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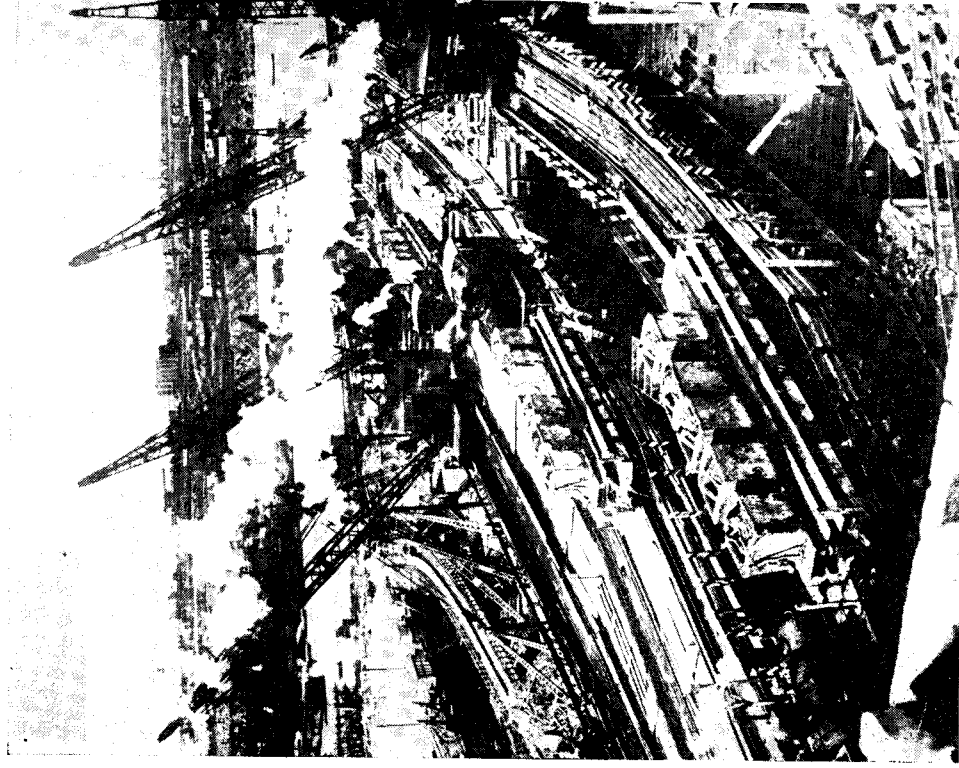
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COMPETITION IN THE SOVIET UNION



ТАБЕЛЬ-КАЛЕНДАРЬ НЕПРЕРЫВКА

1929/30
ХОЗЯЙСТВЕНН. ГОД

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ЗАПОМНИ ТОЛЬКО СВОИ ЦВЕТ
И ТЬ ВСЕГДА БУДЕШЬ ЗНАТЬ
СВОЙ ДЕНЬ ОТДЫХА.

ШЕФГОСИЗАТ

НЕРАБОЧЕ АИИ

Wall Calendar in Soviet factory. Each circle has a different color; a worker knows his rest day by looking for "his color."

SOCIALIST COMPETITION IN THE SOVIET UNION

"Socialist competition and capitalist competition represent two entirely different principles. The principle of capitalist competition is: defeat and death for some and victory for others. The principle of socialist competition is: comradely assistance to those lagging behind the more advanced, with the purpose to reach general advancement. Capitalist competition says: Destroy those lagging behind in order to establish your domination. Socialist competition says: some work poor, others better and others still better—reach the best and establish general advancement. This really explains the unheard of enthusiasm, which captured millions of toiling masses in our socialist competition. It is needless to say that capitalist competition and capitalism could never create anything similar to the present enthusiasm of the masses" Stalin.

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Socialist Competition in the Soviet Union

The pace at which the Soviet workers and peasants are successfully building Socialism thru realizing the terms of the Five Year Plan for the industrialization of the country and complete socialization and collectivization of agriculture is greatly accelerated by the slogan "Socialist Competition." To American workers the word "competition" means rivalry between individuals for the greatest advantage and personal gain, or the independent endeavor of two persons to get the best of and to outdo and even exterminate each other. Competition under capitalism means individualism and a "fight to a finish." In the Soviet Union competition has an entirely different meaning. In his article "How to Organize Socialist Competition," written in the spring of 1918, Lenin said the following about competition in the period of Socialist construction:

"Socialism does not only not extinguish competition, but on the contrary for the first time creates possibilities to apply competition widely, on a real mass scale, to draw the majority of the toilers into the field of this work, where they can really show themselves, where they can develop their abilities, disclose their talents which are an untouched source among the masses and which capitalism trampled upon, crushed and strangled by thousands and millions."

From this we understand then, that Socialist competition instead of bringing to the forefront the bourgeois ideology of personal gain, gives to the working class the possibility for opening up latent talents and displaying all its creative energies for the purpose of social gain, for the benefit of the whole working class and peasantry, and not for personal gain and the benefit of a few parasitical members of society. Instead of throttling and exterminating the energies and capabilities of the toiling masses it stimulates them to increased efforts, opens up all the dormant, creative energies of immense value to society which under capitalism could never come to use.

SOCIAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS WORK.

When the working class is victorious and begins the task of reconstructing economic life it assumes an entirely different attitude towards work than under capitalism. In a capitalist factory a worker works under compulsion without feeling any personal interest in his work. Under capitalism his work, whenever he has a job, is merely the means of keeping life together, it gives him only the barest necessities of life. As soon as the factory belongs to the workers collectively, the worker assumes a different attitude. Now he feels that he must give all his energies, all his devotion, all his working power and creative abilities to *his* factory, to the working class, his class and to the State of his class.

Have the Soviet workers accepted this ideology towards work? Yes. One need only point to the stupendous economic reconstruction work that has taken place in the former empire of the czar. This work could never have been accomplished unless the class-conscious Soviet workers and peasants were imbued with the spirit of work not for personal gain, but for the good of the whole working class, for the success of the Workers and Peasants Republic.

Socialist competition in the Soviet Union began on the second day after the capture of power by the working class and even before that, in the fight for the capture of power. The workers of the Soviet Union in the fights on the military and industrial fronts have shown wonders of self-sacrifice and heroism competing with one another for supremacy in these struggles, for the honor of doing most for their class, for their State. There are no pages in the world's history telling of greater heroic deeds than the pages relating to the struggles of the Russian workers during the twelve years of building up the Workers' and Peasants' Republic in the Soviet Union.

FORMER ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

When one speaks of the accomplishments of the Soviet workers, the strides forward that they have made, one should not forget to tell of the former economic conditions of the Russia that the workers succeeded to. The character of the country was mainly agricultural; industry was very little developed and the little that did exist was artificially stimulated with the aid of a high tariff and could keep on

going only as long as such tariff barriers existed. Economically and technically the country was also very primitive and backward. In such a condition Russia entered into the bloody imperialist war of 1914-18. Russia's economy suffered much more than that of any other country; the war caused a complete breakdown and disorganization of its commerce and industry. For years after the Brest-Litovsk peace counter-revolution devastated Russia and the workers and peasants had to defend their new Soviet power after having overthrown the rule of the former landowners and the bourgeoisie in the successful revolution of November, 1917. During civil war, with battles ranging on sixteen different fronts, Russian economic life became still more ruined. At this time the bourgeoisie tried their level best to regain their lost power but all to no avail. Not succeeding in doing this, with the aid of armies sent in to help them from the imperialist Europe and America, they proceeded to destroy and sabotage. Industrial plants, roads, waterways, railways, bridges, etc., were blown up, demolished or vacated, and with wars on all fronts, they had to be left to decay and ruin. But the Red Army of the workers and peasants beat these armies of the interventionists back and emerging victorious, the Russian workers and peasants began the task of reconstructing ruined Russia. They took stock and were soon at the job of putting the Workers and Peasants Republic on its feet. Upon checking up, the workers found that industry was producing about a quarter of the pre-war output of 1913. On top of this economic ruin, they lived through a great calamity, the famine of 1921, caused by the failure of the crops in 1921. The year 1922 was spent in struggle with the consequences of this terrible famine.

So when one speaks of the reconstruction of Soviet industry and economy one should reckon from 1923, for in that year really begins the rehabilitation of Soviet economy. During this whole period of war communism, of civil war, famine and blockade the spirit of socialist competition and class consciousness and devotion to the ideas of the October revolution came to the foreground and thousands and millions of workers were drawn in to the task of lifting Russia out of economic ruin and saving and strengthening the revolution. All of us have heard of the "Communist Saturdays," when voluntary, unpaid collective work was done

for the community and for the state, such as repairing and cleaning streets and buildings, sowing, reaping and harvesting, bringing out lumber, unbotting congested transportation facilities and other work which had to be done and which was done. This sort of spirit does not and necessarily cannot exist in capitalist countries because the workers cannot have any interest in doing work that profits no one else than the exploiters. Only when the workers themselves are the owners of the means of production can such enthusiastic collective working spirit prevail. All the statements of bourgeois economists that Socialism does not stimulate labor is proved so much bunk, for during socialist reconstruction the productivity of labor is not lost, but stimulated to its highest degree.

THE GREAT INITIATIVE.

"Communism begins where the unselfish and difficult work of the people is devoted to increasing the output of wealth, to preserving every bushel of corn, every hundredweight of coal and other necessities, destined not for the producers themselves and their 'nearest' but for those who are 'distant'—for society as a whole, for the millions of human beings, at first living in separate Socialist countries, and later united in a League of Soviet Republics."—Lenin, "The Great Initiative" (1919).

Even though Socialist competition is not new, nevertheless until very recently it was carried on in an unorganized fashion, mostly by members of the Young Communist League and Communist Party, the most class conscious section of the workers and peasants, and was not really understood by the broadest masses of workers and peasants.

The great tasks facing the country and the added duties placed upon the Soviet workers by the Five Year Plan for the developing to the fullest extent the economic life demand an extraordinary and entirely new method in the whole system of work. This new method is Socialist competition. This socialist rivalry between workers began in the months of March and April, 1929, on the initiative of the workers of separate works, led by the Communist Party and the trade unions. Rivalry and contests exist between individual

workers in the factories, between separate departments of the factory, between separate factories, all the way up to competition between districts and whole enterprises.

The workers compete to improve the quality of the work, the quantity of production, to decrease the cost of production, etc. In many places the workers organize themselves into brigades who thru the example of their work and conduct show the other workers how to improve their work and the products turned out, how to fill the quota thru definite results. These brigades consist of the most active, the most class conscious and devoted workers. Their work is full of enthusiasm and serves as a fine example to the other workers.

Craft competes against craft, one factory competes with another for obtaining the best results. For example, Andjero-Sudjensky mining district in Siberia competes with the Gorlovsk mining district of the Don Basin and the old oil district of the Grozneft competes with the Surahansky district of Asneft.

FORMS AND METHODS.

The forms and methods of carrying out Socialist competition are extremely varied. Active workers take upon themselves the patronage over young workers and new workers. The factories that are competing with each other exchange delegates and information. Quite different from America where competing plants look upon each other as unfriendly rivals, yes, as enemies, and the secrets of production are carefully guarded from each other, with spies sent in to find out what the rival is doing, and where the sooner you can, thru competition, stop the activity of your rival the "better." The profit interests are decisive in America, and the interests of society are completely disregarded. But in the Soviet Union the rival is challenged to greater and greater efforts thru comradesly competition.

The most active comrades among the workers taking part in socialist competition are carefully distributed over all departments in a factory or plant or mine-pit. Such "actives" are to be found in every department. They not only take part in the socialist competition, but they spread it and draw in other workers and inform the production committee of the general progress. The production com-

mittees are the leaders of the competition, they hold daily conferences, compare results, try to correct defects which are hindering the work. In some factories special books are kept where the workers can write down their proposals and criticism of various defects and errors. Such books also exist in some American factories but for an entirely different purpose. The workers are asked to give "suggestions for improvements," etc., which improvements, if they were to be given by the workers, would cause more speed up, and rationalization and general worsening of the conditions of the workers and more profits to the factory owners, and the things that the worker wants to improve, namely his own conditions, more wages, shorter hours, less speed up, better hygienic conditions, vacations with pay, social insurance paid for by the industry, these things the worker knows that he can never get by making suggestions in the bosses book, but only thru fighting for them, thru organization under the leadership of the revolutionary trade unions, and following in the footsteps of the Soviet workers.

Under this new socialist competition in order to stimulate the interest of the workers many methods are used. For example, the best and most active workers are placed on red lists, while lazybones and slackers are put on black lists. Special public courts are organized by the workers to try these slackers, idlers and those who break the discipline of the factories. Special satirical placards and posters are made. Industrial exhibitions and corners are organized, special meetings are called. In the evenings movie shows with special industrial films are organized.

WOMEN WORKERS AND COMPETITION.

In this socialist rivalry the woman worker does not lag behind. In many instances she has been the pioneer in introducing various new measures. The women workers are particularly effective in strengthening the labor discipline, and available reports show that labor discipline in some places is higher among the women workers than among the men. There are cases reported, for example, where workers have been expelled from the factory because of too frequent absence. Absence, unless for good cause, is considered a severe breach of discipline. Even the wives of workers take part in socialist competition. In the Donetz

Basin, for example, the workers' wives, in a meeting declared to the husbands who had the habit of being too frequently absent from the shop, that "We demand normal work from you, without absences"! This declaration of the women proved to be very effective.

COMPETITION AMONG TECHNICIANS

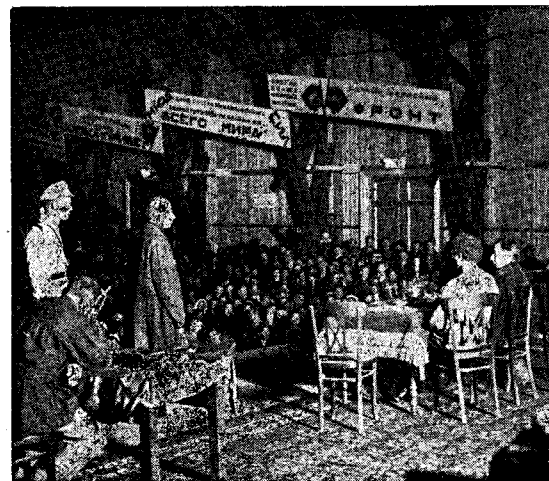
Comradely contests among the engineers, technical experts and administrators is also very keen. They work together with the workers, aid them in working out technical points, in organizing the control of the results of competition and teaching and helping the workers so that they are able to take part more efficiently in the leadership of the various industries. Since October last, more than 500 men and women workers from the bench have been promoted to responsible positions, and during the next few months it is proposed to promote 10,000 workers from the benches to leading positions in the State and economic apparatus, and still others will be taken from the benches and trained in the technical schools. These experts and engineers also compete with each other in order to find new methods of work, to rationalize and improve various processes of production. This participation of specialists and engineers brings them nearer to the workers, they take part in the production conferences, they hear the criticism and comments of the workers, favorable and unfavorable, all of which helps to do away with the previous misunderstandings during the earlier part of the Soviet regime which have existed between the workers and engineers, and strengthens the relations between them. There has been a systematic struggle against shortcomings and against bureaucracy and this socialist competition has brought out many interesting problems and practical recommendations for progress and improvements in all spheres.

For experts and technicians to discuss problems of production, etc., with rank and file workers is a step forward, and for them to teach them, aid them so that the workers can become more efficient and finally take the leadership is also a step forward from the practise in capitalist countries, where such a spirit of comradely co-operation between specialists and workers is unknown and impossible.

Under capitalism children are taught not to aid one another in their problems. In capitalist schools it is forbidden, for example, for a child to show another how an arithmetic problem is done, or how a word is spelled, and for the child to ask another next to him for advice is taboo. The capitalist ideology of competition and rivalry forbids it. Each child is taught to struggle for itself, and to egotistically hold on to all acquired knowledge as so much private property. This ideology is shown in the "honor" system practised in the colleges where the student is upon his "honor" not to give or take aid from a fellow student during exams. In America, competition, the struggle for an existence, forces the specialist to jealously guard his superior training and knowledge, for the possession of such knowledge places him in another class than the working class; it puts him in the ranks of the middle class or bourgeoisie. The technicians and specialists in American industries are often the bosses. They are the ones who are hated by the workers, and the real owners, who do nothing useful for production and live a parasitical life on the profits squeezed out of the workers by these technician-bosses, often assume a democratic attitude, as for example Henry Ford of the Ford Motor Trust, or William A. Wood of the American Woolen Trust, they are considered as "good fellows" because of a "generous gift" of a baseball diamond or a half holiday once during the summer when the workers are taken to some cheap resort at the owners' expense. Such philanthropic and "welfare" work in general is nothing but a scheme of the capitalists to draw the attention of the workers away from their miserable working conditions.

SELF-CRITICISM.

Here one must mention the campaign of self-criticism now going on in the Soviet Union. This campaign has tremendously contributed towards the doing away with many defects in management and administration and with bureaucracy among Soviet officials; with backwardness and with conduct unbecoming to workers under communism which are remnants of the prerevolutionary days. Stalin says, "*Self-criticism is as necessary for us as air and water.*" Soviet workers and peasants are in all ways induced to state their opinions about anyone or anything which they



Soviet factory workers try an embezzler.

consider to be wrong. In this campaign the workers have not spared either their fellow workers or administrators, and the campaign has resulted in bringing about genuine improvements. It was Lenin who taught the Soviet workers that the best means for overcoming defects is not to keep silent about them, but, on the contrary to give them as much publicity as possible. These articles on self-criticism are published in the Soviet press and are used by the enemies of the Soviet Union to prove that there exists in the Soviet Union only shortcomings and weaknesses; but to the workers in the Soviet Union, and to the workers outside of the Soviet Union such criticism signifies strength, stability and an earnest desire for progress and to improve present conditions in every sphere, thru exposing all weaknesses and thus overcoming them.

AGREEMENTS ON SOCIALIST COMPETITION.

The agreements entered into by the various groups which are competing with each other show that the economic basis and aims of the competition are linked up with the political aims of the competition. To illustrate how varied are the points around which the workers compete and the serious-

ness with which these workers take these socialist contests, we list here some of the points included in the agreements on competition entered into by the various groups:

1. To carry out the industrial tasks of production and even to carry out more than assigned by the Five Year Plan.
2. To increase the productivity of labor.
3. To reduce the cost of production.
4. Strict observance of the working hours.
5. To decrease the expenses for fuel.
6. To lower the administrative expenses.
7. To decrease the number of absences and latenesses.
8. To economically use materials.
9. To decrease waste in production.
10. To improve the quality of goods.
11. To be careful with factory property, such as tools, materials, etc.
12. To completely realize all proposals of the production conferences.
13. To carry out all measures of rationalization.
14. To improve safety measures and to decrease the number of accidents.
15. To improve the work of the co-operatives.

AGREEMENTS TO IMPROVE HOME LIFE.

There are also agreements to improve the home life of the workers, and their cultural activities, as for example against those that stimulate lazybones, slackers and idlers, against nationalistic hatred, against anti-semitism and the persecution of specialists. On the cultural field the workers and peasants pledge to liquidate illiteracy, both general and technical illiteracy; to establish reading rooms, libraries, newspapers, and other mediums of agitation; for the attendance of meetings and lectures; to fight drunkenness and other forms of misconduct; to struggle for better hygienic conditions, as for example to keep clean houses, barracks, cleanliness for the animals, not to spit or smoke in living rooms, etc.

COMRADELY COMPETITION BETWEEN FARM AND CITY WORKERS

Many factories and mills in the towns and cities compete with the workers on the collective farms and the Soviet farms and even with certain sections of the poor and middle strata of peasantry in the villages. The industrial workers in the

city will pledge themselves to carry out the plans in their factory as voted upon in the general meetings and the peasants will agree to do all they can to help in the industrialization of the countryside, as for example:

1. to organize collective farms.
2. to introduce new methods of agriculture.
3. to increase and rotate the crops.
4. to increase the acreage of the tilling.
5. to increase the agreements with the government for the collection of the crops, and to receive agricultural aid from the government.

There are also contests which involve the question of labor protection, as for example the workers agree to lower the number of accidents in industry; to prevent industrial illness by introducing better sanitation, ventilation, rest-periods, etc.; to do away with industrial damages; to aid and improve the work of the Committee on Labor Protection. From this one can see that every field of activity is included in this vast contest, in this competition for the complete socialization of the once technically ill-equipped and backward Russian industries, and for bringing the workers to a better understanding that they themselves are the masters over any improvement and betterment in their economic conditions and that only by hard, intensive, never ceasing work on the part of the greatest masses of the workers and peasants will they be able to be successful and reach their goal. They come to realize that they cannot sit down and wait for things to get better. They themselves must do the bettering, and the more and better they work the faster they will get the desired electrification, the fine new roads, waterways, railroads, oil wells, pumps and machinery for the refining of this natural product; modern mine machinery, tractors, new homes for the workers, club houses, hospitals, sanatoria, etc., etc. The first year of the socialist competition has brought to the mind of the broad Soviet masses as never before the realization that all these things are theirs to get by hard work, and no amount of effort is spared by the masses to fulfill the enormous tasks set out for them.

RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION

The results of these socialist contests have been remarkable. In fact it has been almost impossible for the statisticians to keep up with the workers and to record the results. The figures change so rapidly. We can give a few figures from some of the basic industries which will show the remarkable results:

1. Groups of exemplary workers in the Kemarovsky Mining Syndicate in Siberia, competing with each other were able to increase productivity in some cases 44% over previous figures, and other groups as high as 88% over what they had done in 1927-28.

2. In Baku, in the Lenin District, the production in June, 1929 increased by 130%; in July, 1929, 147%; in another oil field in the Baku district production increased by 136%; in June, 1929, and 136.7% in July, 1929.

3. In the heavy industry like iron ore; in the Ridderovsky Syndicate the productivity of labor increased during July, August and September, 1929, from 34% to 60%; in the same district the production costs decreased by 40%, the cost of production of one ton of ore fell from 15 rubles to 9 rubles.

4. The workers in the Prokopoevsky mine in the Kuznets Basin in Siberia agreed to increase output by 28%; they succeeded in increasing output by 32.4%; they further agreed to lower the cost of production per ton, and also to increase the productivity of labor by 13.5%.

Of course, the results of socialist competition are not always so successful. In some cases the results are not more than 2 to 10%, and in some cases there is no improvement at all. Then an investigation takes place and workers exercise their right of criticism and self-criticism and the reasons for this failure are discovered and removed, if possible. But the results of the socialist competition have been on the average splendid, greater than was expected. In reducing the average cost of production in industry as a whole, the workers have succeeded in bringing it down 4.5% (1928-29).

PREMIUMS AND BONUSES TO ACTIVE WORKERS

The driving force behind all these contests is the class consciousness of the workers and their desire for improvement of their own State where the workers are the ruling class. Various bonuses and premiums are given to the most active workers and this serves as another driving force in socialist competition. The Soviet People's Commissars issued a decree by which all industrial plants and establishments are to organize special funds in order to give premiums to the most able workers; 40% of the sums realized from socialist competition must be given to this special fund. These funds are then spent for the improvement of the cultural and home life of the workers. The workers who get the premiums are sent to rest-homes, or to a sanatorium; or they may receive a home library, or they may be sent on a special mission to another city or even to some foreign country to take part in some technical conference, etc. Or if they prefer, they may go on an excursion, or take a special course in some school. Collectively, as far as the factory is concerned, the funds are used either for the improvement of or the building of new day nurseries, club rooms, playgrounds, workers homes, libraries, etc.

RATIONALIZATION

The socialist competition has brought about tremendous rationalization and speed up in the Soviet industries, mines and mills. The rationalization process is diminishing the cost of production, increasing the productivity of each worker, decreasing waste of both time and materials and in other ways doing away with the old factory method in Soviet enterprises. The Soviet workers are constantly talking about introducing "American" methods, American machinery and American efficiency, etc. and some plants are to be modelled along American lines. From this one would then deduce that things American were set up as an example for all that is worth emulating and taking after. Yet the difference between rationalization and its consequences in Soviet industries from the American speed up are as different as day and night. Rationalization in American industries has the following consequences:

An increase in the production of each individual worker means less workers are required in the factory and the excess number of workers are thrown into the streets to join the unemployment army. These workers become part of the increasingly growing army of permanently unemployed for whom there is slight chance of getting work. Rationalization under capitalism cuts down the wages for the workers, it diminishes the difference between skilled and unskilled workers bringing the skilled worker to a lower standard of living; it wears out the workers sooner because of the intensity of the speed-up.

The decrease in the cost of production, by reducing the number of workers and increasing productivity of each worker means so much more profit for the factory owners, and the worker, although he produces more gets no more pay and in many cases gets a wage cut. As for example the weavers in the Loray Mill in Gastonia, N. C., who went out on strike in 1929 against this "stretch-out" system, stated: "We were making \$30 to \$35 per week and were running six to eight looms. Now we are running ten to twelve looms and getting \$15 to \$18 per week." It also reacts on the worker who remains on the job, and who must now accept almost any conditions, hours and wages because he knows that there are thousands, even millions of other workers waiting to take his place in the shop. Therefore, in America under capitalism all workers should fight against capitalist rationalization and speed up.

But under the Soviets, under a Communist form of government just the opposite happens. In the Soviet Union speed-up and rationalization are also taking place, but it has the following results: An increase in the production of each individual worker means that so much more goods are produced, and this increases the national wealth of the country. In the Soviet Union, the owners of industry are the workers and peasants themselves, and production is carried on by them not for the profit of a few coupon clipping, parasitical owners, but for the general welfare of all the workers and peasants. Therefore the more that is produced, the more goods will the workers and peasants receive. A decrease in labor costs, an improvement in machinery and increase in the productivity, rationalization

and speed-up in the Soviet Union means to the workers so much more wealth for the owners of the factories, and the Soviet workers being the owners thereof, get all the benefits. In the Soviet Union rationalization means shorter hours; the seven-hour day has been introduced in almost all industries, in heavy and dangerous industries and in mining six hours a day is the rule. And recently the Soviet Workers have gone even ahead of the six and seven hour working day, they have introduced the "continuous working week," which gives the worker one day off every five days, and which figures up to 77 complete days of rest per year not counting the fifteen working days vacation with full pay to every worker who works above ground and thirty days vacation for underground workers. Further, Soviet rationalization does not wear out the worker. He has longer and more frequent rest periods during the day and exerts less physical efforts than most workers under capitalism. Likewise there is no need to fire a worker in the Soviet Union because of rationalization or technical improvement; instead the Soviet workers when they are able to produce a given product in less time, produce so much more goods for their needs, and the demand for manufactured goods in the Soviet Union is so great, due to the greater and greater demands of the workers and peasants and their ability to get more necessities and luxuries, that in order to provide for these needs any and every improvement is heartily welcomed because it means so much more manufactured goods in less time, which in its turn, enables the city workers to buy so much more grain and other food products from the peasants, all of which increases the standard of living for both the city workers and the peasants.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST COMPETITION

Not only has the socialist competition taken root among the Soviet workers and peasants but contests are held between the Soviet workers and peasants and workers in other countries. Through such contests the workers of capitalist countries are brought into direct contact with the workers of the U.S.S.R. Each group of workers gets to know the problems and conditions of work of the other. Through such contacts the slanders and lies broadcast by the capitalists about the conditions in the Soviet Union will no longer be

believed by the workers. Such competition strengthens the ties of international workingclass solidarity, and leads to organization, in the shops and factories of capitalist countries, of groups of workers who know about the conditions in the Soviet Union, about its industrialization and the building of socialism, and who stand ready to defend the Soviet Union from any attack by the capitalist countries. The workers themselves take the initiative in carrying out the terms of these agreements and in this way they reach and draw into the work the broadest possible masses of workers. Such agreements have been entered into with sections of the German workers, (Railwaymen), with Austrian and French workers, etc.

THE *Friends of the Soviet Union* AND SOCIALIST
COMPETITION

Through the *Friends of the Soviet Union, U.S.A.* section, the American workers will be able to enter into such international contests. American workers must aid the Soviet workers in successfully realizing the Five Year Plan. Our first contribution towards this end is a gift of tractors, plows, and trucks to the value of \$20,000.00 which went to the workers of Moscow, and to the peasants of a newly organized collective farm on the lower Volga. This is only a small beginning in developing a movement of the closest co-operation and solidarity between Soviet and American workers. We must continue this work of giving technical aid; we must enlarge our activities by campaigns for the support and defense of the Soviet Union against world imperialism; for demands for immediate and unconditional recognition of the Soviet Union. American workers must enter into competition with workers of other countries and challenge them to increased activity on the following: Greatest number of members in the *Friends of the Soviet Union*, greatest amount of propaganda on the Five Year Plan; greatest number of and largest attended meetings for the defense of the Soviet Union; largest subscriptions to the Industrial Loan and greatest amount of contributions for technical aid, machinery and tools! This will draw Soviet workers and American workers into direct contact with each other and cement a tie of solidarity which no imperialist power will ever be able to break.