

Russia as it Is Today

Uncensored Revelations in Stalin's Blood Purge

By WEBB MILLER
United Press Staff Correspondent
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MOSCOW, via London (uncensored), Sept. 4.—(UP)—While in Russia one cannot inherit wealth or position or profit by the work of others, the U. S. S. R. today has its comparative rich and poor, but there has been no crystallization of a permanently privileged class.

Questions regarding comparative wealth, property ownership and standards of living figures prominently in inquiries which American editors have sent to me.

Writers and dramatists are the best paid. Some of them receive tens of thousands of rubles a month in royalties and are able to buy many luxuries. Engineers and specialists as a rule receive the next best pay.

Work Returns Differ
Among industrial workers under the widely-practiced piece-work system, one man may earn five times as much as another doing the same sort of task.

Public officials and some others, while they hold their positions, enjoy privileges not accorded to the masses. The personnel of the official circles is constantly changing—rapidly in many instances during the current "purge." A common factory worker who demonstrates unusual ability may be elevated suddenly to a commanding position while his former boss may be sent to a road gang.

I give herewith the questions which I have answered as best I can:
Q. Is the standard of living improving in the Soviet union?
A. Yes. Even casual observation shows it is improving constantly, year by year. However, the Soviet leaders themselves readily admit in speeches that neither the general standard of living nor the productivity of labor can be compared favorably with the standards of western capitalistic states.

Two years ago the average industrial worker's wage was about 160 rubles monthly. Now it is about 250 rubles. In three visits to the Soviet union in the past two years and the observation of hundreds of thousands of workers at work and play in the principal industrial centers, I have detected an improvement in their appearance, clothing, facilities, and in the quality and quantity of commodities which are available.

Housing Still Poor
Housing is still generally poor and inadequate. Almost intolerable crowding is the rule, although huge new apartment buildings are springing up everywhere. Houses being erected today are of much better quality than those of a few years ago. Trains and street cars are crowded beyond capacity.

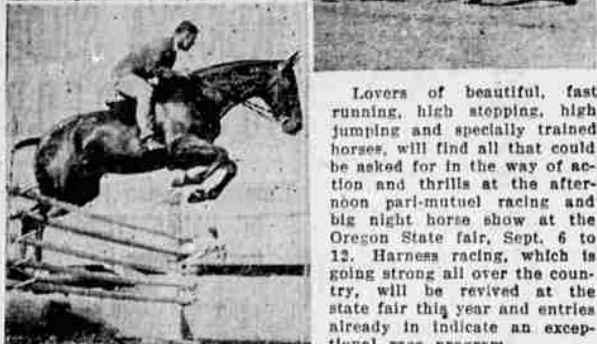
Production of consumers' goods is not equal to the demand, especially fabrics. The scarcity of supply results in queues which often stand for hours waiting to snatch up commodities before the supply is exhausted. The children look healthy and happy and are usually better dressed than their elders. One is astonished by the number of new and seemingly excellent school buildings which have sprung up throughout the country.

Q. Can a Soviet citizen own things for himself? A. Yes, he can. For instance, he may possess his home with its household goods, and millions of a limited number of domestic animals, fowls, and a savings account. He can buy interest-bearing state lottery bonds or an automobile if he can afford one or find it on the market. He can hire any number of servants; he can inherit money or property subject to heavy taxation. But he cannot use his money to make money through the labor of others.

Laundry Service Poor
My American friends who have to wear starched shirts with evening dress at diplomatic functions experienced great difficulty getting them laundered. A Chinese student at the university possesses the accomplishment (rare in Moscow) of laundering evening shirts. He was swamped with business at 15 rubles, or \$3 at the legal exchange per shirt. Often it takes him two weeks to complete a laundry, but he dare not hire an assistant and make money by another's labor.

Q. Does inequality in the payment of labor exist in the Soviet union?
A. Yes, to an extent as great or perhaps greater than in capitalistic countries. The widespread application of the piece-work system has resulted in a wide disparity in the payment of workers doing the same class of work. A clever, hard-working laborer may earn from two to five times as much as his less gifted fellows. The piece-work system has even been applied to such diverse work as paving jobs, which are paid by the square yard, and draughtsmen's plan, which are sometimes paid for by the square inch with rates varying according to the diffi-

THERE'LL BE "HORSE-ACTION" AT THE STATE FAIR



Lovers of beautiful, fast running, high stepping, high jumping and specially trained horses, will find all that could be asked for in the way of action and thrills at the afternoon pari-mutuel racing and night horse show at the Oregon State fair, Sept. 6 to 12. Harness racing, which is going strong all over the country, will be revived at the state fair this year and entries already in indicate an exceptional race program.

and demoted by the commissar of heavy industry.

Q. Has any new form of aristocracy or privileged class arisen to replace the old aristocracy of wealth and birth?
A. The bureaucracy of public officials is sometimes criticized as constituting a new form of privileged class. Undoubtedly many persons do possess uncommon privileges, such as access to better living quarters and the use of automobiles in their work, but there is no crystallization of a permanent privileged class. Personnel is constantly changing, and frequently bureaucrats find themselves suddenly out of office and in prison or working with a labor gang on a canal or railroad. There are disqualifications of birth, such as nobles, rich merchants, or bourgeoisie, but no accident of birth automatically gives privilege or position.

Q. How has an industrial boss system materialized?
A. The tendency which undoubtedly exists toward such a development is held in check by a unique Soviet system of criticism of bosses by their workers with investigation and action if the complaints are well founded.

Q. How is the tenure of office of industrial bosses insured?
A boss' tenure of office is highly insecure if his department does not produce efficiently; moreover, he may land in prison or exile. Often workers reject offers of foremanships because of their fear of responsibility. But generally the category of management is recruited from the ranks. Recently one Jacob Quisim, 28-year-old mechanic, who was serving as foreman in the Kaganovich ball bearing plant, was appointed director of the plant, which employs 15,000 workers, and is said to be the largest of its kind in the world. Peter Krivonos, a locomotive engineer, who gained fame for efficiency, was named as head of the Slavansk rail-repair shops, which are the largest in the Soviet union. Such promotions are made by the commissar of whatever industry is involved. For instance the directors of plants in the heavy industry are appointed

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BOY SCOUT JACK THOMPSON TELLS OF HOLLAND TRIP

(Editor's note: The following was received from Jack Thompson, who, with Bud Theroff and Jerry Yawter, attended the world Boy Scout jamboree in Holland.)

Luzerne, Switzerland, August 19, 1937.
We had a grand time at the jamboree in Holland, so after it was over we began our tour of the Netherlands. Our first trip was to Der Helder where we were met by the mayor and townspeople and escorted all over the town and given refreshments and entertainment. We saw the two well-known monuments of the Netherlands. One is in memory of the heroes of the sea and the other in memory of the navy men who died in the war. Our second trip was to Rotterdam and Der Haag and a sea resort called Scheveningen. We were given an hour in Rotterdam to go as we pleased, then we went to the sea resort and enjoyed refreshments and entertainment. We were then taken through the Haag by street car and saw the peace palace. Our last trip was, I think, the most interesting. We went through the Reich museum and then across the canal by ferry. We boarded a street car and went to

Volendam where we took a boat to Marken Island where we saw some interesting people and houses. We took a boat from Marken Island to Amsterdam and then a train to Voerendaal.
We left Holland by train for Germany on August 18. Our first stop was at Cologne. We didn't have much time there as we were only allowed to top one night. The next day we took a special bus to Koblenz where we had more time to see sights and shop. We saw the old fortress that was occupied by American forces after the great war. The following day we had a beautiful trip up the Rhine to Weisbaden, on which we saw some very interesting castles and a lot of river traffic. We spent a night at Weisbaden and the next day went to Heidelberg, the oldest university town in Germany. We stayed here two days, then proceeded by bus to Luzerne, Switzerland. We had a beautiful trip through the Black Woods and arrived in Luzerne about six in the afternoon. We had a special boat take us around Lake Lucerne and then we went to the top of one of the smaller mountains by a cable car. The remainder of our stay we did shopping and sightseeing.

On the 30th of August we take a bus to Interlaken and pass through a glacier.

Democrats Gain 1,112
PORTLAND, Sept. 4.—(P)—Democratic party registration in Multnomah county exceeds the Republican by 1,112, Registrar James Gleason announced today. As of September 1, Democrats numbered 90,157, Republicans, 89,045.

Use Mail Tribune want ads.

Why Suffer Longer?
Be relieved at once by our herbal remedy tried and tested over thousands of years. Chinese herbs will give you relief—no matter what you are afflicted with—you owe it to yourself to use this opportunity to regain your health. Chan's herbs have restored health to thousands of people—Why not you? Do you have Gas, Constipation, Stomach Trouble, Rheumatism, Hay Fever, Prostate Trouble, Ulcers, Children's Bed Wetting, Gall Stones, Run Down Condition, Sinus Trouble, Asthma, Influenza, Female Trouble, Piles, Chronic Cough, High Blood Pressure, Arthritis, Colitis, Nervousness, Appendicitis, Tonsillitis, Eczema, Heart, Liver, Bladder, Kidneys, Lungs, Blood, Urinary Disorders. Free consultation. Open 10 to 6 P. M. CHAN & CHAN, 341 Hill 5 P. M. Tues.-Thurs. 10-12 A. M. Closed Sun. Chinese Med. Co. 235 E. Main

MIKADO DRESSES UP AND EXTOLLS PLANS IN CHINA

TOKYO, Sept. 4.—(P)—Emperor Hirohito, in formal military attire, opened a "war session" of the Japanese parliament today by chiding China for what he termed failure to understand the true Japanese intentions in eastern Asia.

The emperor told the assembly he had been occupied by problems involved in the maintenance of peace, the stabilization of eastern Asia and the mutual prosperity of China and Japan.

The emperor paid a tribute to the Japanese expeditionary forces for whose financial support the parliament had gathered in extraordinary session. The cabinet yesterday approved an increase in the war fund for the Chinese campaigns to about \$737,000,000.

Premier Prince Fumimaro Konoye said he was deeply touched by the emperor's speech and the heads of all Japanese political parties pledged their loyalty to carry out the imperial wishes.

The fact that throne addresses ordinarily are quite brief and couched in general terms—as compared to the emperor's extended and specific statements today—aroused the whole empire to the gravity of the situation.

SANTA MONICA, Calif., Sept. 4.—(P)—The condition of Grace Moore, singer who underwent an abdominal operation, was reported very good today. She will remain in the Santa Monica hospital about 10 days.

Highway Completed
SALEM, Sept. 4.—(P)—The new five mile strip of the Pacific highway south of Salem virtually was completed today, Harold Blake, contractor announced.

HIGH COURT WILL RESUME TUESDAY

SALEM, Sept. 4.—(AP)—The state supreme court, upon resuming its work here Tuesday after the summer vacation, will hear arguments in the appealed case of the weighers, warehousemen and general workers union against William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, and others.

The case involves the picketing of the Meier and Frank store in Portland and the unseating of union delegates by the federation.
On Wednesday the court will hear arguments in the case involving Orey Coffey, ex-Salem police officer, under three years penitentiary sentence for accepting a bribe.
Coffey was convicted in the Marion county circuit court and the supreme court later affirmed the de-

cision by a three to two decision. Re-argument of the case subsequently was ordered with all seven justices participating.

Several other cases are set for argument next week, including that of the Electrical Products Company vs. Ziegler. This case was appealed from Multnomah county.

Closing time for Too Late to Classify Ads is 1:30 P. M.

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