

HAIL 16 YEARS OF SOVIET RULE

By ANNA DAMON

NOVEMBER 7, 1917, sixteen years ago, the workers and peasants in Russia carried through a successful revolution. They overthrew the government of the czar, bosses and landlords and set up in its place a government of workers and peasants. This government, called the Soviet government, defeated all attacks from the enemies and exists today as the most powerful government in the world. The whole working class—men, women and children—has been freed from fear of loss of jobs and of hunger.

The years of 1917 to 1921 were years of civil war. The Red Army fought successfully on twenty fronts against the White Guards who were financed and supported by the capitalist countries of the world.

The years of 1921 to 1928 were years of repairing the damage which was a result of the war. It took the Soviet government 11 years before it could begin to work on its plan (the Five Year Plan) to build the backward farming country into an industrial country. The capitalist countries did everything in their power to prevent the carrying out of the plan. They refused credits to the Soviet government; they refused to sell machinery, implements necessary to build the industry; they encouraged and even organized the destruction of plants through spies,

agent provocateurs and the like.

In spite of all this, the workers and peasants' courage, sacrifices and determination to build a country of their own brought about a complete victory of the first Five Year Plan. It was completed in four years and placed the Soviet Union among the leading industrial countries of the world. The workers and farmers in the Soviet Union are now going ahead with their second Five Year Plan, which will further improve the conditions of the workers and peasants.

The workers in the United States are now facing a bitter winter as a result of the most terrific five years of economic crisis. The N.R.A., which was supposed to bring work and better conditions, has proven to be a failure. There are eighteen million unemployed. The same misery for workers and farmers exists all over the capitalist world.

There is only one country that is free from the crisis and unemployment—the Soviet Union; here the conditions of the workers are constantly improving.

In the Bosses Country—U.S.A.

Presidents come, presidents go: first Hoover, now Roosevelt—but the lot of the women does not change, in fact, it becomes worse. In March Roosevelt promised "that not a man,



HAPPY BUILDERS of Socialism.

woman or child shall starve this winter." Yet eighteen million jobless workers and their dependents are starving.

The lot of the women is the worst. Suicides, death because of lack of food, homes broken up, the alarming increase in prostitution and child mortality—all this fills the daily papers.

Millions of forgotten women aimlessly wander about the streets in the cities of New York, Boston, Chicago—all over the U.S.A. An endless procession of young, old, Negro, white, unemployed women wearily trod the sidewalks, streets, alleys vainly looking for work, hoping to get a meal and a place to spend the night.

The lot of women with jobs is not any too good. The N.R.A. cut the wages and raised the prices of living costs; set a killing speed in factories, mills, and shops, increasing the danger of accidents at work a dozen fold.

To top it off the government gave its official sanctions for lower wages for women in the industrial codes of the N.R.A.—not to mention making night work for women in mills legal; an actual war mobilization of all industries, wiping out all vestiges of meager labor legislation won through decades of struggles by the women. Such are the conditions of women—mothers of the future generations.

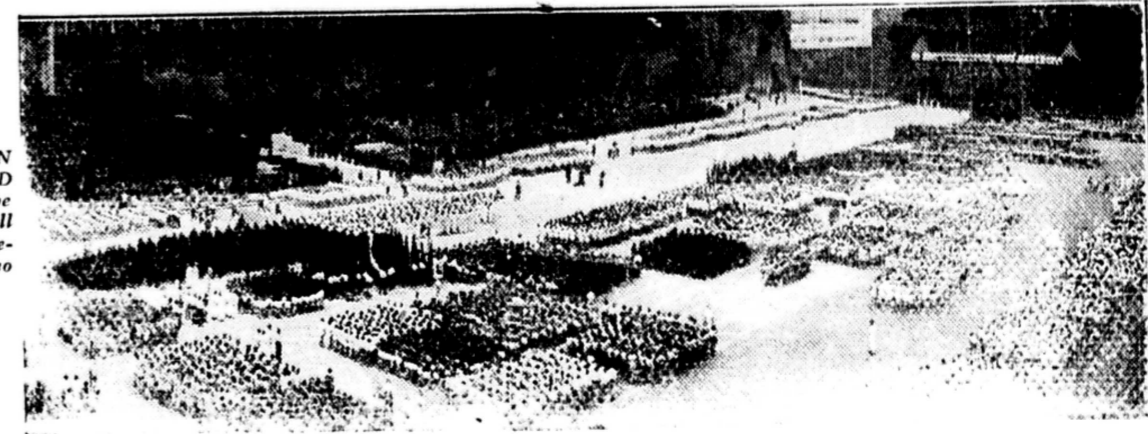
All this is not the fault of the women nor the men. The working class is courageously fighting against their miseries. It is the fault of the rich—the millionaires and billionaires who run our government and our country. What do they care if the women live or die—that they starve because they have no jobs, or half starve while at work. It is the profits that count—money, money and more money for them; jewels and cars, expensive furs and luxuries for their wives and children.

In the Workers' Country, the Land of the Free

The sixteen years of Soviet rule greatly improved the conditions of the workers and peasants in Russia.

In czarist times the conditions of the workers weren't much better than in the United States at this

CELEBRATION IN THE MOSCOW RED SQUARE — in the country where full social insurance prevails and there is no unemployment.



time. Now a great change has taken place. Gone are the days when the small group of rich bankers, mill owners, government officials lived on the workers. No more unemployment, no more starvation, no more low wages and killing speed-up.

The whole world is amazed at the progress made by the Soviet Union. The backward, illiterate, downtrodden woman of sixteen years ago is now a free and equal being, sharing and sacrificing together with the men the responsibility of industry and state. All this was possible because the Communist Party under the leadership of Comrades Lenin and Stalin boldly and unhesitatingly brought forward the women in all fields of work and politics.

Freeing women from household drudgeries, meant setting up numerous dining rooms, children's homes, providing her with maternity insurance, wiping out illiteracy and generally advancing the culture among women. All this has been accomplished in every city, town and village of the U.S.S.R.

Equal Pay for Equal Work

Women's labor unlike that of capitalist countries, is not cheap labor. Equal pay for equal work is a living reality. Wages have increased between twenty-eight per cent to forty per cent in the last three years.

That women benefit through work is proven by the fact that in the last four years the trade union membership among women almost doubled. In 1929 there were 2,850,000 members. Now there are 5,000,000 women in the trade unions in the U.S.S.R.

The Soviet insurance system cares for the women during the time of sickness; special maternity insurance provides for eight weeks full wages before and after childbirth with the right of the job on her return. The labor code covers also free medical care, a lump sum for the layette and additional money for the feeding of the child for nine months after its birth.

Women who work do not have to cook, wash and scrub and worry about their children. In the village alone over fifteen million children are cared for in pre-school institutions. Many more millions are

cared for in the cities in nurseries, cheches, children's homes.

When the day's work is over the women together with the men enjoy their meal in the factory or commune restaurant. The women are then free to go to school, club or theatre, and by so doing an opportunity is given them to develop in culture and well as industry.

The advancement of women is part of the program of the Communist Party to improve the conditions of the most oppressed section of the working class. To bring these forces into the building of industry and on the political field.

Today the Soviet Union stands as a beacon light to the workers of the world showing the way out of capitalist miseries, of crisis and war, pointing the way to a new social order, *Socialism*.

What has been accomplished in the Soviet Union can be accomplished here. We too can have a workers' government. We too can benefit from our own labor. What we must do is *organize*. The leader of

the Russian Revolution was the Communist Party; without this Party a revolution would not be possible. To follow the example of the Russian workers we must build a strong Communist Party in the U.S.A.

Workingclass women of all races: Strengthen the revolutionary movement. Increase your strikes and unemployed struggle. Show your solidarity with the Soviet Union—*Join the Communist Party of U.S.A.*



WIPING OUT illiteracy in the Soviet Union.



HAPPY CHILDREN cared for in the nurseries while their mothers work.