

A NEW VOICE

"WORKING PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET UNION"

"**W**ORKING people of the Soviet Union! The working people of areas liberated from Bolshevism and the working people of Germany are speaking to you!" These are the words that, many times each day, head the transmittances of one of the most interesting of today's radio stations. This station is located in the Ukraine and, through a wide hook-up, sends programs from Kiev, Kharkov, Minsk, Smolensk, Baranovitchi, and Lemberg. Before the listener, there unfolds the life in those areas which were freed from Bolshevism by the European troops during the last fourteen months. From lectures, reports, letters, and narratives, he can form, bit by bit, a living picture of this part of Europe, about which comparatively little is known otherwise.

The station transmits regular programs in German, Russian, Ukrainian, and, from time to time, Caucasian, both by long and short wave. The short-wave transmissions at 20.75 and 31.35 meters can be heard in East Asia, the former after 4 p.m. and the latter after midnight (Shanghai Daylight Saving and Tokyo time).

LIFE MARCHES ON

Here are a few examples from the programs of this station:

"The Dnepropetrovsk opera has just concluded its season. A total of three hundred performances were given during the season, attended by more than 100,000 spectators. Among the operas performed were: *Zaporozets za Dunayem*, *Eugen Onegin*, and *Wiy*. The new season will open on September 1 with *La Traviata*."

Thus we hear that in a town which, until the present summer offensive, had been less than a hundred miles from the actual front, opera is being performed as in normal times, and that 100,000 people have had the inclination to visit it. Incidentally, we also see from the repertoire that Ukrainian as well as Russian music is performed side by side in the same opera house.

Another example: "On the banks of the brook which runs by the village of Dobrunskoye, the peasants have gathered in holiday attire to celebrate the liquidation of the Bolshevik collectives and the reintroduction

of individual land-ownership. The German authorities have furnished—free of charge—twenty ploughs, sixteen harrows, fifty carts, twenty horses, and two bulls. The head of the county, a Mr. Petrov, made a speech in which, among other things, he declared: "The German authorities, in giving us these implements of agriculture, expect from us only one thing: an honest attitude toward our work. This expectation I think we shall honorably fulfill." During the meeting, the orchestra of the Bryansk civic theater played."

So, in spite of war conditions, the German authorities have sufficient confidence in the attitude of the population for them to afford to have, not a Mr. Schmidt, but a Mr. Petrov as the head of a county.

TELLING THE FOLKS BACK HOME

The programs often include verbal accounts or letters from Russians or Ukrainians who have gone to Germany to work. Most of these accounts have one thing in common: admiration for the care shown by the National-Socialist Government toward labor in Germany. For years, the inhabitants of the USSR have heard nothing about conditions in Germany except that the workers were being exploited by the bloodthirsty capitalists. Now they find that the German Government shows infinitely more interest in the well-being of its masses than the Soviet Government ever did. The main argument of Bolshevik propaganda—that the victory of the German armies would mean the exploitation of Russian and Ukrainian laborers by capitalists and big landlords—thus loses all effect. The order, cleanliness, and well-being in the German cities and villages, as well as the friendly relations between employers and employees, are a source of constant amazement to the visitors from the USSR. Peter Andreytchenko writes from Germany to his father in Kiev province: "We unmarried workers live three in a room. At present we are being trained in the factory school; we study tools, machines, and production methods. We like the foreman who is in charge of us. He is serious, but he knows his job and is friendly. In another week, we shall begin our work in the plant. I received a complete set of clothes and shoes. With my next letter I shall send you money."

LIFTING THE VEIL

A good deal of the station's time is devoted to that part of Russia still under Bolshevik rule. Ever since the Bolsheviks came into power, they have done their utmost to keep a veil of mystery over the events in their country, and Russians were never allowed to speak their minds freely. Now, at last, people who have lived under Bolshevism for almost twenty-five years have a chance to speak over this station.

One of their chief topics is the GPU, Stalin's secret police, or—as it is now called—the NKVD (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs). Prisoners of war explain how the entire Red Army is honeycombed with NKVD informers. For example, documents captured with the staff of the 56th division have shown that, in this one division, a total of 432 NKVD men were active. The connection of most of these men with the NKVD is not known to the soldiers; and day and night, during recreation or in battle, these men listen, watch, and report, trapping their victims with every careless word. No wonder that the speakers use their own interpretation of the four letters NKVD—“People's Commissariat for General Slaughtering.”

Some of the jokes are mentioned which the Soviet citizens tell each other, although the telling might cost them their lives. Here is one of them. (Pushkin is the greatest Russian poet; he lived in the early nineteenth century.) Puzzle: What is this?—a photo of Stalin to the right, a painting of Stalin to the left, on top a streamer saying “Long live Stalin!”, and underneath a plaster bust of Stalin. Answer: a Pushkin anniversary.

Prisoners of war complain bitterly about the dilettantism of their superiors and the unbearable strain to which they are put. These are the words of a pilot who deserted with his plane during the battles at Tsymlyanskaya: “There is a lack of planes and even more of pilots. All pilots are dreadfully overworked. How can we fight when we fall asleep during the flight? For every pilot who has relatives, these serve as hostages. As I am alone, I decided to end this nightmare and to desert.” The station also reports how the so-called “German atrocities” are manufactured to arouse the people of the USSR. Details are given as to how, for instance, the house dedicated to the memory of the great poet Gogol had been looted and burned by the Reds in order

to put the blame on the Germans and at the same time to deprive the Germans of any possible shelter.

Facts are frequently divulged about anti-Bolshevik sabotage behind the Red lines, explosions in important factories, derailing of trains, mutinies in concentration camps. The attitude of the population is particularly bitter towards the Red “scorched-earth” policy, and instances are reported where the farmers turned against Red soldiers who had orders to burn their houses and grain stocks and kill their cattle before retreating.

APPEALS

Again and again the station appeals to the people still living under the Red Star. It says to the farmers:

“Do not deliver your grain reserves to the doomed Red Army. Its days are numbered. Forced to retreat, it will only burn your grain. Hide the grain so that you may use it after your liberation.”

And it addresses the Cossacks of the Kuban, Terek, and Ural, who were among the chief sufferers from the collectivization of 1929 to 1931:

“Who has robbed you of your homes and lands? Who has taken your horses and cattle? The Bolsheviks! The German Army, fighting successfully against these criminals, will return it all to you. The German Government guarantees to all Cossacks who fight against the Bolsheviks the complete restoration of the privileges which they have lost, the return of your homes and lands, your gallant songs, your honor and customs. Turn around your horses and destroy with us the Bolshevik power.”

Frequently the station ends its broadcasts with appeals like this:

“The masses of the Soviet people are beginning to understand more clearly every day that the German Army is not fighting against them but for their liberation from the Red yoke. Citizens of the Soviet Union! Arise against Stalin and his Kaganovitchs who are driving you to slaughter in order to save their own skins, fooling you with phrases about ‘defense of the fatherland and the Russian earth.’ Down with the imperialist war of Stalin, Churchill, Roosevelt! Long live peace and the friendship of all European nations.”

It is interesting to note that no antagonism between the Russians and Ukrainians is to be found in the programs of this station. There is nothing to indicate that the German authorities are trying to play off the Russians against the Ukrainians, or vice versa. The station addresses itself, not to any particular group, but to the “working people of areas liberated from Bolshevism.”