

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

### Russians Appear Well-Nourished, Despite High Prices; Soviet Has Passed Stage of Critical Need

(By Edgar Ansel Mowrer)  
MOSCOW, Feb. 18.—Almost without exception, the members of the Moscow crowd seemed fairly contented. One soon learned that theirs was the contentment of a full stomach. Soviet Russia had enough to eat. And the fare offered was by no means unattractive.

Food stores were crowded with people and jammed with goods. Honest-to-God food in hundreds of varieties—cheeses, meats, smoked salmon and other fish, a dozen kinds of vodka, half a dozen wines, 40 sorts of bread and cake, as varied as complexions in a black and tan cabaret. Some of the shops were new, tile-floored and marble finished. But all had plenty to sell and all seemed to be doing a flourishing business. Bunches of purple balloons floated over itinerant merchants.

**Prices Absurdly High**  
Prices, on the 5 rubles to a dollar basis, were of course absurdly high. But wages of the more skilled part of the population have risen enormously; when added to the insignificant rents and numerous privileges and perquisites, the wage of even the unskilled Russian workman is above the hunger point. There seemed no reason to doubt the assertion that this holds through the city and, indeed, throughout the country.

It is the opinion of most, if not all, foreign residents that Soviet Russia, on both the industrial and agricultural fields, has passed out of the critical state. Well-stocked shops were the evidence.

And yet? An old woman in rags passed, looked me critically in the face and extended a hand for alms. Why cannot she get work?

**Kremlin Enclosure Shut Off**  
The Red square before the Kremlin at 6 in the evening. At the end, the onion-shaped towers of St. Basil, exotic, dark and impressive. Over the Kremlin gate—the entire vast

enclosure where live the masters of new Russia, has been closed to visitors since the assassination of Kirov two years ago—a red flame floats in the black, a skillfully flood-lit flag.

Attention centres on the red and black granite mausoleum of Lenin before the great crenelated walls, with its row of Christmas trees at the foot.

Before the entrance, a mere rabbit track on the great empty square, a line of people, perhaps a thousand, wait to do homage to the embalmed remains of the great revolutionary.

As tourists, we enter without waiting, file along the subterranean passages and are hurried past the corpse under the glass case.

**Head Impressive**  
The head, with its amazing mixture of intelligence and fanaticism, is impressive; the body has shrunk. In the Kremlin above sits a new master of masters: one by one the comrades of Lenin are being removed from the scene. How much longer can the rising amour-propre bear this homage to a rival, there beneath the Kremlin window? It will be a test.

Blue electricity flashed the whereabouts of the Hotel Metropole across the evening sky. Lobby, dining room, bedrooms were crowded—the coming constituent assembly to go through the ceremony of accepting the new constitution had reserved most of the rooms. For the trifle of \$11 we obtained a double with bath. A pleasant room in the style of 1895. As we opened the door a mouse nimbly leaped to shelter in a curtain.

A large bathtub with plenty of hot water. But bath water unwilling to flow out and down to its ultimate destiny in the cold Moscova river.

"Pa, what's a matrimonial bureau?"

"It's a bureau, son, with six drawers packed full of women's fixings and one man's necktie."

## STALIN ON RADIO TWICE IN 12 YEARS

### Dislikes Personal Publicity and Prefers to Let Work Speak for Him—Rarely Seen in Public.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—All Communists know Joseph Stalin's policies, but few are acquainted with the man behind those policies. Only twice in more than 12 years, has he broadcast a speech to the people.

Stalin intensely dislikes personal publicity. He believes attention should be centred on a person's aims and achievements rather than on his characteristics; it is the work that counts, not the fact that a man happens to like caviar for breakfast. This is the code of the Communist party.

Stalin's picture hangs in most homes and public places throughout the vast empire, but few persons have seen him, as he rarely appears in public.

Only a few weeks ago he kept under cover so long that rumors got about that he was dead. When the Associated Press correspondent in Moscow sent a note to the great man calling attention to the rumors, Stalin replied jokingly, advising the newspaperman to believe the reports and not disturb him in the calm of the other world.

A strong sense of humor is one of the characteristics of this man noted for grimness and ruthlessness. He laughs frequently, uproariously.

There is a good deal of the boy in Stalin, and he laughs most often at the unusual or unexpected. But he hates anything not clean. He once severely reprimanded an editor who published something that Stalin considered obscene.

Simple and conservative in habits Stalin still sticks to plain uniforms such as he wore as a soldier—a khaki tunic with the collar buttoned across the throat, and khaki trousers tucked into boots reaching his knees. His only departure from this garb is when he dons white linen in summer.

He smokes nothing but a pipe—and what a pipe! It is ancient and charred and scarred and strong. But it is an honest, friendly sort of pipe. He doesn't smoke ordinary pipe tobacco in it, but fills it by breaking up cigarettes. As for other habits, he is said to be temperate in all things—excepting work.

He used to be a fine horseman and played much polo. Wild boar hunting was another of his pastimes. These things have given way to motoring; he likes to take the wheel from his chauffeur and spin over the country roads.

As might be expected, Stalin is keen about chess and formerly played much with old cronies. He plays a good game, both offensive and defensive, and is vigorous in his attack. He always wants the black pieces. Why? That's another Stalin puzzle.

Stalin loves the theatre, has a particular leaning towards opera, and is also a movie fan. He is fond of music, mostly symphonic. He is a great reader, history being his first choice and after that philosophy. Stalin himself has written many books which critics say will live in Marxist literature.

Much of Stalin's work is done at night. He likes to get to bed about 4 o'clock in the morning, but he is usually back in his office again after a few hours of rest.

The burdens of state, heavy as they are, do not prevent Stalin from taking a paternal interest in the smaller affairs of his people. If an aviator, for example, scores some outstanding achievement, he gets a personal letter of commendation from his chief.

If a plane crashes and the flier leaves a widow and children, Stalin personally investigates the plight of the family, expressing sympathy and possibly arranging for their care. It is said that he follows such cases for years.

They were court-martialing the soldier for desertion, and the case looked very black until the young officer acting for the defense arose.

"Sir," he said, addressing the President, "I admit appearances are against this man. But I propose to prove that in civic life he was a plumber—and he was only going back for his bayonet."

"Acquitted."

A Scotswoman said to her garden-er: "Man Tammas, I wonder you do not get married! You've a nice house and all you want now is a wife. You know the first garden-er that ever lived had a wife."

"Quite right," said Tammas, "but he didn't keep his job long after."

"Hard work never killed anybody," said the father.

"That's just the trouble dad," returned the son. "I want to engage in something that has the spice of danger in it."

## SAY MANITOBA CANNOT GO ON FINANCIALLY

### Bank of Canada Probe Reveals Revenues Neither Elastic Enough Nor Sufficient

A report released Monday night by the Bank of Canada following the studies it conducted into the financial position of Manitoba stated: "It seems to be the case that revenues are not adequate or not sufficiently elastic to enable the province to bear the burdens which modern practices of government and the force of depression have placed upon them."

Manitoba did not stand alone in this respect, the report said. Other sections of the country were facing problems which may differ in degree from those of Manitoba but were not in other respects dissimilar.

That statement, signed by G. F. Towers, governor of the bank, explained that the investigation, which also included Saskatchewan, was made at the request of the premiers of those two provinces and Finance Minister Dunning.

**With Manitoba Only**  
The report dealt only with Manitoba and covers the period from 1925 to 1936.

The governor praised the efforts of the province to make ends meet by heavy taxation and stamp reductions in expenditure, but said it had been difficult.

Fortunately the drought areas in the west were predominately situated outside the province, the report stated. Notwithstanding this advantage and the efforts of its government which had been considerable, "the province is either not in a position to carry on or is able to do so with assurance for no more than a short period unless some unexpected favorable factor should appear."

**Summary of Report**  
The text of the summary of the report:

1. In the body of the report we have expressed the view that the lightening of taxation (income taxes reduced) which took place during the 1927-30 period was not wise, and that greater advantage should have been taken of the good years to build up surpluses for bad times. We also made reference to the unduly large capital outlays of the 1929-32 fiscal years, and to the effect of pre-1922 capital expenditures on the financial position of the province.

2. We believe that during most of the period under review, and specifically during the last five years, the Government of the Province of Manitoba has made strong and commendable efforts to keep its budget balanced, and avoid unnecessarily increases in debt, by imposing taxation on a scale at least as high as that of any other province in Canada, and by restricting expenditures as far as it was possible to go without curtailing services to an extent which would not have been in the public interest.

The opinion expressed above should be supplemented by the statement that details of departmental expenditures were not examined. A detailed survey, which would necessarily be of a lengthy character, might conceivably disclose the possibility of further economies in some directions. It is likely, however, that such an examination would also bring to light cases where expenditures are below a desirable minimum. We believe that on balance further economies are not feasible.

**Revenue Increase Small**  
3. In spite of Manitoba's efforts, the percentage increase in its revenues during the period 1926-36 has been smaller than that of any other province except one. There are two reasons for this apparently poor showing, namely:

(a) The fact that Manitoba taxation at the beginning of the period was somewhat higher than average provincial taxation gave less scope for increasing the returns, and

(b) The incomes of the people of Manitoba were more severely and continuously affected by the depression than were those of the people of other provinces. The economic situation which produced this result is also the cause of continued high cost of relief.

4. Over the seven fiscal years 1931-37 (the depression years) the average budgetary result on current account was a deficit of about \$685,000. Average contribution to sinking fund and debt retirement, approximately \$355,000. In the last few years there have been small surpluses after provision of from \$400,000 to \$500,000 annually for debt retirement. But for the whole period, relief charges not included in the above figures average some \$3,250,000 per annum.

5. We understand it to be the view of the Government that additional funds must be obtained for the preservation of the road system, for education and for mental institutions. While we do not feel qualified to estimate how large an amount is needed for additional expenditures of a character which cannot be postponed, we agree that some additional expenditures are inevitable, and we are not prepared to say that it is practical to increase revenues by further taxation.

**Relief Serious Problem**  
6. There is no doubt that the sub-

stantial increases in debt incurred for relief purposes during the last six years have given cause for serious apprehension. The end of relief expenditures is not in sight, and there is undoubtedly a feeling that it is unwise for the province to continue to accumulate debt for this purpose.

7. Manitoba has been affected by the relatively low level of prices for agricultural products during the year 1930-35; by drought in some sections of the province; and by the indirect effects of drought and low prices further west. It has been fortunate in that the drought areas are predominately situated outside the province.

Notwithstanding this advantage and the efforts of its government, which, as we have indicated, have been very considerable, the province is either not in a position to carry on or is able to do so with assurance for no more than a short period, unless some unexpected favorable factor should appear.

We do not regard it as our duty merely to examine whether the province can pay its way somehow or another in the next few months. It is rather for us to consider whether there is sufficient elasticity in Manitoba's economy to enable the province, under reasonably good government, to conduct its affairs so that it may not become a burden upon the rest of the country, and, in particular to become a burden of a kind which produces no permanent alleviation to the province itself.

8. The fact that Manitoba finds itself in the position described in this report indicates certain fundamental strains and weaknesses. And it seems to be the case that revenues are not adequate, or are not sufficiently elas-

## SAYS GREAT MEN ARE THOSE BEHIND SCENES

### Rev. Dr. G. A. Dickson Recalls Lesson of His Own Youth at Rotary Luncheon.

OTTAWA, Feb. 18.—"I am convinced that the great men of any age are the men behind the scenes who are never banqueted, and whose names never appear in the press, except in the obituary columns," said Rev. Dr. George A. Dickson, Minister of Metropolitan United Church, Toronto, in an address to the Rotary Club at its luncheon Monday in the Chateau Laurier. Dr. Dickson spoke on "The Philosophy of a Scottish Working Man's Home."

He recalled the days of his youth. His father, a Scottish miner, at the age of 40 years had followed his wife to the grave, leaving seven boys and a girl. On his death-bed he had

tic, to enable the province to bear the burdens which modern practices of government and the force of the depression have placed upon it. Manitoba does not stand alone in this respect. Other sections of the country are facing problems which may differ in degree from those of Manitoba but are not, in other respects, dissimilar.

The above report contains the facts as we see them. It seems desirable that we should go further and express our views on the various solutions or partial solutions which have been suggested during discussion of Manitoba's problems. A letter on this subject will be forwarded within the next day or so; in order to avoid delay, this report is being despatched immediately.

told the speaker: "Honor God, and be an honorable man, and you will have lived. Wherever you go, and whatever you do, try to be a success."

Dr. Dickson said he had promised his father, but he had not been quite sure what success was. Later, he had tried to find out, from the reading of books from the local library on men of achievement. "But I was not impressed, for the reason that all these books had a sort of weakness. They laid emphasis on a man's having arrived, but gave no information on the methods by which he had done so," he said.

Dr. Dickson said he found, too, that the methods by which success had been achieved "stamped the individual as a failure," so far as he was concerned. He liked the philosophy of an old prospector who had been asked to deliver an address, but death had intervened. On a sheet of paper, however, had been found part of what he had intended to say. It read: "We shall not be remembered by the amount of gold we have collected in the Klondike, but by what help we have given our fellow-travellers as we have gone down the trail of life."

The doctor told of the help given him in his youth by the dominie and minister of his native place, both of whom had said they regarded their own lives as failures, despite their academic qualifications. As for the dominie, Dr. Dickson said: "All over the world there are representatives of their chosen professions bringing their contributions to the lessening of the sum total of human misery and who are in places of eminence and fame, who would never have got to first base, but for the old dominie."

As for the minister, he had laid the foundations of Dr. Dickson's career.

"I'm sorry, Jones, but you're not enough of a live wire for our organization. I fear you're the type of man who waits till his house is on fire before summoning the fire brigade."

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