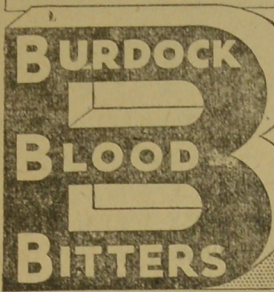


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for THE STOMACH BLOOD AND SKIN

## SOVIET DOMESTIC TRADE

## SHAKES OFF RESTRICTION

**Bolshevik Scheme Forbidding Profit by Trade Gradually Disappearing in Emergency From Absolute Communism To Open Store Policy.**

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 13—Another economic phase of the first importance has been entered upon in Soviet Russia. Domestic trade after a manner not greatly dissimilar from the systems practised in other countries now is taking place.

## Unrestricted Sales

Throughout the earlier years of the Soviet experiment there are no trade in the usual sense. Stores were what was described as closed, in that they purveyed only to individuals having ration cards and could be traded at only by prescribed individuals. The important new phase is that there now are open stores—that is, stores which sell unrestricted quantities of goods to any person able to buy.

The whole world wondered at the setting up of so radical a form of government as that launched by the bolsheviks after the collapse of the Russian czarist regime. Profit from trade was strictly forbidden. In fact there was no trade in the usual sense, no buying or selling. The communist idea was strictly adhered to. All property was considered as belonging to the whole people.

Imperceptibly, exceptions to this general rule were permitted. The simple communist scheme was too Utopian. It was found that some system of barter would have to be authorized as a medium for distribution of the necessities of life. So at the end of three years of the idealistic plan, that is, in 1931, the new economic policy was adopted. The plan of requisition of all products and redistribution through commissariats was replaced by barter. At first this was restricted to large lots. Groups of local soviets were the only agencies permitted to exchange goods. A community would itself by a sort of co-operative purchasing or bartering arrangement.

With the passing of each year there was a gradual letting down of the bars on private trade. During the first five-year plan production increased materially and there was more to deal in. It was no longer imperative for the government to keep its hands on everything. The wage had been introduced by the state trusts which were in charge of production and this provided the people with purchasing power, limited though it was. With the money in hand it was inevitable that the people would demand a chance to spend as they chose.

## State Controls Trading System

The first five year plan was devoted to stimulation of production of necessities and of industrial plants which could produce consumptive goods. It was considered more important to create the machinery of production than the actual goods for the people. That would come later. A vast amount was accomplished and, by the time the second five year plan was under way, it was found that more consumptive goods would be available. Allocations of things to be made and placed in the channels of domestic trade were ordered. While Russia still is far behind other countries in availability to the public of trade goods, still the year 1934 saw an increase of retail trade until a turnover of \$61,000,000 rubles, was reached. This was a 25 per cent. increase over 1933.

There still remains an extensive intricate trading system under state control. Russia is a populous nation and a tremendous organization was necessary to effect distribution of supplies. There are 283,000 trading units operated by the commissariats and they employ 1,300,000 people. There also are 37,000 restaurants or eating places

operated publicly. These Soviet dining rooms feed 18,000,000 residents of the various cities. Most of them are located in the larger industrial centres, although some are to be found in small towns which are centres of rural life, the workers employed on the outlying acres, coming to the community centre for meals.

In addition to these public trading centres and restaurants there is a very extensive system of consumers' co-operatives. These are some overlapping, a Russian being a member of a co-operative in many cases and also a patron of a state-operated dining room or other trading unit. It is reported that three-fourths of the entire adult population of the Soviet Union now belong to some kind of consumers' co-operative, some to more than one. These co-operatives operate 94,200 trading units and their capital resources now amount to more than 2,000,000,000 rubles.

## Private Trading Begins

Some of the consumers' co-operatives go beyond trading. A good many of them engage in production. For example there are many dairies, bakeries, small factories, truck gardens and similar enterprises, for the production of consumptive goods. In many of these enterprises the productive work is done by the members in addition to their regular work for wages at the plants of the state trusts.

The closed stores which operated during the first years of the Russian experiment were considered necessary to insure an equitable distribution of necessities of life at reasonable prices. With the nation being remade from an agricultural into an industrial state the cities. It was regarded as impracticable to permit anything like normal merchandising methods. So the various producing plants and other enterprises closed stores. No person could buy anything at such a store without a ration ticket which identified him as a member of the group. The amount he could buy and the price were fixed.

In a country, such as the United States, where millions of dollars are spent annually urging people to buy, provided the people with purchasing power, limited though it was. With the money in hand it was inevitable that the people would demand a chance to spend as they chose.

Some of the trading units, even under the greatly improved conditions, would astonish the average American. Some markets are open air affairs, with all manner of food items, second-hand clothing and other wares spread on benches or perhaps, on the ground. Some tattered and second or third-hand garment will cost 75 rubles, more in proportion, than a new garment would cost at an American store. But prices are slowly coming down and further reductions are expected as supplies of trade goods increase.

A whole generation of young Russians has grown up without experiencing freedom to buy what they wanted even though they might have the money. The relaxed private trading is, perhaps the longest step back from absolute communism, the most notable return toward capitalism which has been taken since the Red Revolution.

A crisis never seems to get tired of impending.

(By H. M. Morden, Star Staff Correspondent)

OTTAWA, Feb. 12—In past years Mr. Woodsworth's motion calling for the setting up of a co-operative commonwealth in Canada has usually been one of the first to reach the order paper of Parliament. The fact that it did not appear this year until several days after the session began is looked on as significant.

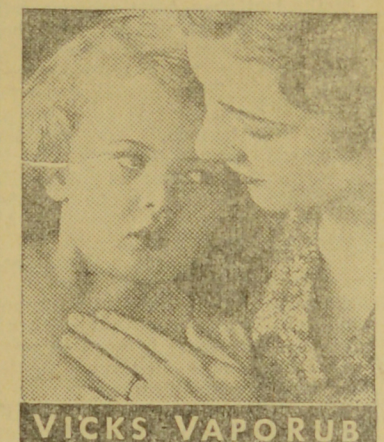
As a matter of fact, it was presented just after the Unemployment Insurance Act had been explained to the House, and the general opinion is that there is a distinct connection between the two matters. Certainly the debate on the Woodsworth motion gives color to the suggestion.

Where the Unemployment Insurance Bill came in there was for some unaccountable reason, disappointment among the C. C. F. forces. They were distinctly cast down when they were told that the legislation would have no effect on these now unemployed.

The Government believed that anyone who gave the matter a moment's thought would realize this. It would be impossible or at least hardly conceivable, that a bill such as that should be brought in with the provision that those now employed should contribute to a fund in aid of those out of work.

Nevertheless the disappointment made itself apparent. The C.C.F. folk evidently do not realize that the whole Bennett program of reform is not bound up in that one bill, that there is other legislation to follow, designed to take care of the unemployment situation.

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## HOUSE AND LOBBY

The absence of the Co-operative Commonwealth motion from the order paper was taken as an indication, together with some of Mr Woodsworth's utterances, that it would not be presented, and that the C.C.F. leader instead would co-operate with the new reform policy. Once the shock of the facts about the insurance bill had made itself felt, however, the motion calling for an entirely new economic system promptly showed up.

Every time this particular motion comes up for debate, Mr. Woodsworth can count on having "Russia" hurled in his face. Orthodox Conservatives and Liberals have found that it is most effective strategy to try to hook the C.C.F. leader up with the "reds" of the U.S.S.R.

Sure enough the extremely unpleasant reference to Russia bobbed up again yesterday. Mr. Woodsworth voiced his disgust when he said that he had hoped to get through at least one debate without this thing entering into it. He has so often denied any connection with, or any sympathy for the Soviet, that he is getting rather tired of remonstrating.

After his irritated comment yesterday, the reference to Russia took another line. J. H. Stitt, the Conservative member for Selkirk, let the word "Russia" slip from his lips several times. On each occasion, however, he became almost apologetic. He said he realized he should not say anything about that, as Mr. Woodsworth did not like to hear it. Each time this comment was made it drew a laugh, and it was probably the most subtle and effective way in which the Russian angle has ever been used.

Incidentally, Mr. Stitt's speech was rather a shock to the House. Last session the Selkirk member was looked on almost as an insurgent. The independent tone he adopted in one or two of his speeches actually had rumors flying about that he was ready to cross the floor and take his seat behind Mr. Woodsworth.

Actually, there was never any real likelihood of this happening. Nevertheless "Jimmy" Stitt was looked on as something of a radical in the party. Some of his fellow members looked askance when he openly found fault with certain of the Government's policies right on the floor of the House.

Mr. Bennett never had a more loyal supporter, however, than M. Stitt proved himself to be last night. He heaped praise on his leader unstintingly, and he was even more severe in his denunciations of the Socialistic attitude than was John R. MacNicol, the vehement Imperialist from Toronto.

The explanation of this apparent change, however, is not difficult to discover. The Bennett program of reform is just about exactly what Mr. Stitt has been advocating all along. It is not a case of the coming back to the party. The party has to come to him.

## Valentine Concert and Card Party

ST. ANTHONY'S HALL—DEVON

Thursday Evening

Admission—25 cents

## Of Interest to the Women

## Ooh! Paris Gowns Naughtiest in Years

PARIS—A sophisticated audience ooh-ed and ah-ed as the naughtiest, naughtiest fashions Paris has seen in years were shown on the 1935 style stage.

Gowns for spring and evening displayed by Robert Piguet had, above the waist, no top, no back, nothing but a little piece of cloth in front held up by three whalebones which the gaping buyers and newspaper people thought might slip any minute.

The gowns, fashioned of silver satin, navy taffeta and yellow organdy, were designed with immensely wide skirts, with all the fullness in the back, and were finished off with a cluster of bright roses precariously perched on a little bit of a bodice.

Other evening gowns were made of the new flowered cotton crepe, with a very low drop shoulder line, puff sleeves and skirts very full below the knees.

Chanel, too, followed the bareback vogue, showing country suits in plain or dotted wool jersey with the skirts attached to silk blouses slashed very low in the back, which he called "sun bath suits."

Piguet displayed beige, navy and black spring coats designed entirely in a new smart line—no collars, big sleeves, belted at the waistline and fullness in the back of the skirt.

In contrast with the daring modes were the spring fashions staged elsewhere in which the demure styles of the "gay nineties" were predominant—though skillfully blended with 20th century touches.

The gored, fuller skirt, the modified mutton leg sleeve, the swishing evening skirts and the accessories deriving their inspiration from the 19th century all are featured in the spring shows.

## Navy Blue Spring's Leading Color

CHICAGO—Women this spring will blossom forth in their gayest colors in several years. This was noted at the textile exhibit, sponsored by the Chicago Wholesale Market Council, in which leading cloth manufacturers are showing new ideas in fabrics.

It will be a blue spring with blues ranging from baby blue and a new peacock blue to navy. The latter will be especially important. Black and yellow is one of the smart spring combinations, but black alone, the color leader of this winter, will be secondary.

Other important colors include yellows, greens, reds, pinks. Pastels are represented but most of the colors are more vivid. There is a few smoke gray for high fashion.

There are plaids, timid and bold—plaids in gingham, taffeta, pique, organdy, the new cotton sheers. Almost as prominent are checks, some big, some little. Stripes are good.

Prints are important. Floral designs lead, and there is a soft blending of designs. Some of the dressier materials have floral sprays on a dark background.

Manufacturers are featuring silk materials that wash as easily as cotton. Non-shrinkable cottons have been devised. Also there are silks treated so as not to spot in the rain.

## Paris Styles Again Hint of Gay Nineties

PARIS—A hint of the "gay nineties" is showing up in the spring styles displayed at the first of the season's style showings.

Ultra-modern Paris cloth designers have turned a backward somersault into the days when "girls" were "young ladies." Their models, however retain a distinctive 1935 tinge.

This is how they do it: The old 19th century gored skirt with more fullness than the slim, straight 1934 models; modified muttonleg sleeves with fullness at the top; swishing evening skirts that bring remembrance of candle-lit drawing rooms, combined with gay, modern accessories which, nevertheless, take their inspiration from the past.

Suits of black slipper satin or light wool with gored skirts and checked or gaily flowered taffeta frocks with big topped sleeves are often finished with such accessories as buckles and belts in the form of silver shields, gold four leaf clovers and white enamel bar music on a black background.

Even a modification of poke bonnet hats set well back on the head is being shown.

Even gowns, so old-fashioned one expects to see the manikins who model them drop a curtsy, are made of mile green moire, flowered organdy, white taffeta and barred candy colored stripes. They are very wide with toe length skirts, and short balloon sleeves and are finished with a little corsage of flowers.

## FASHION FACTS IN PARIS

Once again the black satin daytime dress is well in the limelight, reviving with it the contrast of the crepe and the lustrous sides of the satin.

Navy blue lace is a novel trimming detail on several navy blue dresses in wool and silk.

Necklines during the day are as high as ever, with tie and scarf finishes, and draperies simulating bows. Many of these are of stiff materials. There's interest too, in the shirred neckline.

Crepe or velvet evening dresses may have transparent bodies and long tight sleeves. Many bodices are of a contrasting color. Sometimes the bodices are of paillettes with paillette boleros.

TORONTO, Feb. 13—The Canadian Bar Association and Canadian lawyers as a whole could do a great deal to improve business ethics in the Dominion, Isaac Pitblado, K. C., president of the association, said in an address to members, last night.

"I believe it is up to the Bar of Canada—to those men who have been advisers in business and who have held responsible positions in financial institutions—to see that there is an improvement in business ethics," the Winnipeg lawyer said.

Sir Francis Floud, British High Commissioner to Canada, who was a guest at the gathering, said that the bond of partnership which existed between the Dominion and the Mother Country was the greatest hope of the world.

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