

RUSSIA SPLIT INTO ENDLESS CLASS GROUPS

Division Needed to Solve Problems of Feeding, Work, Living.

This is the fourth of the series of articles by Eugene Lyons summarizing impressions after three years in the Soviet Union.

BY EUGENE LYONS
United Press Staff Correspondent

MOSCOW, Feb. 26.—The Communist ideal envisions a society without classes, all humankind working together on terms of equality.

For the present, however, the Soviet population is divided and subdivided into more classes than the capitalist world outside.

For the Marxist under a bourgeois system the rough division of people into capitalists and workers, exploiters and victims, generally suffices.

Here where Marxism is not merely a philosophy, but a basis for practical action, people are split into endless classes and categories according to which they are fed, taxed, given work, trusted or terrorized.

Free Farm Classes

Such divisions are thoroughly in line with the logic of Communist thought. Since the individual counts for nothing, is only a grain of his social group or collective, the multiplication of such groups is inevitable.

Where once there were landlords and peasants, now we find kulaks (the better-to-do farmers), middle peasants, poor peasants and batraks, or landless farm hands.

The last two classes are, of course, the favorites. Upon them the Soviet regime bases its plans and its hopes, upon them it lavishes its resources.

The middle peasants are a harrowed and driven lot, poised dangerously between the blessed poor and damned kulaks.

Kulaks Are Doomed

As to these, they are scarcely better than outlaws and formally doomed to extinction as a class by the end of this year, a process of ruthless extirpation already well started.

In the cities we are confronted by even more subtle divisions. The "lishtenzi," or disfranchised class, has various categories, but the differences between them are only degrees of outlawry and not worth haggling over.

This class includes the dregs of the former ruling classes—ex-aristocrats, ex-merchant princes, priests, etc.—and the leavings of the Neptunes or private traders.

Then come the intellectuals—professors, engineers, technicians, artists, actors, lawyers, etc.—who are constantly under suspicion with the benefit of doubt usually against them.

Workers Divided

Deep gulfs yawn between the real proletarians, the manual laborers, on one side and the office workers on the other. The former are "rabochi," the latter "slyuzhuchi"; the former alone rule even in theory, since the dictatorship of the proletariat does not include the office workers.

Furthermore, the manual workers are divided into those who do the heavy work in basic industries and their brethren engaged in lighter, more skilled tasks.

These distinctions within the working class itself are not academic.

They affect food rations, housing, the chance to obtain clothing, schooling. In all these matters the manual worker receives priority.

The political reasons for such artificial and seemingly iniquitous splintering of the working class are not far to seek.

The revolution needed one powerful group upon whom it could rely 100 per cent and whose loyalty it could maintain at the boiling point always.

The brain workers offered no such safe reliance. They included large masses closely tied by their tastes and mental habits to the bankrupt past.

Next—Ascendancy of the manual laborer.



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Miss Laura Patten (right), holding the Hoosier "flower wonder," and Miss Mildred Pogue in a greenhouse.

YOUNG WOMAN SLAIN

Police Hunt Strangler of Unidentified Body.

By United Press

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—An unknown "strangler" became the object of a city-wide search today after discovery of the body of an attractive, stylishly-gowned young woman lying in an isolated section of Van Cortlandt park with a sash-weight rope about her neck.

RECOVERY PREDICTED

Best Business Expected in 1935, Lions Told.

Complete business recovery from depression by the end of 1931, with "feverish business activity" by 1935 is the prediction of Professor Robert Phillips of Purdue University, International director of Lions clubs.

"By 1935 there will be such feverish activity and enterprise that we will forget about the years of 1930 and 1931," Phillips told members of the Indiana Lions clubs at its annual state banquet in the Claypool Wednesday night.

"Basic causes for every depression will in America since 1837 have been overinvestment, unwise investment, overproduction and the psychological attitude of the people," he said.

By 1940 history will repeat itself and we can expect awaning in business and hard times again, Phillips asserted.

The state meeting closed this afternoon, following speeches and reports of district governors.

TRAIN HITS TRUCK

Pastry Is Spread Over Neighborhood.

By United Press

RICHMOND, Ind., Feb. 26.—D. C. Britton of Lynn was deposited in the midst of mess of uncooked scrambled eggs, doughnuts, buns, bread and cakes this morning when his truck was struck by a C. & O. passenger train near here.

Britton picked himself up unharmed, having been thrown from the truck into a pile of weeds with bits of food and splinters from the demolished truck.

Housewives from the surrounding countryside came to the wreck scene with baskets, coal buckets and sacks, and gathered up the bread, buns and bits of cake that were strewn along the tracks.

It was a lucky break for both Britton and the neighboring housewives.

The truck belonged to the Hiatt bakers of Winchester.

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ONLY HOUDINI COULD ESCAPE ROHMER'S KNOT

Creator of Dr. Fu Manchu Tells of His Own Most Embarrassing Moment.

BY H. ALLEN SMITH
United Press Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Sax Rohmer, the man who gave the world the shivers with his insidious Dr. Fu Manchu, is a rather short Englishman with graying hair, a marked appearance of dignity and an extreme affability. He looks no more sinister a person than Rudy Vallee.

Rohmer, who lives in Europe, will spend a week or two prowling around the speakeasies and gangland haunts of Manhattan, because he enjoys it and because it's his business to keep abreast of the trend of international crime.

Rohmer is one of the most rambling talkers ever to set foot on American soil. When interviewed he buzzed along about crime, spiritualism, Gordon gin, Egyptology, Chinese pirates, writing habits and whatnot. And, finally, he got around to the best story of them all—the story of his most embarrassing moment.

He used to start out writing a thriller with little or no idea how it was going to turn out. "I simply set about to get everything tied up in a horrible knot," he explained, "and then I would bring in my detective and untie it."

Well, about five years ago Rohmer locked himself into his apartment (you should hear him call it a flat) overlooking Hyde park for purposes of concocting a half-raiser.

He wrote about nine chapters and then found himself involved in an inextricable puzzle. He couldn't figure a way out.

He pondered and pondered his problem while the nine chapters lay idle.

Then, of a sudden, he decided to give it up and in sort of a rage, tore the nine chapters up.

In the meantime, and without much thought, he had sent a copy of the nine chapters to his American agents.

Houdini to Rescue

He, therefore, was greatly amazed when he got word that the story had been sold to a popular American magazine and that the first installment was to appear at once.

He hopped a boat and hurried over. There was no saving the thing. The first chapter or two already had appeared in the magazine. There was nothing left for the master mind to do but sit down and finish the story.

"I paced the floor in my hotel, sleeplessly trying to get the knot untangled," he said. "I was the most desperate man in the world.

"I kept writing chapters working right behind the magazine's printers—but the more I wrote the deeper in I got myself.

"I was on the verge of ending it all by jumping out the window when my friend, Harry Houdini, who knew of my predicament, hit upon an idea for an ending to the story. Harry got himself out of many tight places but never at tight a place as he pulled me out of."

Revolution Is Feared

By United Press

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Feb. 26.—Disgruntled political leaders alleged to be planning revolt to coincide with the inauguration on Friday of President-elect Gabriel Terra have been placed under strict surveillance by the government.

George Adair Longley was not as big a hump as that on the nose of the late manufacturer, indicating that George Adair is not Albert W. Longley's son by his first wife, as the former claims.

Longley's third wife insists that she is entitled to the \$1,000,000 the elder Longley left.

Richard Stiles, 810½ North Illinois street, Apartment 2, arrested recently following a police booze raid, was fined \$100 and costs and sentenced forty days on the state penal farm today by Municipal Judge Paul C. Wetter. His wife, Frances, also arrested, was freed.

Error Causes Search

By Times Special

MUNCIE, Ind., Feb. 26.—Believing he had been a victim of pickpockets while attending a trial in Delaware circuit court here, William Hole, near Daleville, caused Sheriff Fred Puckett to search several persons in quest of a pocketbook containing \$80. Later Hole advised the sheriff he had found the pocketbook in other clothes at his home.

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