

# AMERICAN ENGINEERS FORM "SHOCK BRIGADE" IN U.S.S.R.

By I. AMTER.  
(Written in Jail)

THE most stimulating story that has come from the Soviet Union, encouraging the American workers to assist the Russian workers and peasants in building Socialism and to launch a more aggressive fight against capitalism at home, is the telegram sent by Russian workers and American engineers, mechanics and assemblymen from the Stalingrad tractor plant on June 17th, to Comrade Stalin, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

"We promise with our tractor bombs to explode the remnants of the bourgeois world and build for Socialist collectivization. American workers and engineers are proud to take part in this work and also promise to give their maximum effort to assure success on the industrial front. Hail to the leader of the Communist Party, Stalin."

Capitalists, A. F. of L.-Green, Woll & Co.—the socialist party and the renegades Lovestone, Cannon & Co., are carrying on a slanderous campaign against the Soviet Union, telling of defeat, terror, hunger and what not. American engineers and workers, 500 in number, working in Stalingrad in erecting the new tractor factory and installing the machinery, together with the Russian workers of the factory and tens of thousands of other workers, saw the first tractor leave the factory amid great enthusiasm on June 17. By October, 1931, a capacity of 37,500 tractors will be reached, with an ultimate production of 50,000 a year.

In Charkow, Ukraine, 25,000 tractors are being produced; in the Putilow Works in Petrograd, many thousands. John Adler, an American, is supervising the construction of a plant in Cheliabinsk, in the Urals, which will have an annual output of 75,000 per year.

These figures are all the more astounding when one realizes that in the United States after decades of tractor production, with many large-sized farms in operation, less than 800,000 tractors are in use.

The intensified production of tractors has been made possible and necessary owing to the tremendous collectivization of agriculture which has taken place in the Soviet Union. Two years ago 2 to 3 per cent, of the agricultural area of the Soviet Union was under collectivized production. Today, 40 to 50 per cent. of the area is cultivated by collectives!

In the spring of 1928, 3,750,000 acres were cultivated by the collectives; this spring, 75 to 87 million acres were cultivated. This year the collectives and State farms will supply the predominating portion of the grain for the market.

Thus, collectivized agriculture—the peasant is following the line of Socialist construction—Socialism has won the land!

Let us take a look at industry. Figures will tell the story of the Five Year Plan. The gross production of all big industry will have increased 59 per cent. in two years—although an increase of only 43 per cent. was provided in the plan. (The A. F. of L. and social-democrats called the plan "Utopian.")

Heavy industry increased 88 per cent. (the plan foresaw only 58 per cent.); machine in-

dustry 250 per cent. (plan 171 per cent.); agricultural machinery 600 per cent. of pre-war production; electrical industry 270 per cent. (180 in plan); pig iron production 67.7 per cent. (51.5 per cent.); coal 45.8 per cent. (31.6 per cent.), and is now 78 per cent. above pre-war average; oil 37.8 per cent. (26.5 per cent.), and is 74 per cent above the pre-war output; cement 84.9 per cent (63.9 per cent.), and is 78.8 per cent. above pre-war.

Capital investments in industry in two years have amounted to 5,800,000,000 roubles (about 3 billion dollars). Cost of production has been lowered 4.4 per cent.—not up to the 7 per cent. provided by the plan.

Unemployment (of agricultural workers who are waiting to be placed in the newly erected industries) has decreased 40 per cent. 520,000 workers have been added to the number of industrial workers in the past year! Real wages in the past two years have increased 79 per cent and now amount to 139 per cent. of the pre-war wages.

Hundreds of thousands of workers are on the seven-hour basis, working four days, then a day of rest. By 1932 the entire industry will be on the seven-hour working day basis.

\$670,000,000 has been spent by the Soviet Government in two years in building workers' homes!

These figures are eloquent—and it is no wonder that the fascist A. F. of L. leaders and social-fascist socialist party are shrieking in dismay! Hundreds of millions of dollars of imports, especially of machinery of production from the United States, thousands of engineers and technicians from the United States to aid installing and operating the new plants!

## American Workers Co-Operating.

One can understand the deep interest of the American engineers and workers now helping in building Socialism in the Soviet Union. Their number is already 3,000, and soon America will have mighty brigades of American workers assisting in building the new world, the new workers' Fatherland—in the Soviet Union.

## Art to Be Pushed Forward.

A Five Year Plan of Art has also been inaugurated, embracing all arts, though the greatest stress is being laid upon theatre and movies. 50,000 amateur theatrical groups now exist in the cities; 21,000 in the villages. This number is to be increased to 84,000 and 385,000 respectively—with extensive financial aid from the Soviet Government!

## Misery in Capitalist Countries.

Thus the Soviet Union, which has gone through more struggles than any other country in the world, moves forward in planned, organized, Socialist production, with increasing well-being, leisure for the workers and peasants—while in the capitalist countries there is mass unemployment and hunger, wage slashes, increasing hours of work, heartbreaking speed-up, agricultural crisis, widespread misery!

The workers in the United States must learn more and more from the Russian workers—and from the enthusiasm of the American "shock brigades" in the Soviet Union—and follow the example of our Russian comrades.