

*For news of the progress of the Seven-Year Plan read*

# SOVIET WEEKLY

Illustrated

Thursday 3d.



Authentic, well-written articles on Soviet scientific achievements, on industry, agriculture, sport, international relations, and other aspects of Soviet life and work, can be found within its well-illustrated pages.



Subscription rates: 3s. 3d., 3 months; 6s. 6d., 6 months;

13s. 0d., 12 months, post free

from newsagents, or post free from

"SOVIET WEEKLY",

3 ROSARY GARDENS, LONDON, S.W.7

# What Soviet Citizens Get Besides Wages

1959

Soviet  
Booklet  
No. 54

6<sup>d</sup>



by  
**A. G. Zverev**  
D.Sc.(Econ.)  
Minister of Finance  
of the U.S.S.R.

1959-1965  
STUPENDOUS  
7  
PROGRAMME

487

Scanned / Transcribed by  
The Socialist Truth in Cyprus – London Bureaux

<http://www.st-cyprus.co.uk/intro.htm>

<http://www.st-cyprus.co.uk/english/home/index.php>



# **WHAT SOVIET CITIZENS GET BESIDES WAGES**

by

**A. G. Zverev, D.Sc. (Economics)**

*Minister of Finance of the U.S.S.R.*

**Soviet Booklet**

**No. 54**

**London**

**September 1959**



ARSENY ZVEREV was born not far from Moscow in 1900 in a worker's family. At 13 he started work in a textile mill in the Moscow Region.

In 1919 he volunteered for the Red Army and took part in many battles against the counter-revolutionaries. Graduating from the Moscow Institute of Economics and Finance in 1933, he became the U.S.S.R. Deputy Minister of Finance in 1937. In the following year he became Minister of Finance of the U.S.S.R., and has continued in that office since.



## **New Relations between People**

**I**N the Soviet Union concern for human welfare has ceased to be one's own private affair; it is a collective concern, aided by the state which has made it the cornerstone of its policy. No longer is it "each man for himself", as it was in tsarist Russia when selfishness, envy and greed corroded social life.

The Socialist Revolution placed the means of production in the hands of the working people and did away with the exploitation of man by man. As a result the working people—the workers, peasants and intellectuals—came to enjoy all social benefits and the entire national income.

Under socialism the lion's share of the national income—about three-quarters—is spent to satisfy directly the people's personal material and cultural requirements. The remainder, which also belongs to the working people, is used by society to advance further socialist economy and culture and to expand production—and this, too, is in the interests of the entire people.

The fundamental economic and political changes brought about by the Soviet system created a new type of relationship that had never existed before between people, and between people and the state.

By abolishing unemployment, poverty, and want, and by eliminating all discrimination, as regards nationality, race or sex, the Soviet state opened up unlimited opportunities for the development of the individual.

The principles of socialist humanism, of profound concern for man, of brotherly relations between people have become the main features of Soviet society, and of the activity of the state.

## **Pay According to Work**

A major cause of the people's rising standards is the absence of any crises and unemployment in the U.S.S.R.

Workers have confidence in the future. They know that unemployment will never menace them, and that consequently they will never be penniless and destitute. The right of every citizen to work, a right confirmed in the Soviet Constitution, is guaranteed by constantly growing production and employment.

Soviet economy is successfully developing according to plan. The Seven-Year Plan for the U.S.S.R.'s Economic Development, 1959-1965, is a milestone in communist construction.

Under this plan production in industry will go up roughly 80 per cent and in agriculture 70 per cent. The national income will increase by 62 per cent to 65 per cent, and popular consumption, accordingly, by 60 per cent to 63 per cent.

Between 1940 and 1958 the number of workers in the U.S.S.R. increased by 23,400,000 or nearly 75 per cent. In the seven-year period another 12 million will join the labour force.

The income of the Soviet working man is steadily growing, and his standards are constantly improving, as many foreign visitors have noticed.

Thus, Jules Moch, a French Socialist Party leader, who can in no way be suspected of any sympathy for the Soviet socialist system, said after visiting the U.S.S.R. that "the Soviet worker should be quite satisfied with his lot as his material position is noticeably improving from year to year."\*

The income of a worker in the U.S.S.R. is made up of his wages, and state benefits and privileges (pensions, social insurance, health services, cultural facilities and so on).

It is the socialist principle of distribution according to work, with equal pay for equal work, irrespective of race, nationality, age or sex, that operates in the U.S.S.R.

The wage system takes into account both the quantity and quality of the work done. It gives workers a personal material incentive for raising labour productivity. And higher labour productivity creates in turn the conditions for raising wages still further.

## Increased Wages

Thanks to socialist economic progress and growing labour productivity, in 1958 real wages and salaries, including pensions, allowances, free tuition and free medical services, were almost double the 1940 figure.

Consistently keeping to the socialist principle of payment according to the quantity and quality of the work performed, the Soviet state is constantly perfecting its wage system, combining this with measures to improve working conditions and raise pay.

Wages are being gradually overhauled. This means that the wages and salaries of lower-paid categories of workers will go up, and the gap closed between their wages and those of higher paid workers. In 1956-1958 alone some 10,000 million roubles were spent on wage adjustments.

The Seven-Year Plan envisages a further increase in wages and salaries especially for lower-paid workers. While the overall average increase will be 26 per cent, minimum wages and salaries will go up by 70 per cent to 80 per cent.

Along with the rise in nominal wages, real wages are also going up steadily.

This is the result of several permanent factors of paramount importance, namely, the continuous growth of socialist production and labour productivity coupled with complete absence of unemployment; the systematic reduction of prices of consumer goods and the stability of Soviet currency; the rise in the cultural and technical levels and skill of the workers; and the enormous, constantly growing funds provided by the state and public organisations to meet many material and cultural requirements of the people.

\* Jules Moch: *The U.S.S.R. with Open Eyes*. Paris, 1956.

## Shorter Hours

Besides steps to increase nominal wages, the reduction of the working day is also very important for raising the working people's welfare.

It is planned to complete by 1960—without any reduction in wages—the transfer of workers to a seven-hour working day and of workers in leading trades in the coal and mining industries engaged in underground work to a six-hour day.

In 1962 factory and office workers having a seven-hour day are to be switched to a 40-hour week. Beginning with 1964 workers employed in underground jobs and in jobs involving harmful labour conditions will be gradually switched to a 30-hour week, and the rest of the workers to a 35-hour week.

This will provide the opportunity to introduce a five-day working week with a six-or seven-hour day and two days off. Thus the U.S.S.R. will have the world's shortest working day and working week, while the people's well-being will be improved.

We have already noted that this will incur no reduction in wages; on the contrary wages will increase considerably, enabling living standards to be raised considerably. Wages and salaries, however, are only part of a worker's income.

## Extensive Social Services

Man is a social being. He cannot exist outside the collective, in isolation from social production. He works for the benefit of society and society satisfies his needs.

Satisfaction of many needs becomes social in character already under socialism, since the material and cultural values society produces are increasing. This is achieved not only by raising wages but also through social funds, the role and significance of which will continue to increase.

In Soviet society the working people's material and cultural standards depend not only on the income they derive personally, that is the wages and salaries of the factory and office workers or the incomes the peasants make from the collective farms and their own subsidiary husbandries.

A very important factor is the various social services which are provided free by the state. In the Soviet Union working people receive various state benefits and privileges, either directly as money grants (pensions, stipends, allowances for mothers of large families, and so on), or as free services and privileges (the health services, tuition, etc.).

Public appropriations for these purposes are growing every year. They run into enormous sums—215,000 million roubles in 1958 or 76 per cent more than in 1950, and 400 per cent more than in 1940. In 1959 the proportion of the budget earmarked for expenditure on social and cultural matters was 32.8 per cent compared with 23.5 per cent in 1940.

By 1965 this expenditure will increase to 360,000 million roubles, which means an annual sum of about 3,800 roubles per worker. Furthermore, the state will spend another 800 roubles a year per worker to build houses, medical institutions, public utilities and cultural establishments.

"These are big sums," N. S. Khrushchov, Chairman of the U.S.S.R.

Council of Ministers, pointed out at the Twenty-First C.P.S.U. Congress. "Only a socialist state can allot such funds for improving living standards. It is not accidental that many visitors to our country from the capitalist world—often not Communists at all, yet honest people—are amazed to see how much is being done for man in our country."

The sweeping scale of the social services is one of the outstanding features of the socialist system. Under communism these services will develop still more.

The communist way of raising the working people's welfare, of creating the best living standards for society as a whole, and for each of its members consists in providing people with good housing, well-organised public catering, better public services, more child institutions, a better system of public education, more facilities for leisure and recreation, better health services, more cultural establishments, and so on.

## Free of Charge

The principle of meeting the working people's material and cultural requirements free of charge through state and social institutions, offers tremendous advantages; it is more rational and profitable both for society and all its members.

Thus, the best way of widely applying modern medical achievements to protect public health is through a system of state institutions, not private clinics.

The socialist state maintains a large number of clinics and hospitals equipped with the latest medical apparatus and staffed with skilled personnel, and can thus give every working man free medical assistance.

It would be inexpedient to exact fees for health services even for the reason that, as life in capitalist countries shows, doctor's fees often compel part of the population to forgo medical assistance.

The Soviet state has maintained ever since its inception that education must likewise be a public concern. The Soviet Union could have scarcely brought about a cultural revolution and achieved 100 per cent literacy in such a short span, had the state and the public not taken an active hand and had there not been a system of universal free public education.

The same is true of other public requirements which the socialist state takes upon itself to satisfy at its own expense. A host of instances could be cited to illustrate the importance of these social expenditures for improving people's material and cultural standards.

## Benefits for Every Family

In the U.S.S.R. about 100 million people are employed in social production. Furthermore, some 20 million pensioners are maintained by the state, the collective farms and public organisations; 5 million children are cared for at kindergartens, nurseries and children's homes; 3,300,000 students of higher and specialised secondary educational establishments and pupils of labour reserves schools receive grants and hostel accommodation; 5,600,000 children spend their summer holidays every year at Young Pioneer camps, or summer school grounds, or in tourist centres:

more than 3 million employees go annually to sanatoria or holiday homes at the expense of social insurance and collective farm funds; and some 7 million women—mothers of large families or unmarried mothers—receive state allowances.

These dry statistics show the Soviet state's tremendous solicitude for the working people. The all-embracing character of the social services needs to be especially emphasised because in the Soviet Union there is not a single family that does not enjoy state privileges and benefits in one way or another.

The funds the state earmarks to satisfy the requirements of the population are rather prominent in the budget of every Soviet family.

A study of the family budgets of some of the workers of the Kuskovo Chemical Plant showed that state benefits and privileges comprised between 31.7 per cent and 51 per cent of their earnings. Thus the family of N. I. Mareyev, a fitter, received in a year 12,533 roubles in privileges and benefits, which included 6,900 roubles in pensions, 1,760 in the upkeep of the children at kindergartens and summer camps, 950 roubles in free medical services etc. In all, these benefits were equal to 50.1 per cent of the total wage of the family.

Or take A. P. Mironov, plater at the Leningrad Metal Works. His monthly wages averaged about 1,500-1,600 roubles in 1958. His two children received free tuition at the secondary school—an expense to the state of about 1,500 roubles a year. His third child was cared for at the kindergarten, this costing the state 3,260 roubles a year. Then there was the free medical service, which, estimated on the basis of 190 roubles per person a year, added up to 950 roubles for the entire family.

The grand total for the year came to 5,710 roubles. This is a monthly sum of 476 roubles or about a third of Mironov's earnings.

## Lower Prices

Price reductions in consumer goods help to raise living standards. Since the war prices have been cut many times. In 1954 they were 56.5 per cent lower than in 1947.

There have been more price cuts in recent years, too. Thus, a considerable price cut was effected on July 1st, 1959, giving an annual gain to the population of more than 6,000 million roubles.

In the next seven years retail prices will be reduced still further; meal prices in public catering establishments will be cut first.

As the result of the growth in pay, pensions, allowances and other state benefits and privileges, real wages and salaries in 1956 were nearly five times greater than in 1913. In the same period peasant incomes, in cash and kind (per working person) have increased six-fold.

## Income Tax to Go

According to the Seven-Year Plan targets, by 1965 real wages and salaries will have increased on the average by another 40 per cent per worker and the incomes of the collective farmers by at least 40 per cent.

Currently, state budgetary revenues are mostly made up of the accumu-

lations of socialist enterprises; taxes from the population account for only 7.8 per cent. Realisation of the Seven-Year Plan will steadily boost accumulations of socialist enterprises, which will eventually become the only source for advancing economy and the people's welfare. Then there will be no need to tax the population.

Actually these taxes will be abolished in the next few years, thus serving to further increase the incomes of the population.

However, it is not only this growth of income that characterises living standards in the U.S.S.R.

A major feature of Soviet life is that the state ensures the material well-being of the citizen also in sickness, old age and in many other times of difficulty. The guarantee is the state itself, its constantly growing economic might and national income.

William Du Bois, the prominent American scholar, writer and public figure, who visited the Soviet Union recently, has quite justly remarked that the Soviet people are relieved of the anxieties that oppress the American. The American, he says, worries how he is going to live when he grows old, what he is going to do when he falls sick, how he can educate his children when tuition fees are growing daily and even hourly, and how he can take a holiday when every cent counts.

The Soviet citizen knows, Du Bois has noted, that the state guarantees him against all these cares and worries.

## Social Insurance

The question of maintenance in old age, sickness and in case of disablements has always agitated millions of working people everywhere.

One of the main gains of the socialist revolution in the U.S.S.R. was the institution of an all-embracing system of social insurance and pensions, the expenses of which are borne by the state and public organisations.

All workers, however employed, whether in a steady job, for a certain period of time, or in seasonal or temporary work, are covered by social insurance, irrespective of their place of work, the system of remuneration, or of sex and nationality. The scope of this insurance means that every worker will be materially provided for should he be temporarily disabled due to sickness or other causes.

As the economy develops and the number of workers grows, the number of insured and the social insurance budget systematically increase.

In the U.S.S.R. social insurance is financed completely by the state. This fact, which is given legislative power in the Constitution of the U.S.S.R., strikingly demonstrates one of the fundamental differences between Soviet social insurance and insurance in the capitalist countries, where insurance funds are made up mostly of the contributions the factory and office workers themselves pay out of their earnings.

The social insurance funds in the U.S.S.R. are made up of the contributions of factories and offices. Nothing is deducted for this purpose from the wages of the workers. The benefits paid out by way of social insurance guarantee stable incomes and considerably supplement real wages.

## Growing Sums

The sums being paid out under social insurance are growing from year to year. In 1959 they will total 63,900 million roubles against 8,600 million roubles in 1940.

In the U.S.S.R. state social insurance is run on broad democratic principles. Its funds are actually administered by the trade unions—the factory and office committees—which enlist many volunteers among the workers to help.

This both serves to improve the social insurance system, and makes for mass supervision over the proper use of the state allocations for these purposes.

A major aspect of the Soviet system of social insurance is the high level of security for the workers and their families during sickness, childbirth and other causes of incapacity.

The temporary disability benefit ranges from 50 per cent to 90 per cent of earnings depending on the length of employment at the given plant or office. Thus, the benefit will amount to 70 per cent of earnings when there is an uninterrupted term of employment of five to eight years and to 90 per cent, when more than twelve years.

There are increased disability benefits (and increased maternity benefits) for workers in underground jobs or in jobs with harmful working conditions.

In cases of industrial injuries or occupational diseases benefits constitute 100 per cent of the actual earnings, regardless of the length of employment.

Benefits are paid from the very first day of sickness or injury until complete recovery or until the person is certified by a special commission for a disability pension.

The benefit is paid for the entire period of disablement and is not reduced even if the disabled person is placed in hospital or sanatorium for free treatment.

In 1959 the total sum paid out in temporary disability benefits will reach more than 11,000 million roubles, which is five times more than in 1940. This great increase is due to the growth in the number of workers, the rise in wages and salaries and also the improvement in the social maintenance system.

## Health Resorts

Treatment at sanatoria and health resorts is an important element in the working people's system of social insurance. The Soviet Union has a ramified network of health resorts, sanatoria and holiday homes.

Apart from the world-famed mineral spas of the Caucasus and the well-known Crimean sanatoria, there are many other health resorts throughout the country—in the Ukraine, the Baltic republics, the Urals, Siberia, the Far East and Central Asia. There are about 3,000 sanatoria and holiday homes now and they are increasing in number with every year.

In the last five years more than 26 million workers were accommodated at the country's health resorts. In 1958 state social insurance



expenses for the upkeep of holiday homes and sanatoria more than doubled the 1940 figure.

Sanatorium and holiday home accommodation is provided on privileged terms: 20 per cent of the accommodation is free, the cost being borne by the state social insurance funds, while most of the rest is available at a 70 per cent discount.

When the worker's annual holiday is not long enough to cover the period of treatment and the time taken up in travelling to the sanatorium or holiday home, he is granted an additional holiday at the expense of the social insurance fund. Sanatorium accommodation may be prolonged if needed.

## Mother and Child Care

The Soviet Union has special laws protecting the health of working women. They receive maternity grants and can rely on the state for every assistance in child upbringing.

Expectant mothers are switched to lighter work but are paid according to their average wages at their previous job. They get maternity leave for 112 days. This is paid for out of the social insurance funds, as a rule in full, but never less than two-thirds of the wage.

Similar privileges are accorded to women members of producers' co-operatives and collective farms (the expenses being borne by these organisations).

In 1940 the state spent 370 million roubles on maternity allowances, in 1958—4,000 million roubles, and in 1959, according to plan, 4,500 million roubles will be spent.

Nursing mothers are given additional hours off during the working day. Apart from the general polyclinics, there is also a wide network of mother and child consultation centres and maternity homes where all medical assistance is also free of charge.

The following figures show what is being done as regards pre- and post-natal medical assistance. Whereas in 1913 there were less than 7,000 maternity beds, in 1940 there were already 147,000 and in 1957, 188,000. In 1957 there were 14,000 mother and child consultation centres against the nine in 1913.

There is an extensive network of nurseries and kindergartens in the U.S.S.R. In summer millions of children go to camps and sanatoria or out of town together with their nurseries, kindergartens, and children's homes.

Lump-sum grants are also paid out of the social insurance fund for the purchase of a layette and for nursing. In 1958 more than twice as much was spent on this as in 1940.

Considerable sums are earmarked to improve the material position of mothers with large families and of unmarried mothers. A monthly state allowance is issued apart from a lump-sum grant upon the birth of the third and each subsequent child.

One should note, furthermore, that these grants increase in progressive ratio depending on the number of children. Thus, the lump sum on

the birth of a third child is 200 roubles, but on the birth of the eleventh and each subsequent child it is 2,500 roubles.

The monthly grants are also based on a sliding scale. Starting with the fourth child, 40 roubles a month are paid, rising to 125 roubles a month with the ninth and tenth children, and 150 roubles for the eleventh and each subsequent children. These children's allowances are paid until the child reaches the age of four.

Since living standards are rising, families are growing. In 1940 there were 468,000 mothers of large families receiving state grants. By 1958 the number had increased more than seven-fold, reaching the total of 3,450,000.

While showing great concern for the strengthening of the family, the Soviet state also greatly assists unmarried mothers. The state cares for all children alike, whether legitimate or not.

In 1959, grants paid to mothers with large families and unmarried mothers will amount to 5,500 million roubles, nearly 4½ times more than in 1940.

## Pensions

Very many people enjoy pensions. We have already mentioned the figure—some 20 million. Furthermore, the pensions are rather large.

The state pension law, which the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. passed in 1956, and several other measures taken in recent years have served to improve pensional security greatly. The law doubled pensions for some categories. The pension minima have been greatly raised.

Now far more people are eligible for pension. State appropriations for pensions have sharply increased and will amount to 67,500 million roubles in 1959 or 37,400 million roubles more than in 1955.

State pensions are granted on account of old age and disability, and when the bread-winner dies. Workers are eligible for old-age pensions at the age of sixty for men and fifty-five for women.

Persons employed in underground jobs or in jobs with harmful conditions of labour as, for instance, in mining, at some shops in the iron and steel industry, and so on, are eligible for these pensions at the age of fifty for men and of forty-five for women. (Women are now no longer employed on such jobs in the U.S.S.R., but any previous work of this kind is taken into consideration when the pension is fixed.)

Women who have given birth to five or more children are eligible for old-age pensions at the age of fifty, provided they are not entitled to it earlier because of the type of their former job.

Note that the pensionable age in the U.S.S.R. is much lower than in the capitalist countries. In the United States, for instance, the pension age is sixty-five for men and sixty-two for women, in West Germany, the Netherlands, Finland and Switzerland sixty-five for both men and women, in Sweden, sixty-seven, and in Canada, Eire and Norway, seventy.

Old-age pensions in the U.S.S.R. are fixed amounts ranging from 50 per cent to 100 per cent of monthly earnings.

Moreover, there are additions for an uninterrupted term of employment

and for members of the family who are unable to work. The sum ranges from a minimum monthly rate of 300 roubles to a maximum of 1,200 roubles. In some cases pensions may be bigger.

Members of producer's co-operatives get old-age pensions of approximately the same amount from co-operative funds. Members of collective farms get their pensions from funds specially earmarked for these purposes by their collective farms.

Disability pensions depend on the degree of incapacitation. The pension for people disabled as the result of an industrial accident or an occupational disease is bigger.

The pension system in the U.S.S.R. fully provides for material needs in old age or in case of disablement.

There are also big appropriations for pensions to families who have lost their bread-winner. The size of this pension depends on the cause of the bread-winner's death (from an occupational or general disease), the length of his employment, the amount of his earnings and also the number of members in the family incapable of work.

Suppose we have a miner's family of three dependents incapable of work whose bread-winner has been receiving an average monthly wage of 1,600 roubles for the last years and died from an occupational disease. The family will get a pension of 800 roubles, on the basis of 100 per cent of earnings up to 600 roubles plus 20 per cent of the remaining 1,000 roubles.

The beggarly pittance the working people received before the Revolution can stand no comparison with the pensions in the U.S.S.R. today. The sight of homeless beggars who used to crowd the streets in tsarist times has for long been a thing of the past.

It was the system of social insurance and pensions, along with the abolition of unemployment and the general rise in the living standards, which helped to bring about this change.

On the basis of the economic progress achieved, the Soviet Government is planning further improvements in the pension system.

By 1963, according to the Seven-Year Plan, the minimum old-age pension will be raised in the towns, from the present sum of 300 roubles a month to 400 roubles, and in the countryside from 255 roubles to 340 roubles. The minimum disability and loss-of-bread-winner pensions will also be increased.

In 1966 the minimum old-age pensions will again be increased to 450-500 roubles a month in the towns and to a corresponding amount in rural areas.

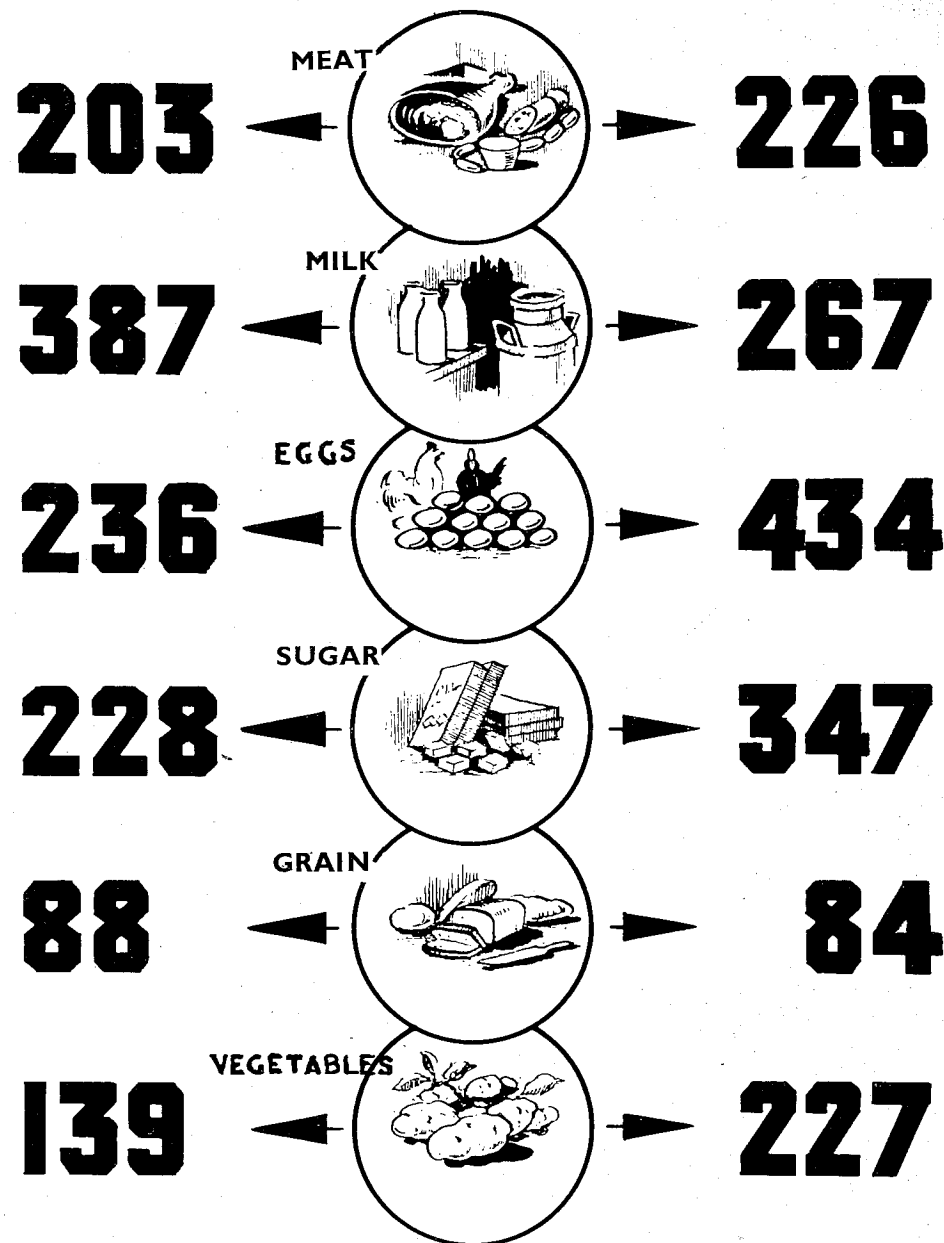
Other pension minima will correspondingly go up.

### Free Health Service for All

In the Soviet Union all health services are available to the people, free of charge. There is a wide network of state-financed hospitals, out-patient clinics and polyclinics, children's nurseries, sanatoria and other medical institutions.

In scope, accessibility, and standards, the Soviet public health system is infinitely superior to anything that existed before the Revolution. It

GROWTH OF CONSUMPTION OF MAIN FOOD PRODUCTS IN THE U.S.S.R.  
TOWN In families of textile workers in Lenin-grad, Noginsk, and Furmanov COUNTRY In families of collective farmers in Kharkov, Kirov, and Voronezh Regions.



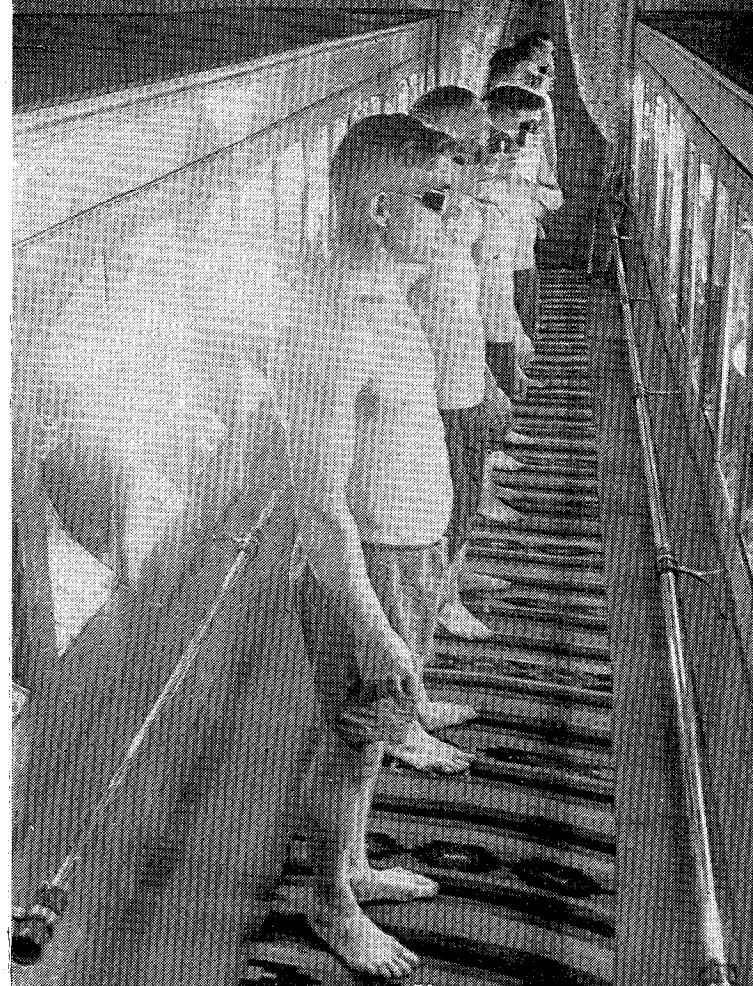
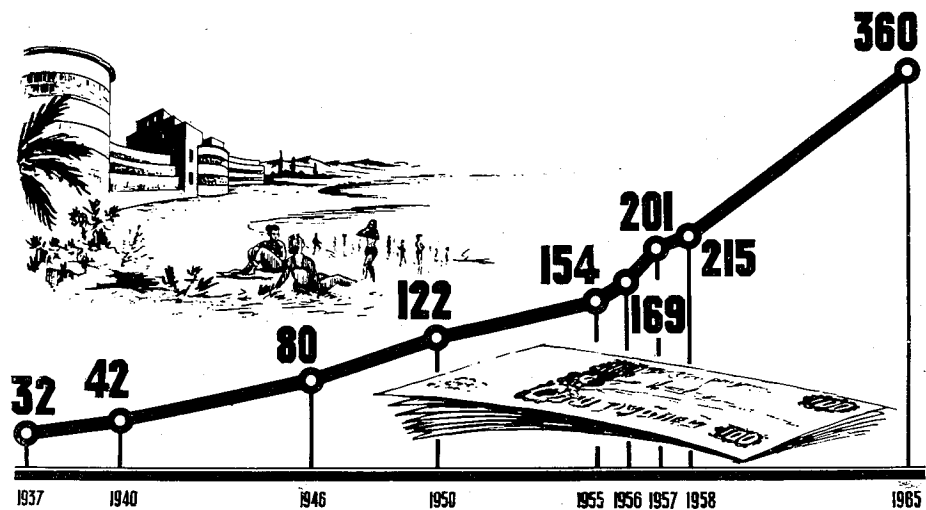
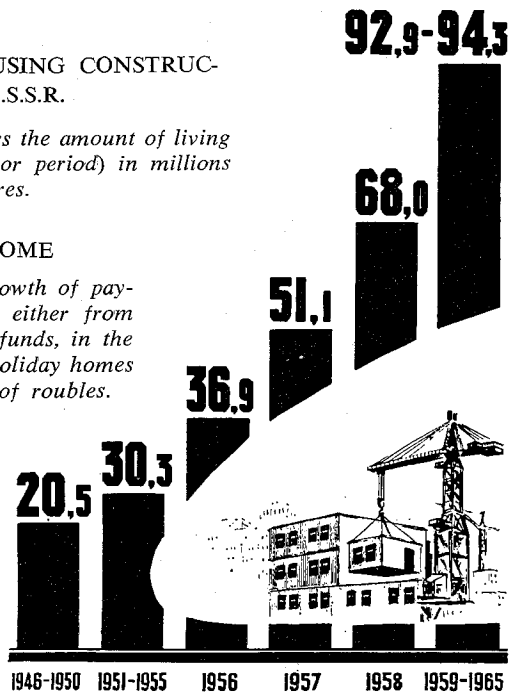
The figures above are percentages of the pre-Revolutionary level, and are taken from the budget investigation undertaken in 1957.

**ANNUAL GROWTH OF HOUSING CONSTRUCTION IN THE U.S.S.R.**

The diagram on the right indicates the amount of living accommodation built each year (or period) in millions of square metres.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INCOME**

The graph below indicates the growth of payments received by Soviet people either from the state budget or from factory funds, in the form of pensions, health service, holiday homes etc.—in thousands of millions of roubles.



**CARE FOR THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE**

Millions of roubles are expended every year by the state to ensure the maximum enjoyment of health by Soviet citizens.

Prevention being far better than cure, every aid to the maintenance of health is used in industry.

On the left we see miners of the Latugin Coal Mine in the Donbas receiving artificial sunlight treatment in their solarium.

Below, workers from the filling department of the Java Tobacco Factory in Moscow counter the effects of harmful dust by treatment in the Inhalation Room of the Factory Clinic.



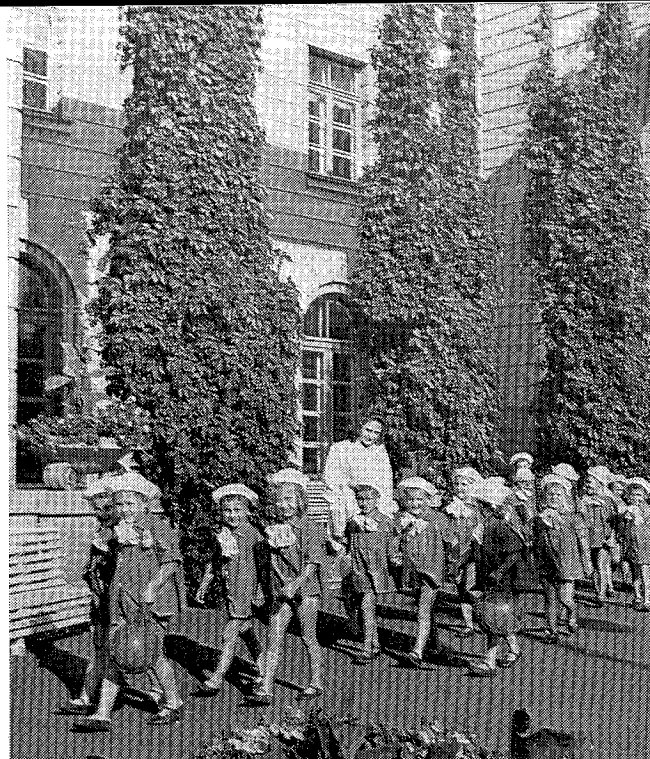




## KINDERGARTEN AND BOARDING SCHOOL

*The youngsters on the right are setting off for a walk from Kindergarten No. 1 of the Pechersky District of Kiev in the Ukraine.*

*Below, youngsters are trooping in to lessons at the Durmen village boarding school for the children of collective farmers of Tashkent Region, Uzbekistan.*



## CARE FOR YOUTH

*Above, eager youngsters at a Pioneer Camp during the summer holidays, are ready to carry the plates around. The cook, 80-year-old Timofei Scherbakov, was once a tsarist cabinet minister.*

*The youngster on the left is one of the many children of the Soviet textile workers at the Melange Mill in Ivanovo near Moscow. These youngsters are under expert care whilst their parents are at work.*





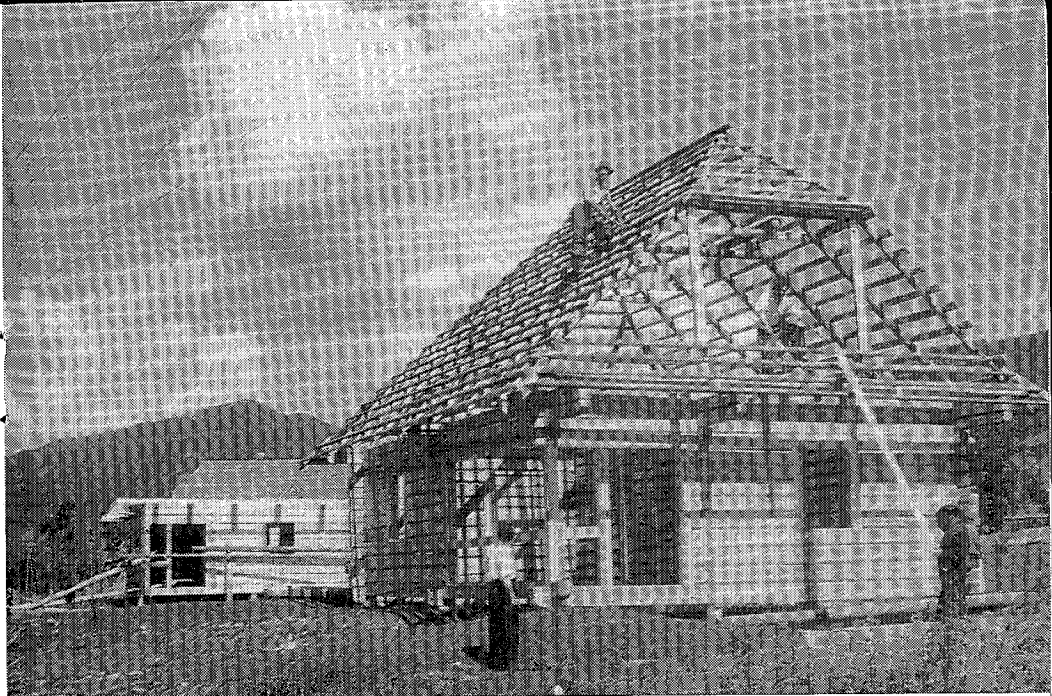


### SPORT AND RECREATION

*There is a wide network of sports facilities provided for Soviet workers—with plenty of opportunities to participate or just to watch and applaud.*

### LIBRARIES

*Free libraries are available literally everywhere—whether it be out in the fields of a collective farm or on board a trawler. Those below are drillers in an oil settlement in Azerbaijan, selecting books from the settlement library.*

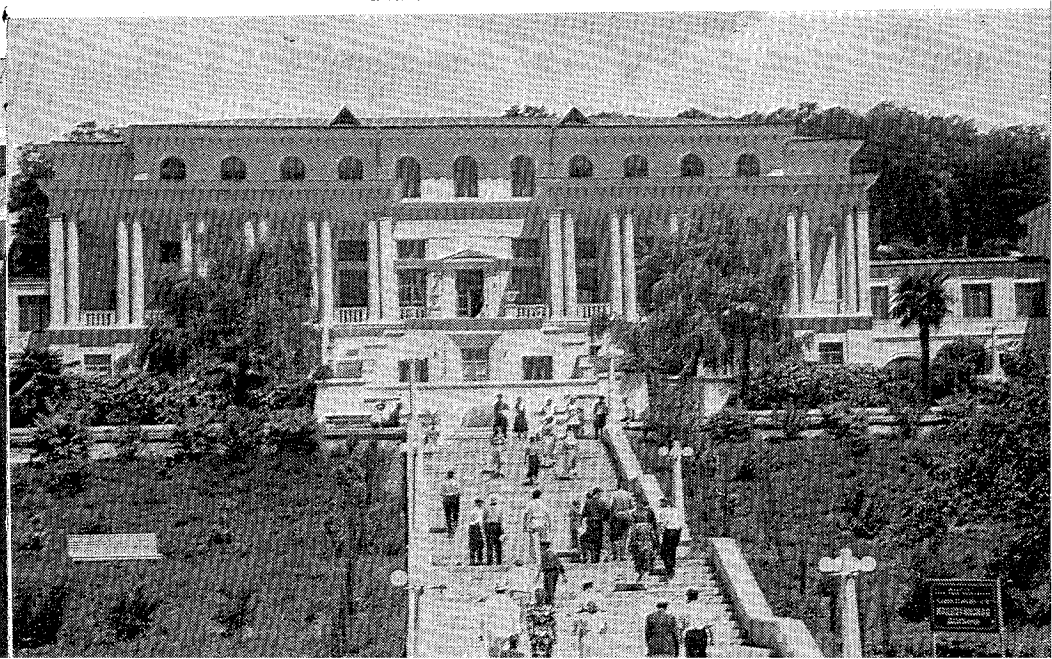


### HOUSING

*Collective farmers are building houses for their families, with assistance from the state and collective farms. The farmer above is Andrei Sidei of the Red Dawn Collective Farm, Transcarpathia Region.*

### RESTFUL HOLIDAYS

*The State and the Soviet trade unions maintain a great number of sanatoriums like the one at Sochi seen below. Many thousands of Soviet workers enjoy free or reduced rate holidays at such places, and have the opportunity of a medical check-up and treatment at the same time.*







#### FOR YOUTH AN ASSURED FUTURE

*Free access to all educational facilities enables young people to equip themselves for any career they choose. Mark Savelyev (left) is a student at Moscow Architectural Institute.*

#### FOR AGE, A HAPPY RETIREMENT

*Below we see pensioners of Moscow's Likhachev Car Works enjoying a convivial evening at the factory's Palace of Culture.*



is no longer the patient's bankbook that counts, but his health.

Budget expenditure on public health and physical culture is growing yearly. In 1959 it will amount to 44,000 million roubles, almost double that in 1950 and five times that in 1940.

The Soviet Union now has 1,533,000 hospital beds, compared with the 1913 figure of 207,000. The number of medical workers has likewise increased, with more than seventeen doctors today to every 10,000 of the population against one to every 10,000 before the Revolution.

Generally speaking, the number of doctors to every 10,000 of the population is much higher in the Soviet Union than in the capitalist countries, where it is twelve for the United States (in 1955), and ten for France (in 1956).

It should be noted that the ratio is higher than in these countries even in Soviet republics like Uzbekistan where there are twelve doctors to every 10,000 of the population, in Kirghizia where there are thirteen, and in Turkmenia where there are seventeen doctors. Before the Revolution the number of medical workers in these colonial outposts of the tsarist empire was negligible. Today, these Republics have outstripped in this respect even leading capitalist countries, let alone, say, Iran, Turkey or Pakistan.

### The Factory Doctor

Foreigners who come to the U.S.S.R. are amazed not only at the sweeping scale of the health services but also at the very pattern of its organization, its concern for working conditions at different enterprises and its accent on the prevention of sickness.

Many enterprises have health institutions directly on their premises. Their staffs study the working and living conditions of the employees of these enterprises, keep a systematic check on their health and take steps not only to cure but also prevent diseases.

In his book *Live or Die with Russia*, which was published in 1958, William Irvine, prominent Canadian politician and a member of the National Council of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, cites the example of the Likhachov Auto Works in Moscow. Its medical staff consists of several professors, more than 100 doctors, and 150 doctor's assistants, trained nurses, and midwives.

The out-patients' department of the factory hospital is staffed with highly qualified surgeons, therapists, neuropathologists, stomatologists, endocrinologists and other specialists. Naturally the clinic is well equipped with X-ray apparatus, electrocardiographs, and all other modern medical instruments.

Every worker, notes Irvine, is regularly and most thoroughly examined. Early diagnosis enables disease to be detected early. When a worker-patient returns to his job from hospital, the factory doctors keep an eye on him until complete rehabilitation. They may advise that he be transferred to an easier job should his old job prove too much of a strain.

everything to encourage, is characteristic of Soviet life. Eloquent confirmation of this is that more than 50 million people study in one way or another.

The Soviet Government provides educational and cultural institutions with all the money and materials they need.

The 1959 state budget has earmarked 94,300 million roubles for education, science, culture, and art, which is over 60 per cent more than in 1950 and over four times more than in 1940. It is this money that goes to ensure free tuition, pay stipends and extend science, culture and art.

The collective farms, trade unions, economic and other organisations also provide large sums for cultural purposes.

Splendid cultural and scientific achievements have been scored thanks to the constant concern shown by the Soviet Government and the entire socialist society.

The times when the bulk of Russia's population was illiterate and the number of specialists with a college education in some parts of the country could be literally counted on the fingers of one hand have long receded into the past.

With the triumph of socialism, the Soviet peoples completely overcame their former cultural backwardness.

## No Backward Peoples

Cultural progress has been particularly impressive amongst the nations which were formerly oppressed in pre-revolutionary Russia.

Today the Soviet Union has no backward peoples or backward republics. Each Union republic is a well developed socialist state, politically, economically, and culturally. In educational facilities the Soviet republics are superior to many foreign countries of Western Europe and the East.

In Tajikistan, for instance, where before the Revolution only one out of every 200 could read and write, illiteracy has been utterly stamped out, compulsory seven-year education has been introduced, secondary and higher education are widespread, an Academy of Sciences and dozens of higher and specialised secondary educational establishments are functioning, and there are more than 2,800 schools attended by 344,000 children. There are 92 university and college students here to every 10,000 of the population, which is many times more than in Turkey or Pakistan.

In Uzbekistan there are twice as many students to every 10,000 of the population as in France. In Kirghizia the number of students to every 10,000 of the population is nearly six times more than in Turkey and almost twice as much as in France.

## Universal Education for Children

The schooling of children is of paramount importance in the development of education in any country, because it is precisely the elementary and secondary school that gives the fundamentals of knowledge which is developed later.

Many declarations have been made about the benefit of universal education, but much has to be done before a declaration becomes a reality.

William Irvine, the Canadian political figure we have already mentioned, was absolutely right when, describing his impressions of the Soviet Union, he said it was very fine when a country had a system of universal compulsory education, but that in some countries nothing was done to make this system a reality.

The greatest problem, he says, is where to get the money. In the Soviet Union that problem has been fully solved, he notes.

Enormous sums are earmarked for this purpose in the Soviet Union. The 1959 state budget has appropriated 27,700 million roubles for school upkeep and equipment: this money goes to subsidise elementary and secondary schools with a total of 31,500,000 pupils.

Furthermore, large sums are allocated for putting up new school buildings. The great scope of new school building is borne out by the fact that in the seven years ending 1957, 8,599 schools, accommodating 2,793,000 pupils, were built at the expense of the state.

In addition, the collective farms built at their own expense in this period another 8,757 schools capable of taking 1,045,000 pupils.

All the schools are fully staffed with the necessary teachers who have either a higher or specialised secondary education. They are trained by the many universities and teachers' training institutes and colleges. Rural school teachers enjoy all kinds of privileges, including free housing and facilities, and service bonuses.

The schools are well equipped with special laboratories, workshops, gyms, and with libraries possessing thousands of volumes.

## Boarding Schools

In recent years a new type of educational establishment, the boarding school, which is to play a great role in the education of the rising generation, has become widespread in the U.S.S.R.

These schools provide the most favourable opportunities for giving children an all-round, general and polytechnical education, for inculcating in them high moral standards, developing them physically and aesthetically, and preparing them for practical work in the various branches of economy.

In 1959 the state budget earmarked 2,300 million roubles for the maintenance of boarding schools, twice as much as in 1958. The number of pupils in these schools—now 430,000—will increase to 2,500,000 by 1965.

In addition to being a good form for bringing up and educating children, the boarding schools are also important in that they materially assist families. The parents of boarding school pupils do not have to pay for their upkeep as a rule or, if they do, they pay only a small fraction of this sum, which is rather large—more than 7,000 roubles per pupil a year.

## Educational Reform

In the next few years education is to be fundamentally reorganised in accordance with the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet Law on Strengthening the

Ties of the School with Life and Further Developing the System of Public Education in the U.S.S.R.

The main task of the school is to prepare the rising generation for life, for socially useful work, and to bring up the youth in a spirit of profound respect for the principles of socialist society.

The school is called upon to train well-educated people with a good grounding in the fundamentals of science and able to engage systematically in physical labour. It is also called upon to foster in the young people the desire to be useful to society and take an active part in producing the material values society needs.

To this end seven-year education will be replaced by eight-year universal compulsory education. The eight-year schools will have their own workshops, where the pupils will be given polytechnical instruction and production training.

In the ten-year schools, that is in their senior forms, the pupils will combine classes with work at enterprises or collective farms, or in special workshops, and will thus receive both a complete general and polytechnical secondary education and a special trade training; this will be done with an eye to local personnel requirements.

The network of urban and rural correspondence secondary schools, which already give instruction to 2 million pupils, will be considerably extended.

All these measures will call for a still greater state outlay on public education.

## Pre-School Institutions

We have already mentioned that the Soviet Union has an extensive network of nurseries and kindergartens, caring for children of pre-school age. In 1958 the state spent 10,000 million roubles, nearly twice as much as in 1953, to build and maintain pre-school child institutions.

This network will grow still more in the next few years, 103,000 million roubles being spent for this purpose by 1965. By that year the number of children cared for by these institutions will double.

Also widespread in the U.S.S.R. are seasonal nurseries and kindergartens, organised at collective farms during the sowing and harvesting periods; and playgrounds for children of pre-school age in parks and the yards of blocks of flats.

## Millions of Specialists a Year

Universal compulsory seven-year schooling and the rapid extension of complete ten-year secondary education have provided a solid foundation for training the number of specialists the country requires.

A large army of specialists in all fields of knowledge has been trained in the country in Soviet years. There are now about 7,500,000 specialists with a higher or specialised secondary education—thirty-nine times more than in 1913.

In 1958 alone 840,000 specialists graduated from the universities, colleges, and specialised secondary schools. The annual graduation of specialists will soon reach the million mark.

The following figures are a striking confirmation of the widespread development of higher education in the U.S.S.R. The student body of Soviet higher schools is roughly four times bigger than that of Britain, France, West Germany, and Italy taken together.

The higher schools graduate now nearly three times more engineers than in the U.S.

This is one of the main reasons why the U.S.S.R. has scored such magnificent achievements in the development of science, technology, and art.

In the U.S.S.R. higher and specialised secondary education is developing fully at state expense. The students of the universities, colleges, specialised schools, and other educational establishments do not have to worry at all about tuition fees. On the contrary, three-quarters of them get grants and many are provided with hostel accommodation.

In 1940 the state budget earmarked 2,100 million roubles for grants; in 1959 6,300 million roubles, or three times as much.

Grants are allocated by special faculty commissions consisting of representatives of the higher school management and the student bodies, subject to approval by the director of the higher school.

But besides grants students get other privileges, too. Like all the Soviet working people they enjoy free health services and sanatoria and holiday-home accommodation. They have the free use of libraries, laboratories and equipment for study and research and wide facilities for recreation, sport, and so on.

The Seven-Year Plan envisages a further considerable expansion and improvement in the training of specialists with a higher and secondary education. In the seven years the higher schools will graduate 2,300,000 specialists, against the 1,700,000 trained in the previous seven years. As a result the total number of specialists with a higher education will be one-and-a-half times more than in 1958.

Higher education is to be further improved to bring it closer to production; more young people with a practical record of work and experience will be enrolled.

## Training of Workers

Besides the training of specialists in various fields of knowledge great attention is also paid in the Soviet Union to the training of workers in the main trades and to the improvement of their skill.

This is done because the development of industry, agriculture, transport and other branches of economy, the perfection of production technologies, and mechanisation and automation of production, are placing increasing demands on the workers.

Under socialism the Soviet factory worker has grown immeasurably both from the point of his general cultural levels and his technical standard. As a rule he has a good grounding in the technology of his job, takes a creative approach towards it, and makes it his concern to introduce technical novelties and improvements that would make work easier and raise labour productivity.

Very important in this respect is the system used to train skilled manpower. This incorporates technical, trade, railway, mining, farm-machinery

operators, factory apprenticeship, building, and other schools. In 1958 these schools trained 650,000 skilled workers. Between 1940 and 1958 they trained more than 10 million.

There is also production training directly at the enterprises, where every year some eight million factory and office workers are trained and improve their skill at all sorts of schools and courses.

Of late many new ways and means have been devised to raise the cultural, technical and general educational standards of the working people.

Evening secondary schools, specialised secondary educational establishments and branches of evening universities and colleges are being opened at factories and big collective farms and state farms.

At the Leningrad Metal Works, for instance, there are now functioning a branch of the Polytechnical Institute and an engineering school. The Kemerovo Coke and Chemical Workers has drafted its own seven-year plan for training all its workers—on the basis of combining work with study, according to which by 1965 more than 100 workers are to finish secondary school, 298 at technical schools and 107 at institutes.

It is the state and public organisations which finance everything done to train manpower in the U.S.S.R. The cost of training skilled workers at the enterprises is borne by the enterprises themselves. The producers' and consumers' co-operatives and collective farms also bear some part of the expenses incurred in training personnel. The working people themselves do not have to pay anything if they want to receive a general specialised education or improve their skill.

The state provides pupils of trades schools with grants, the necessary clothing, and free cultural and other facilities. State expenses for these purposes amount to more than 4,000 million roubles a year.

## Inventors and Innovators

The systematic effort to raise the cultural and technical standards of the Soviet factory workers and peasants, coupled with their conscious and creative attitude to labour, is leading to widespread innovation and invention. At every enterprise there are scores of inventors and innovators who make different suggestions on how to improve production technology and its organisation.

In 1958 more than 1,500,000 inventors made more than 2,700,000 suggestions.

The state does everything to encourage this, with special awards and bonuses as an incentive. In 1958 the total sum spent on bonuses for fulfilment of production plans, technical innovations and other achievements was more than 20,000 million roubles.

## Sweeping Housing Construction

The improvement of housing conditions is a most important factor in improving the people's welfare.

The rapid industrial development of the U.S.S.R., followed by a considerable growth in the urban population, has greatly increased housing requirements.

Under Soviet power the country's housing facilities were considerably

extended and renewed. Big new socialist towns appeared; old towns were fundamentally rebuilt; slums and squalid quarters vanished. In 1913 the urban housing amounted to 180 million square metres,\* in 1940 to 420 sq. m. and in 1957 to 721 million sq. m. In other words it had increased four times.

Despite the great scope of housing construction there is still a housing shortage in the U.S.S.R., largely due to the tremendous damage done by the German fascist invaders who fully or partially destroyed 1,710 cities, towns and townlets.

Housing construction has forged ahead particularly rapidly of late. In the last five years state and co-operative organisations (exclusive of the collective farms) and also the urban population (at their own expense and with the help of state loans) built new houses, totalling a floor space of 223 million sq. m. which is far more than the entire urban housing in tsarist Russia.

In the same period the collective farmers and rural intelligentsia have built more than 3 million houses in the countryside.

New residential blocks of fine, well-appointed houses have appeared in many cities throughout the country, especially in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and other industrial centres. New towns, such as Bratsk, Angarsk, Almetyevsk, Oktyabrsky and Volzhsky, are rapidly developing.

Housing construction is rapidly gathering pace in regions that were particularly hard hit during the past war. Thus, in Soviet Byelorussia 4.7 times more houses were built in 1945-58 than in the twenty-three years before the war.

## Housing Shortage to be Eliminated

Of special importance for solving the housing problem is the decision which the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers adopted on July 31st, 1957, and which outlines an imposing programme of housing construction over the next ten to twelve years. When this programme has been carried out, the housing shortage will have been fully eliminated.

This decision provides for further improvement in the building industry, the construction of enterprises, manufacturing pre-cast reinforced concrete elements, the development of pre-fabricated housing, and other measures to improve housing construction, reduce the amount of labour involved in it and improve quality.

The Soviet Government is increasing appropriations for housing construction from year to year. In 1959 the state budget earmarked 41,400 million roubles, that is 60-odd per cent more than in 1955, for this purpose (this does not include the big outlays made by the enterprises).

Furthermore, every assistance is being given to workers desirous of building houses at their own expense or with the help of state loans. Private construction of big apartment houses on a co-operative basis is encouraged; the flats built are considered private property.

\* One sq. metre=10.764 sq. ft.

## 22 Million New Homes

In the volume of housing construction, the Soviet Union has outstripped the leading capitalist countries. Thus in 1957 10.6 flats were built to every thousand of the population in the U.S.S.R. The corresponding ratio in the same year, according to official statistics, was 6.7 in the U.S., 5.9 in Britain and 6.2 in France.

The amount of housing built every year now in the Soviet Union is equal to forty new towns with a population of 200,000 each.

The target figures for the Seven-Year Plan call for a new signal stride forward in housing construction. In this period 650-660 million sq. m. of housing, or about 15 million flats, 2.3 times more than in the previous seven years, are to be built in the country at the expense of the state and of the population, with the help of state loans. This means that urban housing will increase 1.6 times in the seven-year period.

Apart from this the collective farmers and rural intellectuals will build about 7 million houses in the countryside in this period.

In the seven years, between 375,000 and 380,000 million roubles will be spent on housing and public utilities. This is 75 to 78 per cent more than in the previous seven years.

This colossal scale of housing construction will make it possible to provide every family in the Soviet Union with a well-appointed flat. There will be at least 22 million house-warmings in the coming seven years.

## Who Foots the Bill?

In socialist society the state foots most of the house building bill. In the very first decade of Soviet power 55 per cent of the new housing was put up by state-owned factories and offices and the local Soviets. Later on the proportion thus built rose to between 70 and 90 per cent.

Under the new Seven-Year Plan, again the state will pay for most of the housing built.

But apart from this, the population itself will put up more housing with the help of state loans. According to the seven-year targets, workers will put up, with the help of state loans, some 33 million sq. m. every year, while in 1952-1958 the annual average was only 11,600,000 sq. m.

As housing construction is expanding so rapidly, the state is able to place more dwellings at the disposal of its citizens.

## Low Rents

The working people in the U.S.S.R. get residential accommodation on the easiest of terms. To all practical intents, state-built flats are turned over to the working people for use in perpetuity.

Rent in the Soviet Union is the lowest in the world. Whereas in the capitalist countries rent eats up from 25 to 30 per cent of the family budget, in the Soviet Union rent, including the cost of public utilities, rarely exceeds an average of 4 or 5 per cent of the family budget.

Furthermore, many lower-paid categories of employees are entitled to certain privileges in this respect.

Since the rent paid does not fully cover the costs of housing upkeep and repair, the state allocates rather large sums specially for this purpose.

The low rent in the U.S.S.R. and the enormous appropriations made by the state for the construction and upkeep of housing, strikingly demonstrate the constant concern of the Party and the Government for the people's welfare.

## People Can Buy More

An examination of the concrete forms of public services for the working people in the U.S.S.R. shows that a large and increasing part of their requirements is satisfied free of charge out of the appropriate funds for state benefits and privileges.

Along with the growth in wages and salaries and in the peasants' incomes, the increasing state appropriations for the social services are making for a steady and rapid rise in the people's living standards.

Eloquent proof of this is afforded also by the expansion of retail trade, the all-over volume of which increased 2½ times between 1950 and 1958. This means that people can now buy more and more of the commodities they need, eat and dress better, and satisfy more fully their material and cultural requirements.

It is noteworthy that among the commodities the sales of which have increased most in recent years are furniture, TV sets, pianos, household refrigerators, washing machines, cars and other expensive durables.

Under the Seven-Year Plan retail trade is to expand still further. By 1965 it will be roughly 62 per cent more than in 1958. Far more household utensils, foodstuffs, fabrics, clothing, underwear, footwear and other goods are to be sold.

## Increased Bank Savings

While buying more and more of the things they need, the Soviet citizens can also add to their personal savings in the form of savings bank deposits. The total sum of savings bank deposits has increased 4.6 times between 1950 and 1958, reaching more than 90,000 million roubles in the first months of 1959.

Since people are materially provided for at state expense, in sickness, old age and so on, they can use their savings to satisfy more fully their material and cultural requirements—to buy more expensive durables, spend a good holiday and so on.

## The Communist Way

"In present conditions", N. S. Khrushchov pointed out at the Twenty-First C.P.S.U. Congress, "when a powerful socialist industry and large-scale agriculture have been built up in our country and are making good progress, there is every prerequisite for the Soviet people to live still better in the immediate future, and to satisfy more fully their material and spiritual requirements.

"The Seven-Year Plan provides for:

"A substantial growth of the national income and a marked increase.



on this basis, in the real incomes of the people;

"A shorter working day and a shorter working week;

"An expansion in the output of consumer goods and an improvement in their quality;

"Large-scale housing construction;

"A substantial improvement of public, cultural, and other services."

The more socialist production advances, the more there will be in the country of material and spiritual values and the more of these values the state will be able to use to satisfy the constantly growing material and cultural requirements of the people.

It is this that really constitutes the communist way of raising the working people's welfare. This is the way of providing better living standards for society as a whole and for each of its members!

# SOVIET BOOKLETS on the SEVEN-YEAR PLAN

---

A special series of booklets is being issued dealing with different aspects of the U.S.S.R.'s Seven-Year Plan, 1959-65.

The following titles in this series are now available:

**SEVEN-YEAR PLAN TARGET FIGURES** (Report by N. S. Khrushchov and Reply to Discussion). 9d.

**GREAT PLAN OF THE SOVIET UNION** (With Map and diagrams). 9d.

**A PLAN FOR THE PEOPLE** (What the Soviet Citizen Will Gain from the Seven-Year Plan) by Victor Zhukov, M.Sc.(Econ.). 9d.

Appearing Shortly:

**SOVIET HANDBOOK, 1959-65** 9d.

Other titles in preparation

---

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

For an annual subscription of 5/-, these and all our other booklets, will be sent to you, post free, on publication

Send your subscription or order for booklets to  
SOVIET BOOKLETS, 3 Rosary Gardens, London, S.W.7.

---

---

*Published by Soviet Booklets,  
3 Rosary Gardens, London, S.W.7  
and printed by Farleigh Press Ltd. (T.U. all depts.),  
Beechwood Rise, Watford, Herts.*

---

---