

FIVE-YEAR PLAN BEWILDERING TO RUSS PEASANTS

Keep Faith in Communism but Manifest Vague Disappointment.

BY EUGENE LYONS
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MOSCOW, April 6.—Ivan Ivanovich is a Moscow workman, a simple middle-aged man, a little bewildered by all the political shouting about "Piatlletkas."

If the truth be told, he is a trifle bored by millions and trillions and percentages. He prefers a fat salt herring to a million kilowatts. Pork is closer to his soul than pig-iron.

He has no doubt that the Communists are right. In general, Ivan Ivanovich is not the kind to question printed words and torrid speeches. But despite everything he keeps on thinking of the five-year plan in terms of the empty shelves in the co-operative shops and his humble overcrowded room.

Sometimes, under the influence of a factory meeting, or a demonstration, he forgets his lowly preferences and is caught up by the vision of an idyllic Socialist future.

Comes Back to Earth

But there always is his Annushka to pull him back to earth. Annushka, his wife has an old-fashioned habit of reminding him of three young mouths to feed, shoes and coats beyond patching, the monthly rations of tea and herring which were used up in a few days.

Now Kolya, his eldest son, excitedly over the "Piatlletkas." The way he boasts about the opening of a blast furnace who would think it was his personal property.

Kolya is a Communist pioneer. He expects to be a Red engineer and thinks that there only is one civilized country in a world of slaves and savages.

When the five-year plan first was announced, Ivan Ivanovich was skeptical, but in the end he was convinced. It gave him a comfortable sort of feeling, too—he'd work hard and do without things four or five years, then everything suddenly would be better.

In his simple way, he looked forward to the end of the plan as though it were a prison term.

Optimism Is Held

When things got worse instead of better when bread began to be rationed and the ruble lost some of its purchasing power, Ivan Ivanovich still was optimistic.

He knew there were good and sufficient explanations: the wickedness of kulaks who slaughtered livestock, sabotage, intervention—he didn't quite understand how it all worked but he was satisfied that others, smarter than he, did.

The announcement that the five-year plan is almost over and a new one about to be started therefore upsets him a good deal.

He reads and listens to the figures on new factories and huge farms, but his mind reverts to Annushka, empty store shelves and leaky shoes.

Ivan Ivanovich is not bitter. After all, things are better in many ways. At least everybody has a job.

Personally he is still in that one room with his entire family, but he knows many luckier workers who have new flats, with baths and all.

Pieces Work Aided

Then again, since piece work was introduced, he earns 140 or 160 rubles a month. Before, he received only 90 or 100 rubles. It's just a pity, he thinks, that prices go up exactly when he begins to earn more.

Ivan Ivanovich chides himself for being so ungrateful. All his children are in school. They receive free hot lunches. He himself buys one rather good meal a day in the factory.

He is not worried about illness—the social insurance fund will take care of him.

Nevertheless, deep inside, he feels that he has been let down by the five-year plan.

How many Ivan Ivanoviches are there? Is he typical? I shall not venture to guess. That their number runs into millions, is certain. The side of the five-year plan which turned out badly is unfortunately turned toward the average Russian.

Soviet's Shock Troops

Millions, however, have been touched by the ardor and the faith of the Soviet leaders. They form the shock troops in Russia's war for industrialization.

The failure of the plan to raise living standards as expected only fortifies their determination to work harder, to build faster, to sacrifice more.

Among them are the 4,500,000 members of the Communist youth organization, 2,800,000 members and candidates of the Communist party (a good proportion, though not all) of the factory and collective farm shock brigades.

They tell Ivan Ivanovich to be patient and stop complaining. They remind him that under Czarism he was nobody and now he owns the whole country.

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Welcome to Army Day'



Miss Belle Jean Van Devender, 2823 Central avenue, welcomes Indianapolis and Indiana residents to Army day, today at Ft. Harrison.

Two thousand troops, commanded by Brigadier General G. H. Jameson, Fort Benjamin Harrison commander, will participate in an Army day program this afternoon from 1:30 to 4.

The program was to include air stunts, machine gun and artillery

TWO DRIVERS FINED IN CAR COLLISIONS

Four Injured in Crashes:
Thief Escapes From Burning Auto.

by David Granowski, 2809 Ruckel street, Apartment 2.

Nabbed by police in the alleged attempt to push his car away from the scene of an accident, early today at Twenty-fourth and Bellefontaine streets, Ray Jennings, 27, of Sixth-sixth street and Keystone avenue, was arrested for drunkenness and driving while drunk. His coupe crashed into the parked car of William T. Gill, 2453 Bellefontaine street, police were told.

Alleged to have attempted to escape from an accident scene, William Dawson, 46, of 18 North Jefferson avenue, was convicted of drunkenness and operating a car while drunk today by Municipal Judge Clifton R. Cameron, and was sentenced to thirty days in jail in addition to fines totaling \$36 and the operating charge was dismissed.

Henrietta Patterson, 28, of 2608 Shriver avenue, incurred leg injuries when the car in which she was riding struck another and plunged into a ditch a mile east of the city on the Brookville road early yesterday.

Jack Wheately, 7, of 1325 Olive street, was injured on the head and shoulders when struck by a car driven by George McVey, 1517 Herschel avenue, in front of the boy's home, Tuesday afternoon.

Head lacerations were incurred by Frank Holmes, 5, of 1144 West Thirtieth street, when he was struck by a car being driven by Kenneth Chappell, 19, of 947 West Thirty-third street, near his home, Tuesday afternoon.

An auto thief who fled from a car which caught fire and burned on Sixteenth street, half a mile east of Emerson avenue Tuesday night, is sought today. The car, destroyed by flames, had been reported stolen.

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