

# SOVIET RUSSIA

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Moscow Youth in May Day Parade Passing Lenin's Tomb

# Russian Leaders on London Conference

At the Krasnopresensk Communist Party Conference on May 8, in a speech dealing with the general economic and international position of the Soviet Union, Kamenev, referring to England, said: "As for our negotiations with England, our Government has considered this question very carefully. Our connection with the European markets and with European countries is highly desirable. But it is desirable on purely business grounds. We know that our country is developing and becoming stronger economically every day, but this process is a slow one . . . and the influx into our veins of a certain amount of foreign capital would be a very useful operation furthering our economic development. S u c h credits, such loans we certainly need. And we are quite willing to discuss the question of such credits and loans with anyone who is prepared to negotiate with us as equals. We demand, however, two preliminary conditions. In the first place, they must recognize that the revolution brought about by our workers and peasants can never be nullified. That our November conquest and all that we have gained in the struggle with the counter-revolutionaries can never be struck out with the blue pencil of a diplomat. He who hopes to force us to give up our fundamental conquests, the nationalization of industry and of land, our repudiation of the Tsarist

and war debts is profoundly mistaken. . . .

"Secondly, if we are willing to conclude an agreement with bankers, it is not because we like the bankers but in spite of the fact that we detest them. In this there is com-

plete reciprocity, for the bankers themselves conclude agreements with us not because they love us but in spite of the fact that they detest us. If, notwithstanding this, we conclude an agreement it must be one that will be mutually beneficial. You need our orders. We are quite willing to

give you our orders in so far as this step will not hinder the development of our own factories and workshops. And we shall still have plenty of orders at our disposal, even when our own factories are working to their full capacity. But if you need our orders, we need your money. Upon the basis of such mutual needs, we can well conclude an agreement. But if the bankers desire to give us money on conditions that would signify the enslavement of our country and of our working class, then we require no such money. We will manage without it. This should be well understood by all those gentlemen who enter into negotiations with us."

From a speech by Trotsky, on April 30, at the Moscow Soviet.

Reviewing the international position on May Day, 1924, thruout Europe, Trotsky said: "The eight-hour day in Europe was established as a result of proletarian pressure after the imperialist war. At the present time, however, there is less and less of the eight-hour day in Europe. The only country in which the eight-hour day is, and will be,

maintained as a fundamental law of our Labor Code, is the Soviet Republic."

Referring to the relations of Russia with Eastern peoples, Trotsky said: "The brotherhood of nations is not a



Christian Rakovsky, until recently Leader of Soviet Delegation to London Conference, now on Special Mission in France.

# Prisons Swallow Workers' Leaders

ROUMANIA.

By MICHAEL SOBOTSKY.

(Editorial Note: Of all the neighboring countries of the U. S. S. R., Roumania has especially distinguished itself in persecution of proletarian militants: methods of the Middle Ages, barbaric treatment, aiming to render the prisoner ineffective and inoffensive for many years by affecting his mind; all this is current practice in the Roumanian prisons. The account which we publish is a striking illustration of it. It is drawn up on the basis of fragments of a diary which we have with great difficulty received recently from Roumania. The situation of the prisoners is not any better today, it is perhaps even worse. And so the following narration preserves its timeliness.)

I.

THERE are very old books which one cannot read without a shudder of horror; these are the stories of tortures in the Middle Ages, descriptions of dark cellars where the guilty end their lives dismally in infernal pain. When the present-day reader finishes one of these books the sun seems to him brighter and life sweeter. He sighs and says: "That happened a long time ago, how fortunate it is that all that is of the past which will never return again, how far all that is from our days of culture and civilization."

You are mistaken, reader, those times are not of the past, the tale of the Middle Ages is the reality of today. In dark dungeons, in mines and prisons, pale men, exhausted and half crazy, tortured as of old and subjected to an inquisition, forced to crushing labor, call liberating death to their rescue. But instead of the brigands of the Middle Ages the mines and prisons open their doors to new criminals, to the worker who has dared to fight for a better life, to the peasant who wanted to shake off the yoke of the landowners.

Listen to a simple story, scenes from a prison in Roumania.

II.

THE gray frayed pages of the diary turn one after another and one reads: . . . . The long and plaintive sound of a horn, men advance in single file, clothed in gray.

They march forward one by one, one follows the other, in strict order, under the charge of harsh keepers. Suddenly, a piercing and poignant cry. Who is it? A revolter? No, it is much less, simply a movement of the head made by this young prisoner at our left and which has displeased the keeper. A heavy, hairy fist has brought blood on the pale face and on the gray prison-garb of the guilty one.

Look at the ground! Look at the ground!

It is forbidden to look at the sky. That might give one bad ideas, that might make one think of free fields under a rosy evening sky, of freedom and perhaps (let us lower our voice) of Soviet Russia.

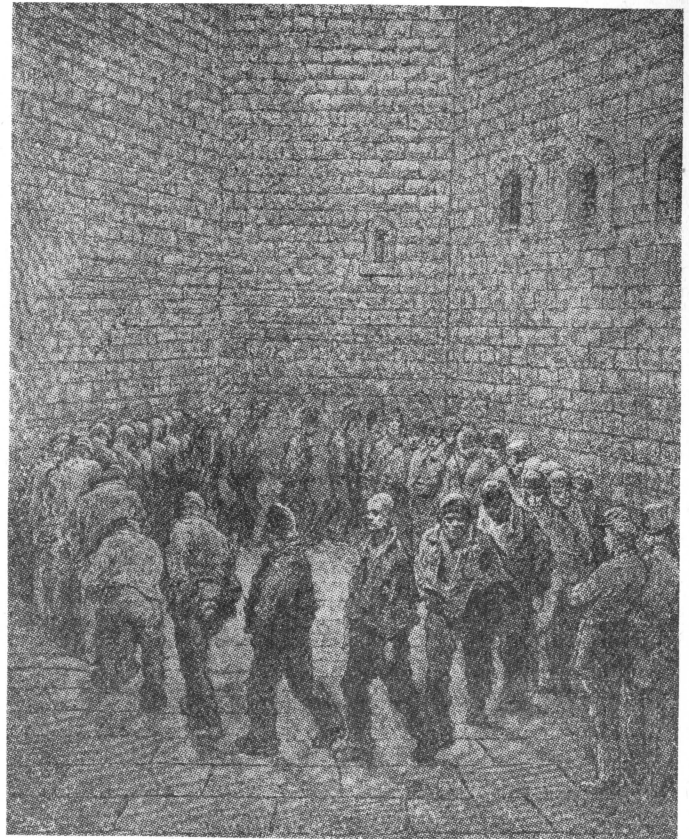
Look at the ground! Look at the ground! In the office of the administration, on strong shelves of oak and on the table there are books, solid and venerable volumes.

A name shines in bright golden letters on the cover: the regulations.

Oh! This book was written by many wise and humane people, who debated over it in commissions, and Parliament has ratified it. Good and wise book!

It is hard as steel and cold as a corpse, this prison regulation, it foresees everything!

There is described in it not only in what way the prisoner must pass his days, but also what he should think, desire and feel: "Think of God and obedience."



Watered with Tears of Sorrow This Treasure is Hatred

Fear your superiors.

Have the desire to cure yourself of your dangerous ways and for all that you will receive a piece of leather for shoes, linen washed without soap and ash<sup>en</sup> colored, a few grams of soap twice a month, twice a day some sauerkraut in hot water and 800 grams of bread (of which 100 grams are stolen by the keepers.)

You are promised many years of prison, labor in a salt mine, blows, tortures.

These thick books, with golden edges contain good and wise rules.

Regulation . . . . .

The gold sparkles on the edges of the books, it rings joyously in the pockets of the prison administration, it flows in living waves in the pockets of those who have created the jail of Okna—capitalists and landowners of Greater Roumania.

III.

IN 1917, in the salt mines of the Okna jail 800 men died from disease and from the work. In return, many thousands of pounds of salt soaked in blood and tears brought big gains to the administration and to the government.

In 1922 in the Okna jail the insubordinate ones were put

# SOVIET RUSSIA IN THE HEADLINES

By JAY LOVESTONE.

## Favorable Soviet Trade Balance

ACCORDING to the United States Department of Commerce the balance of trade for the last year is distinctly favorable to the Soviet Republic. The large grain shipments during the latter part of 1923 were a great influence in turning the scales. During March the grain shipments through the Bosphorus totaled 10,029,770 bushels.

The Export Grain Company, the Soviet State organization, has received an invitation to participate in the International Conference at Rotterdam for the purpose of considering many questions among which will be that of revising the Black Sea grain contract. Dutch importers are now in Berlin conferring with the Soviet Trade Commission to secure grain shipments to the port of Rotterdam en route to the Continental countries.

The Department of Commerce further reports that Russia is still selling considerable quantities of rye, corn and wheat in Holland. The quality of the corn is especially good. Recently Soviet Russia shipped 4,000 tons of wheat to Italy by the steamship Odessa. All sales and purchases of Russian wheat are made through the Soviet delegation headquarters in Genoa.

## Greek Envoy Leaves For Soviet Russia

For the first time since the revolution in November 1917, Greece and Russia are again on friendly relations. Michael Tsamados, the Greek Minister at Washington, has been chosen as the first Minister of the Greek republic to Soviet Russia. Mr. Tsamados has already left the United States to assume charge of his new post.

The former Greek Minister to the United States is recognized as one of the ablest men in the diplomatic service of the European republic. The fact that he has been appointed to Soviet Russia shows that Greece recognizes the importance and value of having friendly relations with the Soviet Republic. Mr. Tsamados has spent a number of years in Germany, Macedonia, the United States, and is a great grandson of one of the distinguished naval leaders in the Greek war of independence. His father was president of the Greek Boule in 1909.

## Soviet Government Buys Tractors

The Soviet government has just concluded arrangements for receiving 150 tractors of American make and 100 plows of Danish manufacture.

A shipment of Danish plows has gone forward to Soviet Russia via Libau. This shipment is viewed as the beginning of extensive Danish trade with the Soviet Republic. The sum involved is 700,000 crowns, approximately \$120,000, which has been paid in cash by the Soviet Government through its bank in Copenhagen. The plows were delivered by the Danish Co-operative organization at whose factories they were produced.

## Building Huge Grain Warehouse.

The United States Counsel, James B. Young of Venice, has informed the Department of Commerce that a group of Italian interests consisting of Venetian Milanese and Roman financiers, are negotiating to secure a concession for the construction and operation of huge grain warehouses at the Soviet ports of Odessa and Archangel. These interests are ready to supply the Soviet government with the necessary financial guarantees for obtaining the concessions. A strongly



Lenin's Sister and N. Bucharin, Editors of "Pravda"

beneficial effect on Italian-Russian trade relations is expected to follow from the successful conclusion of these negotiations.

## China Recognizes Soviet Russia

The first effects of the change of administration in France was noticed in the Far East. With French pressure not so severe as during the Poincare regime, China felt free enough to alter its attitude towards Soviet Russia. On May 31st China recognized the Soviet Republic.

The outstanding features of the recognition treaty are as follows: All Czarist treaties with third parties involving China's sovereignty are cancelled. China will cancel all treaties involving Soviet Russia concluded by her with third parties since the overthrow of the Czarist regime. Soviet Russia is to recognize the independence of Mongolia. China will eject all Russian counter-revolutionists now occupying orthodox Russian church property within its territories and will turn over the same to the Soviet government. The money due Russia as its portion of the Boxer indemnity is to be spent by China for education. A commission of two Chinese and one Russian whose decisions must be unanimous is to control this sum. Soviet Russia renounces all extra-territorial privileges. The Soviet Government is recognized as the Russo-Asiatic Bank and takes over all its concessions.

It is likely that Karakhan, the representative of the Soviet government who negotiated the agreement, will be made the first Soviet ambassador to China. This rank will give Karakhan precedence over the Ministers of the other foreign powers and will make him the leader of the entire diplomatic body.

## Extensive Fish Canning Planned

According to the Washington Herald, the American Sheet and Tin Plate Co., a subsidiary of the United States Steel corporation, has just received an order from the Soviet government for 75,000 boxes of tin plate, valued at approximately \$375,000. This order is to be shipped immediately to Soviet Russia. The plate is to be used in fish canning, and industry which is being developed rapidly by the Soviet government.

### Soviet Russia Refuses Gold Mining Concessions.

The Soviet government turned down the proposal to grant a concession for exploiting gold mines along the Lena river in Siberia. This concession was sought by American and British interests, represented by Mr. Lyman A. Brown.

Without giving specific details as to the reasons for the rejection by the Soviet government, Zinoviev, in addressing the Thirteenth Congress of the Russian Communist Party just closed, declared: "We grant concessions only for short terms, and we do not regard 49 years as a short term. The applicants for the Lena concessions proposed that we should turn over to them 100,000,000 dollars worth of raw material on the ground that we cannot develop it ourselves. We are not prepared to yield on this point."

### Soviet Government Builds Trucks

The "Torogove-Promishlennaya Gazette" reports that the Chief Bureau of Metal (Glavmetal) has just concluded a contract with the Zugas, the Central Bureau of Automotive Transport, to finance the construction of automobiles in Soviet Russia. The contract provides for the production of at least fifty 1½-ton trucks of the "Fiat" type before October 1, 1924. All in all, 500 machines of this type are to be produced. At least 200 must be turned out before April 1, 1923.

This is of great importance to Soviet Russia in view of the fact that trade with the United States has not yet been reestablished on a normal basis. In 1923 only 51 passenger cars and 59 trucks were shipped to European Soviet Russia from the United States.

### New Oil Gusher Struck in Baku.

A new oil gusher on state lands has been struck in the Baku fields. It is estimated that it will yield a flow of about 800 tons daily.

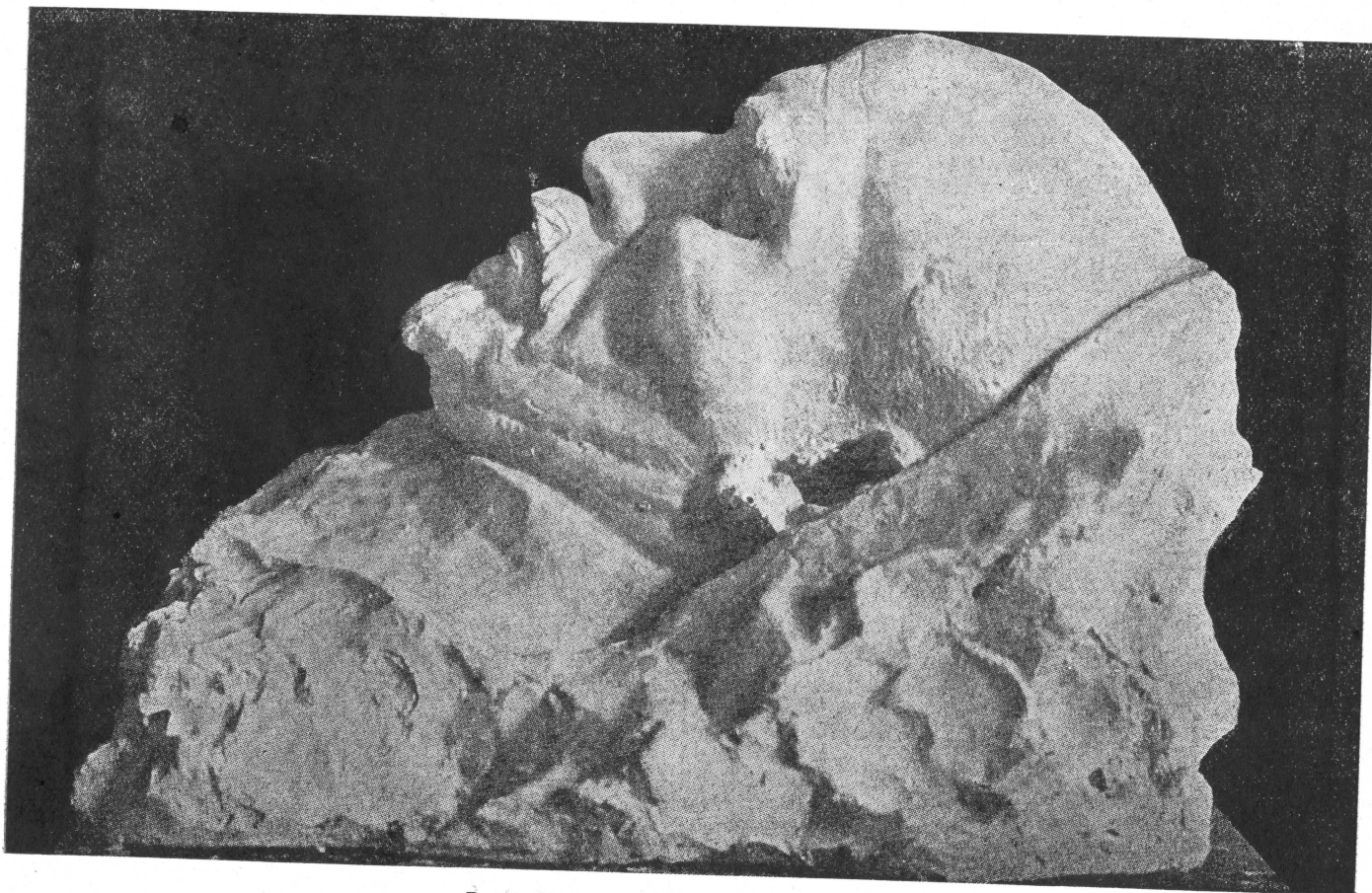
Coincident with this announcement is the official declaration that the Standard Oil Co. is now openly associated with the committee formed under the chairmanship of Sir Henry Deterding of the Shell Co. now negotiating with the Soviet government over the disposal of oil properties in the Caucasus formerly held by private interests. Except for its interest in the Nobel Co. the Standard Oil is a newcomer in this area.

### Great Progress of Soviet Press.

The latest report giving official figures on the press in the Soviet Union shows great progress and improvement for the last fiscal year. There are at present 560 papers having a circulation of two and a half million. Fifty-one of these are peasant publications; 86 of these are published in non-Russian languages; 43 are working class papers; 16, Red Army; 34, young communists; 24, trade union; and 8, co-operative.

There are now some 3,000 wall newspapers in Soviet Russia. These are issued regularly or twice a month. In the important industrial centers they are issued weekly. A large number of these papers is to be found in the Red Army garisons and an increasing number in the villages. There are about 50,000 men engaged in turning out these wall newspapers which are in the main written by hand, very rarely lithographed and still more rarely printed.

The circulation of the workers' and peasants' press has risen very rapidly within the past year.



Death Mask of Vladimir Ilyich (Lenin)

# Russian Counter Revolution Answered In Film

By William F. Kruse



Headquarters of Red Army in new Film



Headquarters of White Army

Another of a series of fine feature films now being made by "Goskino," the official Soviet motion picture trust, deals with the suppression of a military counter-revolution in the southern section. It is called "The Hand of Father Knish," and is to be released in early summer. Such portions as have already been finished are declared by critics to mark the highest technical standard yet attained by the Russian film industry.

Two scenes reproduced herewith show the fine composition and naturalness of action for which Russian directors, whether of the stage or screen, are well noted. The "Headquarters of the Red Army" has its ever present trinity of pictures—Marx, Lenin, Trotsky—its military maps, and its earnest worker and peasant types. The "Headquarters of the Whites" has its fat czarist officers of the old school—and its wine, woman and song are not neglected, either. A scene in the making shows more than its title—it also reveals the

crowded conditions under which the Soviet film industry turns out its work.

Laboratory facilities are far from perfect in Russia, but they are much better than some years past, and are constantly improving. The largest labs in Moscow rank with our smaller establishments, and many practices that are American routine in producing better prints, even so rudimentary a practice as "test strip," are unknown abroad. But there is a constant improvement going on, due to better chemicals, better equipment, and the gradual replacement of sabotaging old-line technicians with young, well-trained supporters of the present order.

It is to be hoped that the labor movement of America will develop its motion picture distribution and exhibition facilities so that more and more of these Russian working-class productions may be brought over for the benefit of American working class audiences.



A Property Room in Moscow Studio



Scene during taking of new Film

# The Task of International Red Aid

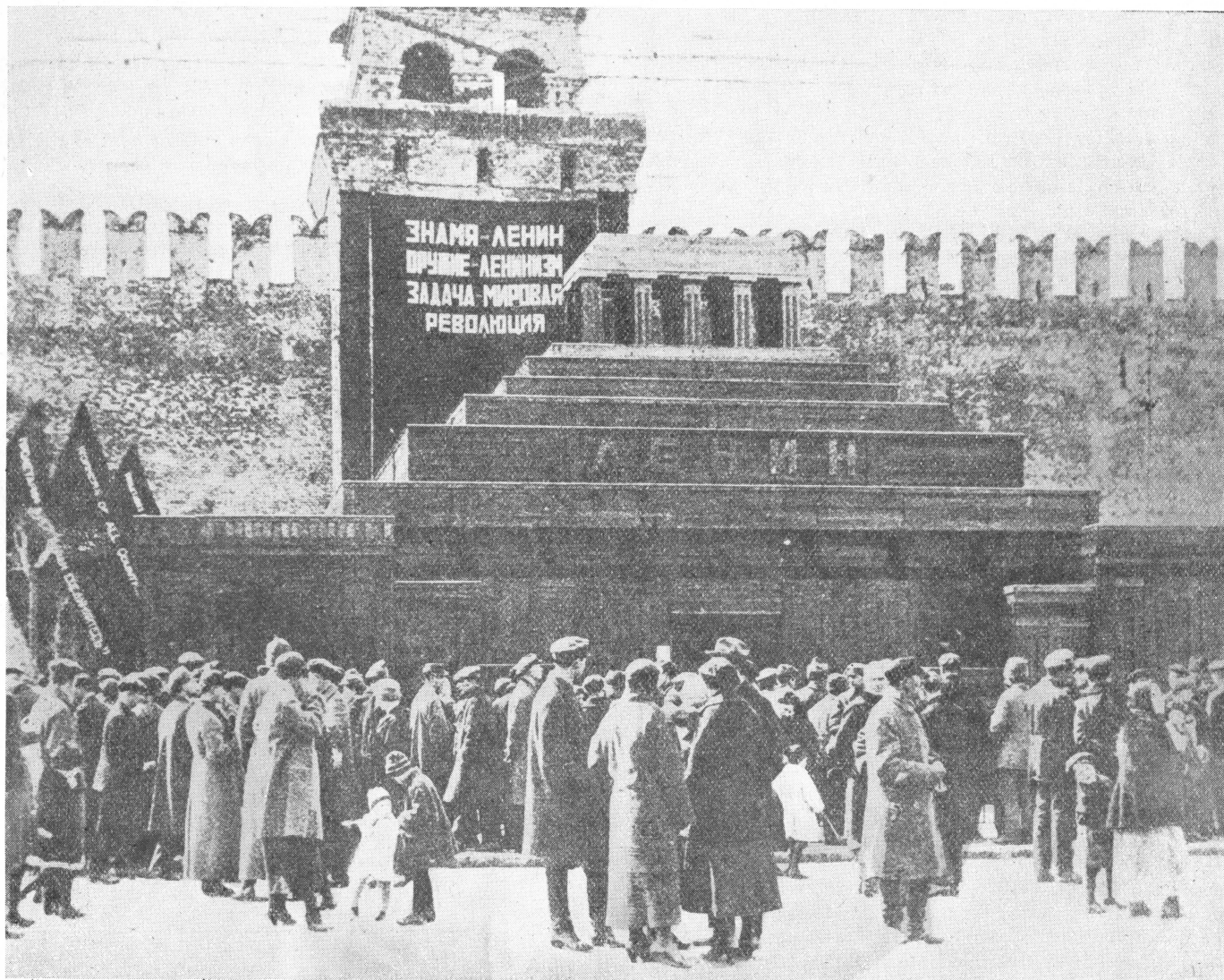
By EHRENFRIED WAGNER (Moscow).

FOR many years on the eighteenth of March, workers in tense and earnest ranks have proceeded to the graves of the victims fallen in masses. They think of all the heroic dead who have sacrificed their lives in the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat. These revolutionary victims have enormously increased in number since the world war. In all the countries of the world, thousands of valiant workers have perished in struggle. Thousands of others have been languishing in prisons for many years. The proletariat remembers all these victims. We think of them in order to celebrate their fate and their courage.

We shall give account to ourselves as to whether we, who are living in freedom, have done everything possible to give expression to the thanks we owe to the comrades in prison and to their families for their great sacrifices.

It is a long and grievous procession which is passing before our eyes. The bare figures in themselves are incapable of expressing the huge sum of needs, tortures, tears, of hunger and of all the griefs contained in the sacrifices which our valiant comrades in all countries of the world have to endure in the course of the class struggle. Who for the rest, could help the proletariat, this suppressed class, to compile exact statistics indicating the number of the comrades languishing in the prisons?

If we say that there are 6,000 political prisoners in Italy, 3,000 in Hungary, 1,200 in Finland, 1,500 in Poland, 20,000 in India, 3,000 in Spain, 5,000 in Bulgaria, and 7,000 in Germany, this refers only to those who could be reached by the "Red Relief" and are supported by it. To this number there must be added a three times greater number representing the fam-



Lenin's Tomb on Red Square in Moscow