which started the conflagration of world aggression, is now occupied by Allied troops, and the miscreants before whose crimes the grimmest pages in history pale, stand indicted before the International Military Tribunal.

The nations against whom Hitler's aggression was directed have entered the citadel of Nazism. It is they who are meting out justice to the criminals who trampled upon all the laws of humanity. It was a difficult and thorny path that at last brought the freedom-loving nations into the lair of the fascist beast.

The Soviet people are legitimately proud of the decisive role which our

country played in vanquishing Hitler Germany. But the victory was won at the severe cost of human lives. The sacred blood of innocent victims of Nazi aggression cries out for the stern and ruthless punishment of the instigators of war and of the war criminals.

These are the top rank of Nazi Germany who are standing trial in Nuremberg. Here we have the chieftains of the Nazi party, the state captains of the German war machine, and the magnates of German monopoly capital. They represent every sphere of the criminal activities of the Hitlerites—diplomacy and the Gestapo, economic preparation for war, militarism, poisonous racial propaganda, and the practical extermination of nations.

Of course, the 20-odd persons standing trial do not comprise all of the leaders of the Third Reich. Many of the major German war criminals—the industrial and financial magnates who raised the Hitler gang to power in particular—have still to be brought to justice.

The dreadful and revolting story of Hitlerism is being unfolded in court. This unprecedented trial will undoubtedly shed new light on many of its aspects as have the documents already offered by the prosecution, documents found in secret Nazi archives which add materially to the already known facts regarding the misdeeds of German fascism.

Early Plans

From its very inception, the Nazi party hatched criminal plans of war for the establishment of Germany's dominion over Europe and then over the whole world. It was for this purpose that Hitler and his associates created their brigand party, that they united with monopoly capital and Prussian militarism, and seized power in 1933. It was for this

purpose that Germany's armed forces were surreptitiously built up and expanded, that construction of their air and submarine fleet was conducted on so gigantic a scale, and that concrete plans were drawn up for military operations and sabotage.

The instigators of the plans of aggrandizement, the creators and organizers of the war economy of Hitler Germany, were Schacht, Krupp, Thyssen, Boegler, Schmitz, Siemens, and other German finance and industrial kings who still find compassionate, although by no means disinterested, advocates in certain quarters.

The Conspiracy

The hatching and realization of this conspiracy of aggression against the peace-loving nations was furthered by the entire domestic policy of the Nazi party and the Hitler state: the destruction of democracy and the ruthless reign of terror; the systematic poisoning of the minds of millions of Germans; the education of the German youth in the spirit of hatred and obscurantism, racial fanaticism and impunity, and in the commission of crimes of every kind.

Germany's foreign policy was also unreservedly placed at the service of preparations for aggressive war. While masking their subversive activities by hypocritical professions of peace, Nazi diplomats shunned no means, however sordid, to further their aims. Perfidy, deceit, blackmail, intimidation, and violation of international codes and of their own obligations were the distinguishing features of their diplomacy.

The dimensions of the Nazi conspiracy against the world are attested by the documents made public at the trial. The plans of attack on Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland shed light on their

preparations, not only for the seizure of these countries, but also for a broadly conceived aggression against the peace-loving powers of the west—Great Britain and France, in whose behalf Chamberlain and Daladier pursued the fatal policy of "appeasing" the fascist beast of prey.

The "Barbarossa Plan" discloses the preparations for the treacherous attack upon the Soviet Union by which the Nazi assassins coldbloodedly designed, at the cost of the lives of millions of Soviet citizens, to place eastern Europe at the service of German aggression. This clique of Nazi criminals not only plotted against the peace and security of neighboring countries; they raised the axe over the whole civilized world.

In the light of the new documents divulged by the prosecution at the Nuremberg trial, the historic role of the Soviet Union stands out more clearly than ever as a mighty barrier in the path of fascist aggression. Nazi bandits based their plans on the assumption that they could disunite their prospective adversaries and prevent the formation of a united front of peace-loving powers.

In the period before the war, when the Nazis were only forging their criminal weapons, the voice of the Soviet Union warning of the mortal threat which the Nazi scourge offered to the world was not heeded; and its calls to peace loving countries to unite against the fascist aggression were rejected by the governments then in power in the western democracies.

It was only in the course of the war itself, which exacted such a heavy toll of sacrifice from these nations, that the foundations were laid of that comradeship-in-arms of the peace loving powers which assured the destruction of the seats of aggression in Europe and the Far East.

Lessons of History

The lessons of history indubitably confirm the paramount importance of cooperation among peace-loving powers and of an enduring alliance of all the forces opposed to aggression. These lessons must not be forgotten at this moment when reactionary politicians and groups are advocating the policy of force and "atomic diplomacy" in opposition to the policy of firm cooperation among the democratic great powers to

Farm People Aim at Large Crop

By A. Savchenko-Belsky

Snow retention was the keynote of farm work almost everywhere in the Soviet Union during December. The weather—slight frosts and snowfalls—favored this important aspect of the farmers' winter work.

In the Saratov Region, in the Volga area, for instance, snow retention measures have been taken over an area of several hundred thousand acres.

This method substantially boosts crops in arid sections of the country. Observations conducted in a course of years by research institutions and the experience of collective farms themselves show that snow retention increases the yield of spring wheat, sunflower, and alfalfa.

Moreover, snow retention protects winter crops, inasmuch as a 10 to 20 cubic meters blanket of snow is sufficient to safeguard tender shoots from frosts. Because of this, this practice has been made the rule also in those sections of the Kuban and Don areas and in the Ukraine where spring and summer rains are plentiful and there is no need to resort to it as a means of accumulating moisture in the soil.

Another seasonal job is cleaning and sorting seed at collective farm granaries and grain elevators. This year it is a assure lasting peace and international security. It should be clear that any repetition of mistakes of the past, by giving survivors of Hitlerism an opportunity to resurrect German imperialism, would be fraught with new and incalculable calamities.

There can be no doubt that the Nuremberg trial will furnish much additional proof of the criminal activities of the instigators, organizers, and executionists of the Nazi conspiracy against the peace and security and the very existence of nations. Stern punishment must be meted out, not only against the criminals already in the dock, but to all their abettors in rapine and crime. The Nuremberg trial is one more reminder to the democratic forces of the world of the necessity for the utmost vigilance against all machinations of the reactionaries who are out to frustrate the cause of enduring peace.

bigger job than usual in a number of areas, particularly in the central belt of the USSR, because the autumn was very rainy and in many cases the grain was brought in insufficiently dried. To preserve the seed grain in good condition, it must now be aired by running it through blowers and sorters.

A highly important aspect of the work is the elimination of weed seeds, of which a percentage higher than normal is now to be found in the grain in areas that were either occupied by the Germans or in fields which were located in the immediate vicinity of the war zone and were neglected owing to wartime. An additional difficulty is that very few new cleaning machines were acquired by the farms during the war and the old ones are much the worse for wear. Difficulties notwithstanding, however, the collective farmers are getting along well with this work. The Ukraine, for instance, has already cleaned 80,000 more tons of grain and legume seeds than during the same period last year.

Following last winter's example, when over 3,300,000 collective farm men and women studied advances in farming methods at courses arranged in the countryside, millions of people have again armed themselves with books and set out to master the experience of leading agriculturists.

Most of these spare time students are rank and file farmers who meet two or three times a week to hear lectures delivered by some visiting professor, or a local agronomist, or brigade leader who has raised particularly high yields.

The instruction of the leading personnel of the collective farms is arranged separately. As a rule, farm chairmen attend special courses at secondary or higher agricultural schools in district towns or larger cities. Both elementary and advanced training in power farming are conducted at the machine and tractor station. All this intensive activity in the countryside is directed at a single goal: to raise a bumper crop next season and to speed up the eradication of the traces of war.

American Youth Delegates See USSR

The delegation of American youth which is visiting the Soviet Union has arrived in Stalingrad after a ten-day tour of Georgia. They have already visited Leningrad and some other cities of the USSR.

The delegation's itinerary in their tour of the Soviet Union is designed to give them a good idea of the country as a whole. It began with visits to points of interest in the snowy regions of the North, where they visited farms and factories, museums and youth centers, in the cities and countryside. Their visit to southern Georgia was planned to show them the life of the people in one of the non-Russian republics where the people in tsarist times were oppressed.

Georgian Capital

In Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, the delegates visited the National Museum, where they inspected age-old relics of Georgian culture; the Young Pioneers' Palace, where they acquainted themselves with the system of children's education; the Beria Stadium; the Georgian branch of the Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute; and Sion Cathedral, where they were received by Catholicos Callistratus, Patriarch of Georgia.

They also visited the museum in Gori, where Stalin was born and spent his childhood, and declared themselves deeply impressed by this visit.

On their return from Gori to Tbilisi, the delegation was invited to a meeting organized by the youth of Tbilisi at the Conservatory there.

At the meeting, the young Americans shared their impressions of their tour of Georgia.

"At home in America we heard a great deal about the national republics of the Soviet Union", delegate Doris Senk said, "but what we saw in Georgia surpassed all our expectations. We talked to collective farmers, we saw how people in Georgia live and work, and everything that we heard and saw evoked profound and sincere admiration."



Radiophoto

IN MOSCOW—Ann Postma, Ernesto Madera (of Mexico), Alice Horton and Molly Lieber, photographed during their visit to the Capital.

"We saw," delegate Joseph Engel said, "that the USSR is a true union of free and equal republics. We visited one of these republics, Georgia, and we believe it is representative of all the other republics of the Soviet Union."

Collective Farm

Delegate Olivia Stake spoke of her impressions of the Georgian collective farms.

"Our tour of the south of the USSR," Molly Lieber said, "helped us to get the feeling of the vast expanses of your country, and to understand still better the great victories of the Soviet people."

"Once Georgia was a borderland of the Russian empire. Now it is an advanced, cultured country. Culture has reached its

remotest parts. We saw libraries, theaters, and clubs in villages. We talked to boys and girls from collective farms, interested not only in their own welfare, but well able to analyze important problems of world politics.

"We were particularly happy to see the Soviet people's confidence in their future, their ability to see prospects of the further development of their country."

"We particularly admire the part played by youth in the life of the Soviet Union", Harry Day said. "We saw here boys and girls who hold important government offices. We saw a girl collective farmer, I. Gurgenedze, who has been nominated to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR."

"In your country, youth fully realizes that the future is theirs."

The Lenin Library at Moscow

The Lenin State Library of the USSR is one of the finest jewels in the treasury of Soviet culture. Although it was founded only 80 years ago, yet by virtue of the wealth of its book repository and the scope of its work it ranks on a par with the foremost libraries of the world: the Library of Congress in Washington, founded in 1800, the Library of the British Museum in London, founded in 1753, and the *Bibliothèque Nationale* in Paris, founded far back in the fourteenth century.

The Lenin Library possesses a colossal fund of books and manuscripts totalling some 9,600,000.

The Library grew out of the book collection belonging to the Rumyantsev Public Museum. Rumyantsev, a well-known patron of art and literature, in his day gathered together a collection of books and manuscripts of inestimable value.

Cultural Force

The Rumyantsev Library was of no mean importance in furthering the development of Russian science and literature. Many generations of scholars frequented its reading rooms, among them the great scientist Mendeleev and the great writers Tolstoy and Dostoyevsky.

Lenin first visited the Library in 1893. His signature has been preserved in the visitor's book. Early in 1897, Lenin called at the Library once again when he made a brief stop in Moscow on his way to exile in Siberia. Later, when he was Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, Lenin frequently had recourse to the Library.

The October Revolution infused new life into the old Rumyantsev Library. Immediately upon its accession to power in 1917 the Soviet Government adopted measures for gathering together and preserving the valuable books and manuscripts in the country, concentrating them mainly in the Rumyantsev Library.

In 1919 a bibliographical information bureau was instituted at the Library to meet the requirements both of government and scientific institutions and of the growing reading public, and work was

begun on drawing up a systematic catalogue. Some idea of the labor involved in this latter task may be gained from the fact that, at the present time, there are some 17 million index cards in the Library's catalogues.

In 1921 a special reading room was opened in the Library for the use of research workers. This same year saw the creation of a book museum (now the Department of Rare Books), which subsequently grew to include some 100 thousand volumes in many different languages.

Rare Items

This department now includes an invaluable collection of incunabula (books printed before 1500): Aldines (publications of the Venetian printer Aldus Manutius or his family in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries); paleotypes (books printed in the first half of the sixteenth century); Elzevirs (editions by the Elzevir family of Dutch printers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries); specimens of the earliest Slavonic printing; workings of the first Russian printer, Ivan Fedorov; rare editions of Russian secular works dating back to Peter I, and

Russian books that were banned under the tsarist regime.

Other treasures of the Rare Books Department include the *Arkhangel'skoye Evangeliiye* (Archangel New Testament), dating from the year 1092; the first editions of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* published in 1488; autographed first editions of the works of Giordano Bruno; a collection of leaflets and pamphlets of the time of the Seven Years' War, and a priceless collection of albums, among which is an album of water colors by the English artist, T. W. Atkinson, depicting Russian national costumes.

By decree of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviet Union, in 1925, the Library, which had developed into an institution of nationwide importance, was named after Lenin.

The construction of a new building of suitable dimensions to house the Lenin Library was begun in May 1930. The first of the five wings of the new edifice was opened in 1939, and the second—constituting the main depository—soon after the beginning of the war. The outbreak of hostilities interrupted the construction of the remaining wings.



LENIN LIBRARY—This shows the new building of the Library, one of the world's largest in point of collections.

Before the war the activities of the Library had assumed large dimensions. In 1940 it was visited by 800,000 readers who took out some 4,000,000 books. These figures were exceeded in 1944, in spite of the difficulties occasioned by the war.

Foreign Exchanges

The Lenin Library has thus grown to be one of the greatest cultural centers of the Soviet Union and has at the same time formed the strongest ties with the world of science abroad. It practises book exchanges with foreign scientific institutions and libraries, studies their methods of work, and supplies the reading public abroad with up-to-date information concerning its own work, its store of books, and the life of the Soviet Union in general.

The Lenin Library maintains particularly close connections with England and the United States. At the present time it receives the monumental general catalogue of printed books of the British Museum and the printed index cards of the Library of Congress in Washington.

On the day of Roosevelt's death, the President's portrait decorated with the national flags was hung up in the library. An exhibition of Roosevelt's writings, as well as literature about the President, was held in the library's reading hall.

The scope of the library's work finds an especially striking expression in its plan of work for the coming Five-Year Plan (1946-50). During this period four new buildings will be opened to the public, making it possible to increase the number of visitors to 2,500,000 readers annually. The work of the reference bibliographical department is also to increase in scope.

As soon as the war began the Library's priceless collections were transferred to safety. In the autumn of 1941, about 200 incendiary bombs fell on the premises of the Library, but they were promptly dealt with by the Library staff. Meanwhile, the Library went on with its work in spite of the war. Not for a single day were the reading rooms closed, not even when the enemy was hammering at the gates of Moscow. The books were re-evacuated in 1944.

Despite the difficulties, a new reading

Where Lenin Studied

By K. Sitnikov

Rector of Kazan State University

The University at Kazan, called after Vladimir Ulyanov (Lenin), was founded in 1804, nearly one and one-half centuries ago. Within its walls studied Vladimir Ulyanov-Lenin.

The University has acquired world fame through its scientific researches. The pride of the university and country are Nikolai Lobachevsky, a mathematician of genius, Alexander Butlerov and Nicolai Zinin, eminent chemists, Ivan Boduen, linguist, and many others who laid the foundation for schools in mathematics, chemistry, geobotany, astronomy, linguistics, history, etc.

The University accumulated a wealth of experience in conducting scientific work and in preparing trained personnel. In its zoological, mineralogical, and ethnographical museums are large collections of rare specimens. The University's scientific library contains more than two million books, more than 10,000 manuscripts in European and Eastern languages, and several thousand rare books and incunabula.

Among the university's alumni are men who have made outstanding contributions to Russian and world literature, for example: Sergei Aksakov, Leo Tolstoy, Fedor Melnikov-Pechersky, Nikolai Panaev, Ivan Lazhechnikov, Alexei Tolstoy, and others.

The scientific and cultural importance of Kazan University has been particularly

room for children and a hall for research workers was opened during the war.

After the outbreak of the war, the Library published more than 40 concise bibliographical guides on topical themes. It is compiling a comprehensive bibliography of the war. Moreover, it continued to exchange books with England, the United States, Canada, Australia, Iran, and other countries, and received shipments of valuable publications from the British Book Council.

The Library conducts extensive work in serving the needs of both individuals and scientific and military organizations engaged in defense work.

striking in the post revolutionary period. Before the Revolution of 1917 there were two higher educational institutions in Kazan—the University and the Veterinary Institute. Now there are 12, all of which originated from the University and have more than 15,000 enrolled students, almost 10 times more than the number of students in Kazan's higher educational institutions before the Revolution.

At the present time the University has six faculties—history, philology, physics and mathematics, chemistry, biology, geology and geography; 46 chairs with laboratories and libraries, and three research institutes.

Thirty-two courses are offered in all branches of natural science, analytic mechanics, geology, the history of the USSR, the Russian language and literature, classic philology, the Tatar language and literature, etc.

Postgraduate courses are open to students who have distinguished themselves by their scholarship.

Student Body

Representatives of 16 nationalities are studying in the University—Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Jews, Tatars, Moldavians, Chuvash, Kazakhs, Kirghizians, and others. The students of the University receive a stipend. Larger stipends are granted to students of outstanding scholarship. Students are provided with textbooks and rooms in dormitories with all forms of service.

The students' cultural activities are conducted in the University club. Here students can develop their capacities in music, drama, art, and sports.

During the war, Kazan University graduated more than a thousand specialists. Hundreds of University graduates fought on the fronts of the Great Patriotic War against the German aggressors.

Theory becomes a great material force as soon as it is assimilated by the masses. Kazan University, in carrying out the behests of the great Lenin, served and will continue to serve such science.

Cultural Development of Soviet Peoples

By Professor V. Kirpotin

The high democratic principle of national equality and self-determination, a chief cornerstone of the Soviet Constitution, has brought about the flowering of rich national culture in once backward and oppressed nations.

This is partly due to the education now available to the people. But the basic factor is the material improvement of the people, the sense of national identity and self-respect engendered by the new-found freedom of these nations under the Soviet system.

Prerevolutionary Darkness

Before the October Revolution, before the establishment of Soviet rule, there was only one Uzbek, for instance, with a college education. Today, Uzbekistan has 30 institutions of higher education attended by more than 20,000 students. In old Uzbekistan there was not a single institution of higher learning for a single student.

The general rise in the cultural level resulted in the swift and luxuriant growth of the literature of the people. Never before has Uzbekistan had so many writers, and never have authors exercised such an influence on the development of their people.

The venerable Uzbek writer, Sadredain Aini, whose works are famous throughout the Middle East and have been translated into many languages of Europe and Asia, drew a picture of the dreary past of his native land in his novels *Dokhunda* and *The Slaves*.

The talented passionate poet, Gafur Gulyam, a writer of the Soviet generation, has sung the praises of the Turkestan-Siberian (Turksib) railway line built in the years of Soviet rule and now one of the main trunk lines of the flowering Soviet Uzbek Republic.

It is an ancient road, says the poet, laid in years beyond all memory or record; over this road travelled the con-

querors of the past—Alexander the Great, bloodthirsty Genghis Khan, cruel Tamerlane. They passed like a whirlwind, their bared swords flashing, destroying all living things, thirsting for blood. Over this road travelled millions of slaves and orphans, their parched lips swollen with tears and hunger, asking for a piece of bread as the only reward for their endless torments.

The Liberators

Centuries passed, times changed, and over this road passed liberated people, straightening their bent backs, hero people, neither invaders nor destroyers of culture but liberators and creators. Over this ancient historical road the Soviet people laid iron rails and along them thunders a swift, deep-voiced locomotive, piercing the darkness with the fiery tongues of its bright headlights.

In the poet's imagination the image of the locomotive becomes the symbol of



TIME TO REST—Leisure is one of the great factors in the development of native art. These are collective farmers of the Turkmen SSR.

the progress of his people, who press forward tirelessly from one achievement to the next, crushing ignorance on their way.

Works like the poems of Gafur Guliyam roused a storm of enthusiasm and mobilized the creative energy of the people, facilitating the growth of their national consciousness, of their economic and cultural progress.

The dramatic fate of the Armenian people is reflected with exceptional artistic power in the vivid illustrations and ardent words of their poetry.

We all know that through long centuries beautiful sunny Armenia was rent by conquerors, that in the terrible massacres of 1915 the Turks annihilated and drove out more than half of these honest, industrious and talented people. It is also well known that reunion with Russia saved Armenia from final physical extinction and that the Soviet system brought about an unprecedented development of Armenian material and mental culture.

The horrified imagination of the poet Sialanto, who was brutally murdered by the Turks in 1915, could not forget the pictures of the pogroms, the murder and devastation, the danger of destruction that had threatened his beloved homeland. In his poem *My Home, a Handful of Ashes*, the poet weeps for the ruin of his own home and of his country as a whole.

It was a day of horror and blood and massacre, says the poet. Only the flowers continued to blossom in their pure innocent beauty. Asking no support and having lost his faith in the future, the poet doubts whether any countryman of his will be left alive to throw a handful of ashes on his grave.

Armenia Freed

History answered this sorrowful question of the martyr poet. Soviet power, the might of the USSR, saved Armenia from destruction and the Armenian people from annihilation. The people thus saved with the generous and sincere help of the Russian and other peoples of the USSR have made their country into a grand and beautiful land, the gem of the Transcaucasus.



FOLK BARD—Musa Baetov, a folk bard beloved by his people, was awarded an Order of the Soviet Union for his songs.

Akop Akopyan, the venerable Armenian poet, who died surrounded by the love and respect of his free countrymen, wrote with youthful fervor about the rebirth of Armenia.

"A witness of the pangs of birth, I heard the first faint stirrings of creative work. New villages and gardens have sprung up, cherished by a reborn people. Faintly I feel the fragrance of dense orchards and flower beds, and youth returns to my tired, gray soul. I hear loud factory whistles—Armenia, thou art a Titan bearing the torch in thine hands."

Poetry is the voice of the people. When people suffer and perish, writers sing mournful songs of tears, blood, and vengeance. When people live and work in safety, when their national existence is ensured, when their culture and their state is respected, then poets compose exultant hymns in praise of life, labor, creation, and joy, then they bless the system which gave them freedom to sing and a wide outlook. So it was with the Armenian poets and writers who travelled the entire road with their people and who became active participants in the regen-

eration of their country after the establishment of Soviet rule.

There is one peculiar feature in the history of oppressed peoples; certainly they lose not only their independence, their culture, their daily bread under the yoke of the oppressor—they lose even their names. This was the case with the Azerbaijanians. Under tsarist rule they were mostly called Tatars, although in reality they form a completely separate people. The Soviet Government ensured the freed Azerbaijanians of their national name.

Pride of Nation

Samed Vurgun, an original and interesting Azerbaijanian poet, bred in the classic traditions of oriental literature, points out as the cruellest insult of the past that his countrymen and his country were deprived of their proper name.

"But the hour of liberation came, and with it came your noble fame, your daughters and sons became great people." Pride of national assertion draws from the poet's lips words full of exultation, full of devotion to the homeland, full of devotion to Stalin—the liberator.

In the years of the Hitlerite invasion, Soviet poets and writers acutely felt the danger which threatened the very existence of their peoples. Poets joined the ranks, a clarion note was heard in their songs. They called for defense of their ideals and their nationality. They roused and expressed the wrath of the Motherland. They foretold victory.

Today, when peace is here once more, the voices of the poets ring triumphantly and joyously with new strength in a national chorus of all the victorious Soviet peoples. They laud the integrity and unshaken firmness of the national life; they call to labor, to studies, to creation, to peace on earth. They foretell the future, the prosperity of a happy family of peoples united in the USSR.

To the peoples who under the tsars had no written language; to those nations which under the heel of autocracy were forbidden even to speak their ancient tongues; to those who were denied education and the leisure and facilities to study—to them the Soviet system means new life and with new life, new voices.

Winter Sports in the USSR

By Mikhail Alexandrov

The winter sports season gets under way at different times in different parts of the Soviet Union. While skiers, and ice skaters hockey players, are holding their practice sessions and first meets, and reindeer races are being run off in the north, soccer games, tennis matches, and track and field meets are still in progress in the subtropical climate in the Soviet south.

An outstanding feature of sports in the Soviet Union is the great number of persons who participate. Last winter, for instance, more than 1,500,000 people took part in the mass ski runs held specially for the collective farm youth simultaneously throughout the USSR.

One of the biggest events of this winter is the mass ski runs sponsored jointly by the trade unions and youth organizations. Millions of youths and girls are competing in these runs held in January in the Urals and in Siberia, Moscow and Leningrad, beyond the Arctic Circle, and at the foothills of the Caucasian mountains.

In March, the city skiing teams will get together for a big meet in Sverdlovsk in the Urals, while in April, on the threshold of spring, the best mountain skiers will assemble in the Caucasus to vie for the title of Soviet champion in down hill speed and slalom racing.

Ice skating is an extremely popular sport in the USSR. There are ice rinks in every town and village. Russian ice



Radiophoto

SKI RACES—These young skiers are competing for a prize offered by *Krasny Sport* (Red Sport), a Soviet newspaper.

skaters long have been known in the sport world. They have competed against the best European skaters. Many old timers still recall the brilliant victories of the pioneers of Russian ice skating—Strunnikov, Melnikov, and the Ippolitov brothers, Vasili and Platon.

Soviet ice skaters have made steady progress in technique and are fast approaching world records. The record of K. Kudryavtsev of Moscow in the 500-meter event, for instance, is just .2 of a second slower than the world record held by Engnestangen of Norway which is 41.8 seconds.

The traditional four-city skating meet (Moscow, Leningrad, Sverdlovsk, and Gorky) is scheduled for January; and the USSR championships, for February.

Ice hockey is as popular in the winter in the Soviet Union as soccer in the sum-

mer. The Moscow Dynamo soccer team, which recently returned to the Soviet capital after their triumphant tour of England, will shortly appear on the ice to compete in the USSR hockey league and cup matches. The first games in the Canadian hockey matches for the USSR cup will be run off in Archangel in the north.

In addition to skiing, skating, hockey, and ice sled competitions, the first post-war winter sports calendar includes meets in wrestling, boxing, and weight throwing.

The boxing meet for the title of absolute champion of the USSR recently ended with Nikolai Korolyov winning the title for 1945.

Soviet swimmers, tennis and volleyball players, and gymnasts will compete in indoor meets this winter.

The Soviet chess players who a short time ago scored a victory over the United States in a radio match are ready to meet British chess masters and participate in the forthcoming international tournaments.

The mass nature of sports in the USSR and the results achieved by the country's athletes are a result of untiring attention paid by the State to the development of physically fit and morally strong citizens.

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