

Red Leader's Interest In Farms Aided Career

Editors' note — This summer's summit meeting, if it comes off, will seat President Eisenhower across the table from a man experienced in the arts of political infighting and Communist intrigue. This article, third of a series of five, tells more of the kind of antagonist Khrushchev can be.

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Stalin's Nikita Khrushchev planted himself in the middle of a field, surrounded by awed farmers and Communist functionaries. A brisk breeze fanned to motion the tiny wisps of white hair on his nearly naked round dome.

"Here," exclaimed Khrushchev, pointing dramatically to the corn "is the complete sausage on the handle! Here is beefsteak; here is bacon! How will these plants look in a month and a half, when harvest comes? The cobs will be a half yard long. Now you understand why I am so enthusiastic about corn!"

Khrushchev owed much of his career to his knowledge of the farmer. Boss at last, he could talk confidently about his big ideas. It hadn't been so in the past. His first big idea about farming, in fact, almost cost him his head.

As a member of Stalin's inner Politburo and boss of the Ukraine, Khrushchev conceived the idea of revolutionizing collective farming as a step toward the goal of Communism.

In general charge of Soviet agriculture was Andrei Andreyevich Malenkov, old "triple A," weak, inefficient, always tottering on the edge of disaster. For the aggressive Khrushchev, Andrei was a pushover.

Farms, said Khrushchev, would be transformed into agricultural factories. Farmers would become farm industry workers. Small collectives would be merged on a vast scale into huge farm factories.

He reckoned without the peasants. There was grumbling, resentment, even resistance. He pushed through thousands of amalgamations, but suddenly Stalin slapped him down and halted the program.

The coal miner from Kurak listened in brooding silence at the 20th Communist Congress in October, 1952. Georgi Malenkov, Stalin's dour right hand, referred to Khrushchev as one of "our individual executive workers" who erred in trying to force farm consolidation.

But Khrushchev had bounce. He emerged from the 1952 congress a member of the expanded Presidium which supplanted the Politburo, and a member of an expanded party secretariat. He lost no time in nailing down his influence.

Malenkov would live to rue his words. Long after Stalin's death, Khrushchev would revert to 1952 and blame Malenkov for the sorry state of Soviet agriculture then. He would succeed in having Malenkov thrown out of the hierarchy.

Shortly after the 1952 congress, the lives of all Politburo members were in grave danger. Stalin, to quote a diplomat of the day, had "reached for the bottle again." A new blood purge was in the making. Stalin's assistants fabricated a fantastic story about a plot of doctors, most of them Jewish, to poison Stalin and other leading figures.

Luckily for the Politburo — some say it was more than coincidence — Stalin died in March 1953.

Malenkov took both of Stalin's jobs: premier and first party secretary, in control of both party and government. Within two weeks, Khrushchev nudged Malenkov from the party job.

Those were nervous days. The new leadership, calling itself "collective," felt impelled to promise abundance to the long suffering public. It apparently felt the need of popular support, something unheard of in Stalin's day. The whole fantastic story of the doctor's plot was reversed.

Isle Facing Plague Peril

TANANARIVE, Madagascar (UPI) — A mounting danger from cholera and the plague faced residents of this flood stricken island today where 50,000 are homeless and more than 3,000 have died.

Prime Minister Philibert Tsiranana said the toll from five successive typhoons may be over an estimated 3,000 dead.

He said anything like an accurate estimate was impossible since the torrential rains and floods wiped out nearly all communications over four-fifths of the 1,000 mile long island, 260 miles off the southeast coast of Africa.

"Tens of thousands of homeless villagers are camping out on the high ground," the premier said. "Most of the low lying towns and villages on the island are completely under water."

He said French military transport planes which had been flying round the clock to parachute supplies to isolated groups of refugees were being held up for lack of parachutes.

Tsiranana said that apart from the urgent need to find food for the homeless, there was a mounting danger of "the two scourges which accompany catastrophes: cholera and the plague."

"We have only 500 doctors," he said. "That is one for every 10,000 inhabitants."

The premier said that although the deluge has stopped and the water was subsiding, people could not go back to their homes, most of which are in a state of imminent collapse.

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FORTY-NINE YEARS of service with the Great Northern Railroad ended yesterday, April 1, when Bill Dunn, veteran conductor with the railroad, retired. Dunn, who was born in England April 29, 1882, went to work for the Great Northern in Everett, Washington, on March 10, 1910. He came to Klamath Falls on April 26, 1928, where he was a member of the construction crew that built the Bieber Line. From the left are R. H. Trelease, brakeman in Dunn's crew; Dan Parks, trainmaster, who is shown handing Dunn his manifest; and Dunn. This picture was taken by Otto Ellis just before Dunn made his last run which was to Bieber and return on Monday. Dunn served overseas during the first World War with the 31st Engineers.

WHOOPI! WRONG POCKET
MESSINA, Sicily (UPI) — Professional pickpocket Alio Leonardi has a deft touch but bad judgment. The pocket he tried to pick at Easter services in the cathedral here turned out to be the police chief's and he wound up in jail.

ESTIMATE TOURIST FIGURE
ROME (UPI) — An estimated 100,000 tourists and pilgrims came to Rome and Vatican City during the Easter Holy Week, officials said today. A spokesman for the Rome Tourist Bureau said the number was about 10 per cent higher than in 1958.

Bond Issue Approved

SALEM (AP)—The House Highway Committee approved Tuesday a \$4-million dollar bond issue to construct a highway bridge over the Columbia River at Astoria.

But the committee made construction conditional upon the state of Washington paying for half of it. So far, Washington has given no indication that it wants the bridge built.

The bill originally called for a 60-million dollar bond issue to build the bridge, reconstruct state Highway 42 between Roseburg and Coquille, and build other projects.

But the committee stripped the bill of everything except the bridge.

The committee vote on approval of the revised bill was 6-3.

The House probably will vote Friday on the bill.

ANNOUNCE ALGERIAN LOSSES
ALGIERS, Algeria (UPI)—The French army in Algeria put 1,172 rebels "out of action" and captured 849 weapons during the week ending March 29, French headquarters said today. French losses were put at 58 dead.

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- Saturday, April 4th Mr. Wilbur Stiles
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- Saturday, April 4th Mr. Herman Johns
Grown-Ups!
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