

SOVIET RUSSIA

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Fishermen's Boats in Astrachan

THE ATTEMPT ON LENIN'S LIFE

(By a Worker at the Factory "Vladimir Ilich")

AUGUST 30, 1918, is one of the well-remembered days in my life. It was on that day that Comrade Lenin was wounded by a criminal hand.

As the only big place in the Zamoskvoretchye district, in a thickly populated region, a big unused building belonging to the former Michelson factory (now the "Vladimir Ilich") was adapted to meetings for the workers. The attendance of the workers at the meetings was always good, but I never saw, though I was present at almost every meeting, such a great assembly of people as on that day—August 30. The big majority were workers, and there were not only workers from the Michelson factory and its neighbourhood, but also some who came from the outskirts of Moscow, from the Danilov and Smirnov suburban towns, and from other districts. Both men and women were here, and even children.

It was already known all over the district that Comrade Lenin would come to to-day's meeting, and everyone wanted to hear him. In that time of hunger and difficulty everyone was worrying about food first of all, but to hear a word from our leader "Ilich" was for a true proletarian a greater need than bread. The workers recognized the word "Ilich" as being their whole life, their whole bright future.

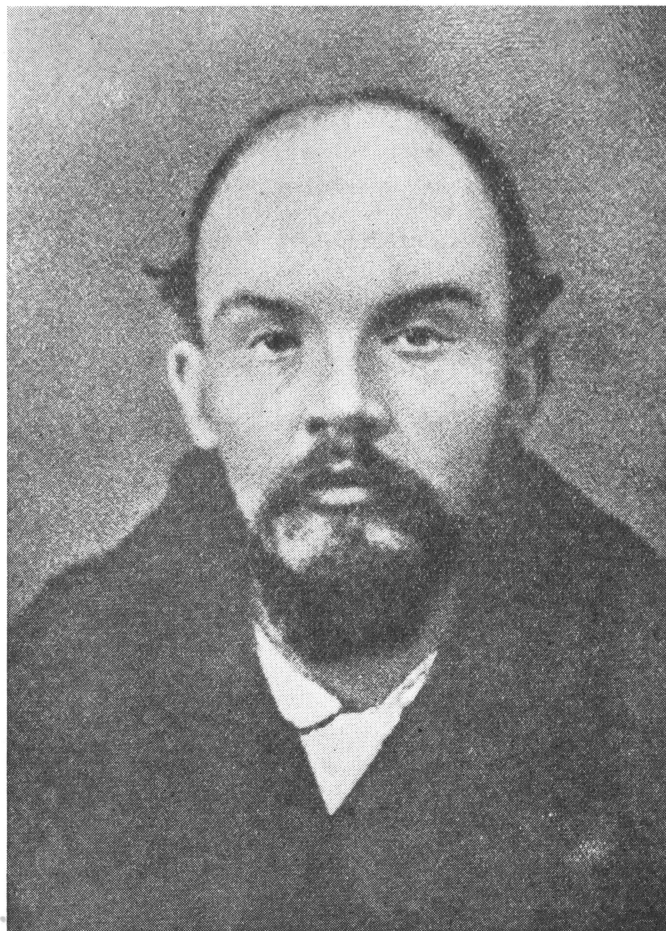
I do not remember who spoke and what was said at the opening of the meeting, until the arrival of "Ilich," and I think it is questionable if anyone present at that time remembers anything.

Then suddenly there was a thunder of applause, first at the entrance and then over the whole hall. The murmur ran through the place—"He's come." And finally the revolutionary workers of Zamoskvoretchye saw their leader on the speaker's stand. The enthusiasm was immense. I have no words to describe it.

Comrade Lenin was at once given the stand, and it was enough for him to say "Comrades" to gain immediate silence, and the attention and hearing of all. It is impossible to express the greediness with which all listened to him. I had heard Comrade Lenin before, and that day, as always, he spoke in simple language understandable to all, opening up before the workers all the machinations and snares of the Entente against Soviet Russia. He did not shut the workers' eyes to the difficult time being gone through, and asked only for a little patience, after which he predicted an early victory over destruction and hunger. The workers understood and believed him.

Comrade Lenin's speech was followed by another storm of applause, and the singing of the "International." He left the stand, and made his way out through the audience. After him went the whole assembly, singing the "International." Those going along close to Comrade Lenin spoke with him, and asked questions to which he replied as he walked on. And as Comrade Lenin went out from the building into the small open place in front and went towards the automobile, while from the building there came the words of the song, "The world shall rise on new foundations,"—came the pistol shot.

All this took place so unexpectedly, so quickly, that very few saw at the time of the shooting the person who fired the shot, or those standing near to Comrade Lenin would have protected him with their own breasts.



Lenin at the Age of Thirty

At first I did not know who did the shooting, and who had been shot, and it was only afterwards, when I again reached the street, that I learned that Comrade Lenin had been wounded. Seeing people running towards Arsenievsky Alley, I also ran there and helped to take away the woman who had done the shooting—her name was Kaplan, we learned later. A big crowd of workers accompanied us and cursed her as they went along. All wanted to lynch her at once, but the consciousness that she would go before a proletarian court and receive her due punishment prevented them from doing so.

I went with them as far as Maly Serpukhovsky Street, and when I returned home, passing the place where the crime took place, there was still a big crowd, all expressing indignation and anger. No one doubted that she who did the shooting belonged to and acted for some party hostile to the working class.

No worker will ever forget the place where Ilich was wounded. In remembrance of this crime there is now a public square on the spot where it took place, a spot to which workers will come to pay their respect and veneration.



Drawings of Children in Russian Schools—The youngsters aged from 7 to 14 show how the Revolution reacts upon their minds. 1. Cleaning away snow. 2 Village Agitator. 3. In the Library. 4. Lenin Speaks. 5. Street Scene. 6. First Snow. 7. Street Scene. 8. Children's Parade. 9. Propaganda Train.

"The victory of the chervonetz is a brilliant refutation of the theory that the workers and peasants who have attended no universities and have had no lessons in the science of finance would be unable to place their State on a sound basis. The whole of bourgeois Europe had said 'Yes, the workers and peasants can fight, they can overthrow thrones and occupy banks, but they know nothing about financial policy.' But to-day Soviet Russia, alone of the Continental Powers, has restored her currency to a sound financial basis. They may not recognize us de jure, but they recognize our notes signed by Sokolnikov."

The Government is now endeavouring to complete the process, stabilize the remaining one-fifth of the currency by replacing the Soviet roubles by stable 1, 3, and 5 rouble treasury notes.

The Budget

The total State expenditure for the coming year is established at 1,750,000,000 gold roubles—or only one-third of the expenditure of Czarist Governments. (The railways and posts are not included, as these are self-supporting). Of the total sum, 250,000,000 are assigned for assisting industry and agriculture.

The estimated revenue is as follows:—

	Gold roubles
Taxation, direct.....	250,000,000
Taxation, indirect.....	250,000,000

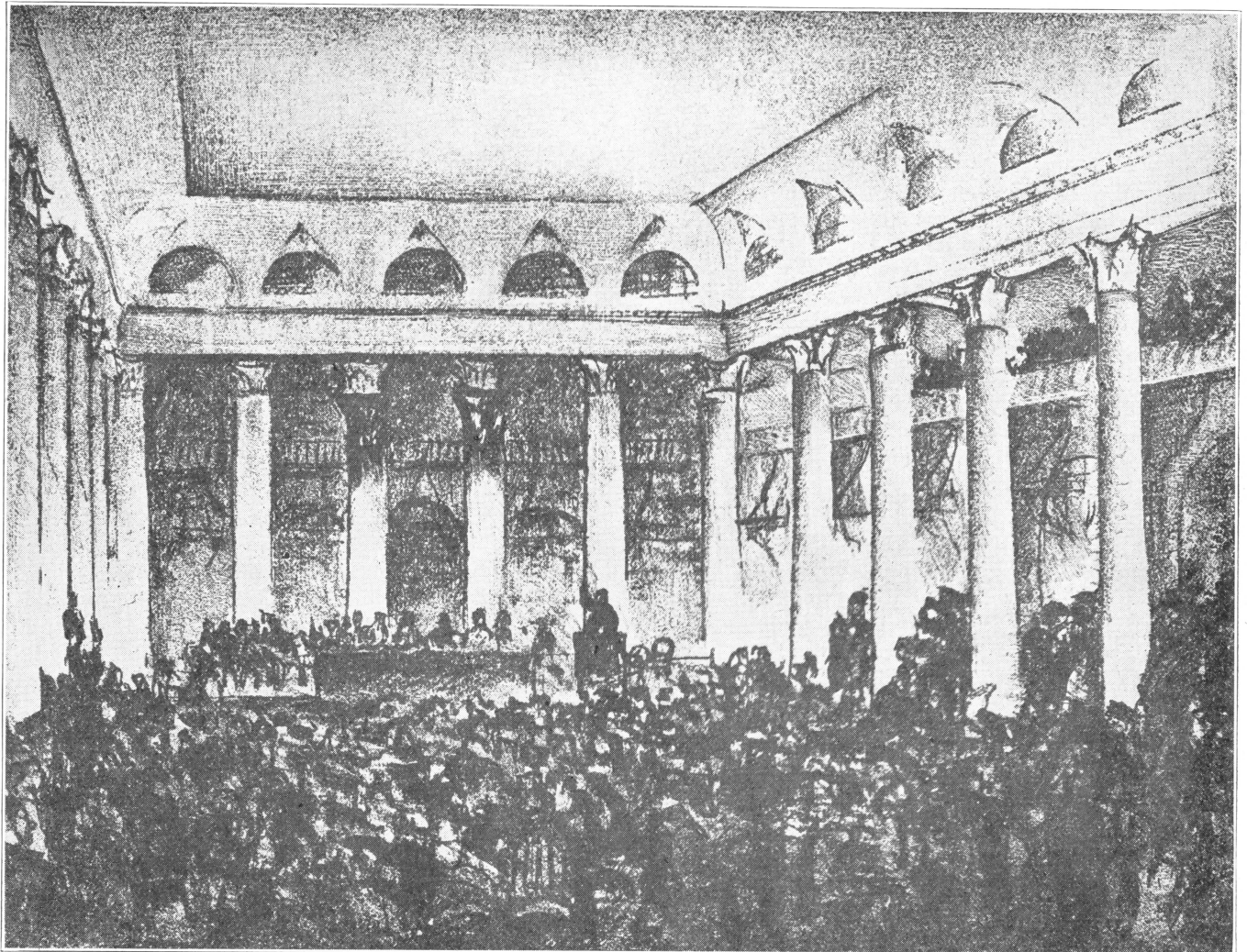
Stable properties.....	200,000,000
Stable paper currency and silver money.....	180,000,000
Loans	200,000,000

There is thus to be a decrease in emissions, and no increase in taxes.

Conclusion

"During the last year we have strengthened all our positions. We may say quite safely that during the past year we have laid the foundations in industry, export trade, monetary system, transport, etc., for a well-ordered, systematic, daily advance of the Workers' and Peasants' Union against the growth of capitalism, and for the strengthening of the basis for Socialist construction.

"The general well-being of the people has increased. Our nationalised industry has grown at the expense of the small bourgeois elements. We have worked with the support of the workers and peasants, in accordance with the methods taught us by Lenin. We have laid the foundations for Socialism by fostering close relations between workers and peasants. We are forming the union, the **bloc** of the workers and peasants."



Plenary Session of Moscow Soviet in large Hall of the House of Unions (Labor Temple), former Club of Nobles. In this Hall the body of Lenin was put up in State. A procession of Hundreds of Thousands of Workers and Peasants passed through this Hall to take a last farewell look of this beloved dead Leader.

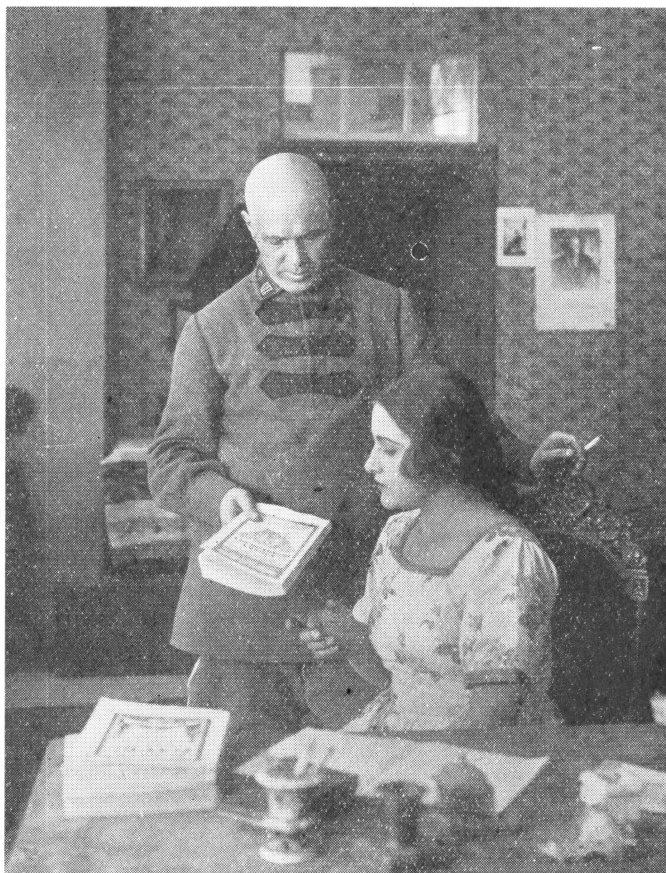
SOVIET MOVIES

By William F. Kruse

NEWSPAPERS, seeking all manner of interesting news at the time of Lenin's death, brought to light the information that in the private office of the late Premier there was a motion picture projector and screen, and that three films were part of the regular equipment of the office. The first of these showed the events of the Russian Revolution, the second displayed highly efficient industrial processes in America, the third, called "Ivan in the New World," showed the bewilderment of a Russian boy before the wonders of this country. The presence of the projector and the nature of the films used most often show the up-to-the-minute keenness of the great leader just lost to the working class.

It is to be expected that any group as able in molding mass opinion as are the Russian Communists should quickly recognize the value of the motion picture as a means toward this end. Unfortunately they inherited an industry in a very primitive state and the stringent demands of war made it impossible to devote much time or talent to its improvement. With the first flush of revolt considerable news film was made and shown, but fictional film remained poor, worn-out German and American stuff. Only occasionally was a film made in Russia and almost invariably these few dealt with olden times. Examples of these were "Polikushka," "Soldier Ivan's Miracle," "Ivan the Terrible," and "The Legend of the Tower." The first two are being shown in this country now and the Friends of Soviet Russia and other workers' organizations are booking benefit dates.

Such an unsatisfactory condition could not be tolerated indefinitely. Scathing attacks were launched in the Russian press against the administration of the motion picture industry; Trotsky, Kameneva, Lunacharsky, and many other prominent people took part. The attack chiefly charged the official motion picture department with confining its activ-



Here's Bolshevik bravery for you—a bald-headed hero woos an heiress via the "ABC of Communism" route.

ities to the issuance of import licenses for "junk" foreign film instead of encouraging native production and co-ordinating existing productive and distribution machinery.

In the past few months the situation has been decidedly bettered. In Tiflis the Georgian producers are taking advantage of the gorgeous natural settings and California-like sunshine for the making of real Soviet pictures. One which I saw while in Baku dealt with the revolutionary movement in Georgia, it showed that as the result of the demoralization caused by the lost Japanese War the liberal movement took an upward swing only to meet with bloody repression at the hands of the government. This in turn was answered by terroristic activity and the picture closed with the execution of a leading terrorist to the accompaniment of tears from his women comrades and a rising sun of tomorrow. Technically the film left much to be desired but according to a "N. Y. Times" report this defect was largely overcome in the following picture from the same company, entitled, "Little Red Devils." This is said to be the story of an anti-bandit campaign and the typically



The NEP (New Emotional Policy) bears many earmarks of the old order.



The wealthy "welcome" the Red Army

American "human interest" stuff has not been neglected. Overtures have been instituted to bring this film to America.

But the most modern of all is the product of the most active of the present dozen-odd Russian kinos, "Proletkino." This is a stock company controlled by trade unions, co-operatives, Red Army and other organizations. Its first full length picture is a Red Army comedy, called, "Kombrig Ivanov." A literal translation would be "Ivan, the Brigade Commander." This picture has been brought to the United States and will be the first film in next Fall's campaign of the FSR motion picture department.

This picture was greeted with tremendous enthusiasm when first shown in Moscow. Night after night for weeks it drew capacity houses for it really was the first good soviet film ever screened. There were several significant features connected with its release. First, it was an original production, made by a proletarian company, in distinctly soviet ideology. Second, it contained no direct propaganda of any kind altho its excellence as to technique and content was bound to exert a favorable impression upon the moviegoers. Third, altho made in co-operation with the Red Army, it was filled with uproarious comedy, sometimes at the soldiers' own expense. That Russia can afford officially to joke with its army is certainly a sign of confidence and strength.

The film tells the story of an Army brigade which in the course of its anti-White activity is quartered in a typical Russian village. It is not enough to say that the sets are realistic because there is no set, the village is real, this is location work. The mixed feelings of the village population upon the arrival of the soldiers is beautifully shown. In the case of the peasants no actors were necessary and some of the most wonderful types ever screened, without the slightest use of make-up, welcome the soldiers. Obviously, with the rich peasants and middle class, actors, and good ones too, had to be employed. The daughter of the rich farmer falls in love with the Commander, the course of true love runs as always in movie comedies, with many a

stop and start. But it all comes out in the end. They are married at the commissariat with a picture of Trotsky looking down benignly upon the union. Then comes a new call to arms and the heroine dons an attractive soldier suit and goes right along.

The picture is exceptionally well made and filled with the subtle human touches that make American direction the standard of the world. And there is the courage of originality and of fidelity to detail in the picture also. In Russia army commanders frequently wear their head shaved, and here is a real miracle of miracles—a bald-headed hero. When the girl suggests a regulation church wedding the soldier has a ludicrous vision of himself under the nuptial crown. And when he renigs the lady throws at his head the Bucharin masterpiece which served as a medium of courtship.

The future of the new Russian film is safe with comrades who can turn out such fine work as a starter. American audiences are certain to be delighted at their opportunity to view Kombrig, the bald-headed hero, woo and win the rich farmer's beautiful daughter.

The exploitation of "Kombrig Ivanov" will be the fifth motion picture venture of the Friends of Soviet Russia. Three of these tell a pictorial history of Russia from the pre-revolutionary period right up to the present. The first two, "Russia Through the Shadows" and "The Fifth Year" have almost reached the end of their first-run life, while the third "Russia and Germany," is just beginning its bookings. This contrasts vividly the peaceful progress now being made in Russia with the terrorism and famine that afflicts the German workers. Dates can be made on application to the FSR National Office. The fourth venture is the renting of the Moscow Art Theatre presentation of Tolstoy's story, "Polikushka," for shows to raise funds for German relief. The fifth will be "Kombrig" and together with this feature will be shown the latest and best Russian news material. Russia's film producers are delighted at this outlet for their product through America's workers' organizations.



"Free Love"—the Commissar charged nothing for tying the knot.

A Crime and Its Victims

AT the present moment all shades of "socialists," from red to dirty yellow try to revive an old battle cry against the Soviet Republic "Free political prisoners!" This cry is raised on the basis of the false claim that Soviet Russia is persecuting non-bolshevist brands of socialists merely for their opinion.

It has been pointed out again and again that in a period of revolution differences of opinions develop to revolutionary conclusions and bring the opponents face to face from the two sides of a barricade, weapons in hand, in a struggle of life and death. A revolution is not an ordinary period of history. In it all antagonisms and differences reach a climax in battle either for or against the revolution itself. Every revolution recognizes this. When Robespierre sends his old college chum Desmoulins to the guillotin it is surely not for a little difference of opinion, but because this difference of opinion has led Desmoulins into the camp of the counter revolutionary forces.

However it is useless to argue that point with the "socialist" enemies of the Soviet Republic. In their eyes the crime of counter revolution is the glory, while the glory of the revolution is the crime of the century. They know that by taking up the fight for the counter revolutionists they identify themselves with the deeds and aims of the counter revolution. They know it. But they have not the courage to tell the world of their hopes and their desires. Therefore they try to cover the crime of their friends by the age old ruse of crying "catch thief."

But the fog that civil war and blockade raised around all the happenings in Russia has finally cleared away, and against the background of the heroic struggle of a whole nation for freedom there stand out in deepest black the crimes of those who cloak themselves in socialist phrases to cover up their counter revolutionary deeds.

The plans of the workers of Baku to erect a monument to some of the martyrs of their revolution brings to the foreground again a great crime and its victims.

The "Socialist" Government of Georgia, Caucasus, had invited the military forces of Germany in a struggle against the workers and peasants of their own country. And when a reversal of the fortunes of war brought the English troops into their country the "Socialists" of Georgia changed their allies, but not their enemies.

With the active co-operation of their allies they perpetrated unspeakable crimes against their own people. The most horrible of those crimes is the murder of the twenty-six commissars of Baku.

These men and their families had been arrested and were to be deported by English authorities to India. The spiritus rector of the crime was Reginald Teague-Jones, chief of the British military mission at Askhabad. The commander of the British military forces in Transcaucasia, Major General Thompson, knew and approved of the plan.

The twenty-six men were taken out on an order of Teague-Jones to be shipped into exile to India. But on secret order of the chief of the British military mission the men were taken from the train between the stations of Pereval and Akhtcha, and brutally murdered. The murderous deed was done by "Socialist" officials of Georgia.

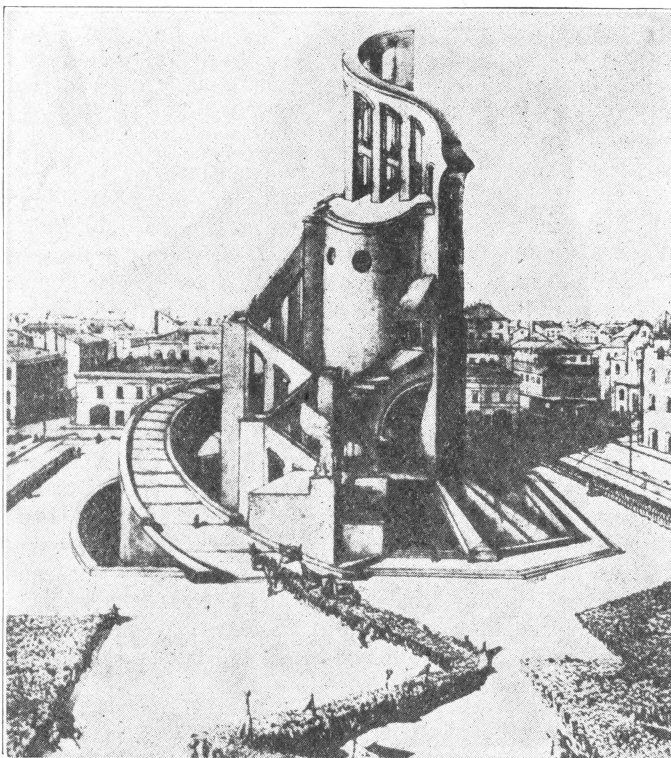
When some details of the dastardly deed became known, a committee was formed by Russian and Georgian Socialist Revolutionaries and Mensheviks to investigate. The investigation uncovered the whole bloody crime, but the Mensheviks refused to sign the protocol though they agreed to the facts. The Menshevik authorities refused to transmit over their cables the protest of the committee to the British authorities. And although the Menshevik Minister of the Interior of Georgia, Gegechkory, promised his aid in apprehending the hired scoundrel Druzhkin who committed the crime, yet he and his government facilitated the escape of Druzhkin.

Protests to the British Generals Malcolm and Milne were of no avail.

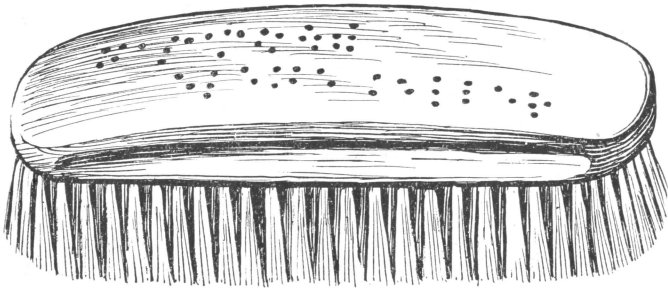
Thus twenty-six men perished who had but done their revolutionary duty. Twenty six men fell victims of a crime growing out of a "difference of a conception of Socialism."

The "Socialist" friends of Russian and Georgian Menshevism, who again raise the cry of persecution of "Socialists" by the Soviets, identify themselves with such crimes as this when they make themselves the champions of these murderers.

But meanwhile the workers of Russia and Georgia remember their dead. In memory of their martyrs and to the everlasting shame of the Socialist murderers they plan to erect a fitting monument to their slaughtered brothers.



Proposed Monument in Memory of the 26 communist commissars of Baku murdered by order of Reginald Teague Jones, chief of the English Military Mission in Askhabad.



The Above Pictured Brush Was Made by the Blind Children in the Helen Keller Home of the F. S. R. in Samara, Russia as a Gift to Their Patroness, Helen Keller. The Dots Represent Helen Keller's Name

HERALD COMMUNE!

Dairy and Poultry Enterprise on a Collective Basis to be established in Soviet Russia.

Our three delegates are in Russia now to arrange for a suitable farm for this Commune.

Competent workers of the various trades may join us now, as the first group is expected to leave soon.

We meet every second and fourth Sunday at 3 P.M. at the Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia, 1902 West Division Street, Second Floor, Chicago.

For further information call or write to our

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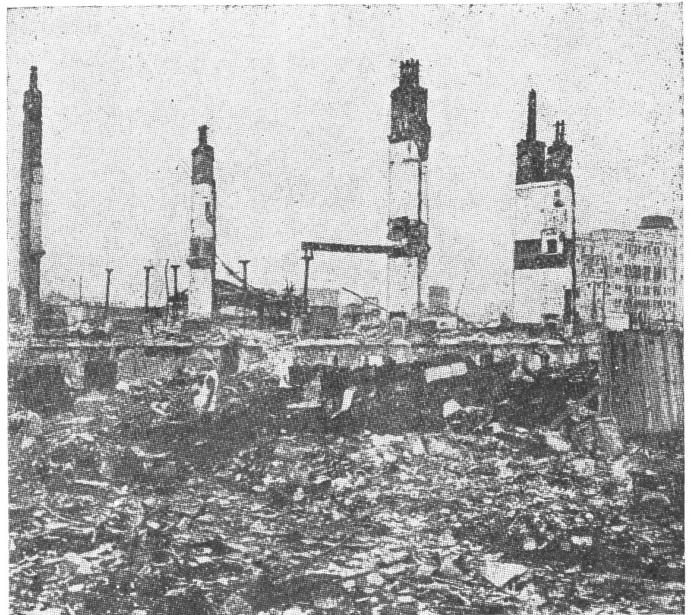
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Announcement

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After May 1st the National Office of the F. S. R. (Committee for International Workers Aid) will be located at

19 South Lincoln Street, Chicago, Ill.

Local Secretaries, Friends and Correspondents please direct your mail to new address.