

# REPORT ON THE RUSSIANS.....



W. L. White

## INSTALLMENT SIX

If allowed this much freedom, one might want the right to quit his factory job and start a crossroad store, exploiting his neighbors by selling them merchandise from a temptingly convenient location, thus disrupting the plans of the Soviet Food Commissariat.

They would point out that under capitalism such little men often make mistakes, locating crossroad stores where there is no need for them, and then go broke.

Here competition with the state is outlawed, so inefficiency is protected and the people accept it because they know nothing better. Occasionally some Russian expert returns from abroad with the news that keen capitalist competition has developed a cheaper, quicker way of doing something. Then, if he can get in to see the important commissars and beat down the natural inertia of a bureaucracy, the new system is installed throughout the Soviet Union. But more often than not capitalism pioneers, while socialism only copies.

We continue on out the paved road. When it ends, we bump over ruts to German fortifications. They are neat



Russian women built many fortifications during the war.

and orderly like German entrenchments everywhere. At this point the German line ran through a little cluster of houses, which was a co-operative farm and had been heavily shelled by Russian artillery because near it the Germans located one of the big siege guns which pounded Leningrad. The Germans got their gun out but its great emplacement remains, a careful job of concrete work and camouflage.

Already the people are returning. We see three ragged women picking about the ruins, trying to put on one end of a room a temporary roof which will shelter a stove from the rain. A shy, chunky, nineteen-year-old girl, dragging from another ruined house a heavy rafter, passes us on the path. She is in rags, but they are clean rags. Her hands have calluses as thick as those of a stonemason.

Leningrad's people are tremendously proud of their city, and regard themselves as culturally superior to the rest of Russia. They are also proud that they were able to hold the Germans for weary, starving months at the city's gates, and finally hurl them back. They are contemptuous of Moscow which they have always regarded as an overgrown peasant village, but particularly now because of the panic which swept Moscow when the Germans were at its gates.

Halfway across Leningrad we entered the Church of St. Nicholas. The church was built in two elevations and as we climbed the stairs, we heard singing. We had blundered in on choir practice. They were all women in early middle age, very well dressed by Soviet standards and decently dressed by ours.

Presently there appeared a man who apologized because the Father himself was not here, but volunteered to show us the various altars and the miracle-working ikon.

We asked how the money was raised for keeping the church in repair, and were told that the state took care of this.

Communist Party members continue their private contempt for religion. They regard such doctrines as the forgiveness of sin and the immortality of the soul as childish superstitions on a level with palmistry. It is highly improbable that anyone holding to any of these beliefs would be regarded as fit for membership in the Party, which in Russia is the only road to power.

However, the Orthodox Church is now the officially established church of the Soviet Union, with a representative on the Council of People's Commissars, corresponding to

a cabinet post in the Western countries. For this change, Hitler is largely responsible.

After the 1917 Revolution, most of the Orthodox Church leaders emigrated to the Balkans, and Hitler, as part of his invasion plans for the Soviet Union, seized on this historical background. He established a number of Orthodox churches in Berlin, including a cathedral, and earmarked millions of reichmarks for their support. After he invaded France, he commandeered silk to make religious vestments. When he entered Russia, he proclaimed himself the Protector of the Russian Church; every German army quartermaster was equipped with these vestments as well as sacred church vessels, and churches were everywhere re-opened in the Ukraine.

When the Communists dropped their anti-religious propaganda, and suspended the official publication for the Society of the Godless because of a "paper shortage," their critics in the outside world insisted that these moves were only to impress foreigners.

These critics were wrong; the Party had sounder domestic reasons for changing their policy. For the Germans were making headway in the Ukraine with their religious propaganda. Not only was it popular with the older people, but many of the young were joining the Germans. During the final stages of the Ukrainian mop-up, the Red Army came on entire regiments of Ukrainians in German uniform.

As further answer to this German propaganda in the Ukraine, three dignitaries of the Russian Orthodox Church were invited to see Stalin and on September 4, 1943, a formal reconciliation was effected and the Church got its place on the Council of People's Commissars. This is a complete reversal of the action of January 23, 1918, which separated Church and State in Russia.

A further explanation of the change is that the Bolshevik Party now feels strong enough to tolerate, even to recognize, the Church.

The party has not overlooked the fact that a patriotic, nationalistic Church can be as useful to their regime as it was to the Romanov dynasty. The State printing presses in Moscow are now turning out beautifully printed religious books for the use of the Church, and it has consented to the establishment of a seminary for training priests.

Although the Church is now recognized and tolerated, it is not officially encouraged. The Party realizes the new policy is popular abroad, and strengthens in America and England both its own position and that of its friends in those countries. Consequently, it encourages all news stories and picture layouts coming out of Russia portraying the new state of affairs.

Something of the basic attitude toward the Church, however, may be seen in a little thing like electric light rates. A state-owned store pays only 1.16 kopeks per kilowatt-hour for its current, a home user is charged 5.5, while a church must pay 41.

The case is far different with the Church of Rome. This has become important only since the war, when the Soviet Union absorbed the Baltic States and parts of Poland, all of which contain many millions of Roman Catholics.

Some concessions have been made. After Hitler's attack on Russia, the Soviet's Polish prisoners of war were released from internment camps and organized into several divisions originally headed by General Anders. The Soviet government permitted the teaching of the Catholic religion to their children in special Polish language schools, organized by the Soviet Department of Education. Anders was also permitted to have thirty-seven Catholic chaplains for his seven divisions.

Regardless of the basic contempt of all Communists for religion, the Orthodox Church is a purely Russian institution, and its clergy are now as completely obedient to the Kremlin as they were once subservient to the Czar. But the Pope, an Italian living in Rome, is another matter. The Soviet Government permits outsiders to have little contact with, and certainly no authority over, the people within its borders. So as long as the Soviet Union contains within its frontiers a considerable Roman Catholic population, any agreement between the two could only be an armed truce.

The Leningrad Defense Museum turns out to be an enormous world's fair type of exhibit telling the story of the city's recent siege.

In the lobby there is a bronze statue of Lenin, addressing the people during the Revolution. There are dozens of groupings. We are shown how Leningrad's luxury and precision industries mobilized for war.

Here is the telegraph apparatus connected with the line laid under Lake Ladoga, Leningrad's only communication with the rest of Russia during the siege. There are pictures of the transportation system across

Ladoga's ice; the top layer had melted, but cars were traveling hub-deep over the lower one.

A scale model of Leningrad's bread factory shows how it operated without electricity or running water. A collection of lamps was made from bottles after the electricity gave out. There were also exhibits of the daily bread ration as it had to be successively reduced because of dwindling supplies. The smallest was 125 grams (about 4 ounces) on December 25, 1941.

We are shown pictures of people pulling the bodies of their dead on sleds through the streets toward cemeteries. But the reporters tell me that bodies frequently were kept in the house or buried after dark, so the survivors could continue using the food card.

A most interesting series of montages is devoted to the partisans: explaining how organizers are parachuted into occupied areas, how the bands camp in the forests. There are photographs taken from German prisoners showing the execution of Russian girl partisans.

The famous Leningrad electrical plant is named for Kirov, Stalin's close friend, whose assassination in 1934 started the big political purge of the Communist Party. It employs only 3,000 people. Before the war 6,000 worked here. It now produces no consumption goods—only generators, hydro-electric turbines, and electrical equipment for the Red Army.

At one point girls working at a row of benches are winding and assembling a small electric motor. Eric says it is a standard type which sells for \$55 in America. He knows, for he makes and deals with electrical equipment at his Spokane factory.

They tell us 250 people work in this division, turning out 400 motors a month. So we do a little figuring. At American prices, these motors would bring a monthly total of \$22,000. If divided equally among the 20 assemblers here, each would get \$88 a month, which is almost exactly the wages they do get, in terms of the actual purchasing power of the rouble.

This leaves nothing whatever for overhead or the wages of the management, nor does it allow for the cost of the wire and metal parts, since these people only assemble.

Obviously, if their factory is to make a profit, that little motor must be sold for at least double what it would cost in America, and this because of the inefficiency of Soviet production methods.

One worker turns out only 1 6/10 motors per month. Is it unskilled management or unskilled labor? Whatever the answer, the picture is the same in almost every plant we visit.

The main Kirov plant before the war, the director says, employed 32,000 workers. How many now? He dodges—almost the only time anyone has refused to give us a frank answer. The plant functioned all through the blockade, producing mostly ammunition for Leningrad's defenders. Now its principal work is the production of tank motors.

A particular grinding machine is presided over by a beautiful girl—tall, blonde, and blue-eyed but her Slav face is unusually grim. She can't be more than twenty-two. She explains she works not for the extra



Hundreds of thousands were made homeless in Leningrad district.

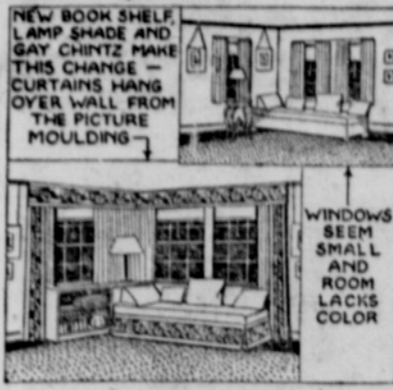
pay but from hatred—her father and mother starved during the siege. At the factory, she says, the workers ate grease from the guns and oil from the machines.

The Germans occupied Peterhof and all Leningrad's other suburbs. For instance, Ligova was a suburban town of 35,000. When the Russians recaptured it, they found not a living soul. The same with Pushkina, which had 50,000, and Peterhof, which had 45,000. Peterhof—a beautiful palace copied from Versailles, but painted the Imperial lemon yellow. It stands in its beautiful gardens, a stately roofless ruin—burned by the Germans.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

## Creating a Modern Air in Living Room

HOUSES of glass are realities today and, if you want to give any house a modern air, try to make the windows seem important. One way is to frame them in a group by covering the wall and leaving the glass exposed.



An inexpensive chintz with grey-green ground and a flower pattern is used for draperies and to trim the couch cover of heavier grey-green cotton material which is also used for the cushions. The glass curtains are hung on rods suspended from the picture moulding with picture wire and hooks. The side drapes are unlined but the valance is made over buckram. Both are tacked to pine strips and are hung with picture hooks. One end of the book shelves is closed in to make a head for the couch. The outside is painted grey-green and the inside dark green. The parchment lamp shade has green bindings.

NOTE: This decorating idea is from BOOK 9 which contains more than 30 other suggestions for homemakers. Copies are 15c postpaid. Send direct to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS  
Bedford Hills, N. Y. Drawer 10  
Enclose 15 cents for Book No. 9.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_



## Look! Muffins made with Peanut Butter! (No shortening and only 1/4 cup sugar)

If you'd like to try something brand new in muffins that's truly delicious and saves on shortening, too — try Kellogg's new Peanut Butter Muffins. You'll love their flavor. You'll love, too, the tender, melt-in-your-mouth texture of bran muffins made with Kellogg's ALL-BRAN. For ALL-BRAN is milled extra-fine for golden softness.

1/2 cup peanut butter  
1/4 cup sugar  
1 egg, well beaten  
1 cup milk  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup Kellogg's ALL-BRAN  
1 cup sifted flour  
1 tablespoon baking powder

Blend peanut butter and sugar thoroughly; stir in egg, milk and KELLOGG'S ALL-BRAN. Let soak until most of moisture is taken up. Sift flour with baking powder and salt; add to first mixture

and stir only until flour disappears. Fill greased muffin pans two-thirds full and bake in moderately hot oven (400° F.) about 20 minutes. Makes 10 tender, tasty muffins.

**Good Nutrition, too!**  
ALL-BRAN is made from the VITAL OUTER LAYERS of finest wheat—contains a concentration of the protective food elements found in the whole grain. One-half cup provides over 1/3 your daily minimum need for iron. Serve Kellogg's ALL-BRAN daily!

**FOR QUICK RELIEF FROM TIRED, ACHY MUSCLES**  
SPRAINS • STRAINS • BRUISES • STIFF JOINTS

*What you NEED is*  
**SLOAN'S LINIMENT**

# Firestone

## 2-WAY PLAN

### FOR YOUR DRIVING SAFETY

We Will Recap Your Present Smooth Tires For Winter Driving Safety

When New Firestone De Luxe Champions Are Available to You We Will Equip Your Car and Boy Your Recapped Tires

All you have to do is drive in, and our Firestone tire experts will show you how to secure complete tire safety. Smooth, dangerous tires will be recapped by the famous Firestone Factory Method. You exchange smooth tire danger for the famous Gear-Grip Tread. Then when new Firestone De Luxe Champion Tires are available to you, we will buy your recapped tires. Stop in today for the driving safety you want and need!

**FIRESTONE DELUXE CHAMPION**  
The Tire that Stays Safer Longer

Firestone De Luxe Champion Tires give car owners patented, exclusive construction features which assure extra safety and extra mileage at no extra cost. For most miles per dollar, choose Firestone De Luxe Champions, the tires that stay safer longer!

Listen to the Voice of Firestone every Monday evening over NBC.

See our Nearby Firestone Dealer Store or Firestone Store