

Soviet Rejoicing Over Five-Year Successes



Learning Their A-B-C's

Illiterate adults being taught to read on the collective farm "Bolshevik" near Merv in Turkmenistan, in the Soviet educational drive.

SHOUTS OF TRIUMPH are heard in the Soviet press and in official speeches over "practically complete fulfilment" of the first Five-Year Plan.

"Our achievements are enormous," assert Soviet spokesmen, and this despite some failures and the hampering effect of food difficulties and various other troubles.

"Our country," they claim, has become one of the leading industrial nations in the world.

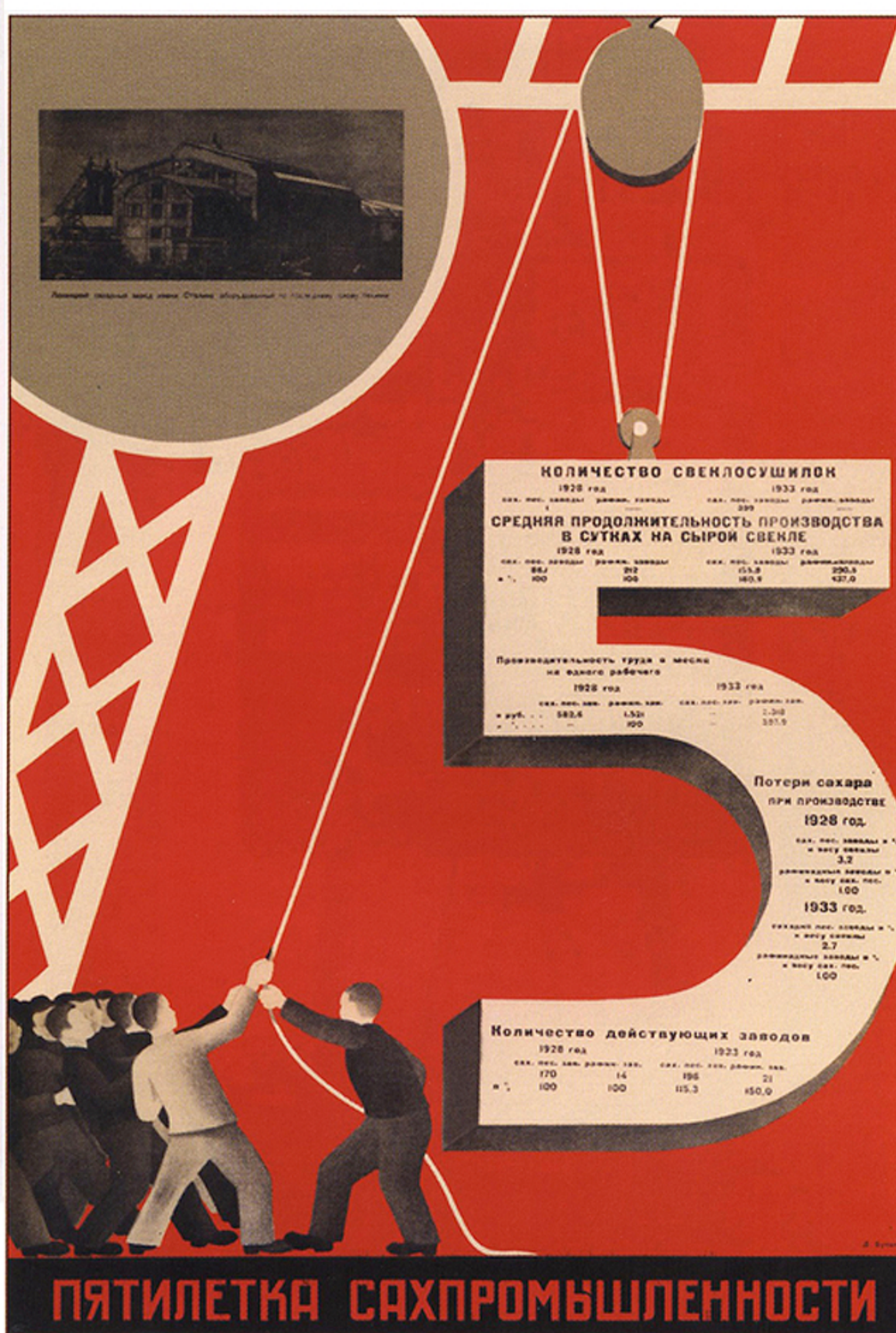
This means not only further progress along these lines at home, they say, but furtherance of the World Revolution.

We have heard plenty of complaints of the shortcomings and failures of the Five-Year Plan; now it may be well to hear something of the other side.

Soviet Russia has put much more money into her industries, it is alleged, than she even arranged for in the first Five-Year Plan. Her workers are said to have gained great increases in wages.

But also there has been an amazing advance along cultural lines, it is said. And this is shown in the fact that the percentage of literacy has risen from 67 per cent. in 1930 to 90 per cent. in 1932.

MEANWHILE it is pointed out, with a tone of ironic pity, how badly off all the capitalist countries have been faring, while Russia has been forging ahead. So the Soviet Russians, we are told, enter upon the first year of the Second Five-Year Plan with confidence and ardor. Success has been won, says *Pravda*, official organ of the Central Committee of the Communist party in Moscow, in spite of the stubborn opposition of "class enemies" within the country, in spite of counter-revolutionists, kulaks, Trotzkyist traitors, renegades of the Right, opportunists, and scoundrels of every description.



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This newspaper goes on:

"All these hindrances have not prevented us from entirely remolding our whole land, lifting its international and military might to an unprecedented standard and transforming it into one of the leading industrial countries of the world.

"These facts mean a very great deal not only for the further progress of Socialistic industrialization in our country, but also for the success of the proletarian world revolution. Not mistakenly did Comrade Stalin begin his recent speech on the completion of the first Five-Year Plan in four years by referring to the significance of its triumph for the workers in the capitalistic countries."

Similar self-congratulation appears in a speech by a high Soviet official, which is recorded in *Izvestia*, organ of the Soviet Government in Moscow. He is D. Sulimov, Premier of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, the largest republic comprised in the Soviet Union. Mr. Sulimov, as will be seen, compares conditions in his country to the great disadvantage of conditions in the so-called capitalistic world. *Izvestia* reports him in part as follows:

"In a sense, during these four years, we have done more than was foreseen by the Five-Year Plan. We have invested more money in the economic development of our country than was originally planned.

"Instead of 18.8 billion rubles, we put 23.3 billion rubles into our industries, that is to say, 24 per cent. more than planned; and in our agriculture we invested 9.4 billion instead of the 7.2 billion, or 30 per cent. more than planned. [Soviet Russian financial authorities in the United States put the value of the ruble at 51½ cents, in American money.

"We have attained to 93.7 per cent. of the planned increase in our industrial production. This means that our industrial

production is to-day 334 per cent. greater than it was in the pre-war years and 219 per cent. above what it was in 1928. Meanwhile, in the capitalistic countries, industry has been going backward further and further."

MR. SULIMOV feels really sorry about the pace with which iron and steel production in capitalistic countries has fallen off. In the production of pig-iron, he asserts, there has been a decline to the figures of 30 years ago, and in the output of steel the capitalist countries have dropt to the figures of twenty-five years ago. In England things are much worse, he avers, for there the steel figures show a shrinking to the levels of 1860. Now Mr. Sulimov claims proudly:

"As for the Soviet Union, it has increased its production of pig-iron by 43 per cent. during these same years, that is to say, since 1929. Moreover, we now produce ten times as many machines as in the pre-war times.

"The Soviet Union now produces 21 per cent. of all machines made in the world, and in the Soviet Union 25 per cent. of all machines made in the world are used.

"In our technical and economic development we have risen to the position of one of the leading industrial States in the world, and our economic independence now is firmly secured. And this, of course, means a great deal in the sense of our military defensive ability."



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How fortunate Russian workers have been is proclaimed to the world in a resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist party, which also appears in *Izvestia*:

"During these four years, the wages of our workmen employed in the heavy industries have increased by 67 per cent., which is 18 per cent. better than was foreseen by the plan. Our fund of social insurance has increased in the same years by 292 per cent.

"Our industrial development and the growing well-being of our masses naturally have resulted in rapid cultural progress. The number of children attending our primary schools has increased from 10 million in 1928 to 19 million at the end of 1932.

"We are completing arrangements for the introduction of compulsory universal education. The percentage of literacy in the population has risen from 67 per cent. in 1930 to 90 per cent. in 1932.

"The number of pupils attending grammar schools has risen in the last four years from 1,600,000 to 4,350,000. As for the pupils in technical schools and other technical institutions, it has increased from 264,000 to 1,437,000. And instead of 166,000 students in the universities in 1928, there are now 500,000."

