

Marion (*with a little laugh*): At least you are honest, which is more than I have been for three months! Well, I must run. I can hear a taxi.

Beryl (*from window*): No hurry. It isn't a taxi. I thought for a minute it was Wilfrid's car.

Marion (*in a panic*): Wilfrid's car! Oh, let me go quickly.

Beryl: No, no; it's all right. There isn't a sign of him.

Marion: Still, I'll not wait. My luggage is all ready. Goodbye, dear everybody.

Nora (*from window*): There's the queerest man coming up the path. (*Craning out*). Oh, bother, I can't see—and yet I seem to know his walk. He's got on the most extraordinary clothes. I believe they were dungarees and a coloured shirt.

Mrs. A.: It will be just one of those poor unemployed.

Marion (*preparing to go*): Well, be kind to him. He may be less of a fraud than I have been.

(*The door opens hurriedly and Sally the maid enters. From the first glance it is obvious that this is not the prim Sally of ten minutes ago. She is clearly struggling with her feelings, and almost on the verge of hysterics.*)

Sally: Please, Miss, that is to say, Ma'am—

Mrs. A. (*kindly*): Yes, Sally.

Sally (*with a desperate giggle*): It's a message for Miss Norwood—Mr. Wilfrid is here, Miss.

Marion (*looking round desperately, as if to hide*): What? Oh, where shall I go?

Sally (*struggling with her feelings*): And, if you please, Miss, I was to say that he's got the dungarees and the shirt, but the cow—the cow wouldn't fit into the car. But he—he says that there are plenty at Sunnymeade, so that will be all right.

Beryl: Wilfrid! Good egg!

Nora: Hooray for Wilfrid!

Mrs. A. (*softly*): I was sure of it.

Sally (*after a desperate struggle*): And, if you please, Miss, he says will you come and keep your promise about marrying a farmer?

Mrs. M. (*loudly*): Well! Wilfrid Ashmead, marry a—a—a cow-spanker!

Marion (*with something between a sob and a laugh*): Wilfrid—oh, Wilfrid! (*She runs toward the door as the curtain falls quickly.*)

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Russia To-day

(Continued from page 3.)

luxury and culture of the ruling aristocracy and the privileged intelligentsia. When the Bolshevik Government gained power in November, 1917, the task of economic reconstruction seemed an impossible one. An illiterate people, a country disorganised by war and wasteful administration, widespread elements of disorder! No wonder the cynics of all lands prophesied disaster and chaos. From

The Super-Heterodyne Receiver

We regret that we have not been able to complete the super-heterodyne series of articles which was commenced some weeks back. We might explain that this has been due to their author, "Cathode," being incapacitated. However, we hope to resume them in the very near future, and would just ask our many readers who are anxiously waiting their appearance, to be as patient as possible. We can assure readers that they are really worth waiting for.

November, 1917, to August, 1921, the period of war, Communism was certainly a time of desperate expedients. Faced with enemies, within and without, the Russian Government, by drastic measures, met force with force. One after another various insurrectionary movements were defeated. Out of famine, civil war and disorder there came the reconstruction period of 1921-1927, when Lenin's "New Economy Policy" came into operation. The money system was re-established, the rouble standardised on a gold basis, forced requisition of food supplies from peasants stopped, and the stage was set for a rapid and more orderly progress.

In October, 1923, the Piatiletka or the Five-Year Plan was launched. Thousands of technical experts—engineers, statisticians, agricultural experts and others—were imported. Provision was made for widespread mechanisation of industry and of farming, for

building of great hydro-electric works such as Dneprostroi, of huge tractor factories, of iron and steel works, of every phase of capital construction to exploit the great soil, mineral, and power resources of that huge, undeveloped area. The Russian Five-Year Plan is the most ambitious scheme of rapid wholesale industrialisation that has ever been attempted. It is the first attempt to develop the economic resources of a great country on the basis of a national plan. If it succeeds, it will set a new world standard in nationalisation and rationalisation of industry. And the records to date suggest rapid progress in the successful realisation of this plan.

One of the most interesting aspects of this plan is the system by which the various departments of industry are integrated, and the relationship of the various parts, from the Supreme Economic Council at the head to the local Soviet of workers in each factory, mine, or village.

But what is the object of all this elaborate planning, this feverish construction of railways, roads and factories, these huge State farms of hundreds of thousands of acres equipped with thousands of tractors, harvesters, and up-to-date equipment, this concentration of effort on capital equipment of all kinds?

The answer seems to lie in the objective of higher standards of living for all the people, more leisure and greater general welfare. It is hoped that with the rationalisation and mechanisation of industry the work of providing the necessities of life will be done by machinery with a minimum of human labour and that the masses of people will be freed for fuller enjoyment of life.

As one writer has said: "The liberation of the down-trodden taught the poor a new self-respect which immediately translated itself into insistence on better living conditions, better working conditions, more education, more culture."

Interest in education has been an outstanding feature. The Russians are being rapidly transformed from an ignorant peasantry into an educated people. Most interesting accounts are given by various writers of the widespread provision for education of all kinds—primary, secondary, university, technical and academic. Another interesting phase is the definite establishment of the equality of the sexes. Men and women politically, legally and economically, have equal status. This has brought a challenge to accepted traditions. Drastic changes are taking place in family life and in marriage customs. Along with these changes has gone a challenge to pre-existing religious institutions.

In all aspects of human relationships there is a breaking-down of old institutions, an adoption of boldly experimental revolutionary ideas. How far will these go? How far will they make for a better race and a richer civilisation? We cannot tell. What is

certain is that no people will remain uninfluenced by them.

In conclusion, I would like to quote the words of the well-known English writer, H. N. Brailsford: "Russia desires peace ardently, if only because she knows that even a short and victorious campaign would interrupt her constructive work, check her patient efforts to restore her industry and fling her back into the miseries from which she seems to have recovered. Never before in history, and nowhere else in the world to-day has the will of a nation been bent, as it is bent in Russia, to the supreme task of raising its entire population to the full stature of humanity. Its errors spring from the defects of great qualities. Intolerant it has been; but does tolerance create? It has rushed to violent extremes. But is moderation ever a pioneer? It has made its effort with unconquerable heroism. By its unflinching endurance through the dark years of blockade and civil war, of trials for which there is no parallel in modern history, it has won its right to understanding and respect. But above all, it has won its right to peace."

References.

A useful little book giving a general account of Soviet organisation is Brailsford's "How the Soviets Work." It is one of a series of books on Russia edited by Dr. Jerome Davis, of Yale University, under the name of the "Vanguard Series."

A more comprehensive set of similar studies is to be found in "Soviet Russia in the Second Decade," by Stuart Chase and others. Useful accounts of the Five Year Plan are contained in Grinkov's book, "The Five Year Plan." Comparison of life in Russia to-day with that of pre-revolution days is contained in Dr. Dillon's "Russia, Yesterday and To-day." An extremely interesting survey of the social and religious changes in Russia is given in "Humanity Uprooted" by Hindus. Dr. Harper gives a good account of the new education system in Russia in his "Civic Training in Soviet Russia." In the supplement to the 1930 November number of the London "Economist" there is a well-balanced description of the present industrial and agricultural conditions in Russia.

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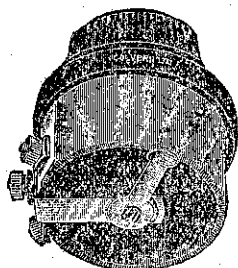
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