

SOCIAL SCIENCES✓

NEW WORLD

SEPTEMBER

1953

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*Review*²



HIGHPOINTS OF MALENKOV'S REPORT

Those Polish Prices • Painless Childbirth in China

NEW WORLD *Review*

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OUR COVER: Young Pioneers of Hun-
gary enjoy an outing on Gellert Hill, in
Budapest. Other photos on Hungary on
pages 24, 25 and 26. All from Eastfoto.

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NOTE COUPON



Jessica Smith

Negotiate—Negotiate—Negotiate!

OUR REDUCED size makes it impossible to cover all the swift-moving developments in international affairs. We believe it is far more important than any editorial comment, to report in this issue as fully as possible Premier Malenkov's historic address to the Supreme Soviet, on August 8.

For this report shows how baseless are the continued efforts to whip up fear of Soviet "aggression," how ridiculous the allegations that the Soviet Union and the socialist world are torn by internal weaknesses so that they could be dealt with by ultimatum rather than negotiation.

Sober commentators have had to acknowledge that Malenkov's address demonstrates the strength and stability of the USSR, and the remarkable industrial growth that now makes possible the provision of vastly improved all-round living standards for the Soviet people.

Malenkov's announcement that the United States does not have the monopoly in the manufacture of the hydrogen bomb, was played up in an alarmist way in our press. But his statement, and the subsequent announcement of the H-bomb test in the USSR, made it evident that there is no threat in this development. The Soviet Government has rather given a sober warning that with the development of weapons' of such destructive power on both sides war between the nations has become unthinkable, that new efforts to control atomic and all other weapons of mass destruction are essential.

Malenkov renewed his declaration that there is no controversial question which cannot be settled peace-

fully by mutual agreement of the countries concerned, and called again for a top-level conference of the great powers.

These declarations have been accompanied by a continuing series of concrete peace moves by the USSR. Acceptance of the U.S. proposal for a limited lower-level conference on Germany and Austria was followed by a new Soviet proposal for a four-power conference which would lead to a peace treaty and a unified, peaceful Germany.

In the UN Assembly, the USSR supported the type of negotiations that would lead to a lasting settlement in Korea, and not open the way to further conflict. The opening statements, as we go to press, reveal that the proposal of Andrei Vyshinsky for a truly international round table conference on Korea is far closer to the desires of most UN members than the U.S. proposal for a conference of two opposing sides.

The truce in Korea is a shining example of the triumph of negotiations over force. It is the responsibility of the American people to guard it vigilantly, and to prevent the efforts of Syngman Rhee and his backers in this country who would start blood flowing in Korea again and fan the flames of other wars. We must press with all our strength for a settlement leading to general peace in the Far East, for a top level conference on Germany, for negotiations everywhere instead of wars and threats of war. Let the voices of Americans swell the cry of hundreds of millions of people throughout the world—*Negotiate—Negotiate—Negotiate!*

Premier Malenkov's Report

THE SECTION of the report to the Supreme Soviet of Premier Georgi Malenkov devoted to domestic economic policy showed that the steady expansion of the national economy of the Soviet Union and of its heavy industry base has reached the point where a sharp rise in consumer's goods production can be successfully organized.

Commenting on the increased sums for the financing of the national economy in this year's budget, Mr. Malenkov declared:

Funds allocated for the development of the national economy insure the uninterrupted growth of social production, as the foundation for the further upsurge of the people's well-being and a still further strengthening of the defensive capacity of our country.

The state budget reflects the solicitude of the Soviet state for the continued raising of the material and cultural level of the life of the workers. Expenditures on education, public health services, social and cultural services, on pensions, as well as payments on loans to the population will amount this year to 139,500,000,000 rubles as compared with 129,600,000,000 rubles in 1952.

Lowered prices, lower taxes and lowered state loan contributions mean that during the current year manual and intellectual workers and collective farmers would receive from the budget 127,000,000,000 rubles more than they will contribute to it out of their personal incomes,

as against a 61,000,000,000 rubles surplus in 1952.

Malenkov pointed out that the defense allocation of 110,200,000,000 rubles for 1953 represents 20.8 per cent of the budget as against an allocation of 23.6 per cent in 1952.

He cited figures of economic advances since 1940 as eloquent evidence of the success of the policy of industrializing the country by development of heavy industry, metallurgy, fuel and power industries and machine building. To have yielded to the demands of the Trotskyists and others who demanded the transfer of funds from heavy to light industry would, he said, have meant the disarming and dooming of the country.

Malenkov noted that since 1924-25 output of industrial production had increased 29 times, steel by 21 times, electric power by 45 times, the chemical and machine building industry even more, with new industrial centers set up in all the economic areas of the country. The relative proportion of heavy industry has increased from one-third to two-thirds of the total volume of industrial production in that period. Transport of all types has had a parallel development with industry. He stated that all-round development in all these spheres would be continued because:

We must always remember that heavy industry is the very keystone of the foundations of our socialist economy, because without the development of heavy industry it is im-

possible to insure the further development of light industry, the increased productivity of agriculture and the strengthening of the defensive power of our country.

Emphasis on Consumer's Goods

Malenkov declared that on the basis of the successes in heavy industry the conditions for a sharp rise in consumers' goods not previously present now exist.

In the past twenty-eight years the output of means of production has grown about fifty-five times while consumers' goods production during the same period has increased only about twelve times. Since 1940 output of means of production has more than tripled, while consumers' goods have increased by 72 per cent.

Malenkov declared that this volume of consumer goods production could not be considered satisfactory, and that—

The urgent task lies in raising sharply in two or three years the population's supply of foodstuffs and manufactured goods, meat and meat products, fish and fish products, butter, sugar, confectionery, textiles, garments, footwear, crockery, and kitchen utensils, furniture and other household goods; articles meeting cultural requirements; in raising considerably the supply to the population of all articles of general consumption.

He declared that the Fifth Five-Year Plan goal of an increase in consumers' goods by 1955 by 65 per cent as against 1950 could be reached much sooner.

Mr. Malenkov emphasized that the quality of consumers' goods was no less important than the quantity, and that there must be improvement in present deficiencies on that score; the Soviet people have the right to

demand durable, well finished and high quality consumers' goods.

Help to Agriculture

To achieve the necessary drastic increase in consumer goods production, Malenkov declared that there must first be concern for the further development of agriculture which supplies the population with food and light industry with raw material.

He recounted the achievements of the collective and state farms in grain, cotton, sugar beets and livestock products; the progress in mechanization of farm work. At the same time, he said, it would be a mistake to disregard the lagging of many important branches of agriculture, the fact that the potentialities of the collective farm system are not fully realized, and that in some farms and regions agriculture is in a state of neglect, harvests are low and the collective farmers do not receive sufficient revenue.

Malenkov dwelt on the question of livestock as especially serious. The great wartime losses have not yet been overcome, despite considerable rehabilitation work, and the growing needs of the population for meat, milk, eggs and other livestock products are not being met. Production of potatoes and vegetables is also insufficient. He said these deficiencies must be overcome through strengthening of the communal economy of the collective farms, and that payment for the workdays of collective farmers both in cash and kind must be considerably increased.

In order to increase the grain supply, Malenkov said there must be an end to the incorrect practice of evaluating the amount of grain and other produce on the basis of estimated yields of crops growing in the

1953 SOVIET BUDGET STRESSES NATIONAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL AND CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

REPORTING on the 1953 budget to the Supreme Soviet, Minister of Finance A. G. Zverev listed 543,300,000,000 rubles for receipts and 530,500,000,000 for expenditures, with a favorable balance of 12,800,000,000 rubles. The 1952 figures were respectively 497,700,000,000, 460,200,000,000 and a favorable balance of 37,500,000,000. The 1951 figures: 470,300,000,000, 443,000,000,000 and a favorable balance of 27,300,000,000.

The budgetary expenditures this year are 15.3 per cent above last year. Expenditures for the national economy is listed at 192,500,000,000 rubles, which is an increase of 7.7 per cent over last year. Expenditures for social and cultural measures are 129,800,000,000 rubles—an increase of 5.7 per cent over last year. Expenditures on defense decline 3 per cent compared with last year, and amount to 110,200,000,000 rubles. This is about 20 per cent of the total estimated expenditures; last year it was about 23 per cent. Expenditures on state administration are reduced this year by six and a half billion rubles.

fields rather than of the actual amount stored in barns. Production must be further developed of industrial crops, primarily cotton, flax, sugar beet and oilbearing crops.

In order to achieve within the next two or three years an abundance of food for the population and raw material for industry, the government and the party had decided on a number of major steps to increase the economic interest of collective and state farmers in lagging branches of agriculture. While continuing the policy of price reductions for the population, prices paid by the Government to collective farms and farmers for obligatory deliveries of meat, milk, wool, potatoes and vegetables would be increased. In addition the state would organize large-scale purchases of surpluses of grain, vegetables, potatoes, meat, milk and other agricultural products at increased prices and give large-scale assistance to the further development of collec-

tive farm trade through collective farm markets and the consumers' cooperative system.

Premier Malenkov said it was also necessary to improve an incorrect attitude that had developed toward the farmsteads operated by collective farmers to meet personal requirements which the communal economy of the collective farms is not yet in a position to satisfy fully. Defects in the taxation policy for these private plots had led to a decline in the collective farmers' income from them, and a reduction in the number of personally owned cattle, particularly cows.

The government and the party had therefore decided to reduce by about half the monetary tax on all such farmsteads, and to forgive entirely unpaid back taxes, and at the same time to increase the price for obligatory deliveries to the state of livestock products, potatoes and vegetables from such farmsteads.

Further measures outlined by

Malenkov to increase the yields of all agricultural crops and improve the livestock situation included further mechanization and electrification of agriculture, an increase of mineral fertilizers, better agronomic and zootechnical assistance, increasing the permanent cadres of skilled socialists and improving the facilities of machine and tractor stations.

More Retail Trade

In connection with the rise in consumer goods and agricultural production, Malenkov detailed a series of measures for improving retail trade through the further expansion of the existing wide network of state and cooperative shops and collective farm markets. He declared:

Trade under socialism is and will remain for a long time the basic form of distributing consumer goods among members of a socialist society, the basic form by means of which the growing personal needs of the working people will be satisfied.

Describing measures already in effect for increasing the supply and distribution of consumer goods, Malenkov said:

A large number of machine-building plants are taking part in the production of mass consumer goods. As a result of these measures additional goods, worth 32,000,000,000 rubles will enter into trade this year, over and above the 312,000,000,000 rubles originally allocated for sale to the population from April to December, 1953.

At the same time, stocks have been increased of the goods in great demand by the population and notably of cotton, wool and silk fabrics, ready-made clothes, furniture, crockery, kitchen utensils, butter, vege-

table oils, sugar, fish, meat and tinned goods. The sale of top-grade wheat flour has been increased. The sales to the population of lumber and building materials and such industrial goods as cars, motor cycles, bicycles, refrigerators, clocks and watches, television and radio sets and so on are being increased.

The volume of retail trade increased in the first quarter of this year by 7 per cent over the same period of last year, and in the second quarter, by 23 per cent. All this, he said, was still insufficient, and it was necessary to improve distribution so that customers need not go outside of their own towns and districts for certain articles, but that all the necessary goods should be available directly in each locality. He announced that the Five-Year Plan provision to increase state and cooperative retail turnover by 70 per cent over 1950 in 1955, could be achieved a year earlier.

Housing, Health, Schools

The Premier stressed the importance of better housing, health service and schools for the improved well-being of the nation.

While large housing projects have been carried out before the war and especially in the postwar years, there are still acute shortages felt everywhere. This is especially manifest in the towns, since the urban population has grown from 26,000,000 in 1926 to 61,000,000 in 1940, and is now about 80,000,000. While capital investments in housing this year are almost four times what they were in 1940, the plans for housing are not being effectively or completely fulfilled. There are cases of insufficient attention to housing needs of workers in building new

enterprises, and of careless and unfinished construction work. All this must be corrected.

While the building of schools, hospitals and children's establishments is proceeding at a swifter pace than all other types of construction, there are areas where such construction is lagging, and where improvements must be made.

Malenkov discussed very frankly the fact that certain shortcomings in the administrative and economic work of some ministries and local party and government bodies sharply criticized in the decisions of the Nineteenth Party Congress had not yet been overcome. Too little attention is being paid to lowering of production costs and increasing labor productivity. Many coal and timber enterprises are operating at a loss. Building costs are still too high. He declared that reduced pro-

duction costs and increased labor productivity are of decisive importance in improving the material well-being of the Soviet people.

Malenkov said that the merging of some of the ministries had already resulted in greater efficiency of administration and considerable saving, but further improvements were necessary. He concluded this section of his report as follows:

Our national economy is confidently advancing along the road of further upsurge. The source of our strength is the mighty activity and the initiative of workers, collective farmers and intelligentsia. We have enormous possibilities for the implementation of our main task—the maximum satisfaction of the steadily growing material and cultural demands of the people. We are firmly convinced that we shall make great progress in solving these problems in a brief space of time.

ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

MALENKOV hailed recent successes in the direction of easing international tensions and especially the truce in Korea, as bringing joy to the peoples of all the world, and as a victory for the peace-loving forces. Congratulating the Korean people and the Chinese People's Volunteers for its achievement, he continued:

The task now is to secure the reborn peaceful life of the Korean people who have suffered so much and who at the cost of great sacrifice defended their right to decide their own fate, the fate of their country. We, the Soviet people, warmly wish that the life of the glorious Korean people should flourish in conditions of peace. The Soviet Union will help

the Korean people to heal the serious wounds inflicted by war. The Government has decided to allocate immediately 1,000,000,000 rubles for the restoration of the destroyed national economy of Korea.

Referring to recent events in Berlin, Malenkov declared:

The organizers of the Berlin adventure were aiming at far-reaching objects: They intended to strangle the democratic forces of Germany, to destroy the German Democratic Republic, which is a stronghold of the peace-loving elements of the German people, to convert Germany into a militaristic state and to reestablish a hotbed of war in the center of Europe. There is no doubt that had the Soviet Union not shown

steadfastness and firmness in the defense of the interests of peace, the Berlin adventure might have led to quite serious international consequences.

He described the Soviet aim of strengthening relations with neighboring states:

To raise these to the level of genuinely good-neighborly relations is the object toward which we have striven and are striving. The Soviet Union has no territorial claims against any state whatever, including any of the neighboring states. It is the inviolable principle of our foreign policy to respect the national freedom and sovereignty of any country, large or small.

The Premier spoke of the stable basis achieved in Soviet-Iranian relations on the basis of mutual interest in friendship and collaboration, and expressed the hope for the successful conclusion of talks being held on the initiative of the USSR concerning frontier problems and mutual financial claims. He noted the recent agreement on increased trade between the two countries.

He said relations with Afghanistan were stable, characterized by respect for mutual interests, creating favorable conditions for their further consolidation.

The recent statement of the Soviet Government to Turkey, he declared, established the basis for the further development of good neighborly relations, if Turkey desired them, which would serve to strengthen security in the Black Sea area.

Soviet-Finnish economic relations have been extended through the 1950 five-year trade agreement and supplementary agreement for 1952-53,

SOVIET INDUSTRIAL AND CONSUMER GOODS OUTPUT RISES

ANNOUNCING industrial output scheduled for this year and comparing it with production in the pre-war year of 1940, Malenkov gave the Supreme Soviet the following figures:

Total industrial output would be 2.5 time more than in 1940.

Output of steel would be more than 38 million tons, or about double the 1940 production; coal, more than 320 million tons, or 93 per cent more; oil, more than 52 million tons, or nearly 70 per cent more; cement, more than 16 million tons, or about triple the 1940 output; electricity, 133 billion kilowatt-hours, or 2.8 times; chemicals, triple, production of machines and equipment, 3.8 times.

In production of consumer items, the following figures were cited:

Cotton fabrics, 5.3 billion meters, or 34 per cent more than in 1940; woollen textiles, more than 200 million meters, or about 70 per cent more; silk fabrics, more than 400 million meters, or more than 5 times; sugar, 3.6 million tons, or nearly 70 per cent more; butter, 400,000 tons, nearly 80 per cent more than in 1940.

and the treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between the Soviet Union and Finland is mutually advantageous and promotes the peace and security of Northern Europe.

On Israel, Malenkov declared:

Striving to ease the general tensions, the Soviet Government agreed

to restore diplomatic relations with the State of Israel. It took thereby into consideration the pledge of the Government of Israel that Israel will have no part in any alliance or agreement pursuing aggressive aims against the Soviet Union. We consider that the restoration of diplomatic relations will promote cooperation between the two states.

He denied allegations in foreign papers that this would mean a weakening of Soviet relations with Arab states: the policy would be rather toward strengthening of friendly cooperation. He expressed the hope that resumption of the exchange of envoys with Yugoslavia and Greece would lead to a normalization of relations.

Malenkov saw no objective reasons to hinder improvement of relations with Italy. Italian industry would benefit by improved economic relations, supplies of coal and grain could be furnished by the USSR on mutually profitable terms, helping to improve the living standards of the Italian people.

The Korean truce has aroused the hopes of all peoples for the strengthening of peace and security in the Far East, giving immediate significance to the task of creating more normal relations among all states in that area, and particularly with Japan. A serious obstacle to this is the U.S. policy of suppressing the national independence of Japan and turning it into her own military place d'armes, in violation of wartime Allied agreements. Healthy forces in Japan increasingly recognize the necessity of winning back national independence as the only way to insure peaceful development for their country and the completely attainable economic relations with neighboring states. Steps in this

direction will have the sympathy and support of the Soviet Union and all peaceloving peoples.

Malenkov stressed the great significance of the position of India for the strengthening of peace in the Far East:

To the efforts of peace-loving countries aimed at ending the war in Korea, India made a considerable contribution. Our relations with India are being consolidated. Cultural and economic ties are growing. We hope that in the future relations between India and the Soviet Union will become still closer and will develop along lines of friendly cooperation.

The Soviet Union also attributes great importance to the successful development of all types of relations with Pakistan.

The consistent policy of the Soviet Union in extending economic relations with all countries is indicated by the increasing number of states with which the USSR has trade relations, and the growing volume of goods exchanged with countries in the West and East:

Trade agreements have been concluded with France, Finland, Iran, Denmark, Greece, Norway, Sweden, Argentina and Iceland and a payments agreement with Egypt. Negotiations with a number of other states are proceeding successfully. We intend with still greater insistence to pursue the line of developing goods exchange between the Soviet Union and foreign states.

Referring to the understandable striving of business circles in a number of countries to remove the present discriminatory measures restricting international trade, Malenkov called the restoration of normal trade relations long overdue.

He spoke of the special importance attached by the Soviet Union to Soviet ties with the Chinese People's Republic, characterized by "a great and indestructible friendship"; to all-round cooperation between the Soviet Union and Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Albania, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Korean People's Democratic Republic and the German Democratic Republic. Contrary to the situation in the imperialist camp, there are no contradictions and strife in the relations between these countries which draw their strength from the mutuality of their interests.

The Outlook for Peace

On the world outlook for peace, Malenkov declared:

The active and single-minded struggle of the Soviet Union and the whole democratic camp for peace has produced definite results. A certain change in international conditions is apparent. After a long period of increasing tension a certain relaxation in the international atmosphere has become palpable for the first time in the postwar years. Hundreds of millions of people feel increasing hope that it is possible to find a way to settle controversial and outstanding questions.

At the same time he warned that it is impossible to overlook the counter-efforts of those trying to block this tendency as exemplified in the dragging out of the Korean truce talks, the establishment of West Germany and Japan as military bases, the organizing of provocations against the countries of the democratic camp and the policy of atomic blackmail. This he attributed

to the fear of aggressive circles, fear for the loss of their fabulous profits should the lessening of international tensions reduce the armaments race; their fear that a realization on the part of millions of people that the North Atlantic bloc, allegedly established for defense is in itself the main threat of peace, would mean its disintegration. He declared:

The history of international relations has never witnessed wrecking activities on such a scale, such crude interference in the internal affairs, such systematic international provocations as are now being carried out by aggressive forces. Things have gone so far that certain American circles have raised to the level of Government policy undermining activities against the lawful Government of sovereign countries.

For this purpose the United States budget allocates huge sums for recruiting among the dregs of society diversionist gangs which are being introduced into the democratic countries for wrecking activities. For this purpose a network of Government organizations has been created which carries out one international provocation after another, engages in propaganda of the cult of force and hatred towards peace-loving countries.

He noted that the recent report of the U.S. Psychological Warfare Committee found only in an intensification of the cold war the answer to the tasks of American diplomacy, U.S. trade and economic activities and cultural relations.

This policy, he said, was even extended to a chess match, when the Soviet chess players who were invited to America as guests were refused the opportunity to relax at the summer home of the Soviet UN representatives twelve miles from New York.

SOVIET AGRICULTURAL TAXES REDUCED

A NEW, considerably reduced agricultural tax was presented to the Supreme Soviet along with the 1953 budget. Total agricultural taxes for 1953 are being lowered by 4,137,000,000 rubles, or 43 per cent below 1952. The agricultural tax in 1954 will be some 60 per cent lower than 1952.

Referring to the fact that thousands of foreign guests including Americans, are travelling thousands of miles up and down the Soviet Union, he asked: "Who after this dares to speak about an iron curtain in the Soviet Union?"

Some officials across the ocean, said Malenkov, attributed the Soviet Union's efforts to ease international tensions as a sign of weakness. He reminded them:

There is, of course, nothing new in this "philosophy." The world has not yet had time to forget that it was none other than Hitler who banking precisely on the foolish notion that the Soviet Union is allegedly a "colossus with feet of clay" launched his criminal adventure against our country. Everyone knows that this brought about the complete collapse of German fascism.

He declared that no clear-thinking person would deny that the position of the Soviet Union is in fact more stable than ever before; that even the USSR's bitterest enemies has to admit the substantial upsurge in Soviet economy, culture and people's well being since the end of the war. Declaring that never before had the unity of Soviet society been

so strong, he said that the unmasking of Beria, the enemy of the people and agent of imperialism, could in no way be regarded as evidence of the weakening of the Soviet state, since he had been rendered harmless.

Recalling the previous shattering of the illusion of United States monopoly in the production of the atom bomb, Malenkov announced:

The trans-Atlantic enemies of peace have of late found a new solace: The United States is in possession of a still more powerful weapon than the atomic bomb and has the monopoly of the hydrogen bomb, if you please. This, evidently, could have been some sort of comfort for them had it been in keeping with reality. But this is not so. The Government deems it necessary to report to the Supreme Soviet that the United States has no monopoly in the production of the hydrogen bomb either.

In reply to the statements by Senator Wiley, State Department representatives and others that the Soviet Union should be presented with ultimatum demands supported by force, Malenkov quoted a line from an old Russian fable:

"Oh no, cousin, you've started dancing on the wrong foot."

For Negotiations, Not Force

Branding as a crime before mankind any attempt to replace the present relaxation of international tension by a new intensification of the tension, Malenkov stated once again in plain and forceful terms the basis of Soviet foreign policy:

Soviet foreign policy is clear: The Soviet Union will consistently and firmly pursue the policy of maintaining and consolidating peace; of developing cooperation and trade rela-

tions with all countries that on their part are striving toward the same object; of strengthening the ties of fraternal friendship and solidarity with the great Chinese people and with all the countries of People's Democracy.

We firmly maintain that at the present moment there is no disputable or outstanding issue that could not be settled in a peaceful way on the basis of mutual agreement between the countries concerned. This refers also to those issues under dispute that exist between the U.S.A. and the USSR. We have been and are for peaceful co-existence of the two systems.

Emphasizing that there are no objective grounds for conflict between the United States and the USSR, he said that the interests of both countries as well as international security could best be safeguarded by the development of trade and normal relations between the two countries.

Talks among the Great Powers, he declared, could play an important part in the settlement of international questions, as increasingly recognized in England and other countries. He said that the words of President Eisenhower in his April 16 speech that there is no contro-

SOVIET BUDGET FOR HEALTH AND HOUSING

THE SOVIET budget for 1953 allocates 24,800,000,000 rubles for health and physical culture.

For further improvement of housing for the Soviet people, the 1953 budget allocation this year is more than 25 per cent over the assignment last year for government housing construction.

versial question that cannot be settled if only there is a will to respect the right of other nations could only be welcomed, but that actual American policies contradicted these words, and that if the question of recognizing the rights of all countries is to be taken seriously, the road of negotiations must replace aggressive policies, and the Chinese People's Republic must take her rightful place in the United Nations and in the whole system of international relations.

Malenkov stressed that the particular responsibility of the Great Powers for further easing international tension, is recognized in the United Nations charter. He urged progress in reducing armaments and the banning of atomic and other means of mass destruction, and a change in the attitude of certain countries on the conclusion of a peace pact among the five great powers.

On the question of Germany he said a settlement is possible and necessary on the basis of consideration of the security of all European countries, and especially of Germany's western and eastern neighbors, and at the same time the national interests of the German people themselves. This could not be done by the rebirth of an aggressive militarist Germany as a hot-bed of war in Europe. He said the Soviet Union would make every effort to facilitate the obligation assumed by the Great Powers to preserve Germany's national unity and transform it into a peace-loving democratic State. Whether in its former guise or behind the screen of the European Defense Committee, a militarist Germany is a deadly foe of France and other neighboring states.

Malenkov expressed warm wishes

SOVIET BUDGET FOR EDUCATION

ALLOCATIONS for education in the 1953 Soviet budget total 62,100,000,000 rubles. This will mean increased financing for all education including scientific research institutes. Of this sum, 22,400,000,000 is for universal education, in accordance with plans for completing by the end of the Five-Year Plan the transition from seven-year education to universal intermediate (10-year) education in the capitals

of republics, republic cities, and regional, oblast and large industrial centers.

Number of students in primary, seven-year and intermediate schools is to increase in 1953 by 900,000; while pupils finishing the 10-year schools is to double the number in 1950. The number studying in higher educational institutions in 1953 is to reach 1,527,000, and in technicums, 1,548,000.

that the French people would be successful in their efforts to return to an independent foreign policy which would mean security and regeneration. He recalled the Franco-Soviet agreement of alliance and mutual assistance as an important basis for strengthening European security.

On Austria, he said that a solution could be found if the artificial abridged treaty contradicting existing four-power agreements could be withdrawn, and that a correct solution of the German problem would help solve the Austrian question.

Malenkov made a strong point of the importance to the cause of peace of increasing the authority and role of the United Nations:

Today this international organization is in fact in a state of profound crisis, for it has been reduced to the role of being one of the levers of the North Atlantic bloc. The UN must return to the path which has been determined by its Charter. The direct duty of the UN consists in facilitating the settlement of international problems and excluding the

possibility of aggression on the part of any member state against any other state. The Soviet Government will, in this matter, give its energetic support.

He declared the intention of the Soviet Union to continue to implement its policy of peace:

The Soviet Union intends to attack no one. Aggressive intentions are alien to it. Of this the peoples of all countries can be confident. . .

For the Soviet Government, for the whole of the Soviet people, the cause of strengthening peace and of safeguarding the security of peoples is not a question of tactics and diplomatic maneuvering. This is our general line in the sphere of foreign policy.

At the same time, he said, the Soviet Union must remember its sacred duty steadfastly to strengthen and improve its defenses, and be ready to restrain all types of adventurists and war provocateurs.

Concluding on a note of confidence and strength, Malenkov said that

the Soviet Government enjoys the boundless support of all the Soviet peoples because both its internal and external policies correspond to their needs, and give full scope to their abundant creative powers.

All the open discussion and criticism of shortcomings, he said, were not due to any crisis or economic depression but only for the purpose of raising still higher the socialist economy and improving the people's wellbeing and culture. Unlike the capitalist states, which conceal their true aims and policy, he declared:

... the aims of the Communist Party and the Soviet state are clear and open to all the people. The founder of our party and of the Soviet state, the great Lenin, teaches us that the state is strong through the political consciousness of the masses, that it is strong when the masses know everything, can judge about everything and undertake everything consciously. . . .

The Communist Party and the Soviet Government know where and how to lead the people, because they are guided by the scientific theory of social development—Marxism-Leninism—the banner of which has been raised aloft by our great father and teacher, Lenin, and the continuer of his cause, the great Stalin.

The Soviet state and Communist Party are arming the people on the basis of the Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin teaching with a profound knowledge of the objective laws of the development of society. . . .

The steel-like unity of the party, the guiding role of the party in the state, the strength and might of the Soviet state and the interests of the people are inseparable. The Soviet people can rest assured that the Communist Party and the Government will not spare their strength and labor in the cause of a happy secure and joyous life for all Soviet people. . . .

Malenkov asserted that along with the Soviet Union, the Chinese People's Republic and the countries of People's Democracy are confidently marching forward, engaged in peaceful creative labor, upholding the cause of peace and security of nations, pursuing their own independent foreign policy in keeping with the vital interests of all people, and they will never swerve from this course:

He who does not understand that 800,000,000 people constituting the great family of peoples of the countries belonging to the democratic camp, cannot be compelled to abandon their historic achievements won with their blood and sweat, to abandon their own people's authority and to re-establish the regime of the exploiters, simply places himself in a foolish position. It is clear to the whole world that aggressive forces will not succeed in turning back the course of history.

The whole of mankind, said Malenkov, is indebted to the peoples of the democratic camp for the insurmountable barrier they have placed across the path of those who endeavor to unleash a new world war, and if the peoples are vigilant in preventing the plans of the aggressors, peace will be safeguarded.

Stressing the great prospects before the Soviet people of raising their country to new heights, improved well being and all-round prosperity, Malenkov ended:

The Communist Party, the Soviet Government and the whole Soviet people will devote all their strength to carrying out the historic tasks which are facing us. Our cause is invincible. We shall proceed confidently forward along the path of building a Communist society in our country.

Youth's Parliament of Peace

THE MOMENT their train crossed the border into Rumania, host to the youth of the world for three weeks, the delegates coming from more than one hundred countries to attend the Youth Congress and Festival felt the warmth of their welcome, were surrounded by the affection of the peace-loving people of that democratic republic, who met them at country stations with songs and gifts expressing the rich folk art of the land, and flowers and fruit and wine.

Unity in the broadest possible sense of the word was the keynote of the Third World Congress of the Federation of Democratic Youth—preceding the Great Youth Festival of Culture and Sport—which opened on July 25 in Bucharest, capital of the Rumanian People's Republic. As Jaques Denis of France, Secretary-General, put it in his opening report:

"Here we put the stress not on what is different among us but on what unites us and is essential: the rights of youth, its aspirations to a full and happy life, its will to peace and independence."

This theme of broad unity was first launched weeks before the Congress opened, when youth from European countries taxed themselves to the limit to collect funds to pay the expenses of delegates from lands in Asia and Africa who in many cases had to make long and dangerous journeys to reach the joyful gathering of youth in Bucharest, the largest and

most authoritative youth parliament held any time anywhere.

The theme of unity soared to a tremendous climax on July 27, third day of the Congress, when Hu Yao-pang, leader of the Chinese delegation announced the news of truce in Korea.

The Rumanian writer and dramatist, A. Baranga, describes the great demonstration of joy—solemn and radiantly gay and movingly youthful—that broke loose with the truce announcement:

"For a moment as brief as a heartbeat the sports hall is silent. Then suddenly the hall seems like an ocean at high tide. From thousands of hearts in hundreds of languages comes one and the same word—PEACE!

"The delegates stand and toward the ceiling adorned with the flags of all nations, they wave their scarves and caps, their black velvet fezzes and turbans.

"The human wave pushes me in the direction of the Chinese delegation. Near them are two Italian girls that I had talked to yesterday, Valeria Tudaro and Margarita Bibgini. Valeria, whose hair reflects the sunlight of her native Florence, weeps silently, and a Chinese youth embraces her affectionately attempting to stop her weeping and get her to share the surging joy.

"All eyes turn toward the Koreans who are borne to the rostrum on the arms of Sudanese, Americans, Sov-

iet youths, French, Indonesians, Iraqians, Cubans, Czechoslovakians . . .

"A new shout rises, filling the entire hall: 'Peace in Viet Nam! Peace in Viet Nam!' And the cheering breaks out again.

"The young people clasp hands and the bright line stretches through the hall like a garland of youth. In scores of languages the same melody is taken up, the Song of Democratic Youth. A Panamese near me shouts some incomprehensible words into my ear, I answer him with eyes and hands. He understands. We embrace, and together with some young Chinese men and women, a Scotsman, a Negro woman, we join the dance . . .

"An hour has gone by since the news was learned. Thousands of youth are sending out the message of their gladness and hope and confidence, their ardent wish, pronounced in so many languages but having the same meaning in all—Peace for all the people of the world!"

Taking the floor at a following session an American youth delegate said that the great hope of the youth of the U.S. had been fulfilled—peace in Korea.

Of central importance was the work of the Congress' Committee for the Activity of the Youth in the Colonial and Underdeveloped Countries.

A resolution presented by this Committee and adopted by the Congress pointed out that the activity of youth in these countries had considerably increased in the last few years and it stated that the difficult living conditions of the youth in these colonial lands deserves the attention of youth organizations in all countries..

After six days of the broadest dis-

cussion, the Congress voted on the Congress' appeal for peace and adjourned. Over 1,500 had been present from 106 countries. They included Socialists, Communists, Catholics, radicals, trade unionists, representatives of numerous sports and cultural organizations. There had been 113 speakers representing the greatest variety of organizations and points of view.

And then came the magnificent Fourth World Youth Festival for Friendship and Peace, also held in Bucharest, with its top sports events which included many of the great Olympic stars and at which many new records were established. Its mass athletic exhibitions and its contests in music and the dance, in the theater, writing, poetry, painting, sculpture made it a great historic outpouring of the creative talents of almost every nation of the earth.

Scene of the sports part of the Festival was the big newly-constructed 80,000-seat August 23 Sports Stadium, built by the Rumanian youth in five months.

Eloquently summing up the needs and role of youth, the President of the Presidium of Rumania's Grand National Assembly, Dr. Petru Groza, officially welcomed the young contestants with the words:

"You have come here from all parts of the world. You speak different languages, you wear different garments, you espouse different political, philosophical and religious creeds. But you are all united by a common longing for peace and friendship, by the wish to live your youth happily and to enjoy the beauties of the earth and the treasures of culture, the joys of love and the excitement of sports competitions."

Those Polish Prices

Fact and Fancy

by MARGARET SCHLAUCH

SOMEONE has just sent me an article from the American press—a fantastic sort of article for anyone to read over here—about the supposedly horrendous price structure prevailing in Poland. The title of it is: "To Poles Money Is No Object; It Buys So Little." The author is a certain Dan de Luce, writing for the *Chicago Daily Tribune* of May 18, 1953. If this wild flight of the economic imagination is typical of what friends of People's Poland encounter often in the commercial press, they may quite naturally be somewhat worried, despite healthy scepticism in general about the reporting done there concerning our part of the world. What makes Mr. de Luce's report so disturbing to the average reader is that it's so very specific. He quotes precise figures like \$187

(not, mind you, \$185 or \$190) for a girl's sweater, \$231 for a pair of men's shoes, and — descending to humbler items—60 cents for a bottle of beer. Surely he didn't make those figures up? Being so specific, they must have some foundation?

Well, Mr. de Luce may not have spun them out of his head; he may have done a sort of arithmetic to arrive at them. But the logic of his arithmetic, if not the actual long and short division, amounts to an egregious lie.

What he has done, apparently, is very simple. He has taken real prices (more or less), as met in Polish shops, and quite mechanically translated them into dollar values by dividing them into four, because for purposes of foreign trade the zloty, our unit of exchange, is pegged at the rate of four to a dollar. (Incidentally, this gives residents over here a very cheap rate for sending letters and cables abroad.) The control of currency in relation to some foreign unit, whether pound, ruble or dollar, is nothing new in the history of finance. The Canadian dollar was for some time pegged in relation to the American. The condition does not necessarily have any direct relation to values and purchas-

MARGARET SCHLAUCH known to many Americans as a former Professor at New York University and at Johns Hopkins, is now teaching at Warsaw University where she was recently appointed Director of the English Department. She has recently been commissioned to write a History of English Literature to 1550, to be published first in English so that universities in other people's democracies may use it, and later in Polish.

ing power in the domestic markets concerned.

On the other hand, the control of currency is no hindrance whatsoever to foreign trade. Exchange of goods is carried out by a direct translation of values, goods for goods, through clearing agencies, so that both sides benefit and neither suffers from the money situation. What the control does offer to Poland is protection against the kind of looting of Polish goods and services which occurred before the war, on the part of foreign merchants and tourists, when a dollar spent here could buy something like the equivalent of one-twelfth of a worker's earning power for a month.

It never occurs to us who now earn our livings in Poland to think of wages and prices in relation to the dollar. If you should ask me to give you an idea of the value of a zloty, I should be really baffled for a reply. For some items, the zloty will buy you large amounts of a commodity that may be quite dear in the United States. For others, such as imported articles, it will have a shrunken value. You have to strike a balance. Above all, you have to think of real wages, and real services not the mythical values (for the average citizen) of foreign exchange.

Let me give a few examples. Transportation to work is an item that causes plenty of worry to city dwellers in America. Friends of mine have written me that subway riding in New York has been jumped to 15 cents, or three times as much as it was in 1945. In Polish cities, on the other hand, it is so low as to be quite negligible. Electric trams cost 45 grosz; buses 75 grosz. (A grosz is one-hundredth of a zloty.) When prices on certain consumption articles were raised last January, along

with a general increase in all wages and salaries, urban transportation was left untouched. In effect, that meant a reduction. Moreover, most employed persons carry monthly tickets enabling them to travel as often as they like on the lines taking them to work, at what amounts to a really microscopic rate—practically a gift.

Another example is medicine and medical care. Of course there is still a great shortage of trained personnel and of accommodations, a handicap that won't be entirely surmounted for the better part of another generation, but under the circumstances it seems miraculous to me how much excellent service is extended to the entire working population of Poland, practically free of charge.

My own experience will serve as an example. Towards the end of this spring term, I began to feel the expected results of a hard year, manifested in aching joints, restless sleep and reduced energy. (I haven't been really sick, in the sense of being laid up, since I came to Poland.)

So I armed myself with my hitherto-unused medical insurance booklet, had it stamped at the university bursar's office to show that I'm still employed there, and bright and early next morning I went to the office of our local panel doctor for internal medicine to get an appointment for an examination. This was partly carried out by the physician himself, partly in a laboratory for chemical analysis. When all reports were in, the doctor carefully summarized them, prescribed medicine, and officially ordered me to take a three or four weeks' cure at a spa: bathing in the medicinal waters, drinking them, and soaking my fingers (which had somewhat swollen) in the curative hot mud packs which prove

so amazingly effective for arthritis. None of this procedure cost me a penny. The medicine, purchased at a state-run drugstore, cost me the equivalent of a breakfast roll or an empty beer bottle.

As for the holiday cure itself, I had a choice. That too could have been obtained free or at a very reduced rate, through my trade union. But I took the option of paying my own way, since I wanted to make the cure a pleasure trip at the same time. I had had a bit of a windfall, financially speaking, during the year. I had published one scholarly article and an outline for a language study course, and the fees for these were enough to provide me not only with a new tailor-made winter coat of homespun wool, but also a reserve to pay for the holiday-cure in a tourist home instead of a sanatorium.

The fees for those two publications of mine bring up another interesting sidelight on prices and budgets. One must remember that basic salaries and wages are not the whole story. There are many opportunities to supplement income if one desires. The reconstruction and transformation going on here encourage people to do so, not only for selfish reasons but also as a means of hastening the better future already clearly outlined before us.

Such extra jobs are very well paid. Moreover, I find that in my sort of work, which is typical of many others, I automatically receive fees for academic jobs that in America I did for nothing. In the old days, for instance, I wrote learned articles for imponderable rewards such as prestige, fame, and personal satisfaction, but I received no money for them. Here I am paid, and well paid. The same is true of reports I write about books and articles submitted for pub-

lication by colleagues, special examinations I have to attend, and so on. And there are always chances to do translation and editing on a freelance basis.

It is not only, then, that a "working intellectual" like myself benefits from many free or nearly free services. One must also reckon on the extra sources of income which are attached to all kinds of employment. These elements modify very much the picture which one first receives when one begins to compare wages with some of the individual items of consumption which still are, as a matter of fact, relatively expensive.

But let us return to the prices quoted by Mr. de Luce in his article.

He comes nearest to being fair when he talks about rent. As he himself says, there is strict rent control here, and people normally pay about 5 or 7 per cent of their salaries for this item (rarely 10 or above), instead of the 20 or 30 per cent all too common in American towns. That leaves most of the income for food, clothing and entertainment. The last-named item is really cheap, by any standards. Box-office prices for theaters, concerts and movies, as well as light musical shows, are low to begin with, and when tickets are obtained through trade unions, they cost purely nominal amounts.

That leaves food and clothing. At our present stage of economic development, all families do have to manage these items and plan for them carefully. And there are some special commodities which can be afforded only by families in the upper income groups. (Yes, we do have differences in income groups, as is appropriate at our present stage; but please note that the larger rewards go to people making really outstanding creative contributions to the na-

tion, such as eminent scientists in the Academy, authors of plays, directors of socialized enterprises, etc.) Made-to-order shoes, executed by skilled handicraftsmen still operating their own shops, represent one such item. Myself, I should not dream of ordering a pair of slippers in such a shop, at 1,500 to 2,000 zlotys a pair, but then I never dreamed of buying made-to-order footwear in America either. When and if I finish my History of English Literature to 1550, for which I expect to get a contract in the near future, I may treat myself to some such luxury. [We have received word that Professor Schlauch has been commissioned to write the history—*Editors*] But by then I should not be surprised if the handicraftsmen are organized in the work collective, and the prices will be lowered correspondingly. Meantime, I've bought a pair of cheap, light summer slippers of fabric, with high heels, for less than 200 zlotys. With margarine costing 30 zlotys a kilo (that is, 2.2 pounds), you can see how much or how little one can pay for footwear, in terms of purchasing power.

In matters of food too it is quite easy to give a false impression even when you quote actual prices and relate them to salaries and wages (instead of the unreal value in foreign dollars). Here again all sorts of factors enter in. At a given time eggs may be more or less dear (they cost about a zloty a piece now), or meat, or sugar, or anything else. Sugar, by the way, has come down a zloty a kilo just when the demand by housewives is at its height—a good sign for the beet crop! Even when prices are higher, as in the winter, many places of work and schools serve good hot meals for a few zlotys each, and there are in-

creasing numbers of cheap self-service restaurants in all the towns.

About Mr. de Luce's 60-cent beer—an item which has personal interest for me, since I like the mild amber-colored variety as a beverage in the summer months—let me give the straight facts. The Polish price is two zlotys for a bottle containing about three glasses. The price of a pound of bread runs from two to two and a half zlotys, depending on quality. Beer, it seems, is not at all a treat on the level of a martini cocktail. It is widely consumed by workers with their lunches, or between shifts on the job: a truly popular beverage.

Poland, it must be remembered, has a restricted area and a fairly uniform climate. It has no California to produce fruits and vegetables for it all the year round, and so supplies and prices on these things depend much more on seasons than in the large and variegated United States. When strawberries, cherries and plums are in season, everyone revels in an abundance of the most delicious, sun-ripened fruit you can imagine. Each type begins by being expensive and ends by being cheap enough for real mass consumption. In the autumn we can count on a month of pure delight as the purple-and-chartreuse flood of Bulgarian grapes rolls in, and Bulgarian apples supplement the domestic product at popular prices.

But for citrus fruit we have to go farther afield, and it reaches us as the result of special trade agreements with countries like Palestine. Several times during the winter—always, by the way, at Christmas season—the shops are aglow with heaps of oranges, lemons and grapefruits. They are dear, of course: to people accustomed to supplies from

Florida and California they may seem startlingly dear. But — everyone, practically, manages to buy them. Everyone feels that this extravagance is no extravagance. Here is one of the places where the great savings on other items like rent and medical care give people a sense that a spree of citrus fruit is very much in order when a good opportunity arises.

Cotton goods are still relatively high, too. Again, we must recall that Poland has no Dixieland within her borders. But this spring I bought two and a quarter yards of a sturdy attractive print and made myself a skirt of it, since widely admired, which cost something less than 50 zlotys. On the basis of beer and bread I make that between three and four dollars—quite out of line with the ordinary poplin shirt which Mr. de Luce quotes at \$60!

The final thing to remember is that with really full employment, rising living standards, advancing socialism, and exploitation being reduced to the vanishing point, there is an underlying sense of confidence which changes one's whole attitude to saving. There is no feverish urgency to "save for a rainy day," to provide against future private calamities, such as haunts the most careful citizens under the boom-and-bust cycles of capitalism. Certainly we lay aside sums in the banks (which are very busy indeed, Mr. de Luce to the contrary), or in the old-fashioned kitchen jar, in order to be ready for the new suit or pair of shoes that will be wanted six months

hence. Or we do it to enjoy an extra-pleasant holiday in the time allotted to all working people (usually a month) for rest and recreation, quite aside from paid sick-leaves. All sorts of people, in all sorts of occupations, take part of their vacations in the winter and go off to the mountains for winter sports. This is the favorite fling, for instance, of one of the modestly-paid assistants in my own department. This doesn't sound much like desperation or indifference to cash because it is worthless, as Mr. de Luce would have us believe. We should hardly be doing such things if we paid for bread, meat and butter at the fantastic rates quoted in his article (or if food and similar items took up about 90 per cent of our salaries instead of the normal proportion, as he implies).

No, our American friends need not worry. Our lives are run quite independently of dollars, or of any other unit of foreign exchange, for that matter. And they are being run very well, thank you, on the basis of the national currency in which we are paid.

Just let us rectify the heritage left us by war and fascism, just let us get farther ahead on our path; let the presently obstructive western governments join us in genuine efforts for pacific collaboration—in short, let us get over the next hump in the road of history, and—who knows?—the time may be at hand when we'll be inviting impecunious American friends and relatives to come over and share our abundance of good things, our good way of life.

STORES OPEN LONGER IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW stores have extended their trading hours in accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Domestic and Foreign Trade. Food stores are now open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



These children of Hungarian peasants are taking a three-year course to become agronomists and zootechnicians.

These boys and girls, Young Pioneers, are on an excursion trip to see the sights of Budapest, the Hungarian capital.



In People's H

The greatest change in the Hungarian public has been in the role of the participants in the creation of the new society. They now have the dignity of rulers. In these pages we present the life of the Hungarian people.

Margit Onodi operates a construction site of the Great Stalin Bridge.





Lunchtime. Most large factories have their own nurseries where the working mothers' children are looked after.

ple's Hungary

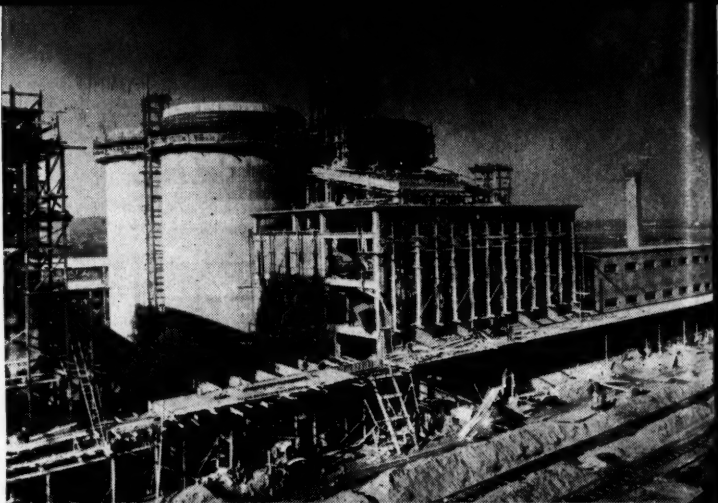
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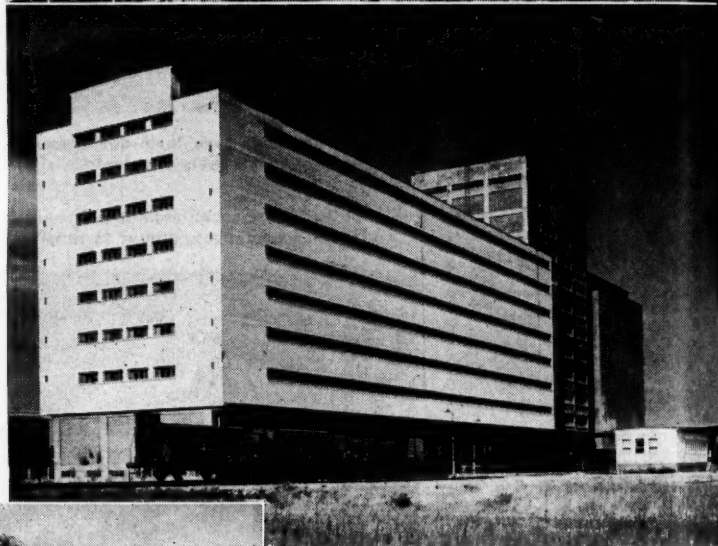
The natural sciences circle in a Pioneer House in Budapest. The House conducts groups to satisfy nearly every hobby.



This new cement plant is near Miskolc, heart of Hungary's industrial center. Having achieved marked gains in industrialization, the government has now entered on a new course of greater attention to consumer goods and higher all-round living standards.



Central Granary at Mezokovesd is one of the large agricultural investments under Hungary's 5-year Development Plan.



Agriculture is being mechanized in Hungary and women are learning skills and assuming responsibilities that were formerly barred to them. These two operate tractors on a cooperative farm.

—All photos by Eastfoto

WHERE POETS ARE IN THE GOVERNMENT

by ELEANOR WHEELER

CULTURAL life in Czechoslovakia is exciting all the year round. In the summer there is the workers' film festival, in the autumn the opera, ballet and drama premiers, in the winter the nation-wide theater contest called "Theater Harvest." But it seems to me that the cultural activity in the spring is the most intense: for then the composers have their annual review of compositions, and the artists' union their showings, after which comes the final round of the "Theater Harvest." At the end of May there is the International Music Festival, and in June the folklore festivals in Brno and in Straznice.

This spring there was a series of readings and appraisals of the works of leading authors in the charming garden of Ledebourg Palace, and there were more chamber music concerts, also held in various lovely gardens, than ever before. Added excitement comes from foreign vis-

itors, such as the Soviet Georgian National Ensemble of Songs and Dances, the Korean Army Art Ensemble, and youth groups such as the one from Maxhutzen in the German Democratic Republic.

This is all in addition to the usual rich fare in drama, concerts and operas, for there are now 63 permanent theaters and operas in the country, compared with 18 in 1937, and 87 per cent more cinemas today than in that year.

There is an element common to all phases of Czechoslovak culture today, and that is the insistence that it be directed to the general public and not be the private amusement of the artist. And there is general agreement that culture should be soundly based on national traditions, should be on the side of the people, and should reflect reality.

There is no one name in Czechoslovak culture which expresses these trends and ideas better than that of Zdanek Nejedly, Deputy Prime Minister and former Minister of Education, whose 75th birthday occurred in February and is being celebrated throughout this year. Dr. Nejedly started his academic career as a musician and musicologist. His early

ELEANOR WHEELER and her husband, George, who was formerly in Government service in Washington and then in the military Government in Berlin, have been living in Czechoslovakia with their children since 1947.

championing of Smetana as closer to the folk idiom than Dvorak is remembered as turbulent and effective. Just as vehemently he took the side of Jirasek, historical writer who chose to depict the militant Hussite period in order to call on the Czechs and Slovaks to resist Austrian and Hungarian oppression. As the late President Gottwald said, it is precisely because Nejedly was always concerned with the progressive national traditions, always brought out the significance of the Hussite period of rebellion and demanded that culture be close to the people, that he later worked with the Communist Party and then became a member. His course of development was as progressive and direct as the development of Czechoslovak culture, and the one is integrally woven into the other.

One can see the development of Czechoslovak culture in Nejedly's own struggle against the decadent and the morbid in cultural life, leading to his later influence in building the realist and optimistic culture of people's democratic Czechoslovakia.

Another cultural figure of great importance is President Antonin Zapotocky himself. In this he is continuing the Gottwald tradition, for Klement Gottwald was a noted political writer and publicist and patron of the arts. Zapotocky's many years as a leftwing publicist proved a good schooling for success as a novelist, and his work as an ornamental stone cutter and in workers' art groups laid the basis for his present constant interest in the creative arts. His three very popular novels, strongly autobiographical and laid in the industrial town of Kladno, demonstrate what literary critics such as Dr. Nejedly mean when they call for truthful portrayal linked

with high literary form which grows naturally out of the content.

Thus Zapotocky, Nejedly and the late Klement Gottwald have had a strong influence on the course of cultural development in Czechoslovakia. With them, among others, worked one of the great Czech literary critics, Julius Fucik, whose staunch convictions led him to write in prison his "Report from the Gallows."

Learning what these leading figures have stood for, one can understand the trend and structure of Czechoslovak culture today. One element is the mass character of culture, for which the great cultural leaders always struggled. It is not a question of "bringing art to the people," but of art and culture being an integral part of the people's lives. Art exhibitions and art classes in the factories, drama groups which have an annual amateur nationwide contest, dance groups, young people's singing groups. This last we are particularly interested in, since our oldest son who has been an apprentice in the Kladno steel mills for two years has been a member of such a group and we can see how it works. Their repertory includes classics, folk songs, modern songs about "building socialism" and humorous pieces. They even appeared as a chorus in a full-fledged play. It is interesting to note, as an indication of the broad base for culture, that a small mining town like Kladno has a permanent theater to which the apprentices have free admission two days a week.

This broad participation—15,000 amateur song and dance groups trained for the Brno competition this last June—not only gives the general public the possibility of understanding culture, but of participating in it, making their lives richer and happier. When President Zapotocky

visited the Brno folk festival he warned against the dangers of developing "semi-pro" jealousies among amateur groups, against the performances becoming an end in themselves.

"People's creative culture groups," he said, "should give a moment of relaxation in joyful entertainment, should refresh and enrich our entire life with new cultural experiences and should raise from the chasm of neglect the immense treasures of the national artistic creations of the broad masses of the working people in town and country."

State Prize laureate Disman's radio recitation and song ensemble (to which our fourteen-year-old daughter belongs) has the requirement that work in the radio group must not have a bad effect on school work. Everywhere in amateur groups the emphasis is on a rounded development and guarding against "stage-struck" tendencies, although in many instances this is hard to avoid because talent scouts do watch the amateur groups to find members for the permanent ensembles.

Although it is mainly the progressive and leftwing cultural figures who have fought for the present broad mass culture, any thinking and patriotic Czech is enthusiastic about it when he compares the alternatives. On the one hand there used to be the bourgeois cynics (and some of them of course carry over into the present) who stressed how small Czechoslovakia is and magnified any ineptitude they could find. On the other hand there are the progressive cultural leaders who proudly bring out the contributions made to world culture by Hus, Komensky (Comenius), Palacky, Smetana, Dvorak, Wolker, Fucik. This was brought home to us when a rath-

er sophisticated music critic said to us breathlessly, "I have just come back from the composers' conference in Brno. Sixty hours of music in a week! Exhausting! Wonderful! Imagine a young composer being able to hear his composition played by a good orchestra in the year it is composed. I never saw anything like it."

Gone is the inferiority complex which sometimes turned inside out and expressed itself in chauvinism among the bourgeoisie. Instead of stressing the small size of Czechoslovakia, cultural events give a feeling of expanse and pulling down of boundaries. The complicated rhythms of the Bulgarian dance group which visited Prague this spring brought fraternal shouts of appreciation from the audience, there were cheers for the exciting, perfect performance of the Red Army Alexandrov Chorus, cheers and tears for the moving Chinese opera "The White-Haired Girl," performed by a Chinese cast, enthusiastic applause for the masterly playing of England's cellist Hooton at the Prague Spring Music Festival. A resident of Czechoslovakia has a warm feeling of the brotherhood of culture and of its limitless possibilities.

But what about "real" culture, "higher culture?" Doesn't it suffer from this insistence that more and more people must have a chance to enjoy the country's culture? No one could assert this who had heard the Smetana quartet or the pianist Pale-nicek. And by giving greater opportunities for worker students to study in music conservatories, a larger reservoir of talent is being opened up, the full effect of which will be felt later.

The new literature is also a continuation of the old. Czechoslovakia is fortunate that the best craftsmen

have always been on the side of progress. This is part of the tradition of struggle for national liberation, but it did not subside in the first republic. Nezval was then also a leading poet (he is now a State Prize laureate and famous for his poem "Song of Peace"); Ivan Olbracht wrote of the oppressed Transcarpathian Ruthenians; Glazarova, who won a State Prize for her "Leningrad" recently, wrote then about the wretchedly poor Beskyd mountain farmers and about the hardships of bourgeois marriage; Marie Majerova was writing about the miners she knew from her working class childhood in Kladno; Fucik was read by the broad sections of the reading public, not just the left wing. Hasek, the creator of the Good Soldier Schweik, fought in the Soviet Red Army and his untimely death in 1923 cut short the literary activity which was to tell of this experience. State Prize laureates Vaclav Rezac and Marie Pujmanova were also prominent writers in the first republic. These and many others are all people who, when the class divisions "ended in irreconcilable conflicts," stood unreservedly on the side of the people and are now continuing their work and helping younger writers in their craft.

Thus the courses for beginning writers, headed and counseled by experienced authors, the system of worker and farmer correspondents for the newspapers, the drama and

music activity of amateur groups and the art and drama and music instruction all give impetus to creative work among the general public. Then outstanding works of art and literature, dramatic and musical performances are given recognition by the awarding of State Prizes which also carry with them substantial sums of money.

The theater fare ranges from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* in the Waldstein gardens to Mozart, Rossini, Tchaikovsky, Smetna and other composers at the Opera, violin sonatas (Purcel, Handel, Smetna) in the Strahov monastery gardens, "Musical Wednesdays" featuring old music at the Maltese Church gardens, magnificent choral and organ music in all the big churches—and then the youth groups preparing for the Bucharest festival (but even here in the midst of "building socialism" songs and old folk songs there is often an aria from Boris Godunov and other classical numbers). Films (open air and in standard movie houses) are Czech historical, musical, comedy films, Soviet films, those from China, the U.S., France, Italy, German Democratic Republic, Rumania—all over.

These few pages cannot begin to cover the subject. Perhaps they will at least serve to make clear that in a country where the President is a man of letters and where poets and historians have cabinet posts, culture flourishes.

WHY KOREA TRUCE MUST BE KEPT

ASKED whether he favored using the atomic bomb in Korea if combat broke out anew, General Mark W. Clark, UN Far East Commander, "replied in deliberate tone":

"If the truce is broken I would favor using any and every weapon at the disposal of our country if we had to start hostilities again."

—Report of news conferences at Pentagon, in the *New York Times*, August 7, 1953.

PAINLESS CHILDBIRTH

China, adopting Soviet methods, is banning the agony that has been accepted for ages as the "normal" lot of all women in birth

by LIM KHA-TI

THE DOUBLE DOORS are being removed from the delivery rooms of Chinese hospitals. The obstetrical wards have been transformed from places of commotion, fear and anguish into tranquil, pleasant rooms where expectant mothers await in peace and calm the painless delivery of their infants. Painless childbirth, which has been promoted in the Soviet Union for some time and is now being introduced in many places in China too, is responsible for this changed atmosphere.

In the past, in China, as in the rest of the world, agony in childbirth was accepted as the normal, the necessary thing. Pain was an inevitable attendant upon childbirth, expectant mothers were told, and it was most unbecoming to make any fuss about it. The act of birth itself was wrapped up in mystery and mysticism.

The first application of the painless birth system in China was made after leading medical workers had read reports on the results of the methods used in the Soviet Union. At the beginning it was tried out in only a few hospitals. But after the first tests proved highly gratifying, the Ministry of Health launched a widespread campaign, in June, 1952, to get the system adopted.

The large cities were the first to respond. In Peking, for instance, a committee for the organization of the program was set up on July 31 of last year.

All public and private hospitals with obstetrical facilities, as well as maternity and child health workers, private practitioners and midwives were urged to adopt the method. Small mobile units were formed to apply it in home deliveries. High officials from the Ministry of Health and noted obstetricians gave speeches and reports to convince the more conservative health workers. Nurses, doctors, hospital personnel and mothers who had benefited from the new method met together and exchanged experiences. The problem was tackled with the same wholehearted, enthusiastic and energetic spirit with which everything is done in the new China.

Painless childbirth cuts through the mysticism which in the past surrounded this entirely natural act, and even hindered medical research for the elimination of pain. The method now practiced in China is based on Pavlov's theory of conditioned reflexes, as applied to obstetrics by the Soviet specialist Dr. I. Z. Velvovsky. It consists of sympathetic physical and psychological preparation of the expectant mother for the

act of childbirth, and close attention during the act of birth. The program of preparation starts during the prenatal period with a series of lectures given by doctors, midwives and nurses to the expectant mothers, in small groups, during the last weeks of pregnancy. The physiological processes of pregnancy and birth are explained in simple language, with diagrams and illustrations.

The great fear of the unknown is thus eliminated from the beginning. The young mothers-to-be are encouraged to put questions which express all their fears and worries, and these are answered patiently and fully by experts on the subject.

The next step is to train expectant mothers to utilize physiological forces while giving birth, by breathing exercises and relaxation techniques. They are hospitalized several days before the beginning of labor so they can familiarize themselves with the hospital routine, the doctors and nurses and so they can feel at home in their new surroundings. Here they continue to practice proper breathing and relaxation under the direction of the doctor and nurse who will attend them when the great moment comes. Further confidence is gained from talks by young mothers who have already had babies by the painless birth technique, in some cases only a few days earlier. The hospital wards are turned into bright home-like rooms, with gay pictures on the walls and a perfectly relaxed atmosphere.

From the time that labor starts, doctors or midwives are on hand all the time, advising on breathing and relaxation, massaging if necessary and explaining exactly what is happening throughout the process.

In Peking from July 7 to September 30, 1952, 1,622 babies were de-

livered by this technique, with complete success in 93.8 per cent of the cases. These results convinced the most skeptical of the health workers and led to a great extension of the painless childbirth system.

The following is a case which is typical of the enormous benefits of the method. This mother, Mrs. Feng Fu-nung told about it herself in the cheerful lying-in ward of one of the Peking hospitals two days after she had given birth to a lovely baby girl. This is her description of what happened.

"I am already forty," she said, "and my husband and I have wanted a child for years. When I found that I was really pregnant, I discussed matters with my neighbors who were all most happy to give me advice. The main theme was that to have a baby for the first time at my age was highly dangerous. I was told my bones had set and would crack, and that things would be most painful and difficult. I got very worried and went to see a doctor. He told me that at my time of life, I must be prepared to have a Caesarian section.

"My first feelings of joy now turned to something like despair. When I first felt the baby's movements my happiness was mixed with fears of extreme labor pains, an operation, fear of my baby being abnormal, of hemorrhage — even of death. At the clinic, I was told so many 'musts' and 'must nots' by the other patients that I got more and more nervous and my health began to suffer.

"Then, one day, my husband and I read an article on painless childbirth in the newspaper. I immediately went to the hospital where we had heard that painless childbirth was being practiced. There was a great crowd of expectant mothers waiting there.

All of them had read the article. The doctor on duty fixed an appointment for each one of us. When mine came around, I joined a group of women expecting about the same time as I was.

"We were directed to a cozy reception room with pictures of fat babies on the wall. There were flowers on the table and tea had been set out for us. Some doctors and nurses came in and asked us to tell them our worries and fears. They explained away all our troubles. After this, we were asked to go back to further classes where the cycle of motherhood from conception to birth was all explained with charts and models. We were taught the breathing and relaxing exercises.

"I went to the hospital a few days before my baby was expected. There were others from 'my group' waiting there too. We spent our days chatting, reading and relaxing and getting to know the hospital. We saw many women who had just had babies by the new method and they took away the last of our doubts.

"Two days before my time, I felt a tightening sensation over my back and abdomen. It didn't seem important enough to mention, as otherwise I felt fine. I went with the others to see a movie in the hospital courtyard. When we came back the tightening sensations were repeated more often so I told the doctor. She examined me quickly and told me I was already halfway through the first stage of labor.

"In the delivery room, she told me to breathe as we had been taught in the classes and this relieved the tightness immediately. She massaged and pressed down on my lower back and this too eased my discomfort. After two hours I was told that the cervix was fully dilated and that I

could start exerting pressure with the contractions to help the delivery. I worked hard just as I had learned in the lessons and the doctor told me my baby's head was visible. A few moments later I was thrilled by my baby's first cry. It is difficult to describe the joy and satisfaction at hearing that first cry. Soon the child I had waited for ten years was nestling in my arms."

This mother, like all those who have benefited from the system, told of the deep satisfaction she derived from consciously taking part in every action of birth.

Another interesting case was that of nurse Lin Yu of the well known Chinese (formerly Peking) Union Medical College. She wrote her story for the college wall newspaper. She had refrained for over eight years from having a second baby due to her terrible experience with the first. While she was carrying her second child, the new method was introduced in the hospital and she helped other women to have babies painlessly and actually assisted in the deliveries. Even so, she said she was haunted until the very last moment by her experience with her first baby and thought that perhaps hers was a "special" case.

"One morning," she wrote, "I noticed some symptoms and Dr. Lien hospitalized me at once. It wasn't until the next day that the rhythmic contractions started. My previous fears proved unjustified, and apart from a feeling of tightness and pressure, there was no pain. On examination it was found that the dilation was well under way, so I was sent to the delivery room. The doctor stayed with me and told me when to do the breathing exercises. After full dilation, I bore down with each contraction and soon my baby was

born. I felt quite well after birth, nothing like the exhausted state I was in after my first delivery."

Many, many similar cases could be quoted. Such stories are now almost routine from mothers who have given birth under the new painless system.

The factors making for the success of this system are threefold. The People's Government backs it fully and the Ministry of Health is active in promoting and organizing it. Hospital administrators and health workers are eager to ensure that painless childbirth is widely practiced. And it meets the fundamental needs of the people who support it most enthusiastically.

Many mothers now enjoy a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment in giving birth that they never felt before. The "bittersweet" of motherhood has now had the bitterness of fear and agony removed. Only under

a people's democracy, where health services and the medical profession are mobilized to serve the people instead of exploiting them, is the broad application of such a method possible. For the present, painless childbirth is being applied mainly in the big towns and cities. But as new health workers are trained and the educational program expanded, the method will be extended more widely in the villages. Already, many village women come in to nearby cities to give birth without pain in the big urban hospitals.

Chinese medical workers and Chinese women hope that the benefits of this method will be available to women all over the world. We believe also that it is only if the battle for peace can be won that medicine can play its full part in serving humanity and developing such boons to mankind as painless childbirth.

—From *China Reconstructs*

HUNGARIAN MINERS' WAGES UP

HUNGARY has decreed wage increases for miners averaging 10 per cent all round. Workers in positions of responsibility received up to 85 per cent bonus when production surpasses 105 per cent of plan. Underground and surface workers operating machines get 15 per cent more than the basic rate. All Hungarian miners receive free work clothes.

MC CARTHYISM ABROAD

WRITING from Bonn, Germany, in his regular column in the *New York Herald-Tribune* of Aug. 5, Stewart Alsop, under the heading "The Reign of Stupidity," begins:

"This city is a peculiarly depressing place, and for a peculiarly American reason."

He cites this illustration:

"There was, for example, the official who happened to step out on his balcony and saw a shadowy figure clambering over the railing. He called in the German couple who serve him and asked who this mysterious intruder might be. They replied calmly that it was doubtless the American secret service fellow who had several times interrogated them about the official's dinner table conversation and other aspects of his private life."

RUMANIA TAKES CARE OF ITS MINORITIES

by STANLEY EVANS

FROM its very beginning the Rumanian People's Republic has been outstanding for its nationalities policy, for its efforts to find the means by which Rumanian, Hungarian, German, and others might live together in amity, working together for the common good. Two pointers to this at a very early date were the promotion of a daily German language paper and the establishment in Cluj of two universities, one Rumanian, one Hungarian, with a common students' union.

It is this policy which was taken a step further last year when Rumania created the first autonomous region in a European New Democracy, the Hungarian Autonomous Region with its capital at Targul-Mures.

Visiting this city last summer, immediately after it had received its autonomy, was an unforgettable experience. The joy with which the news had been received in this solid, hardworking region was in itself a justification of the policy.

REV. STANLEY EVANS was the Editor of the former "New Central European Observer" published in London. He has written extensively on Eastern Europe.

After the liberation, said the Secretary of the Town Council, Maria Winkla, the Workers' Party applied its national policy of full equality and there was a hard fight against chauvinism. The thinking of even the working people had to be changed. So the basis was laid for the creation of the Autonomous Region, the rayons (divisions) of which had already been prepared but which would only become definitive when the Constitution was formally adopted (as it was some weeks later). Hungarian was to be the official language of the Region.

As an Autonomous Region the area has a special statute of functioning of its own which is laid down by the Region itself and approved by the National Assembly. The People's Councils, both for the Region as a whole and for its districts, are elected for two-year periods and are to have more powers of initiative than are enjoyed by the other regions of the Republic. Election to these bodies is, of course, open to all citizens whether they are Hungarian or not and in parts of the Region where the Rumanians are in a majority the leading organs will, naturally, be predominantly Rumanian and Rumanian as well as Hungarian will be an official

language. The 3,000 German inhabitants of the Region have the same rights as the other nationalities. Petitions addressed to public bodies or officials are to be answered in the language in which they are written. It is interesting to notice that other nationalities represented in the area include Jews and Gypsies.

In the past this area of Transylvania has been regarded as an agricultural area to be tempered only with a little wood industry. This idea has now been overthrown, industry is being developed and unemployment has been abolished. There is new afforestation going on and new coal mines have been discovered. Collective farms are springing up and the cooperative movement is growing by leaps and bounds. It is a tribute to the whole development that in 1951 the villages here received five times more industrial goods than in 1948 and agricultural goods were 40 per cent higher than in pre-war. More development is to be made possible by borrowing expert technicians from other parts of the country.

After the war the area inherited 18,000 illiterates. Only Rumanian schools were official and Hungarians got no help. In 1952 there were only 16,000 illiterates and there are many new schools both middle and technical in both Rumanian and Hungarian. There are two Hungarian theaters, a Philharmonic Hall, and many cultural centers as well as libraries of all kinds.

The trade unions of the Region are, of course, a part of the general Confederation of Labor of the Republic.

The town itself reflected the new life that had come to people here much against the will of some of the "bourgeoisie," especially the Rumanian middle-class who did not like

losing their dominance over the Hungarians. Its well-filled shops and bustling people, generally well-dressed, were as fascinating as the attractive town itself, surrounded as it is by low hills and studded with churches. The sports club alongside the River Mures showed another side of the picture as did also the well-filled tent of a traveling circus.

Again the picture was visible in the furniture factory, which has already dwarfed its pre-war predecessor and which was built in 1948, one year ahead of time. Now it has 1,024 workers and is spacious and light with well-protected machinery, some of it completely fool-proof. Much of it comes from Czechoslovakia.

That the factory is alive and critical no one can doubt. A large production chart shows a very satisfactory rising curve, but the curve carries in its back a hammocked and sleeping worker! The next notice board gives some details of ten rather complex innovations in method, all produced by workers. A long meeting had led to the decision that the factory should produce within the stated period not what was prescribed by the plan but 168 per cent of what was prescribed. In fact 198 per cent had been produced. The washrooms and baths again were clean and adequate and on the wall of one of them was a picture: A group of capitalists stood reading the new Constitution, the article which says, "He who does not work, neither shall he eat." "This," the capitalists agreed, "is a real attack on the rights of man."

But then this factory is concerned with the right of the ordinary man to live. So, in the main, it produces utility furniture which is sold at a rate 20 per cent cheaper than pre-war and is sold on time-purchase on

TELEVISION IN MOSCOW

TELEVISION audiences in Moscow have the choice of a rich and varied cultural program that includes plays and operas that are currently offered in the theaters, films that have just been released from the studios and concerts of outstanding musicians direct from the concert halls. The plays, operas and films are not "adapted" to a rigid time format as is usually the case here, but run full length.

In opera T-V audiences last year saw and heard, direct from the Bolshoy Theater, such gems as *Boris Godunov*, *The Queen of Spades*, *Ivan Susanin*, *Eugene Onegin* and *Prince Igor*. Ballets, from the same theater, included *Don Quixote*, *Swan Lake*, *The Flames of Paris*, *Red Poppy* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. Plays from all the leading theaters of the capital, as well as the productions of visiting companies, were televised.

V. Sharoyeva, Director of the Central Television Studio in Moscow, in an article in *Soviet Weekly* published in London, says that last year there were television performances of 147 plays and musical shows, and 127 full length films (in-

cluding 34 of the latest production).

Special children's programs include the best in children's plays (this year 30 from the Moscow children's theaters will be televised), children's films, concerts by professionals and members of children's amateur groups, sports and popular science topics, and special features on the work of writers of children's books and composers of music for children.

Writers and poets reading their own works have proved very popular with adult television audiences.

Under the heading of social and political programs there are newscasts and documentary films.

Sports, too, are very popular and most of the important events are telecast direct from the stadiums where they are held. These programs, however, are not limited to outstanding events but also include the performances of physical culture groups formed by workers of Moscow's factories and members of collective farms nearby.

At present television programs from Moscow are broadcast six days a week, from Leningrad, also six, and from Kiev four times a week.

nine-monthly terms with no interest charges. Whether you buy outright or pay over nine months, the charge is the same.

Seventy-eight of the workers have learned to read and write in the factory evening school.

But if this factory is encouraging, far more encouraging is the medical school, the first university faculty of Targul-Mures, housed in a large and pleasant building which, until the days of the Republic, was an officers'

school. Its turning to the healing of humanity sums up the whole spirit of the new Rumania.

It was in Bucharest that someone remarked that at first a high percentage of Rumanians, even of the left, did not see the necessity for setting up the Hungarian Autonomous Region. "After all," they would say, "it's all one country."

This attitude was overcome. And the result is a great flowering of the human spirit.

Bulgarian Tobacco Town

by BEATRICE KING

FIRST let me convey the greetings of tobacco workers of Plovdiv, Bulgaria, to English-speaking tobacco workers.

Like all towns where some people, in the past, made plenty of money, Plovdiv had its delightful quarters where these people lived, and its slums where the workers who made the money for them, lived. The large Turkish population and the smaller Armenian one lived in narrow streets and alleys that wind upwards almost perpendicularly, as well as in and out, as in a maze. Looking at these hovels, some fronts perched on platforms to get a level floor, you cannot believe that human beings ever lived there. But they did, and they did not have far to go to the beautiful Turkish houses where they served the rich Beys.

The City Council has already completed the plans for rebuilding the slums. The plans are to be started on quite soon as part of the whole re-planning of the city. To doubt that a plan will be carried out, is now

BEATRICE KING, distinguished British educator recently visited Bulgaria as the guest of the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and the Committee for Friendship With Abroad. She is known to our readers through her articles on the Soviet Union and the People's Republics of Eastern Europe.

unheard of among the workers in Bulgaria.

In fact Plovdiv, which is an exceedingly go-ahead city, started building soon after September 9, 1944. Since that date new primary schools, high schools, junior and senior vocational schools, colleges, nurseries, kindergartens, homes for orphan children—I had a wonderful day in one of these—have been set up. A new Turkish school and a new Armenian school in the native language are now a few years old.

That isn't all. The hospital service has been greatly enlarged and health centers opened. The very large, very fine workers' club, with large, pleasant dining room, a library, and rooms for all kinds of activities was also new.

I spent nearly a whole day here in the club's theater that can be used as a cinema and for meetings, watching the finals for the contest of amateur arts of the children of tobacco and other workers and peasants. There were school and youth club choirs, orchestras, brass bands, national dancers, dramatic groups, all good and some wonderful. I thought sadly of the wasted gifts and abilities in other countries of so many of the workers' children for want of opportunity and encouragement.

There seemed to me to be a couple of thousand kids with the inevitable

fond parents. The youngsters went in and out of the place as they pleased; they met in groups in the entrance hall, or in the garden outside. There appeared to be no one in charge of order, nobody about with armbands. Yet there was a delightful orderliness. I had a feeling that all these young people felt themselves free, respected and important, which I expect was the reason that they behaved themselves.

I went several times to the city's National Theater, again a new building, spacious, beautiful and friendly. Each time the audience was chiefly workers and peasants. The City Council had already decided that this theater wasn't large or important enough for their city, and work was to be started soon on a new one and on an opera house.

All over the city one finds new libraries and reading rooms, used to capacity. The workers know that without knowledge they cannot build socialism or practice democracy. Plovdiv has a growing number of courses and evening secondary grammar schools, preparing workers on the job for university and for the leading positions in industry and

government. The whole crew of the train in which I traveled to Dimitrovgrad one morning was on early shift because they were attending evening high school and college.

Almost every day the city's streets were made gay by groups of peasant women in their wonderful and colorful national costumes, come on a visit to a museum, picture gallery or to a conference.

In the evenings, but especially Saturdays and Sundays, the whole of the youth, so it seemed to me, met their friends walking up and down the main street, talking, laughing, and very happy, the girls nicely dressed, the lads a bit varied in their attire. I was much struck to see young people so happy in so simple a way. I watched for a long time and never saw any sex exhibitionism. Hooliganism and gangsterism appeared to be unheard of.

My serious complaint about Plovdiv—its people get up too early! At 5:45 a.m. the loud speaker, just outside my window, would start on a broadcast concert of classical music, and soon the street resounded to the steps of people going to work. They prefer to start early and finish early.

PERLE MESTA IMPRESSED BY USSR

AFTER an extended visit to the Soviet Union, Mrs. Perle Mesta, former U.S. Minister to Luxemburg, declared.

"I have been treated very hospitably and have travelled nearly 10,000 miles, probably more than any other American. They let me go anywhere I wanted, and I felt it was a very worthwhile trip."

Her two dominant impressions of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament), which she attended, were the "multitude of women and the variety of color."

"I was pleasantly surprised," she said according to the *U.P.*, "to see so many women in politics and only wish we had that many in the United States Congress or the British Parliament."

"I've seen many parliaments in many countries, but never anything as colorful as here—so many races, nationalities and costumes."

An Ungrateful Patient

A Short Story

by M. KALINOVSKY

YEGOR MAKARICH had a peculiar way of saying good-by. He would get behind the wheel, light a cigarette and put his hand through the cabin window.

"Good health. We might meet again."

He'd come out with this dubiously hopeful phrase at any parting: whether it was in the desert, to which he had taken our geological expedition, or outside the buffet at Kazandzhik, where he was not averse to dropping in at off-work moments.

We never took his parting seriously; but on this occasion as the truck, crossing dune after dune steadily widened the distance between us, Zhenya Zaitsev muttered: "How the old devil croaks."

We took another look around our new work site—the Yashuly-Kuyu well in the Kara Kum Desert. The dunes, in steep waves, seemed to merge one into the other, colliding in whirlpools of sand. Our ears literally ached with the still silence, but it seemed to us that we could clearly hear that murmur of a vast sea—just before the storm. And, on the far horizon the spurs of the Ust-Urt plateau gleamed, vividly lilac—looking just like inaccessible coastal cliffs.

It was a very familiar view for us. And yet there was something missing.

Meret was the first to hit on it:

"What on earth! There's absolutely no saksaul!"

Meret was right. We could none of

us see a single saksaul shrub on either the dunes or the hollows. We had become very accustomed, even quite fond of this tree, the most tenacious of life in the world. Magnanimously, we forgave it its misshapen, leafless branches, and did not complain at finding no protecting shade under them from the burning Kara Kum sun. And though the saksaul might never be as lyrical as the Russian silver birch, might never aspire to the luxuriousness of the Black Sea palms, nevertheless the sight of those fantastically twisted trunks stretching upwards from the dry, gray-looking sands, gave one even stronger belief in life.

Pyotr Rudakov, chief of our party, answered Meret briefly:

"Percentage of salt in soil at its highest. Extremely interesting!"

It was always like that. With one sentence Pyotr could kill all our lyricism, bringing our abstract musings on to purely utilitarian lines. Nobody could contradict Rudakov, however. He had spent a quarter of a century in Central Asia, and we held it an honor to have him as our leader.

•
WHEN Yegor Makarich's truck had disappeared over the horizon, Rudakov and Meret set off to make a survey, while Zhenya and I busied ourselves with the well.

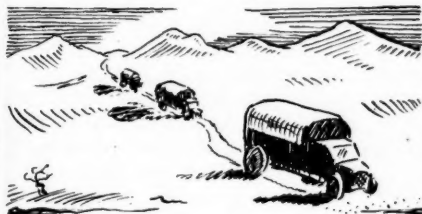
The Yashuly-Kuyu well differed in no way from any other in the Kara

Kum. Its sides were faced with plaitings of saksaul, and it was very deep. We started our work by driving a strong stake into the ground nearby. We secured one end of a stout rope to it, and lowered the other end into the well. Then Zhenya, loaded down with test tubes, slid down into the cool, mysterious depths.

This was our usual routine. Things took place in strict order.

First from the well would come the incredible resonant echo of some cheery song, next the rope in my hand would shudder insistently, and I would haul up a bucket of test tubes containing water samples. A few moments later the rope would become taut, biting into the sand, and then Zaitsev's tousled head would appear. He was in all his multi-hued glory. Greenish slime would usually decorate his ears, trousers would be thick with clay up to the knees, and as for his face! Rudakov's comment on one occasion summed that up excellently: "A complete geological map. All the strata are shown on his face!"

When all the test tubes had been filled with water and the metal containers were packed with soil from the bottom of the well, half the work had been completed. Then all that remained was to check the level of the water in the



well daily and set up a laboratory in the tent, to make the first analyses.

Rudakov and Meret returned at dusk.

Watching my futile attempts to light the ancient primus stove, Meret inquired sarcastically: "Haven't you discovered any natural fuel? The mechanism has let you down—is that it?"

But I wasn't in a jesting mood. We had not used the primus for goodness

knows how long, and now it was throwing out blue tongues of flame, or else with a doleful sigh emitting clouds of acrid smoke. So we had nothing on which to heat our canned food.

Meret slapped me on the shoulders encouragingly.

"Down with the machine! We've found saksaul! Come on. . . ."

The saksaul, it turned out, was growing in a hollow, about half a mile from our tent.

It was the work of only a few moments to break off an armful of crackling branches. Soon a fire was blazing before the tent, and the food hissed appetizingly in the frying pan.

Zaitsev taunted Rudakov: "So, the saksaul has overcome even the highest degree of salinity?" But, puffing at his pipe, Rudakov calmly replied: "The percentage of salt is uneven. Even more interesting!"

AT DAYBREAK we were awakened by a loud shout from Zaitsev. Half asleep, we couldn't quite gather what he was shouting about; but we realized that something serious must be taking place beyond the canvas walls of the tent.

No one felt any wish to be the first out of his sleeping bag, but Rudakov, already stretching out a hand for his pipe, nodded in our direction: "Have a look!"

Meret and I groped our way out of the tent. Regardless of the cold morning, Zaitsev was just in trunks. He was hopping about shouting: "A visitor! We've a visitor!"

A camel lay stretched out near the well. Beneath his faded, dirty-brown wool, his ribs protruded. Every now and again knots of muscle quivered in his skinny neck.

Approaching the camel, Meret attempted to persuade it to rise. The camel moved, tried to get up but immediately collapsed again. His moist dark eyes regarded us sadly and apathetically.

Meret diagnosed: "His legs are bad. Unable to walk."

Zaitsev, still hopping about, bom-

barded Meret with questions: "Where's he come from? How did he get here if he can't walk?"

Meret did not answer immediately. He stroked the camel's head, and the camel somehow, most surprisingly, heaved a sigh, just like a person.

"Abandoned by a caravan. There's a track here. A caravan passed by, the camel was taken ill and they abandoned him. If he recovers he'll find his own way. Camels never lose their way." Meret fell silent, and once again stroked the camel: "He'll soon go on. He'll have a rest, recuperate, and then continue his journey. Let's have the bucket, we'll give him a drink."

No sooner did the leather bucket appear with the water splashing in it, than the camel made a sharp movement, trying to reach it. But Zaitsev remonstrated: "Just lie there! We'll take care of you."

THE CAMEL drank the first bucketful greedily, lowering his head deep in the bucket, and seeming to take the water in without swallowing. After the fifth bucketful, Zaitsev exclaimed with admiration: "What a suction pump—what a pump!"

Meret interrupted his raptures: "Go down to the hollow and get some young saksaul twigs. We'll feed him."

Zaitsev jauntily answered "Aye-aye" and his bare heels twinkled over the sand. Meret shook his head:

"A camel and the desert—so that's considered surprising! A man in trunks running through the desert—that's not considered surprising. What can one make of it, eh?"

Meret was very fond of abstract generalizations in the Eastern manner. True, they didn't always come off, but quite often they sounded most convincing.

The camel, meanwhile, continued to drink. With each bucket his lean sides expanded more and more, his calloused hump continued to rise.

By the time Zaitsev returned with the saksaul, the camel had drunk his seventh bucketful. Meret placed the fresh twigs of saksaul in front of the animal, who

nibbled reluctantly at one, but did not eat.

"He'll peg out."

We all turned around. Pyotr Stepanych Rudakov had come out of the tent. Without removing the pipe from his lips, he repeated: "He'll peg out. If he won't take food, that means it's all over. We'll have the job of digging his grave—though no allowance has been made for labor time for such funerals!"

Zaitsev was the first to blow up: "What a hard-hearted person you are! Meret says that the camel will rest, and then go on. Isn't that right, Meret?"

To our surprise, Meret answered: "Perhaps he won't go anywhere, anymore. Pyotr Stepanych is right: if it won't eat, things are in a bad way."

We breakfasted in silence. The presence of the dying camel weighed on us all, with the exception of Rudakov. Before going off on a survey he checked his observations with those of Meret, who as usual worked, unhurriedly and with confidence.

Rudakov and Meret went off. I measured the level of water in the well, Zaitsev recorded, and stared gloomily into the microscope.

As for the camel, it lay by the well, with its long neck stretched out on the sand. The sun burned more and more strongly, the sands grew hot, but the camel did not move.

How many tons had been carried in his time by this "ship of the desert" which now was foundering? No doubt he had carried tight-packed bales of cotton, bright Turkmenian carpets rolled into tight cylinders, and the driver had hurried him on as he carried heavy low-slung sacks of seed for the spring sowing.

He had seen a great deal in his life of toil.

Somewhere, his brothers were plodding unhurriedly with their cargo, but he would have to stay here, at Yashuly-Kuyu oasis, for ever. . . .

In the tent, Zaitsev's work was obviously not running smoothly. The microscope was continually getting out of focus and he was becoming angry. At last, determinedly pushing the table



with its traveling laboratory away, he declared:

"Let's try him again. At least, let him enjoy himself in his last hours."

I doubted whether the camel could drink any more—after all, it had already taken in seven buckets of water. However, it drank another bucket and a half.

Zaitsev seated himself on the sand and said thoughtfully: "Yes, the camel has no easy life of it. Nor is his death an easy one."

We were silent for a long time. It ended in Zaitsev suddenly setting about me: "All for a camel! And so the work is to stop. Who's going to do it for us?"

Zaitsev took himself off to the tent and sat there till dusk feverishly twisting the ebonite knobs of the microscope.

A day passed. The camel still lived. We gave him water, but as before he would not touch any food.

Regarding the sick animal, Meret sorrowfully shook his head. Zaitsev hardly tore himself away from the microscope, while Rudakov demonstratively displayed his indifference. It was as though he did not notice the camel and when entering the tent he tried not to look in its direction.

ON THE SECOND day Yegor Makarich arrived from expedition headquarters. He brought us fresh foodstuffs, letters and new instructions for work.

Straightaway Yegor took a lively interest in the camel. Squatting in front of him, he inquired with concern: "So your engine's worn out? Calling for repairs?"

Naturally the camel did not answer, but Rudakov interjected his usual comment: "He's pegging out."

Yegor Makarich lit a cigarette, pondering deeply. He circled the camel, then came out with a suggestion: "What if we were to load him on the truck? I'd take him to the collective farm, they've a veterinary center there. They might be able to cure him!"

Rudakov snorted disdainfully, while Zaitsev said abruptly: "You're not taking him anywhere. He'll recover here!"

There seemed to be a new, confident note in Zaitsev's statement. We cast a glance at him, then carried on with unloading the truck.

The next morning I noticed that when he had watered the camel, Zaitsev noted down the number of bucketfuls. I asked why; but he hastily put his notebook away and muttered: "Ever since I was a child I've liked keeping count."

In the evening the camel ate five saksaul twigs. When I told Rudakov, he emitted a cloud of makhorka smoke and pronounced calmly: "No matter. You still won't get out of the funeral duties."

However, the camel started eating armfuls of fresh saksaul twigs, began to lift his pensive head more and more

frequently, and Meret gave expression to his surprise: "Miracles! He is recovering!"

What bothered me most was Zaitsev's mysterious expression. I had never before seen him so serious and concentrating so deeply. He wouldn't let me go near the camel, but fetched all the water himself, collected the saksaul himself, and then sat bent over the laboratory table for long periods at a time.

One day I entered the tent, and then froze to the spot in astonishment. Zaitsev was calmly pouring flour from our food stores into the bucket. Catching sight of me, he became momentarily embarrassed. Then, without a word, he carried the bucket out of the tent, added water and placed it before the camel.

His actions were so deliberate that I could only observe mildly that if Rudakov were to hear about the flour. . . .

Breathless with emotion Zaitsev shouted: "Well let him. Let him institute proceedings, but I am right, do you understand. I am right!" Then, more calmly, he added: "You haven't the slightest idea how important it is for the camel to recover."

After that, no longer fearing my presence, Zaitsev every day fed the camel a mash of flour. Willy-nilly, I became a silent accomplice in this misappropriation of the foodstuffs.

AFTER a fortnight the camel rose to his feet.

One morning on leaving the tent we saw him standing fairly firmly by the well, only his forelegs trembling slightly.

Meret let out a whistle: "What price the body!"

Trying to conceal his joy Zaitsev attempted an indifferent shrug: "There's nothing surprising in it. It couldn't be otherwise."

Rudakov did not say a word. He just looked at Zaitsev suspiciously, then hurried Meret off for surveying.

In the evening the storm broke. Rudakov was washing in the bucket in which Zaitsev had mixed the camel's flour. The bucket, it seems, had not been

washed out properly. On entering the tent, Rudakov felt at the floursack and asked grimly: "Perhaps you tried feeding him semolina pudding?"

There was a moment's silence. Meret glanced in bewilderment first at me, then at Zaitsev, while the expression on Rudakov's face did not bode anyone well.

Suddenly Zaitsev rushed to the laboratory table, seized a sheet of analysis and thrust it at Rudakov. Rudakov took the sheet, ran his eyes over it, then blinked: "Impossible!"

But Zaitsev burst into speech, rushing up and down the tent waving his arms:

"Indeed not, my dear Pyotr Stepanych. The Yashuly-Kuyu well contains salts which are beneficial in treating diseases of the bone. It's a spa, not a well—don't you realize?"

But Rudakov was no longer listening to Zaitsev. Muttering to himself, he unrolled his geological map and then dashed up to the camel.

The camel stood, tall and immobile, trustfully stretching his head towards Rudakov, who took another look at the map, then back at the camel.

He gave it a caressing slap: "Generally speaking I have no objections whatever to camels. Only they've caused me a lot of trouble. The times I've failed to fulfill the geological survey plan because of camels! You hasten and hasten, then all of a sudden, down they lie in the middle of the desert—and wait, if you please. But the head of the Geological Department doesn't take the camel's character into account. He reprimanded me. . . ."

Rudakov fell silent and then announced firmly: "All the flour is to go for the diet. Since it's a spa, then the spa diet has to be observed."

Meret suggested: "We'll put in our report: 'We recommend that a spa for sufferers from diseases of the bone be set up at Yashuly-Kuyu.'"

"Well, it might not be advisable to write so definitely, but we'll send the analyses. They'll soon make them out."

Rudakov fumbled in his pocket for his pipe, filled it with makhorka, and

looking merrily at Zaitsev, asked: "Why the silence, chief discoverer?"

Zaitsev wanted to say something weighty and impressive but instead he came out with: "I'll settle for the flour after I've got my pay, honestly. . . ."

Rudakov exclaimed crossly: "Don't be so petty, Zaitsev!"

We were a long time getting off to sleep that night. We lay in the tent, talking and imagining. Rather, we did not even imagine, but were firmly confident that in five years time a canal would cross the Kara Kum, and on its bank, near the Yashuly-Kuyu oasis, there would indeed be erected the bright building of a spa.

Outside the tent the desert night lived its life.

Barely audible, we could just hear the streams of sand blowing up on the dunes, while every now and again we could hear the camel as it chewed his saksaul twigs.

HE LEFT US a month later. He went at dawn, unexpectedly, and we were barely in time to see him, head raised proudly, slowly moving his legs, advancing firmly along the caravan route.

Meret followed the camel with his eyes for a long time and sighed: "He didn't even thank us. And no one will ever know where he was cured."

Zaitsev smiled silently. He had tied a plywood board round the camel's neck, on which he had written in indelible pencil: "Just completed a course of treatment at the Yashuly-Kuyu Spa."

(From *Soviet Weekly*, London)



USSR MARKS TOLSTOY ANNIVERSARY

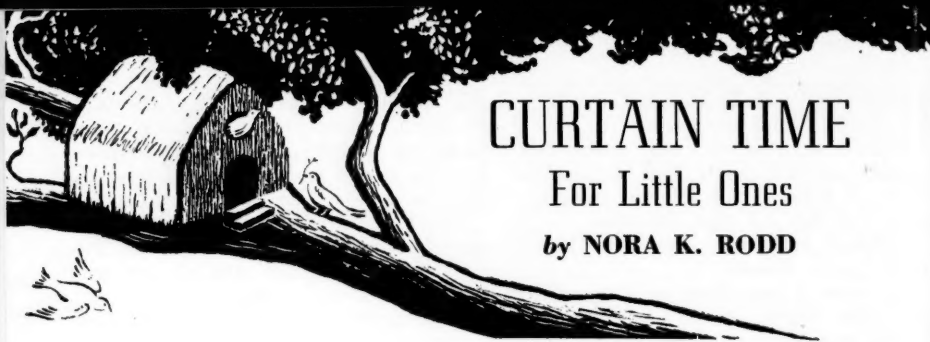
UNDER the auspices of the Union of Soviet Writers the USSR this year is marking the 125th anniversary of the birth of Leo Tolstoy with special meetings and the publication of special editions of the great Russian writer's works. This year Tolstoy's works will be published in 30 languages and issued in all the Union Republics in editions totally more than 8,000,000 copies.

Tolstoy literary evenings and meetings will be held in Palaces and House of Culture and workers clubs—the total number of such meetings throughout the country is expected to exceed 9,000.

The Tolstoy anniversary will be marked by a two-day session of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, and by conferences of the Scientific Council of the Gorky Institute of World Literature and the Institute of Russian Literature.

CHINA BUILDING FIRST AUTO PLANT

THE FIRST automobile factory in China is now under construction in Northeast China. Seventy plants in different parts of the country are supplying building materials and machinery for the new plant and technicians and workers are being drawn in from 30 provinces and cities. Soviet equipment will also assist in the construction of the plant which follows Soviet designs.



CURTAIN TIME

For Little Ones

by NORA K. RODD

Mrs. Nora K. Rodd tells the story of a play she saw in a Mukden, China, nursery. A Canadian church worker, she was chairman of the International Women's Delegation to Korea and China.

SLOWLY the curtain rises. Two little birds, with shining Chinese eyes, peep out of their house-nest in the tree and dance their way down the low tree-trunk path. They are in soft tan silk, their tight caps ending in solid beaks. Wings flutter and tails bob as up and down they come looking for their mother. (A record behind the setting plays the musical accompaniment and carries the sing-song conversation.)

At last she comes, Mother Bird all blue and cream velvet, and how gladly they receive her! They take her parcels; she spreads her wings about them and all three dance up into the tree and are soon pounding and hammering and singing as they work. Next, the children bring in straw, tossing it into the nest, for Mother says it will be cold.

Just now Idle One comes by, swaggering gracefully, and beautiful in her gold and brown velvet; no hammer or straw for this one, but dancing all day long. The little birds sigh. Gathering straw is so uninteresting. But Mother shakes her head. "It will be cold," she warns. "Winter is coming." The gay one waves goodbye and dances on.

Winter comes, and snow-flakes are falling. The winds blow and large

paper leaves tremble on the tree. Mother takes her little ones into the house and closes the door.

But see who comes! Shivering, and weak from hunger, Idle One staggers by and falls. Mother is looking out and comes down with her children to the rescue. They lift the famished bird and help her up to the warm nest. They feed her, and Mother talks to her, but still she is not ready to work and goes limping slowly away.

Again Idle One comes by. She tries to dance, but she is fainter now, and very thin, and the winds are colder; she falls and lies quite still. Will Mother notice her? Ah yes, Mother looks out once more and the little family take up tenderly the Foolish One, carrying her to the snug house in the tree. This time she listens to Mother and wants to work. Once again hammers begin to pound and all in the tree sing merrily.

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