

Russian Women Line Up To Buy Bread from Sufficient Supply

(Editor's note: Russia has had harvest setbacks, has been buying wheat in huge quantities from the West, and there are bread lines in Moscow. But are there actual shortages? Here is a first-hand report from the Soviet capital.)

By JAY AXELBANK
United — Internat'l

MOSCOW (UPI) — "There is plenty of bread for everybody—look for yourself," said a Babushka's housewife as she pointed to row upon row of white and black bread in a Moscow bakery.

The woman was standing in a long line and when she counted the 24 shoppers ahead of her, she sighed.

"There is always enough bread and other things," she said, "but these lines—always lines for everything."

To the casual observer in Moscow the sight of bread lines— together with the uproar in the Soviet press about bread wastage— might indicate severe shortages this winter. But this does not appear to be the case. A check of Moscow shops and bakeries shows plenty of bread to go around, even though some have limited sales to one loaf to a customer to prevent rush buying.

Scare Food Buying

News of the poor grain harvest led to a rash of scare food buying in many Moscow stores earlier this month but this has largely subsided. Even restaurants are still "piling it high" despite government warnings to go easy on bread.

The spotty wheat harvest has, however, led to one shortage: flour for baking is unavailable at retail stores in the Soviet capital at present. The Soviet government has assured that there will be adequate supplies this winter as a result of wheat purchases abroad.

As the housewife walked out of the bakery clutching two loaves of white bread—they are usually not wrapped in this country— she smiled at a Western reporter, saying:

Lines Are a Habit

"Lining up to buy anything is a habit with us. I must average an hour a day on a line."

All over the capital city there are lines and not only for bread—for watermelons (now in season and very tasty), tomatoes, potatoes, milk and cheese.

The main reason for the queues, Russians explain, is not only that Soviet farms and processing plants still don't turn out supplies fast enough; it is also due to poor distribution. That the Soviet Union has insufficient detail shops was admitted only this month by the magazine "Soviet Trade."

The number of food shops—in fact, stores of any description—is only a fraction of the number to be found in New York or Kansas City, London or Paris. By a rough estimate the

number of bakeries, groceries and fruit and vegetable stores in Moscow can be no more than a tenth of those found in New York, for example.

Rotting in Rail Yards

Poor distribution is manifested in other ways. The Communist party organ Pravda reported on Sept. 27 that hundreds of tons of fresh tomatoes and other vegetables were rotting in

rail yards outside Moscow due to transportation foulups.

Such reports of spoilage come almost daily and account for the fact that on a given day in Moscow there may be a glut of peaches or cucumbers while there will be none of these items the next.

The Soviet Union has a long way to go in catching up with American food production by

1970—a target date set by Premier Nikita Khrushchev. This year's poor harvest and agricultural ills generally make this target exceedingly remote.

Feeds Only 6.43 People

One Soviet farmer still feeds only 6.43 persons in this country—which was the situation in America in 1900. Today one American farmer turns out enough food to feed an average

of 23.69 persons, according to U. S. Department of Agriculture statistics.

Nevertheless, despite grain shortages this year, poor utilization of farm machinery, and insufficient use of fertilizer and irrigation facilities, Russian agriculture is making forward strides.

The trade journal "Soviet Trade," reported that in the 10 years since Khrushchev has been at the top, agricultural production has gone up 67 per cent. Land under cultivation has increased by 14,480,000 acres, the bulk of this in the virgin lands of Kazakhstan.

In 1953 the Soviet Union, according to these statistics, had 32,500,000 head of horned cattle. Today the figure is 62,400,000. The production of meat and meat products is up 2.4 times.

Output Up Each Year

Although the farm output goes up each year, it has not been enough to satisfy Soviet leaders.

In this connection the Soviet Union last year had a claimed production of 147 million tons of grain.

The gain crop this year is poor due to drought and bad weather in the Ukrainian and Kazakhstan virgin land bread basket areas. Even so it is estimated that the output of grain this year will amount to approx-

imately 140 million tons—with the difference between this figure and that of 1962 being made up for by purchases abroad.

The fact that an output of grain almost equal to last year's yield constitutes a grain shortage, Western experts here say, is due to the increasing requirements of rising population, and demand from Russians to be better fed—along with being better supplied with consumer necessities.

More Stress on Meat

With the passage of years the Russian palate has been attuned to better food and more of it—with greater stress on meat, fish, fresh vegetables and white bread.

In many other respects, too, the average Russian wants more—and is getting it. While agricultural production has risen

only 67 per cent in a decade, gross industrial production has risen 300 per cent.

The magazine "Soviet Trade" claims Russia's annual industrial growth rate is 10.7 a year compared to America's 2.9. It cites such statistics as these: Output of fabrics up 58 per cent; leather shoes up 92, TV sets from 37,000 in 1953 to a production of 2,300,000 now; refrigerators in the same period from 31,000 to 838,000 now, and washing machines up from 4,300 to 1,800,000 in 10 years.

Production Is Low

Despite these impressive claims, production of consumer goods by any standard is far too low to meet demand and prices are far too high—by Western yardsticks of comparison. In many cases, and the Russians don't deny it, quality

is sharply lacking.

"Soviet Trade" also neglects to point out that although the rate of growth is higher than in America, Russia has much farther to go. And it ignores the economic fact that industrially advanced nations such as the United States inevitably have a tapering off of their growth rate.

There are many more items in shop windows for Russians these days than a few years ago but the average Soviet citizen waits on "line" for practically everything he wants—even for appliances. For the latter the wait may take several months. At present delivery rates, a washing machine may take three months to be delivered, a new car two years.

But as the woman in the Babushka said, "Lining up to buy is a habit" with Russians.



LINE UP TO BUY—This picture, taken in December, 1957, still is typical of Russians buying almost all types of goods. Lining up to purchase has become a habit with Russians. (UPI)

Deposits, Loans Show Increase

Deposits, loans and total resources of the U. S. National bank registered substantial gains during the past 12 months, according to figures released Sept. 30 by the comptroller of the currency.

The Medford and North Medford branches reported combined deposits of \$28,909,851.49, according to Allan F. Perry, manager of the Medford branch. Loans and discounts totaled \$17,107,188.63.

Total resources for the U. S. National statewide system of 92 offices were \$1,094,245,195, an increase of more than \$60 million.

THERMO-RITE

The ONLY Time-Tested
GLASS FIREPLACE SCREEN
Enjoyed by Thousands in the Rogue River Valley



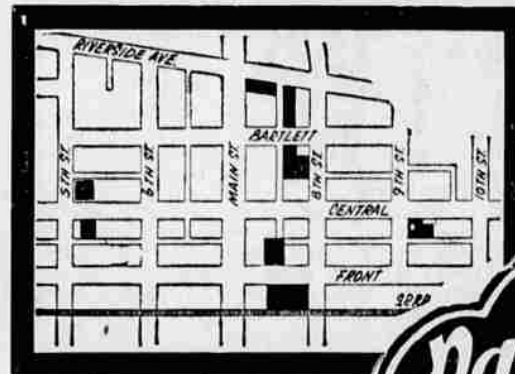
- RADIATES MAXIMUM HEAT
- ELIMINATES ROOM HEAT LOSS, SAVES FUEL
- PROTECTS AGAINST FLYING SPARKS, ASHES, DIRT AND DRAFTS
- TWIN DOORS OPEN WIDE FOR EASY LOADING OF FUEL
- CONTROL DRAFT WITH TWO SLIDING DOORS FOR FAST OR SLOW FIRE
- SOLID BRASS CONSTRUCTION, BEAUTY UNHEARD OF, THOUSANDS IN USE WINTER AND SUMMER
- BURN WOOD, COAL OR GAS

PHONE 772-7166

SMITH LUMBER CO.

Corner 8th and Fir Streets

PARK & SHOP



With Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas just ahead, downtown Medford is entering the full holiday season. Park and Shop is the easy, convenient way to shop in downtown Medford.



Park & Shop provides FREE PARKING with your \$2.00 minimum purchase.

PENNEY'S

ALWAYS FIRST QUALITY

Penney's One-Time Buy!

Luxury Dyed-to-Match Sweaters and Skirts

Now Only! 7⁸⁸

SWEATERS

New dimension to mixing. Sweaters in lambs-wool-angora rabbit-nylon blends and mohair. Dyed-to-match shades of felpe blue, casa green, pueblo gold, in cardigan or slipover models. Solids, stripes, intarsias plus white, pink, maize, blue, aqua. Sizes 34 to 42.

SKIRTS

Skirts in luxury wool. New Felpe blue, casa green, pueblo gold. Styles—choose all wool plaids or solids in straight line, hip stitched pleats, soft box pleats, or wool/cotton poodle cloth in A line or coachman wrap styling. Sizes 5 to 18.

Special!

SAVE ON FASHION SCARFS!

3 for \$1

At this tiny tag you can afford to buy 'em by the half-dozen... 29" rayon scarfs in prints and solid, lots lots of colors, too!

This Season's Most Popular All-Around Coat!

CORDUROY WEARS RACCOON

laminates warms to pile

29⁹⁵

sizes 8-16

Corduroy laminated, lined, and lavished! The season's biggest jacket features all in one! Cotton corduroy laminated to polyurethane foam, then lined in plush Orlon® acrylic pile, and lavished with a collar of raccoon fur.



we're going to shout it... to all our PENNEY customers FIRST!

Coming soon! Watch for it. Penney's greatest men's suit event!

Six Parcels of Timber Are Sold

Six parcels of timber were sold at oral auction by the Medford district, bureau of land management, Thursday.

The first parcel of 6,849,000 board feet was purchased by Kogap Manufacturing company, Medford, at the appraised price of \$145,814.25. It is located in the Dead Indian area.

Parcel two, Kerby Mainline, containing 73,000 board feet and appraised at \$2,231.70 was sold to M and Y Logging, Selma, at a bid price of \$2,246.30. C. H. Taylor was the unsuccessful bidder.

Brown Brothers Lumber company purchased a parcel in Josephine county containing 5,527,000 board feet appraised at \$116,819.05 for a bid of \$116,819.10.

Two parcels in Douglas county containing 828,000 and 3,911,000 board feet were sold at the appraised price. K and C Timber company, Grants Pass, purchased the first one at \$16,323.69 and Superior Lumber company, Glendale, the second one for \$88,526.20. There were no other bidders.

Spalding and Son, Grants Pass, was sold the last parcel on Mill Creek, in Josephine county, containing 9,134,000 board feet at the appraised price of \$219,430.95. They were the only bidder.

The next regular district timber sale will be held Nov. 14 at the timber sale room, Armory dr. Information concerning timber for sale may be obtained from the district manager, bureau of land management, 1133 South Riverside ave., Medford.

BRILL

METAL WORKS

Commercial—Industrial Residential Sheet Metal Work Stainless, Galvanized and Copper Fabrication

2287 West Main

PHONE 772-4440