

THE FIFTEEN SOVIET REPUBLICS
TODAY AND TOMORROW

LITHUANIA

Wonderful Deeds Ahead

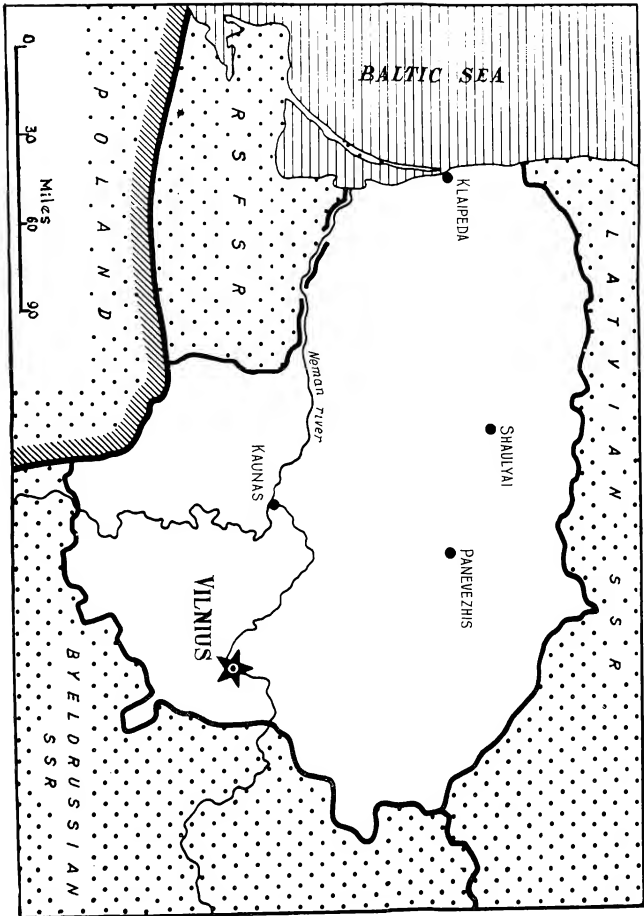


Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic

by

M. Sumauskas

Chairman of the Lithuanian S.S.R.



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A Note on the Author

MOTEYUS SUMAUSKAS was born in 1905 into a family of workers in the city of Kaunas. He started to work as a young lad and was soon engaged in political activities, joining the Communist Party in 1924.

Under the former capitalist régime he was arrested several times for his political activities, and in 1931 he was sentenced to six years' hard labour. In 1939 he was again arrested, and this time sent to a concentration camp.

In 1940, when the Lithuanian working people dismissed the old régime and took political power into their hands, he became a trade union official and a Deputy to the Lithuanian Parliament.

Later he was appointed People's Commissar for Local Industries, and subsequently Vice-Chairman of the Lithuanian Council of People's Commissars.

During the Patriotic War of 1941-45 he took part in the guerilla movement. When the war was over he turned his attention to the tasks of rehabilitation and reconstruction, and worked for a number of years as Chairman of the State Planning Commission.

In 1956 he became Chairman of the Lithuanian Council of Ministers.

Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic

The Land and its People

LITHUANIA is situated on the shores of the Baltic Sea. Its territory is not large, covering an area of 25,350 square miles.

Geographically it is situated between latitudes 53° 54' and 56° 27' N. and longitudes 20° 56' and 26° 51' E. The parallel which crosses our republic passes through Labrador, the Island of Sakhalin, and slightly to the south of Alaska, yet our climate is totally unlike the one prevailing in those regions; it is far milder and very well suited to agricultural pursuits.

We have neither high mountains, deep gorges, nor geysers or volcanoes, yet our delightful hilly landscape, our lakes, of which there are more than 4,000, surrounded by oak copses and pine woods, and the dunes of the Baltic Sea would gladden the eyes of even a well-travelled tourist. Of course everyone loves his native land and thinks it the most beautiful spot on earth.

Our population is relatively small—2,713,000 according to the 1959 census, which, apart from Lithuanians, includes Russian, Byelorussian, Polish, Jewish, Latvian, Tatar, and Karaim nationals.

The loss of human life resulting from the war is felt to this day. In spite of a high birth rate our population is still 167,000 less than before the war. Many perished due to direct military action, while large numbers of Lithuanians were shot by the Nazis or driven off to slave labour.

In spite of the terrible ravages caused by the war, Lithuania is at present a hive of political, economic, and cultural activity. As an equal member of the multi-national Soviet Union, the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic is duly doing its share for the common cause of building a communist society.

Centuries of Struggle

The River Nemunas (Neman) flows with unruffled dignity into the Baltic. But the life of the Lithuanian people, who settled in this area ages ago, has been far from calm or peaceful.

Because of its geographical location our country was repeatedly invaded in the course of two centuries by the Teutonic Knights, who persisted in their "Drang nach Osten" ("Drive to the East") until they were utterly defeated in 1410 by the Lithuanians and other Slavonic tribes in the Battle of Grunwald.

Then Napoleon's troops, and those of Kaiser Wilhelm, followed later by the Nazi hordes, trampled our soil, bringing in their wake untold sufferings and privations to the people. To be able under such circumstances to preserve their statehood and national culture, the Lithuanians had to display an extraordinary degree of staunchness and vitality.

The people's struggle to achieve a better lot never stopped; and then, finally, they won, mainly owing to the efforts of the working class led by the Communists.

In 1918-1919 the rule of landlords and capitalists was overthrown and the Soviet system was established. The working people took over political power and became the masters of their own destiny.

Vincas Kapsukas-Mickevicius became the head of our government.

But with the active assistance of international imperialist forces the local bourgeoisie was able to drown the young Soviet Lithuanian Republic in blood, and to remain in power for another twenty years with the aid of foreign bayonets. Those two decades were one of the darkest periods in the history of the Lithuanian nation.

With the connivance of the Lithuanian capitalists the Polish bourgeois rulers seized the city of Vilnius and the whole surrounding region, and our port of Klaipeda and the surrounding territory was later annexed by Nazi Germany.

While the capitalists were in power our national economy made no progress whatsoever; there was no improvement in the life of the workers, and the country was permanently in the throes of an agrarian crisis.

Foreign interests controlled the lion's share of Lithuania's economy.

Almost all the electric power stations belonged to Belgian concerns; the Swedes controlled the match and part of the paper industry; the Germans controlled part of the paper and pulp industry and almost half of the wood-working factories, as well as the metal-working industry, and certain banks.

The wealth created by the sweat and toil of the Lithuanian people was taken away to other countries. More than 60 per cent of the capital of the joint-stock companies was owned by foreign interests, who annually reaped a net profit of 15 to 16 million Litass.

Economic Stagnation and Decline

The capitalists, who made such a clamour about the "independence" of Lithuania, were in fact fully dependent on the big financial interests who had put them in power, and encouraged the plunder of Lithuania by foreign firms.

Supporters of capitalism attempted to explain Lithuania's backwardness by saying that it had always been an agrarian country, and would always remain so because, they said, the peasant outlook and traditions of the people were opposed to industrial development.

But the lot of the peasants was bitter indeed. Antanas Vienuolis, the classical Lithuanian author, who was well acquainted with the life of ordinary people, wrote: "What was uppermost in the minds of the peasantry some twenty years ago? How to wrest from their meagre soil an extra handful of grain; how to provide clothes and shoes for their children; how to save up for their daughters' dowries; and how to earn a few coins to buy a drop of kerosene or a pinch of salt. . . ."

In those days peasants saved matches by splitting them in two. In the towns every fourth man was always in search of work.

Under these conditions thousands of workers and peasants relentlessly waged a revolutionary struggle to win genuine independence. This struggle culminated in complete victory in 1940, when the people overthrew the capitalist government and established the Soviet system.

Not long ago we were visited by a delegation of Lithuanians who had emigrated to Canada in the old days. Here is what Yuzas Lesevicius, the head of the delegation, had to say:

"We come from peasant stock. Thirty years ago we had to leave Lithuania

—but not because we wanted to. It was sheer economic hardship that drove us abroad in search of a better life. We can see now that Lithuania can feed a far larger number of people, and that everyone in Lithuania is prospering. What we have seen here is a real miracle. . . .”

The present-day Lithuanian industrial workers—assemblymen at the Vilnius computing-machines factory, the setters of steam turbines in Kaunas, the men who make automatic measuring apparatuses, those who are producing drills in automated shops, and the builders of a factory of super-phosphates—all pour scorn on the old theory “that Lithuania’s future depended solely on agriculture”.

But figures are sometimes more convincing than words. In 1958 our republic’s gross industrial output was eight times greater than in 1940. Our country, which formerly was merely an agrarian appendage of the Western capitalist countries, which had to import even scissors and penholders, has now become highly industrialised.

Today, wherever you go, you can see new factories and mills, and numerous construction sites. In all, 102 big industrial enterprises have been built in Soviet times.

Industrialisation

Our people understood that they could not make any headway unless they developed their industry.

Industrialisation, which began in 1941, after Soviet government had been restored, is a signal achievement which lays a firm foundation for the further development of our productive forces.

We are proud that our formerly backward agrarian country has become highly industrialised within a short period of time, and that this has been accomplished in spite of the tremendous damage inflicted by the war. At the same time radical transformations have taken place in town and country.

The construction work we are carrying on presents a wonderful pattern. In all parts of Lithuania, east and west, north and south, in town and country, new factories and blocks of flats are going up, and land reclamation is proceeding on a big scale.

All this is part of a well-concerted plan. Ever since Soviet power has been re-established, construction work has been growing in scope year by year, and the building of a new life is proceeding apace.

Much has been done in the way of industrialisation, but still more is going to be accomplished. Within seven years the gross industrial output of our republic will be 80 per cent higher than in 1958.

Seventy new industrial enterprises will be built during this period—in other words one new factory is scheduled for commissioning almost every month.

Power engineering will develop at a high rate, and so will those branches of industry which came into being a mere ten years ago—machine-tool and instrument-making, and the production of building materials.

By the end of the seven-year programme our industry will be turning out in twenty days as much production as in the whole of 1940.

The overwhelming majority of our engineering and instrument-making factories have been in existence for a short time; they are expanding and making good progress, and their future prospects are splendid. Without

their products, thousands of Soviet industrial enterprises would come to a standstill.

We are very proud of "Zalgiris", the first machine-tool factory ever built in Soviet Lithuania. Its products are exported to China, India, Afghanistan, and many other countries.

At present Lithuania is putting out more metal-cutting lathes per 1,000 population than any capitalist country, big or small.

Machine-tool building is scheduled for another big advance. In addition to the four existing factories, two more are being completed at present.

When the Vilnius specialised works manufacturing drills is producing at full capacity, it will be Europe's biggest enterprise of this type.

More and More Factories

Construction projects envisaged in the Seven-Year Plan are in evidence in every Lithuanian town. A big television equipment factory is under construction in Vilnius; another one for manufacturing electric motors is going up in Kaunas; the "Panevezys" cable factory—the biggest in the Baltic area—which is not yet completed, has recently turned out its first consignment of goods.

The Vilnius factory of computers will be a centre of the most advanced technology and scientific thought. Other enterprises will produce television sets, electro-vacuum equipment, and cameras.

In 1965 the factories built in line with the current Seven-Year Plan will account for 40 per cent of the total engineering and instrument-making output.

The farm machinery industry has made a good start. The designers of the Vilnius "Neris" factory have produced and tested new types of complex threshing machines—the Neris-59 and the Vilnele—which are doing excellent work in local conditions. Other Lithuanian factories are scheduled to put out new types of machines adapted to the soil and climatic conditions of the north-western part of the Soviet Union.

The plan provides for the construction of several factories producing spare parts for motor vehicles, and for the modernisation and specialisation of factories turning out farm machinery, implements and spare parts.

A big plant for the manufacture of machinery for the food, meat and dairy industries, now under construction in Kapsukas, is scheduled for completion in 1963.

In 1965 Lithuania will be producing more bicycles than Italy, while its output per 1,000 population will be much higher than in any capitalist country.

Specialisation and co-ordination of enterprises is the main trend in the machine-tool and instrument-making industry. One of the important targets of the Seven-Year Plan is the building of a group of interdependent electrical engineering works and the utmost co-ordination of production in radio engineering factories.

It is planned to build a number of factories and shops for the manufacture of spare parts, tools, precision castings, as well as other specialised enterprises. This will help to cut down the cost and improve the quality of production.

Electricity and Gas

In respect to *per capita* output and consumption of electric power capitalist Lithuania occupied almost last place in Europe.

Back in the 'thirties, J. Smilgevičius, a Lithuanian engineer, proposed a plan for harnessing the Nemunas—the father of Lithuanian rivers. But this plan never went beyond its blueprint stage. It was carried out only in the Soviet period with the fraternal assistance of the other republics.

In 1960, the second year of the seven-year period, old Nemunas will set in motion all the turbines of the Kaunas hydro-electric plant.

Other power projects provided for in the Plan are the construction of the Jurbarkas hydro-electric station on the Neman and the completion of the first section of the big thermal electric station.

Another important item of the electrification programme is the construction of power transmission lines which will stretch to the remotest rural districts and link the power system of Lithuania with those of Leningrad and its region, Estonia, Latvia and Byelorussia, and the Kaliningrad region, all of them forming a single power grid in the north-west part of the U.S.S.R.

Thus Lithuania, which not so many years ago lagged in this field behind most European countries, will soon be in a position to compete with the world's most developed states.

Peat has been traditionally Lithuania's staple fuel. In the past few years new small modern towns, such as Tyručiai, Ezerelis, and others, have gone up in the vicinity of peat-bogs.

At present peat accounts for about half of the republic's fuel balance, but its reserves are limited; moreover it is not always very convenient to use and is rather costly.

The output of peat in the forthcoming seven years will increase by 36 per cent only. But the production of peat-blocks will go up twelve-times, which will make for higher efficiency.

What is going to replace this local fuel within the forthcoming seven years? The answer is, natural gas.

It will be supplied to Lithuania in 1961 through the pipe-line which is now being laid from Dashava via Minsk, Vilnius and Riga, and will in 1965 enable the republic to forgo some 2,000 big train-loads of coal which are now brought from distant areas.

Prospecting for natural gas and oil on Lithuanian territory is taking place on an increasing scale.

Expanding Chemical Industry

A few years ago scientists were rather timidly suggesting that a chemical industry could be developed in Lithuania. At present several chemical plants are rapidly being built.

The superphosphate factory, now under construction in Kedainiai, can be designated as a real combined chemical plant, for it will be producing not only large volumes of mineral fertiliser but also sulphuric acid and sulphites.

As soon as the acetate rayon factory—one of the Soviet Union's biggest—is operating, the output of beautiful and low-cost fabrics will be substantially increased. This plant will turn out rayon, artificial

leather and fabrics, celluloid, film for the motion-picture industry, and other articles.

A big plastics factory is being built, which will supply various industrial enterprises with plastic spare parts, polyethylene pipes, sanitary equipment, building materials, and consumer goods.

In the near future the chemical industry, one of the newest branches of our republic's economy, will outstrip in volume of production many other industries of longer standing.

The seven-year programme of the chemical industry does not in the least exhaust Lithuania's possibilities in this field, particularly as far as the use of its mineral wealth is concerned. On a vast area there are huge deposits of anhydrite some 200 feet below the surface.

It is planned in the future to build a big plant for the extraction and processing of this material, as well as for using its by-products for the manufacture of sulphuric acid, Portland cement, and natural anhydrite.

Naturally, further industrialisation will boost the economic potential of our republic. Apart from the planned rise in labour productivity and automation, the number of industrial workers in the period under review will increase by more than 20 per cent.

The seven-year programme makes provision for increasing the wages and salaries of industrial and office workers, first of all, of those in the lower income brackets. The monthly minimum wages of that group will be increased by 71 to 85 per cent.

The planned increase in wages and the anticipated rise in the cash incomes of the collective farmers, combined with an annual reduction of retail prices, will create favourable conditions for a sharp expansion in the sale of goods. And that is one of the decisive indices of the rise in the people's welfare.

The material well-being of the people will also improve owing to a further expansion of free medical service, free education (both specialised secondary and higher) and the extension of pensions to a larger section of the population.

Increased Purchasing Power

Under a socialist economy, the rapid growth of industrial and agricultural output never causes any over-production crises. Economic planning on a nation-wide scale and the continuous growth of production ensure a steady rise in the purchasing power of the people.

This leads to a continuous growth of consumption, for with each passing year the people are purchasing larger volumes of consumer goods. This means they are living better, and that, in its turn, leads to a rapid advance in the output of these goods.

The present-day annual *per capita* output of woollen fabrics of 2.9 yards will go up to 3.3 yards in 1965. The output of linen fabrics will increase eight times compared with before the war, and that of knitted wear—twenty-seven times.

We are looking forward to the establishment during the next seven years of a big cotton spinning mill, an acetate rayon factory, the big Panevezys linen textile mill, and several factories for the primary processing of flax.

Our textile products are well known in many countries. The woollen fabrics of our Kaunas "Drobe" factory at the Brussels World Exhibition won a gold medal.

Purchasers come from far and wide to get the products of our fur factories, one of which—the “Giedris”—received at the Brussels Exhibition the highest award, a gold medal with a diploma. The “Verpstas” factory, representing our knitted wear industry, also won a medal there.

Before 1940 there were only two knitted-wear factories in the town of Siauliai. One of them named “Mercury” employed twenty-five operatives, and the other, named the “Elegant”, had a staff of thirty-five.

In 1940 these two enterprises, like all industrial plants in Lithuania, were nationalised, became the property of the people, and subsequently were amalgamated into one enterprise under the name of “Verpstas”.

Since then the joint enterprise has grown tremendously, and its output now is forty times that of 1940, while its staff is ten times bigger.

Its products are in great demand, and were exhibited at the Soviet Exhibition in New York.

Obviously the improvements introduced in this factory could not be the work of any single individual. The credit for it goes to the whole staff. The Party organisation, headed by its secretary, Stase Ezerskiene, a former spinner at the “Mercury”, is imbuing the operatives with a sense of responsibility for the factory’s trade mark.

“Times Have Changed”

Today the “Verpstas” does not look at all like it did in 1940; and, of course, it is a far cry from the tiny enterprises from which it sprang. The workers are different, and so are the working conditions and also the quality of the goods they manufacture.

“Yes, times have changed,” says Prane Simeliene, a former spinner who is now in charge of the warehouses.

“Formerly I could not even imagine working less than ten to twelve hours a day. But now we’re not even satisfied with an eight-hour day. In fact, we’ll soon be going over to the seven-hour day. In the old days I never saw a single worker in this enterprise with a house of his own. Now, many of us have a house.”

The factory staff’s present target is to complete the comprehensive mechanisation of all production processes, to go over to the seven-hour working day, and, by doing excellent work, to win the title of Lithuania’s first Communist work team. This movement has been started by a team of young workers in the sewing shop, headed by Aldona Bartuseviciute.

The exhibition of Lithuanian furniture, which was held early in 1959 in Moscow, attracted a good deal of attention. We are planning to increase our output of furniture, to improve its quality, and reduce prices.

The manufacture of leather and footwear is one of our traditional industries, and there are many people in Vilnius and Siauliai descended from generations of leather workers.

Between the First and Second World Wars this industry shrank considerably, but the skilled craftsmen remained. In Soviet times it began to look up again, and now our factories are turning out ten times as much leather footwear as in 1940.

In 1965, we will be producing four pairs of footwear *per capita*, which is double the present rate.

Food Industry

The food industry, which is a well developed branch of our economy, is scheduled for another very substantial advance.

Meat-packing and dairy products plants will be built in Klaipėda. Other dairy products will be put out by big factories in Kaunas, Siauliai, Panevezys and in the lovely resort of Druskieninki.

Further Seven-Year Plan projects include four cheese and ten butter factories, plants producing dried and condensed milk, tinned vegetables, two factories for manufacturing dried vegetables, a winery, two plants producing fruit juices and mineral waters, and Lithuania's fourth sugar refinery.

The existing meat-packing plants will expand their production of bacon so as to meet not only the home demand, but to have enough for export too.

No one ever heard about a fishing fleet in capitalist Lithuania, for the simple reason that it did not exist. Each fisherman worked on his own.

In 1938, before the Nazis seized Klaipėda, the fish catch totalled 2,600 tons. In 1958 the catch went up to 93,400 tons.

The fishermen now have big trawlers with refrigerating plants, and they regularly sail in the North Atlantic as well as to the shores of Canada and Africa where they are served by big supply ships. Klaipėda is now the port of call of a big fishing fleet; it has an important fish processing industry and shipbuilding yards.

In the next seven years many more fishing vessels will be built and the fish catch will go up 70 per cent. In *per capita* fish catch we will almost equal Japan and outstrip Britain and the U.S.A., although our coastline is only sixty-two miles long.

Fraternal Assistance

The successes scored in our national economy are due to the selfless efforts of the Lithuanian people and the assistance of the fraternal Union republics which send us huge quantities of modern machinery and raw materials.

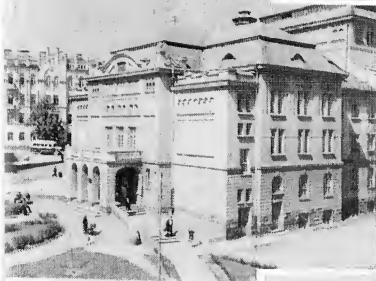
Hundreds of enterprises located in many cities of the U.S.S.R. help to equip our industrial plants. This aid has enabled us to introduce modern technology, mechanise labour-consuming processes, lighten the operatives' work, and raise labour productivity.

In addition to this, other Union republics send Lithuania experienced engineers and technicians who help our young specialists to master new techniques in many branches of industry, while our own engineers and workers are sent to Moscow, Leningrad, Gorky, and other industrial centres to get the benefit of their experience.

The other republics extend us every possible assistance in our vast construction projects by supplying materials and equipment which enables us to mechanise construction work and adopt industrial methods of building.

We also resort to the assistance of the designing organisations of the Union republics, which share with us their experience and know-how. The standard plans and blueprints they supply enable us to build the most up-to-date industrial enterprises.

One of the basic factors in the continuous progress both in industry and agriculture is mechanisation, which is introduced on a big scale thanks to the machines we receive from the Union republics. Our collective and state



Public Buildings in Vilnius, the capital. Left to right—top: The building of the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian S.S.R.; the State Philharmonic; centre: The State Opera House; the Pergale Cinema (1952); bottom: Vilnius Airport; The Art Museum.



*Above: a new school
in Garliavai village,
Panemunsk District.*

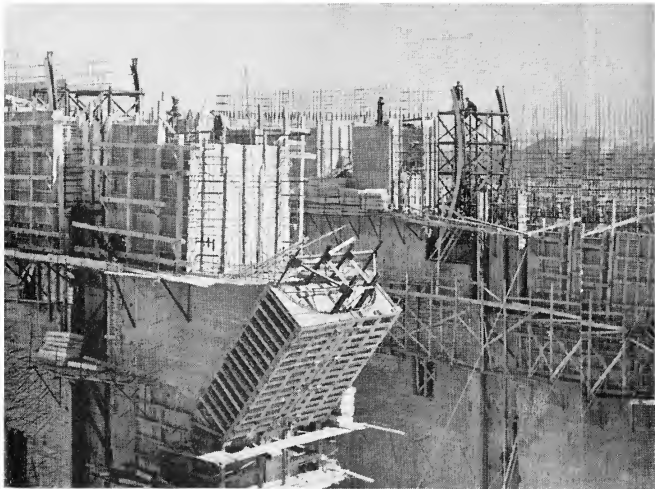


*A drawing lesson in
the kindergarten of
the Vilnius Drill
Factory.*



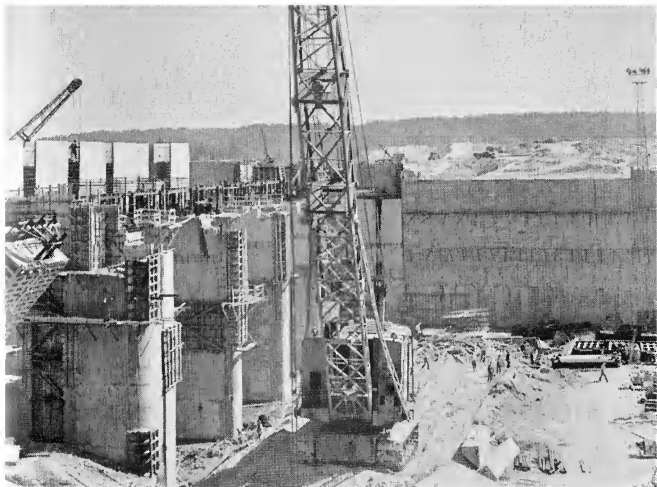
SEA and LAND: Sand-dunes and breakers on the Lithuanian shores of the Baltic. Many fishing co-operatives flourish along this coast. Below: a combine harvester on the Michurin Collective Farm, Kaunas District.





Work proceeds apace on the construction of the Kaunas hydro-electric station.





A general view of Vilnius, the capital city of Lithuania.





The Lithuanian Dance Ensemble in a folk dance called "Pasyutpolka".



The women on the left are winding small electric motors for refrigerators and washing machines at the Elfa Factory, Vilnius.



Above: the trawler quay at the port of Klaipeda.



Right: E. Martinkenas, a junior scientific worker in the ferromagnetic laboratories of the Electrography Scientific Research Institute in Vilnius. He is setting up a diagram to be magnetically reproduced.

The new Spartak swimming pool in Vilnius.



The "Chaika" (Sea gull) Holiday Home in Palanga.

farms are now equipped with modern tractors, grain harvester combines, flax combines, seed drills, potato planters, and many other machines.

We also receive from all over the U.S.S.R. large volumes of consumer goods. The Russian Federation supplies us with television sets, passenger cars, motorcycles, accordions, concertinas, brass-band instruments, rowing and motor boats, and sporting guns.

From the Ukraine we receive motorcycles, typewriters and cameras; from Byelorussia—radio sets, pianos, motorcycles and electric appliances; from Latvia—washing machines, electric bulbs, radio sets and many other items.

Made in Lithuania

In their turn, the working people of our republic strive to contribute to the best of their ability to the further advance of the Soviet economy.

Due to the rapid development of the various branches of our metal-working industry we are able to produce many goods which find a ready market in other republics.

Lithuanian metal-working lathes may be seen in all parts of the Soviet Union; this is also the case with our dyeing equipment, equipment for stores, electric meters, drills, tractor trailing implements, steam-heating boilers, radiators and other products.

Children's bicycles, radio sets, tape recorders, sports equipment, textiles, amber articles, footwear, vacuum cleaners and other articles produced by our factories are in great demand in Siberia, Turkmenia and Kazakhstan.

Our leather footwear goes to the Ukraine, Byelorussia and other republics, and rubber overshoes and boots are sold all over the Soviet Union. Lithuanian woollen and silk fabrics are sold in nine republics; other items that are in great demand include clothing, furs, hosiery and knitted wear.

The construction of the Dashava-Minsk-Vilnius-Riga gas pipeline is an outstanding example of the co-operation and mutual assistance which characterise the relations of the Union republics. The Dashava deposits of natural gas in the Ukraine will supply Lithuania with an excellent, cheap fuel to be used for industrial and utility purposes.

The Lithuanian Economic Area supplies seventeen other economic areas with a wide range of products, including pig iron and steel castings, forgings and stampings. Moreover our enterprises receive directly from factories in twenty-seven economic areas spare parts, machine sections, semi-finished goods, and so on.

At the same time the Lithuanian Economic Area delivers, in line with its plan of industrial co-operation, as well as through direct deals with various enterprises, machine sections, spare parts and complete machines to nine economic areas.

Our factories send compressor sections for excavators to the Vladimir, Leningrad and Kostroma economic areas; sewing-machine tables and radio-set cabinets to the Moscow and Vladimir economic areas' enterprises; bicycle tyres and tool cases to the Lvov Economic Area.

Trading with Thirty-two Countries

Under capitalist rule the export trade was a means of subjugating Lithuania to the political and economic control of foreign monopolies. At

the time agricultural produce accounted in terms of value for 90 per cent of our total exports.

Lithuania's agriculture was entirely dependent on the fluctuating demand of foreign markets, where prices of farm produce were constantly declining while those of manufactured goods were artificially boosted by the big monopolies.

The big landowners and *kulaks** were the only ones who profited from the export of farm products. This kind of export trade made Lithuanian economy entirely dependent on West European monopolies and prevented its development. By threatening to close their markets to Lithuanian products, British and German monopolies compelled our capitalists to accept their terms at the expense of our national interests.

By becoming a constituent republic of the U.S.S.R. and entering upon the path of socialist construction, Lithuania ensured its political independence and created conditions necessary for the rapid development of her economy.

Instead of being as formerly a mere agrarian appendage of the European capitalist countries, she became an industrialised republic with a collective-farm agriculture.

The changes which Lithuanian economy has undergone in Soviet times has affected her exports and imports.

Soviet Lithuania's foreign trade is integrated within the foreign trade of the U.S.S.R., and rests on the firm foundation of state monopoly in this field of activity. Lithuanian foreign trade operations are carried out through the U.S.S.R. export and import agencies.

Whereas before 1940 Lithuania exported mainly farm produce and semi-finished goods, at present she sells abroad manufactured products, including equipment and instruments.

The machine-tool and instrument-making plants which have been built in Soviet times can now set aside part of their output for export; this includes millions of roubles' worth of modern metal-cutting lathes, turbines, compressors, electrical engineering equipment, electric apparatuses, and other products of this type which make up the bulk of our exports.

Our industrial goods are sold to thirty-two countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America; among them are the People's Democracies, Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Cambodia and Burma.

The machines manufactured in Lithuania have been used for equipping a number of new industrial projects in People's China and other People's Democracies, the Bhilai iron and steel works in India, some factories in Iraq and the U.A.R., and other under-developed countries.

Lithuanian industries have also been exporting consumer goods, for example, the "Orlyonok" and "Lastochka" bicycles manufactured by the Siauliai factory. Manufactured consumer goods, which are a new item of export for Lithuania, will be sold abroad in ever-growing volume in the coming years.

It should be mentioned that our republic is continuing to export some of its traditional commodities, namely meat and dairy products, the high quality of which are well known on the world market. In fact, the rising

* Capitalist farmers who derived their income from exploiting wage-labour, combined with trading, pawning, rent from land, and the hiring out of cattle and tools.—Ed.

output of farm produce is now providing a larger margin for exports of livestock products.

It is also planned to resume exports, within certain limits, of other items such as timber. Under the old régime our timber exports in 1937, 1938, and 1939 alone were valued at 73.1 million litas; this led to the predatory destruction of our forests.

The pattern of our imports, too, has changed. We are purchasing abroad certain types of equipment and apparatuses and consumer goods which supplement our own production. Never again shall Lithuania have to import such items as cement, limestone, gypsum, or cut stone, as it did in former days.

Co-op Trade

Consumers' co-operatives, too, are trading with foreign countries, and of late have been particularly active in this field. To carry on this trade the Lithuanian Co-operative Association has set up a special agency. In 1958 it traded with Czechoslovak, Polish, Swedish, G.D.R. and other firms, its turnover reaching some 160 million roubles.

Consumer goods formed the bulk of the imports; it purchased chinaware, motor-cycles, fabrics, knitted wear, ready-made clothes, and footwear from Czechoslovakia; ready-made clothes and textiles from Rumania; accordions and footwear from Italy; and furniture from Hungary. Certain commodities were also imported from Norway, Denmark, Japan, and other countries.

This year Lithuania's foreign trade relations are being further expanded. During the first six months certain goods have been imported from Britain, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Poland, and Hungary.

Our republic is often represented at world fairs and exhibitions. Lithuanian products were exhibited at fairs in Leipzig, Poznan, Budapest, Vienna, and Casablanca, as well as at the Brussels World Exhibition and at the Soviet Exhibition in New York. This year our goods will be exhibited at the fairs to be held in Czechoslovakia, Greece, Yugoslavia, Finland, Turkey, Ceylon, and other countries.

The rapid advance of Lithuania's national economy in the current Seven-Year Plan period offers excellent opportunities for expanding its foreign trade.

Changes in Agriculture

There have been sweeping changes in Lithuanian agriculture. In the past it consisted of several thousand small-holdings on which everything was done by hand or with the help of draught animals.

In those days the peasants did their own spinning and weaving, sewed their own clothes, and made their own boots; few of them had ever seen a tractor or any other farm machine; electricity could not even be thought of either for production or for household purposes.

Now these tiny husbandries have been amalgamated into 2,000 big collective and state farms, equipped with the most up-to-date machinery, and operated by scientific methods.

In the past bourgeois nationalists boasted about Lithuanian agriculture's alleged prosperity, but that was nothing but lies intended for credulous persons. In actual fact in those years our agriculture, far from making any progress, was in decline.

The farms owned by *kulaks* were doing quite well, of course, but this took place at the expense of the middle and poor peasants who were being gradually ruined.

In 1933 there were about 250,000 unemployed in the rural districts, and from 700 to 1,200 farms were sold at auctions.

The Seven-Year Plan of Lithuania's economic development for 1959-1965 sets important tasks before the farmers: first of all, to sharply increase output of livestock products, which is the republic's main branch of agriculture. In 1965 the output of meat will be 70 per cent higher than in 1958, and that of milk 60 per cent higher. In the main this increase will result from the growth of collective and state farm production.

The increase in the commonly-owned herd of cattle will proceed at a more rapid rate than the overall animal husbandry. Thus, while the number of cows throughout the republic will increase by about 30 to 35 per cent, the number of cows in the collective and state farms will double. Much will also be done to improve the strain of the livestock.

Increased production of fodder is a vital condition for developing the animal husbandry. Hence it is planned to increase the yield per acre on the average by 4 to 4½ cwt.

The experience in this field of the best collective farms indicates that this target is entirely feasible. For example, the Tarybinis Pirmunas Collective Farm obtained in 1958 on the average 18 cwt. of grain per acre.

It is also planned to increase the cultivation of flax, sugar beet, potatoes, and fodder crops; the latter are sown year by year on ever larger areas.

Maize is scheduled for special concentration. A number of farms—the Bolshevik in the Kaunus district, the Ausra in the Salantai district, the Novaya Zhizn in the Sirvintos district—are already harvesting 32 to 40 tons of maize tops per acre.

In order to ensure sufficient cattle fodder, pastures are to be cultivated over a total area of up to a million acres during the seven years.

Another important measure designed to raise crop yield is the projected three-fold increase in the use of mineral fertilisers.

Since in the next seven years the cattle herd is to increase by 420,000 heads, and that of hogs by 650,000, extensive new cattle housing facilities will have to be provided. The plans for increasing the output of building materials will certainly help here.

A Farm Plans its Future

Within the framework of the overall Seven-Year Plan every collective farm is making plans of its own.

Here we have the long term plan of the Pergale Collective Farm (Kaunas District)—column upon column of figures, probably meaningless to the uninitiated, but which are an object of serious challenge to the farm membership, for they supply a clear picture of the end result of their efforts: abundance and happiness.

In 1952 their farm was producing 13½ tons of milk per 100 acres of land. In 1965 the output will go up to 32 tons. Corresponding figures for meat are 2 and 5.7 tons; potatoes per acre 3.6 and 6.4 tons. The per acre yield of grain crops will rise steeply, and the per acre cash income is to be trebled.

These figures have been carefully scrutinised and checked over and over again; and the farmers feel confident that they'll carry out their plan.

And here are a few figures showing the growth of agricultural output in the whole of Lithuania. Output of grain was 34 per cent higher in 1957 than in 1953; that of flax went up 140 per cent. Last year the output of meat was 46.7 per cent and that of milk 49.5 per cent higher than in 1953; the average milk yield per cow in the collective farms went up from 25,784 lb. in 1953 to 39,886 lb. in 1958.

Growth of production is accompanied by a rise in collective-farm incomes. Last year's total income was four times as large as in 1953, and the membership received much higher cash payments for their work-day units. This was a powerful factor in transforming life in the countryside.

Thousands of modern livestock farms were built, and the collective farms were able to purchase more than 300 million roubles' worth of machinery. Isolated homesteads which were very widespread in the past will soon completely vanish.

The collective-farm system has helped to bring to the fore many capable managers. Take, for example, Yuozas Miezlaiskis, a former middle peasant, now chairman of the Sesupe Collective Farm in the Kapsuk district. He proved to be an excellent administrator: under his management the farm produced last year $17\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of grain per acre, and 19.2 tons of milk and 3.3 tons of meat per 100 acres.

New Specialists

The Chernyakhovsky Collective Farm in the Klaipeda district may be cited as another instance of what good management can accomplish. Before Bronius Rimas was elected chairman, this farm was doing very poorly; but under his management it became a model farm within three years.

In 1958 its output of milk and meat per 100 acres of land was $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons respectively, and the cash income per acre went up to 530 roubles.

There are now more farming specialists in Lithuania than ever before. In 1956 there were 3,800 with a higher and 3,000 with a secondary education; under the former regime there were only 200 agronomists with a higher education and 760 specialists with a secondary one.

In the next seven years the number of farm experts will be substantially increased as it is planned to have an agronomist at the head of every field team and a zootechnician at the head of every livestock farm.

In order to train larger numbers of specialists ten new specialised secondary schools have been opened this year, which will annually graduate 500 specialists in addition to those who finish the existing colleges and schools.

A bird's-eye view of Lithuania from Vilnius to the Baltic Sea shows vast stretches of fields laid out like a chess-board. This is due to the drainage system that had to be constructed to deal with the marshy or excessively sodden soil of which we have a good deal in our republic but which, if properly treated, yields excellent crops.

Since 1940 large-scale reclamation work has been done, a thing that could not even be thought of under capitalist rule. When the big landlords and capitalists were in power only 30,000 acres of marshy land had been reclaimed by underground drainage; that was all that could be accomplished since all the work was done by hand.

It's a different story now. Between 1951 and 1958, 725,000 acres of land have been reclaimed, 228,000 of them by underground drainage.

The table below taken from the Tiesa collective farm shows how beneficial this work is for farming.

	<i>Yield per acre</i>	
	<i>Undrained land</i>	<i>Drained land</i>
	cwt.	cwt.
Rye	8	12
Winter wheat	9.6	13.6
Barley	11.2	17.6
Oats	6.4	22.4

Under the Seven-Year Plan about 2,125,000 acres of land will be reclaimed, 1,337,000 of them by underground drainage. This will fulfil the age-old aspiration of the peasantry to have good, fertile soil.

Additional machinery will have to be supplied to the farms if they are to achieve the ambitious targets of the Seven-Year Plan. Much of the farm work will have to be mechanised and some operations automated.

Here are a few figures showing the tremendous progress already achieved in this field.

In 1937 there were only 434 tractors and 730 lorries in Lithuanian farms. In 1958 there were close to 20,000 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p. units), 10,000 lorries and thousands of other machines.

In the next seven years the number of tractors and lorries will be doubled.

Much is also being done to mechanise work on livestock farms.

The Lithuanian people have been engaged in agriculture for many centuries, and now this oldest of all branches of our national economy enjoys a greater degree of prosperity than ever before.

From Lonely Cottage to New Village

We inherited from the bourgeois regime a countryside with isolated small peasant holdings and scattered villages. Our former rulers faithfully adhered to the ideas set forth at the beginning of this century by the reactionary tsarist minister Stolypin, who urged the compulsory resettlement of peasants from villages to isolated homesteads.

What Stolypin had not had the time to do was completed by the reactionary, pro-fascist Smetona* régime.

By resettling the peasantry in this way, the government prevented them from keeping up regular contact with each other and deprived them of many material and cultural amenities. Cinemas were too few and far between, and, for the same reason, many children were unable to attend school.

Today peasants refuse to live like this. As masters of their own destiny they have joined together in large collective undertakings and are forming modern communities.

The overwhelming majority of the collective farms are planning to build such villages in the next seven years, and the families who are moving from their isolated farms to the new villages are receiving state aid.

The recently built village of the Sesupe Collective Farm in the Kapsuk district is a prototype of these new communities. Built on formerly waste

* Smetona was the president of Lithuania and the leader of the ruling fascist party from 1926 to 1940.

land, it has asphalted streets, brick houses, running water, sewage, electricity and telephones.

The collective farmers are eager to move into new villages, but it is impossible to satisfy all the demand at once. It has been estimated that the available building materials will provide new homes for 100,000 families in the next seven years.

Our People Spare No Effort

We are planning a big advance in all branches of our national economy; our construction work in all fields is carried on on a scale that would have been unthinkable under the old regime; and we know that we shall succeed.

This confidence comes from the fact that we live under the socialist system, that every phase of our activities is guided by our own Communist Party, and that our working people are displaying an ever-growing degree of political consciousness and sense of responsibility for our common cause.

The Lithuanian nation is as firmly intent as all the other Soviet peoples on fulfilling the Seven-Year Plan ahead of schedule.

The movement of socialist emulation has swept through our republic with renewed force. A team of locomotive operatives headed by driver Anton Brazuik (Vilnius railway station) pledged themselves to fulfil their seven-year assignment in five years.

At Molodechno, the station where the Vilnius railwaymen take over the trains from their Byelorussian colleagues, Brazuik met Stepan Tsibulsky, head of a Communist work team, and the two of them signed an emulation agreement, which provides that they will haul by means of extra heavy trains not less than 10,000-15,000 tons of freight in excess of their monthly quota; transport in this way in seven years 760,000 to 840,000 tons of freight; save during this period at least 900 tons of fuel; and exceed the standard commercial speed by one mile an hour.

The first results of their efforts indicate that they will fulfil their targets.

Teams of men and women who distinguish themselves in work, study and exemplary conduct are honoured with the title of Communist work team.

Among them are Brazuik's group; the team of setters at the Vilnius factory of electric meters headed by Y. Driukiene; the teams led by E. Meskauskas and L. Ivanauskas working respectively at the "Apvija" and "Atrama" factories in Kaunas; the reel operators headed by I. Kazlauskaitė at the "Trinyciai" mill and the "Geguzes Pirmoji" confectionery factory group of employees headed by A. Kisarauskas (in the town of Klaipėda), and many others.

What targets have these teams set themselves? Each operator in Edvardas Meskauskas' group, for example, has assumed the obligation of fulfilling this year two and a half annual quotas, and to devise at least one improvement in production processes.

Although many members of this team have finished vocational school and have learned two trades, they are continuing to study because they want to become technicians.

Seven young people are completing their secondary education, of whom two will receive their school certificate this year. Three will attend the evening department of the Kaunas Polytechnical Institute, and one is attending a polytechnical school.

In this way a new type of man is being formed in the process of

labour and socialist emulation—a highly skilled worker who is, at the same time, an educated and cultured individual.

The following few facts may give an idea of the efforts the people are making to advance our national economy. In 1958 alone there were 6,177 innovators and inventors among the rank-and-file workers employed by the Lithuanian Economic Council which controls about 80 per cent of our industry.

In the course of one year they submitted more than 10,000 suggestions for improving production technology, reducing costs in labour and materials, and turning out goods of a better quality. The introduction of these improvements yielded an economy of tens of millions of roubles.

The same desire to make rapid progress prevails in the countryside—our collective farmers are out to fulfil the Seven-Year Plan in five years. The collective and state farms are competing for higher crop yields and for producing 23 tons of milk and 3 tons of meat per 100 acres of land.

In the countryside, too, there is a widespread movement for the honour of being awarded the title of Communist work team. To date 1,300 groups of collective farmers are competing for it.

The Communist Party is teaching the people to feel responsible for the destiny of the whole country. The overwhelming majority of our population, almost all our youth, fully realise that a person's interests cannot be confined to its purely individual concerns; as members of a socialist society they feel responsible for its welfare and for the fate of mankind too.

When each individual seeks to advance production, improve its technology and to acquire more knowledge, doing this not under compulsion but out of a sense of duty, he displays a communist approach to work, and this is an earnest that our grand Seven-Year Plan shall be fulfilled ahead of time.

Leap in Education

In 1933 the reactionary newspaper *Lietuvos Aidas* wrote that "it seems that in the field of education we have reached a limit which it would be impermissible to exceed. . . . Hence, we have to take account of the unpleasant situation that has arisen, and find means of limiting the growth in the number of educated people".

These words were uttered at a time when the Lithuanian establishments of higher education had an enrolment of but 4,000 students.

The contrast between the past and the present is really striking.

In 1958 the number of students totalled 24,000. This is almost three times as many per 10,000 of population as in Austria, Switzerland and Italy, and three and a half as many as in the Netherlands. But in spite of this we are still experiencing a shortage of specialists with a higher education.

Last year forms 5 to 11 (to date we had an eleven-year school system) were attended by 172,000 pupils—six times more than in 1939. Today we realise better than ever before that in order to advance our national economy we need a very large number of highly skilled specialists.

At present 20 per cent of our population is studying, and we are looking forward to an important increase in this percentage.

Under the Seven-Year Plan our higher and specialised secondary

schools are scheduled to train 59,000 specialists: 18,000 for agriculture, 23,000 engineers, technicians and economists, 12,000 teachers and 6,000 doctors and other medical personnel.

Construction of new colleges is in progress now. A teachers' college for 2,000 students is to be built in Vilnius on the banks of the Neris river. In Noreikiskiai, near Kaunas, constructive work has been started on a university city for the Lithuanian Academy of Agriculture; the old university of Vilnius is going to be expanded.

The Academy has a staff of more than 1,000 scientific workers, some of whom belong to the older generation, as for example professors Brazdziunas, Ziugzda, Matulis, Minkevicius, Slavenas, Sivickis, and many others. Side by side with them are working large numbers of younger scholars who have been trained in Soviet times.

Not long ago the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian S.S.R. ratified the law on establishing closer links between school and life, and on the further development of public education. This measure will be very helpful for training still larger numbers of highly skilled specialists.

In the old times only the big landlords and capitalists were in a position to send their children to boarding schools. At present such schools are open to the children of workers and peasants.

Academy of Sciences

The establishment of the Soviet system in Lithuania created wonderful conditions for the advancement of science and culture. From the very outset a national Academy of Sciences was founded which, in spite of the heavy damage it sustained during the war and the fascist occupation, has grown in the course of nineteen years into an important centre, embracing at present eleven institutes.

It is no exaggeration to say that in capitalist Lithuania very little scientific and research work was carried on. The only scientific establishments that existed then were one university and a few agricultural and veterinarians' schools.

The government was not concerned with research work; it did not even finance geological prospecting.

When the people came into power there were neither facilities nor specialists in many branches of science. The U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences helped us on a lavish scale and trained our scientists, such as Kubilius, Statulevicius, Pozela, Zukauskas, Sabaliauskas, Mockus, and several others.

At present dozens of our young specialists add to their learning in the scientific establishments of Moscow, Leningrad and in other cities.

Research work is conducted not only by the Academy of Sciences but by institutions of higher learning whose staffs are now many times as large as in the past.

For instance, there used to be in Lithuania only six physicists and mathematicians; at present there are several dozen on the staffs of the Vilnius University, the Kaunas Polytechnical Institute and the Vilnius Teachers' College, while in the whole of Lithuania they number more than 200. The same situation obtains in all branches of science.

Our scientists are doing much to promote the economic and cultural progress of Lithuania. The Academy of Sciences and the Kaunas Polytech-

nical Institute have organised large-scale prospecting of local raw materials suitable for industrial and construction purposes. Professor Brazdziunas heads a group of research workers who are studying the physical properties of transistors.

The staffs of the institutes of history and of Lithuanian language and literature have prepared for publication a number of important works, including a *History of the Lithuanian S.S.R.* and a *History of Lithuanian Literature*.

In recent years our scholars have scored important successes in mathematical sciences. Under the Seven-Year Plan the Academy is planning to work on problems of mathematical statistics and of the theory of probability, and to devise methods for applying them in technology and production.

In order to speed up the solution of problems related to physics, mathematics, and technology an automatic computing centre is being established, as well as another centre which will deal with electronics and electrical engineering.

I have mentioned only a few branches of science in which research work will be conducted in the forthcoming seven years; it would be impossible to give a complete list of even the more important projects in this field. Scientific establishments specialising in agriculture, experimental medicine, oncology, economics, geology, building and architecture, power engineering, and social sciences will join in this work.

Culture for the People

Such institutions as Houses of Culture, Village Clubs, or Clubs with Libraries did not exist under the former regime. Cultural activities were limited to frivolous amusements which were a source of profit for enterprising businessmen.

At present we have 623 Houses of Culture, 1,655 Village Clubs and Clubs with Libraries, which have their own orchestras, choirs, amateur art groups; in these establishments the people meet men of letters, discuss new books, attend lectures, and so on.

In 1940 there were only sixty-six cinemas in Lithuania; last year there were 723. Cinemas are now a normal feature in the villages, and the number of cinema-goers in rural districts has greatly multiplied compared with former times.

Lithuania has its own motion-picture industry now, and its latest films *Julius Janonis* and *Adomas Wants to be a Human Being* have been very favourably received.

Vilnius has its own television centre.

Culture is now flourishing in Lithuania as never before. Reading has become a favourite pursuit of the working people, and one may see small libraries in the homes of almost every worker or peasant. In Soviet times the collected works of J. Zemaite have been printed in editions totalling 265,000 copies. Moreover four volumes of her writings have been published in Russian and Polish.

The same is true of the works of Vaizgantas, Lazdynu-Peleda, and other Lithuanian authors. Many young writers have come to the fore, whose works are also well known outside Lithuania.

In 1939 only 130,000 copies of books were printed in our republic. The figure for 1957 is more than 13 million copies—a 100-fold increase. By 1965 it is planned to print not less than 20 million books a year.

Doctors Galore

In former times people found it difficult to pay the high costs for medical treatment

There were hardly any hospitals in the rural districts. Those who needed an operation had to sell everything they owned. Few people could afford medical treatment.

Lithuanians from the West who have visited our country have been extremely surprised to see that medical care in our republic is free of charge. They have seen with their own eyes the extent to which the people's health is looked after, and acknowledged that no capitalist country has anything comparable to the Soviet public health services.

We have at present four times as many hospital beds as there were under capitalist rule, and seven years from now their number will go up to 25,000.

Already at present in proportion to the population there are more doctors in Lithuania than in Sweden or England. In our republic there is one doctor per 617 inhabitants, while in Sweden the figure is one per 720, and in England one per 850.

At the end of the Seven-Year Plan period we shall have about 5,800 physicians—one per 485 inhabitants, which is a considerably higher rate than in the U.S.A. and Switzerland.

Song of Freedom

Our traditional national celebrations have been revived in Soviet times on a bigger scale than ever, and the whole people take part in them.

Song festivals which are held in all parts of the country are particularly popular. Choirs of hundreds and thousands of amateurs sing songs of freedom and constructive endeavour, expressing their joy of life.

All our painters, musicians, dancers, and other artists are doing their utmost for the advancement of culture. This is their contribution to the common effort of the Lithuanian nation in the period of the comprehensive construction of communism, as we call our Seven-Year Plan.

* * *

The Lithuanian people have accomplished many wonderful deeds, but they are out to fulfil even more splendid tasks—the ones set forth by the Communist Party for the next seven years.

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