

SOVIET LAUNCHES SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN; CITIZENS GRIMLY FACE SACRIFICES

World Prosperity Collapse While Russia Forges Ahead Used as Picture to Inspire Nation.

SCOFFERS SURPRISED BY RESULTS

Definite Progress Made by Communist Leaders in Gigantic Scheme Which Has Made Over a Vast Empire.

With its first "Platitka," or Five-Year Plan, in its final year, the Soviet Union has announced a second one which, if successful, would place Russia in the front rank of world economic powers. What is the scope of these plans? How do they meet the needs of Russia's seeming millions?

This is the first of a series of articles in which the results of the first "Platitka" and the prospects of the second, not alone in economic but in human terms, are discussed.

BY EUGENE LYONS
United Press Staff Correspondent

MOSCOW, April 4.—Russia has launched another five-year plan, renewing the most amazing experiment in world history.

The citizens of the Soviet republics have been stirred to new sacrifice and more strenuous effort by the picture of the economic situation of the rest of the world, painted by their leaders in contrast with the development of Russia.

The Soviet leaders picture capitalist society groping through fog-banks while the Soviet union widens its national horizons by another half-decade.

Even after political rhetoric is discounted properly, enough solid truth remains in their version of world affairs to challenge attention.

With the non-Soviet world enjoying a seemingly limitless prosperity and the Bolshevik scheme merely words on paper, it was possible to ignore, or to ridicule the original five-year plan when it was revealed.

World Scene Changes

Since then the words have been translated into gigantic industrial combings, large-scale mechanized farming, Russia's return to the world wheat market, the development of hitherto waste regions; and the non-Soviet prosperity is for the time being in a state of collapse.

To the writer, who has been on the scene of the "Platitka" since its inception, the most impressive indication of Russia's advance is the reception which the new plan is meeting abroad. There is no such disdain as greeted the first plan.

The world at last is taking the Soviet economic scheme seriously. Astounded by Soviet success in some directions, it is overlooking palpable failures in other directions.

Surprise for Scoffers

Surprised by the magnitude of accomplishments, it tends to forget the price at which they were bought. The very ones who scoffed loudest when the original plan was announced, now pray loudest for deliverance from the "red trade menace."

The "control figures" for the current year represent the final phase of the first "Platitka." If they are fulfilled by the end of the year the Soviet regime will claim that its five-year program has been carried out in four years.

The claim must be verified, of course, by reference to the program as first published in 1929.

At the same time the general aspects of the Soviet Union's economic and cultural development for the five years between 1933 and 1937 have been blocked out by the recent conference of the ruling Communist party.

Some Goals Set

A few of the goals for 1937 have been definitely fixed: 250,000,000 tons of coal, 22,000,000 of pig-iron, 130,000,000 tons of wheat, 100,000,000,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity. The rest have been sketched roughly and will be brought into clearer focus before the year is over.

The Soviet nation stands at the crossroads of the two plans. It stands there not merely physically but psychologically. The hopes and thoughts which were centered upon 1933 must be shifted to 1937—an adjustment that is not as painless as it sounds.

The world is asking many questions. What are the results of the first five-year plan, as nearly as one can estimate them at this time? What are the prospects disclosed by the second five-year plan?

What do these kilowatt-hours and mile-tones mean in terms of the 160,000,000 men, women and children whose lives form the ultimate ingredients of all statistics?

The attempt to answer such questions is a strain on the courage. The Russian scene is so tremendous and so unique that few of the time-honored methods for measuring and judging a land have any value.

Charts Don't Tell Story

Profits and losses—or completed factories and collectivized farms—do not tell the whole story. In the excitement over Soviet economic charts and figures, it is too easy to forget that industrialization is not the chief purpose of the Russian revolution, although a good many Communists themselves tend to lose sight of the larger purposes in their preoccupation with immediate tasks.

Essentially the building of an industrial structure, the mechanization of farming, are not ends in themselves for the Soviet leaders. They are means to an end, namely, a socialist society of happier human beings.

(To Be Continued)

SPOTTED FEVER FOUND

Malady Is Discovered Among Guards at Windsor Castle.

By United Press

WINDSOR, England, April 4.—Several cases of spotted fever were discovered today among members of the Scots guards and the horse guards stationed at Windsor castle here, where the king and queen live.

BRUTALITY RULES IN KENTUCKY SHAME ZONE

Petty Czars Hold Miners in Thrall With Mailed Fist; Oust Investigators

BY ROBERT TALLEY
NEA Service Writer

PINEVILLE, Ky., April 4.—If any of the two busloads of eastern college students, bent upon investigating conditions in the coal regions of southeastern Kentucky—Harlan and Bell counties—had avoided being turned back by Kentucky citizens at the state border as had entered the area, here's what they would have found:

1—Suspension of all rights and all liberties in a community wherein there are 10,000 persons—jobless miners, their wives and children—living in rickety shacks, and kept alive only by such meager relief as can be afforded by local organizations—

2—The mines in which these men were employed operating only on part time, with such coal as is mined selling at a price which the operators claim to be below the cost of mining—

3—Miners working three or four days a week, drawing from \$2 to \$3 a day in company scrip, not in cash, and compelled to purchase all supplies from company stores at a price which, operators admit, represents sufficient profit to the operators to help absorb the deficit represented in the sale of coal—

4—Headed by a dictator in the person of County Attorney Walter B. Smith of Bell county, there is the picture of the business interests, the churches, local community clubs, the American Legion and residents generally banded together as a unit to prevent any outside interference whatsoever in the community affairs—

5—In Harlan or Bell counties your sympathies must be entirely with these local community groups mentioned above as opposed to the miners or you're a "red"—

6—Strikes or other radical movements have been put down by force. About a dozen were killed in labor wars in this area during the past year—

7—As the result of labor troubles the various citizens' organizations regard the situation as now under control, and their process for maintaining quiet includes: Arresting any one not known to them; holding suspected Communists under charges of criminal syndicalism; demanding that all visitors give a satisfactory accounting of their reason for being in town.

If the explanation is not satisfactory, the visitor is handed a card inviting him to leave the country. If he doesn't leave, he's driven out.

Two newspaper men have been shot and wounded, one of them while being so escorted beyond the state line—

8—Upon receipt of news that visitors are coming, such as the eastern college students, it is possible to gather a posse and within fifteen minutes load up plenty of donated automobiles to meet the outlanders—

9—Into this fertile field for agitation with thousands unemployed, the National Miners' Union—a Communist organization—sent organizers one year ago. There were fiery speeches. The leaders were driven out of the state or locked up on syndicalism charges. Some miners still will admit belonging to the "Russian union," which is all they know about it, but most of them have burned their cards. To be found in possession of such a card means arrest.

County Attorney Smith says he is continuing his campaign "to save the nation from Communism"—but, in this campaign he is disregarding all rights and liberties—

10—As a further idea of combating Communism, all outside relief for the unemployed miners and their families is rejected.



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A NY man who comes in here and begins asking questions—especially if he tries to pry too deeply into the conditions of the miners—immediately becomes an object of deep suspicion.

The whole town of Pineville, with its population of 3,600 business men and others, immediately becomes a corps of 3,600 private detectives bent upon seeing what the visitor is up to.

I know, because I was arrested.

Wishing to dodge this surveillance, I arose at 5 a.m., hailed a rickety taxicab and went out to a nearby mining camp before the town was up and about.

I talked with the miners and their wives in the shacks in which they lived, desiring to get their stories at first hand. I also want to see those pictures and I want to see your notes, too."

I told him I had already mailed to him the office home. Apparently, he didn't believe me, as he kept right on the question.

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It's hard to get into the coal regions of Kentucky, but it is very, very easy to get out, as these "fresh air taxi" cards of Pineville (left) and Harlan (right) attest. Upper left, with bandaged head, is Waldo Frank, New York writer, who was taken by Pineville citizens on such a ride. In circle, Theodore Dreiser, who was indicted. Center, below, is County Attorney Walter B. Smith of Pineville, who barred the eastern college students, and, inferentially, warned them of a similar fate. The map shows typical Kentucky miners like those to whom the mine region bars outside food relief.

Chief Osborne of Pineville took me in tow.

Mr. Smith, though only 29 years old, is the dictator of Bell county. He runs everything. He is the official who publicly ejected the visiting college students.

"Been out talking to those miners at Dean Branch, Walter," Chief Osborne announced as he motioned me to a seat. "Took some pictures too, and now he wants me to get some more."

I told him I had already mailed to him the office home. Apparently, he didn't believe me, as he kept right on the question.

Chief Osborne took me upstairs to the office of County Attorney Walter B. Smith, the official prosecutor.

"What's the matter?" I asked.

"You know," he replied. "Where are those pictures you took out at Dean branch this morning? I want to see those pictures and I want to see your notes, too."

I told him I had already mailed to him the office home. Apparently, he didn't believe me, as he kept right on the question.

From some mysterious source, Chief Smith seemed to know all about my movements.

Prosecutor Smith seemed equally skeptical. I told him I was not a Communist, had no Communist

sympathies and was merely bent upon making a fair and impartial investigation of conditions. He too, demanded to see the missing notes and pictures.

After considerable questioning, he finally released me.

Both towns are quite candid about it and joke about how many they have escorted across the state line.

Each town has cards advertising its "Fresh Air Taxi Company" as the movement is known. A tourist's visitor gets one of these cards from a gentle hint.

If he fails to take the hint, a "citizens' committee" escorts him to the Tennessee border where he is dumped out and warned not to return.

Business men and others of Pineville still talk of how Waldo Frank, New York writer

who brought a committee here to distribute food among the miners, and Allan Taub, New York attorney, were taken for one of these "fresh air taxicab" rides a short time back.

After returning to their hotel, Frank and Taub were seized by citizens and officers, placed in an auto (driven by a Pineville merchant) and taken on a midnight ride to the Tennessee line.

There, lights on all the cars were extinguished. In the darkness, Frank and Taub were beaten badly.

Another chapter in the story of Pineville is the indictment, charging criminal syndicalism, that still pends against Theodore Dreiser, who led a committee here to investigate conditions among the miners.

County Attorney Smith says people like Dreiser and Frank come in here not to help the miners, but to get publicity for themselves on books they plan to write.

"We started it long before they ever thought of it," Sheriff Blair of Harlan county told me.

"Of all the nerve!" retorts Prosecutor Smith, of Bell county. "Why, they even copied some of the wording on their cards from us; it's rank plagiarism!"

Since the notes that Chief Osborne and Prosecutor Smith demanded of me were on a gravely forbidden subject—the crime of talking with miners and learning how they live—I am quite confident that if they had obtained these notes they would have been confiscated and I would have been escorted out of Pineville in a hurry.

But they didn't get them—and next I'll tell you the story that those notes contained.

Next—How the miners live, a story written from notes that Kentucky officers tried to confiscate.

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