

FIFTEEN YEARS
of SOVIET
GEORGIA

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Fifteen years of Soviet power in Georgia – these are splendid pages in the new history of the Georgian people.

Under the banner of the Leninist-Stalinist national policy the peoples of Soviet Georgia, in close collaboration with the peoples of the whole Soviet Union, are successfully, victoriously building socialism.

I

The national policy of tsarism was one of colonizing and Russifying, of mercilessly oppressing and exploiting the enslaved nationalities.

In its policy of aggression towards the South and the East, Russian tsarism struck its greedy claws deep into the body of the peoples of Georgia.

Tsarism endeavoured to strengthen and maintain its rule in Georgia by relying for support on the Georgian princes, nobles and landlords, whom it privileged to exploit and despoil the masses.

The enslaved peasantry of Georgia repeatedly rebelled against the oppression and violence of the landlords and the absolute monarchy of the tsar.

In 1812-13 there were peasant uprisings in Kakhetia; in 1841 in Gurya; in 1857 in Mingrelia; in 1858 in Imeretia.

The tsarist generals, princes and landlords meted out bloody reprisals in suppressing the revolutionary uprisings of the peasants.

“The rebellious villages,” wrote General Yermolov, governor-general of Georgia, in his letters published in 1868, “were laid waste and burned, orchards and vineyards were cut down to the very root, and it will be many years before the traitors regain their former state. Utter beggary shall be their punishment.”

The waves of revolutionary struggle against the monarchy rose up with new force among the toiling people of Georgia when the working class of Georgia and Transcaucasia entered upon the scene of class struggle.

The years 1902-05 were marked by continual disturbances, by peasant risings and workers' strikes.

In a “report addressed to His Majesty the Emperor” in 1907, the vice-regent of the Caucasus, Vorontsov-Dashkov, was obliged to admit the extreme stubbornness with which the working masses of

Georgia fought for their liberation against the monarchy, the landlords and capitalism.

“By the time of my arrival in this territory,” wrote Vorontsov-Dashkov, “the revolutionary movement here, evidently in connection with that throughout the whole empire, had already assumed proportions dangerous to law and order. I instantly declared martial law in the city of Tiflis.... At the same time part of the Tiflis *gubernia* and the whole of the Kutais *gubernia* were affected by unrest among the rural population, accompanied by attacks on landlords’ estates, refusal of the peasants to pay taxes or recognize the rural authorities, the forcible seizure of private lands, the illegal cutting of huge quantities of timber in state and privately owned woods.... In Tiflis, Baku and other cities there were almost daily strikes among workers of all trades, including domestic servants....

“As a result of the general strike of postal, telegraph and railway workers, the Kutais *gubernia* was completely cut off from Tiflis. All railway stations within its borders were seized by armed revolutionaries. The Suram tunnel was blocked by two locomotives, which had been run head on against one another in order to hold up the transport of troops from Tiflis....

“At the slightest resistance the rural administration offices were sacked and burned by mobs of peasants. Throughout the whole countryside meetings and demonstrations were held, openly propagating the idea of complete equality between estates, of destroying capitalism and changing the existing system of government.... Various repressive measures have been taken by the Caucasian administration against the above-mentioned movement among the rural masses of Georgia. Beginning with 1902, troops have repeatedly been sent to Gurya, floggings have been administered to the inhabitants of villages, agitators have been arrested and deported from the region...”

This was what the tsarist satrap, who was genuinely scared, had to report about the revolutionary movement of the workers and peasants of Georgia.

Even such a satrap as Vorontsov-Dashkov, in the following

strictly confidential report addressed to the tsar, had to admit the extreme gravity of the Georgian peasantry's economic position; he is evidently trying to justify himself before the tsar and to shift the responsibility for the revolutionary events taking place in Georgia on to the shoulders of his predecessors – the previous governors of Georgia and the Caucasus.

“The abolition of feudal rights in Transcaucasia and especially in Georgia,” he wrote, “was carried out on conditions particularly favourable for the landlords and unfavourable for the peasants, besides which... it has benefited the landlords by increasing the land duties in comparison with the rate prevailing in feudal times.... Items liable to quit-rent are sought out on all sorts of pretexts, true and false. If timber grows on part of the peasants' land it is immediately turned into state property liable to quit-rent; if another part of their land is covered with water owing to a river changing its bed, it is at once declared liable to quit-rent for fishing rights.... Things have gone so far that the very nut trees grown by the villagers themselves on their own farm land are declared state property liable to quit-rent.

“The peasants, while occupying a total area of land twice as great as that of private owners, have been paying twenty times as much as the private owners in money dues alone.”

On top of this exploitation of the working peasant masses came the arbitrary violence of the nobles, princes, officials and police.

Bribery and violence were rife in the rural courts and offices of administration; the Georgian landlords together with the tsarist police officials flogged, tortured and ruthlessly exploited the working people.

There were innumerable punitive expeditions and floggings, accompanied by brutal atrocities.

The policy of colonization was pushed forward by settling large numbers of Germans, Anatolian Greeks, Turkish Armenians and Russian dissenters on Georgian land.

Out of a total of 4,670,000 rubles expended on rural administration, 57 per cent went on the upkeep of the police force, while only 4 per cent was spent on education. The schools were a medium for

putting into effect the policy of Russification. There were few schools, and even in what schools there were the standard of teaching was at a very low level indeed.

A direct result of this policy of tsarism was the mass illiteracy of the population.

“Tsarism,” wrote Stalin, “deliberately fostered patriarchal and feudal oppression in the border lands, in order to keep the masses in slavery and ignorance. Tsarism deliberately settled colonizing elements in the best corners of the border lands, in order to drive the local population into worse districts and intensify national animosity. Tsarism handicapped, and sometimes simply abolished, the local schools, theatres, educational institutions, in order to keep the masses in darkness. Tsarism cut short all initiative on the part of the best members of the local population. Finally, tsarism killed all activity on the part of the masses of people in the border lands.”*

But at the very time when the tsarist monarchy was forming a *bloc* with Georgia’s national bourgeoisie, with the princes, nobles and landlords, in order to strengthen its oppressive rule over the toiling masses of enslaved nationalities – at the very time when it was seeking to inflame national hatred, the foremost representatives of the working class and toiling masses of Russia and Georgia were establishing a close international union between one another for struggle against the monarchy, against capitalism.

The foremost proletarians of Russia warmly welcomed the heroic struggle of the workers and peasants of Georgia and the Caucasus against the tsarist monarchy, and gave them their support.

In connection with the revolutionary actions of the peasants in Georgia in 1905 the Third Congress of the Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party (Bolsheviks) adopted the following resolution:

“Taking into account:

“1) That the special conditions of social and political life in the Caucasus have favoured the creation of the most

* Stalin, “The Policy of the Soviet Power on the National Question in Russia.” Article published in *Pravda*, October 10, 1920.

militant organizations of our Party there;

“2) That the revolutionary movement among the majority of the population in the Caucasus, both in towns and in villages, has already reached the point of a nation-wide uprising against the monarchy;

“3) That the monarchist government is already sending troops and artillery to Gurya, preparing to crush all the principal centres of the uprising in the most ruthless fashion;

“4) That the victory of the monarchy over the people’s uprising in the Caucasus, facilitated by the mixture of nationalities among the population there, will have the most harmful consequences for the success of the uprising throughout all Russia;

“The Third Congress of the Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party, in the name of the class-conscious proletariat of Russia, sends warm greetings to the heroic proletariat and peasantry of the Caucasus, and instructs the Central Committee and local committees of the Party to take the most energetic measures towards spreading as widely as possible all information regarding the state of affairs in the Caucasus by means of pamphlets, meetings, workers’ conferences, study-circle discussions, etc., and also towards rendering timely support to the Caucasus by all means at their disposal.”

Supporting the tottering throne, the vice-regent and tsarist generals, in collaboration with the Georgian princes and nobles, aided by the treachery of the Georgian Mensheviks and nationalist parties, meted out ruthless vengeance to the toiling masses of Georgia, to the revolutionary workers, crushing their revolt with fire and sword. The tsarist government bestrewed the long road from Georgia to Siberia with the bones of the best revolutionary representatives of the Georgian people.

Such was the “national policy” of the tsarist monarchy.

II

From the time when the October socialist revolution triumphed in Russia up to the time when Soviet power in Georgia was established, Georgia underwent almost three years of Menshevik nationalist rule.

The Menshevik rulers in Georgia not only did not give emancipation to Georgia's toiling masses, not only did not succeed in reviving Georgia's economic life and national culture, but, on the contrary, dislocated the already feeble economic life of the country, corrupted the healthy shoots of culture that were springing up among the people themselves, sold and betrayed the Georgian people to the imperialists of the West, while upholding the yoke of the princes and nobles, landlords and kulaks. Under Menshevik rule the Georgian people again underwent severe afflictions.

While chattering about "democratic liberties," the Mensheviks openly and brazenly betrayed the interests of the Georgian people to the bourgeoisie and imperialists.

"I know that enemies will say we are on the side of the imperialists," said the head of the Menshevik government, Noah Jordania, at the first session of the Georgian Constituent Assembly in 1920. "I must therefore categorically declare here: I prefer the imperialists of the West to the fanatics of the East."

And the Mensheviks indeed preferred the imperialists of the West to the revolutionary liberation of the toiling masses – liberation which was coming from the East.

The fact that they were the mercenaries of western imperialists the Mensheviks strove to hide by "democratic" chatter about the "independence" of Georgia.

On June 13, 1918, when the German army of occupation arrived in Georgia, the Menshevik government published the following statement:

"The Georgian government informs the population that the German troops which have arrived in Tiflis were invited by the government of Georgia itself, and their task is to defend the frontiers of the Georgian democratic republic with the full consent and at the instructions of the government of Georgia."

The independence of Georgia thus became a pure fraud; in point of fact the arrival of the German troops in Georgia meant the occupation and complete seizure of Georgia by the German imperialists. "This," as Lenin said, "was an alliance of German bayonets with the Menshevik government against the Bolshevik workers and

peasants.”

After the German revolution in November 1918 the Germans were obliged to evacuate Georgia. In their place a British army of occupation came on the scene.

The Mensheviks tried to pretend that the British invaders had also been “invited” by the Georgian government itself, and that their task was to defend the frontiers of the Georgian democratic republic with the “full consent” and at the “instructions” of the government.

On December 22, 1918, when the British army of occupation entered Georgia, the government of Georgia sent the following note, signed by Gegechkori, minister of foreign affairs, to the head of the British mission, Colonel Jordan:

“1. The Georgian government considers it unnecessary to bring foreign troops on to Georgian territory for the maintenance of order, since the government itself possesses sufficient forces for this purpose.

“2. If these troops have been brought here for any other purpose, the Georgian government categorically declares that this cannot be done without the consent of the Georgian government.”

In answer to this sham and counterfeit declaration of Gegechkori’s, Jordan, the head of the British mission, wrote the following note to the Menshevik government on the very next day, December 23, 1918:

“Acting in accordance with instructions received by me from General Thomson, commander of the allied troops in Baku, I request you, your Excellency, to prepare quarters for one brigade of infantry, one brigade of artillery and 1,800 horses, and also suitable premises for the staff... I rest assured that my request will be fulfilled and that every assistance will be given to the allied troops who are about to enter the city. I will be much obliged if you will send a car round tomorrow with an officer to show me the quarters you have assigned for the allied troops.”

Such was the tone in which the British commanders addressed the “independent” Georgian government of the Mensheviks, well knowing that Gegechkori’s “objections” to the arrival of the British troops were made solely in order to throw dust in the eyes of the

working people of Georgia, and that the Menshevik government would willingly agree to detachments of the British army of occupation being brought in.

And this, as is well known, is just what happened.

The “independent” rulers of Georgia in actual fact proved mercenary marionettes, dancing to the orders of the agents of British imperialism.

“Under conditions when a deadly struggle is blazing up between proletarian Russia and the imperialist Entente,” wrote Stalin, “there are only two ways out possible for the border lands:

“*either* together with Russia – and then the toiling masses of the border lands will be freed from the imperialist yoke;

“*or* together with the Entente – and then the imperialist yoke will be inevitable.

“There is no third way out.”*

During the period of their rule in Georgia the Georgian Mensheviks logically completed the long course of betrayals and treacheries to the working class and the toiling masses on which they had already set out in the years when the struggle for Soviet power was just beginning.

On April 26, 1918, Irakli Tsereteli, one of the leading figures of Menshevism in Georgia and in Russia, had spoken as follows in the Transcaucasian Diet:

“When Bolshevism arose in Russia and when a death-dealing hand was raised there against the life of the state, we fought against Bolshevism with all the forces at our disposal, for we realized that the blow aimed at the Russian nation and the Russian state was a blow at all democracy. We fought there against the murderers of the state and the murderers of nations, and we shall fight here with the same self-sacrifice against the murderers of nations.”

These pompous phrases of Tsereteli’s meant that the Mensheviks preferred a *bloc* with the whiteguards, the arch-enemies of the

* *Ibid.*

Soviet power, to any agreement whatever with the Bolsheviks.

And indeed, on September 25, 1918, when the representatives of the out-and-out reactionary Kuban government and of the white-guard armies gathered for a conference in Yekaterinodar together with generals Denikin, Alexeyev, Romanovsky, Dragomirov and Lukomsky, the minister of foreign affairs in the Menshevik government, Gegechkori, frankly told the conference:

“As regards our attitude to the Bolsheviks, I can declare that the struggle against Bolshevism within our borders is merciless. We are suppressing Bolshevism by every means in our power, as an anti-state movement which is threatening the integrity of our state, and I think that in this respect we have already given a number of proofs that speak for themselves.... In addition to this, I deem it my duty to remind you that you should also not forget what services we have rendered you in the struggle against Bolshevism.... Both of us are now striking at one point, which at the present moment represents a hostile force both to you and to us....”

By cringing before the imperialists of the West, by forming a *bloc* with the whiteguards against the October socialist revolution, by upholding the oppressive rule of the bourgeoisie, princes, nobles and landlords in Georgia, the Georgian Mensheviks strengthened capitalism and doomed the working class and toiling peasant masses of Georgia to hard afflictions and exploitation.

“There can be no doubt,” said Noah Jordania, “that any state, within the bounds of bourgeois society, will inevitably serve the interests of the bourgeoisie. Nor can the Georgian state possibly avoid doing so. To get rid of this is completely utopian, nor have we any desire to strive for it.”

And the Georgian Mensheviks faithfully served the interests of the bourgeoisie.

Their talk about socialism had been nothing but empty verbiage designed to dupe the toiling masses.

“You think,” said Noah Jordania in a speech delivered in the Georgian parliament on June 16, 1918, “that if the government is socialist, it should bring about socialism.

That is the view of the Bolsheviks.... We think otherwise. We say: when socialism is brought about in other countries, then it will be brought about in our country, too.”

By the autumn of 1920 the economic crisis in Georgia had become extremely grave. The supplies left over from the commissariat of the former tsarist army in Georgia had been consumed. Most of the factories and plants were not working. Railway transport was on the verge of collapse. The Georgian peasants were reduced to ruin and beggary. On October 16, 1920, the head of the Georgian government, Noah Jordania, was obliged to confess:

“A short while ago we said that in economic respects we were rapidly approaching a catastrophe.... But now this forecast has already come true, now each of us is feeling the bitter reality to the full. We have already reached the catastrophe.”

In other words, by that time the enormous supplies left in Tiflis by the commissariat of the former Russian army had been totally consumed.

The deputy minister of labour, Eradze, spoke as follows at a congress of railwaymen in Georgia, held in 1920:

“At the present time the working class of Georgia is experiencing a grave and severe economic crisis. Its poverty and want have reached dire extremes beyond which one must expect a rapid and marked process of physical degeneration in our class. No other democratic class or group of our society is in such a hopeless position as are the urban workers.”

This is how Eradze summed up the results of the Menshevik policy in Georgia.

The toiling masses of Georgia answered this treacherous policy of the Mensheviks by uprisings.

During the years 1918, 1919 and 1920, under the leadership of the Bolshevik organizations, there was a rising wave of insurrections in Georgia against Menshevik rule. The peasants of Gurya and Mingrelia revolted, there were peasant risings in the Gori, Dushetia, Lagodekh and other districts of the Kutais and Lechkhum provinces, and in Abkhazia. In 1920 the toiling masses of Southern Ossetia

rose. The great mass of workers in Tiflis, Kutais, Poti, Chiaturi and other towns were involved in strikes.

The Menshevik government punished the workers and peasants of Georgia with fire and sword for their revolutionary actions.

Noah Jordania tried to justify as follows this treacherous, bloody struggle against the revolutionary actions of the toiling masses:

“Although you should not be surprised at a peasant uprising against us, yet we have so far forgotten Marxism and yielded to Socialist-Revolutionary muddle-headedness that to this day many of us take these rebels for revolutionaries and unwillingly agree to repressions against them. It is time for us to get back to Marx and steadfastly stand guard over the revolution against peasant reaction.”

And, screening themselves behind loud phrases, distorting Marxism, under the banners of interventionist and whiteguard counter-revolution, the Mensheviks meted out vengeance to the revolutionary workers and peasants.

“Now it is night. Fires can be seen on all sides,” reads an entry in the diary of V. Jugeli, the Menshevik leader of punitive expeditions to suppress the peasant uprisings and former commander of the “people’s” guard. “Those are the houses of the rebels burning. All around us Ossetian villages are on fire.... I look with a calm heart and a clean conscience on the burning homesteads and clouds of smoke.”

Such was the “national policy” of the Mensheviks.

Kautsky, MacDonald, Snowden, Vandervelde and other leaders of the Second International visited Georgia during the period of Menshevik rule. The orgies and corruption of Menshevism, its imperialist treachery, the oppression of the toiling masses they hypocritically called a “socialist paradise.” But these loud phrases of the leaders of the Second International could not cover up the shameful downfall and bankruptcy of Georgian and international Menshevism, as exemplified in the case of Georgia.

The Georgian Mensheviks are the most vile traitors and betrayers of the Georgian people. They cut off Georgia from revolutionary

Russia, and together with the Dashnaks and Mussavatists* converted Transcaucasia into a base for foreign intervention and bourgeois whiteguard counter-revolution against the Soviet power.

The Mensheviks instigated and organized the reactionary forces of the nobility, princes, clergy and bourgeoisie against the revolutionary movement of the workers and peasants of Georgia. The Mensheviks pursued a policy of rabid national chauvinism, and incited the peoples of Transcaucasia against one another. They organized bloody campaigns against the national minorities of Georgia – the Ossetians, Abkhazians, Armenians and Ajarians. The Georgian Mensheviks, together with the Mussavatists and Dashnaks, were the organizers of the Shamkhor massacre of revolutionary soldiers. They treacherously fired upon the mass meeting of workers in the Alexandrov Gardens in Tiflis. Together with the Dashnaks, they organized the sanguinary, fratricidal Georgian-Armenian war.

The hearts of the working people of Georgia are filled with supreme hatred for the Menshevik traitors.

As for the miserable remnants of the Mensheviks today, their fate is that of émigrés haunting the backyards, anterooms and back doors of the agents of imperialism in the West.

On February 25, 1921, the Georgian people, aided by the proletariat of Russia and by the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, overthrew the rule of the Mensheviks, set up Soviet power and, under the banner of Lenin and Stalin, marched forward along the broad road leading to the victories of socialist construction.

III

During the fifteen years of Soviet power the working population of Georgia has attained tremendous success in economic construction and in the sphere of national culture. This success represents the triumph of the national policy of the Bolshevik Party.

The setting up of Soviet power led to a rapid growth of economic and cultural construction in Georgia.

From a backward colony of Russian tsarism, “from a country still more peasant than Russia” (Lenin), Georgia has been transformed into an advanced industrial-agrarian republic.

* Dashnaks and Mussavatists: bourgeois nationalist parties in Armenia and Azerbaijan respectively. – *Ed.*

Whereas investments in industry during the First Five-Year Plan period throughout the Soviet Union as a whole constituted 506 per cent of investments made during the entire period of economic restoration,* in Georgia the percentage was 934. In 1934 the growth of capital investments over the previous year throughout the whole Union was equal to 19.4 per cent, in Georgia to 32 per cent. In 1936 the growth of capital investments in industry throughout the Union will be one of 17.7 per cent, in Georgia of 34.8 per cent.

Whereas electric power production in 1935 had increased throughout the whole Soviet Union by 1,331 per cent in comparison with 1913, in Georgia the increase for this period was one of 2,259 per cent.

Whereas the gross output of the Soviet Union's industry in 1935 amounted to 642 per cent of the figure for 1913, in Georgia it was 1,908 per cent.

The gross output of all Georgian industry in 1935 had reached a figure of 473,000,000 rubles, while in 1936 it will reach 600,000,000 rubles.

Under the First Five-Year Plan capital investments in the national economy of Georgia amounted to 700,000,000 rubles, while during the single year 1935 the figure was 401,000,000 rubles. The plan for 1936 provides for capital investments to the sum of 616,000,000 rubles.

During these fifteen years of Soviet power in Georgia several completely new branches of industry have been created. The proportion of industrial production in the total output of Georgia's national economy has risen to 74.9 per cent.

A powerful basis of electric power is being laid for the industrial and economic development of Georgia. By the end of 1935 Georgia's power stations had attained a capacity of 105,000 kilowatts, while in 1936 this figure will be increased to 162,000 kilowatts, as against 8,000 kilowatts in 1913.

Only under Soviet power has such full use been made of the tremendous water power resources of Georgia's swiftly flowing mountain rivers.

The Chiaturi manganese industry has undergone technical re-

* Beginning with the introduction of the N.E.P. in 1921 and lasting up to 1925, the beginning of the reconstruction period. – *Ed.*

construction. The Soviet government has already invested 45,000,000 rubles in the manganese industry, while in 1936 another 17,000,000 rubles are being invested in it. Last year 1,180,000 tons of manganese ore were mined.

A large ferro-manganese plant has been built in the town of Jugeli (Zestafoni) to work on the manganese ore of Chiaturi.

The old coal mines of Tquibuli have been reconstructed. Under Soviet power the collieries of Tquarcheli have been built.

Large oil refineries have been erected in Batum, where three million tons of crude oil are treated every year. Oil prospecting work is being carried out on a large scale in the Shirak steppes in Georgia.

The soil of Soviet Georgia is rich in the most varied kinds of minerals. An ore-mining industry has been created and is being widely developed. Georgia's mineral wealth has been put at the service of socialist construction. The extraction of diatomaceous clay has been organized to supply the oil industry; barite, andesite, lithographic stone, diatomite and marble are being quarried. During 1935-36 the industrial production of arsenic and molybdenum has been started. In 1936 construction is being started on a big nitrogen fertilizer combine in Kutais.

A powerful light and food industry has been created. The value of light industry's output has risen from 2,155,000 rubles in 1923-24 to 87,557,000 rubles in 1935 – in other words, has increased forty-fold.

The value of the food industry's output has risen from 9,000,000 rubles in 1928 to 71,000,000 rubles in 1935, while no less than 90 per cent of this total is produced by plants and factories erected under Soviet power.

During the First Five-Year Plan 23,000,000 rubles were invested in Georgia's timber and wood-working industry, while during the first three years of the Second Five-Year Plan alone 41,000,000 rubles have been invested. In Zugdidi the great Inguri Paper Combine is being built, the annual output of which will be 24,000 tons of high grade paper.

In all, 117 industrial enterprises of the most varied type have been built or completely reconstructed during the period of Soviet power in Georgia, representing no less than 96.7 per cent of the total fixed capital of Georgian industry.

Railway, water, automobile and air transport is rapidly develop-

ing in Georgia. Two hundred kilometres of new railway track have been laid. One hundred and eighty-three kilometres of main line have been electrified. A new port is being built at Ochemchiri, on the Black Sea coast. Highways and metalled roads have been built to a total length of 4,462 kilometres. There are 50 automobile lines, of a total length of 2,590 kilometres, connecting district centres with railway stations and maintaining communications between separate towns. In 1935 there were 8 air lines served by the planes of the Soviet air fleet.

All this great work of industrial construction in Georgia is the embodiment of the Leninist-Stalinist national policy of industrializing the national republics and raising them to the level of the advanced republics.

Mastering the advanced technique of this newly created industry, raising labour productivity by socialist competition, shock-brigade work and the application of Stakhanovite methods, under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party organizations of Georgia, the growing working class is successfully fulfilling and over-fulfilling the tasks set by the Party and the Government.

Tremendous progress has likewise been made by Soviet Georgia in advancing the socialist reconstruction of agriculture.

In accordance with the direct instructions of Lenin and Stalin, irrigation work has been widely developed. Over one hundred thousand hectares* of land have been irrigated by the Soviet government.

For centuries the marshy netherlands of Colchis lay untouched, spreading malignant malaria among the surrounding population. Not until the coming of Soviet power was the draining of the Colchis marshes undertaken. A sum of 45,000,000 rubles has already been invested in the draining of Colchis. An area of 16,837 hectares has already been drained, part of which is being used for the planting of citrus and tea plantations.

During the past fifteen years the total area under cultivation in Georgia has increased from 738,000 to 957,000 hectares.

The Bolsheviks of Georgia are doing great work in developing the cultivation of rare and industrial crops. The total area under tea plantations before the Revolution was 894 hectares. Launching a

* One hectare = 2.47 acres. – *Ed.*

campaign to free the Soviet Union from the necessity of importing tea, the Bolsheviks of Georgia increased the area under tea plantations to 34,000 hectares in 1935. During the last three years the tea harvest has been doubled. In 1935 over 12,500,000 kilograms of green tea were gathered. At present the Georgian tea industry is already producing tea equal to Ceylon tea in quality.

Prior to the Revolution the area under citrus crops did not exceed 500 hectares. By 1935 this area had already reached 3,280 hectares. Last year Soviet Georgia gave the Land of Soviets about 200,000,000 citrus fruits. According to a decision of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. and the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R. the area under citrus crops in Georgia is to be increased to 20,000 hectares by 1940. The Bolsheviks of Georgia have set about fulfilling this task, and there is no doubt that they will do so successfully. And then it will not be millions but billions of citrus fruits that the working people of the Soviet country will receive from Soviet Georgia!

The cultivation of rare crops like tung, eucalyptus, essential oil-bearing plants, ramie, etc., is being developed in Georgia on an industrial scale. About one million eucalyptus trees have been planted during the last two years alone, and by 1940 not less than ten million such trees will have been planted.

Georgia provides the highest grade brands of export tobacco – “Trebizond” and “Samsun.” In 1935 tobacco plantations covered an area of about 20,000 hectares, from which 15,875 tons of high grade Georgian and Abkhazian tobacco were gathered and sent for export or despatched to the tobacco plants of Moscow, Leningrad, Kharkov and other towns of the Soviet Union to be made into the best brands of cigarette.

One of the most important branches of agriculture in Georgia is the growing of grapevines. Under Menshevik rule vine-growing had reached a state of collapse. Phylloxera destroyed thousands of hectares of vineyards. During recent years the curtailment of the vineyard area has been stopped, and this area has begun to increase. From 1932 to 1935 up to 4,000 new vineyards were planted. An area of 690 hectares has been planted with American vine shoots. At present the total area of vineyards is over 39,000 hectares. Georgia supplies the country with wines of the highest quality.

During the last five years alone 12,000 hectares of new orchards have been planted, and the total area under orchards has ris-

en to 50,000 hectares. In 1935 over 21,000 tons of various fruits were delivered to the state.

An important branch of Georgia's economy is the breeding of silkworms. At the present time silkworm breeding in Georgia has begun a rapid upward trend. In 1935 the silkworm breeders of Georgia over-fulfilled their plan, delivering 2,552 tons of high quality cocoons.

Carrying out the instructions of the Party, the Bolsheviks of Georgia in 1934-35 achieved a marked improvement in the development of livestock-breeding, so that the latter is now on the road to a rapid increase. Plans for increasing the number of livestock were over-fulfilled in 1935.

Advanced agronomic methods are being applied in the agriculture of Soviet Georgia. Agriculture is being mechanized. Thirty-seven machine and tractor stations have been formed in the various districts of Georgia. There are 1,710 tractors and tens of thousands of different agricultural machines at work in the socialist fields.

Georgia has 254 state farms, 117 of which are large-scale farms.

The various agricultural enterprises (state farms, machine and tractor stations, etc.) employ a total of 26,000 permanent agricultural workers.

The vast work that has been carried out in Soviet Georgia on the reconstruction of agriculture is the embodiment of the Leninist-Stalinist national policy.

Before the Revolution the peasantry of Georgia experienced an acute shortage of land. Tens of thousands of peasants were unable to find employment for their labour and, in order to escape starvation, had to go and seek work far beyond the confines of Georgia. At the present time, as a result of the growth of industry and the development of agriculture, coupled with the cultivation of rare and industrial crops, an actual lack of labour power is being felt, while the intensivity of agriculture has created all conditions necessary for the well-to-do life of the collective farm peasantry.

The Bolsheviks of Georgia have attained all these successes in the development and advance of agriculture by creating and strengthening the collective farm system. On January 1, 1935, 70 per cent of the peasant farms of Georgia were united in collective farms. On the basis of Stalin's model rules for agricultural artels, these collective farms are developing and strengthening. Every year

sees an increase of their incomes, a rise in the value of the work-day.* Georgia already possesses several “millionaire collective farms” – those whose annual incomes exceed one million rubles.

The value of a collective farmer’s work-day on these farms has risen to 15-20 rubles, the average income per collective farm household is as high as 8-12-15,000 rubles a year, and by 1935 there were already hundreds of collective farmers whose total income, including that derived from their own allotments, amounted to 20-25-30,000 rubles, while some of them received as much as 40,000.

The collective farm peasantry of Georgia are prosperous and happy. The collective farmers sing at their work among the plantations of tea, citrus fruits, tobacco and vines.

The towns of Georgia are growing both in size and amenities. During the last two years alone – 1934 and 1935 – 93,000,000 rubles were invested in municipal economy and house building in Tiflis, while 66,000,000 rubles are being invested in 1936. Municipal improvements are being undertaken in the towns of Kutais, Poti and Chiaturi, which have grown into industrial centres.

Work of municipal improvement is likewise going on in the capitals of the autonomous republics and regions – Batum in Ajaristan, Sukhum in Abkhazia, Stalinir in Southern Ossetia. There is no district or industrial centre in Georgia where such work is not going on!

Georgia is the sanatorium of the Soviet Union. There are many magnificent health resorts on the Black Sea coast and in the mountains of Georgia – Borzhom, Abastuinan, Tskhaltubo, Gulripsh, Gagri, Koibuleti, Bakuriani, Akhtala, Java, Balkhmaro, Shovi, Makhinjauri, Zeleny Mys. Thousands of working people come here from every corner of the Soviet Union to recuperate their health.

Much work has been done to rebuild and improve the health resorts. The health resort of Tskhaltubo, famed throughout the whole Union, has now been completely rebuilt. In 1936 the construction of a new health resort will be begun in Menji, whose mineral waters

* Work-day: A unit for accounting the amount of labour spent by workers on collective farms. The number of work-day units is calculated according to the character, quantity and quality of the work performed. The income of the collective farm is distributed among its members according to the number of work days put in by each member. – *Ed.*

are equal in quality to those of Matsesta and Kislovodsk.

In all, over seventy million rubles have been invested in the construction of health resorts during the period of Soviet power.

The Soviet power has enabled the peoples of Georgia to achieve a real flourishing of their culture, national in form and socialist in content.

Soviet Georgia will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the October socialist revolution as a country of hundred- per-cent literacy. Universal compulsory primary education has been introduced. At the present time there are 614,000 pupils studying in the primary and secondary schools of Georgia, and 19,000 teachers working in these schools.

Under tsarism Georgia did not possess a single college or university, whereas under the Soviet power 19 higher educational institutions have been formed. In almost all these institutions teaching is conducted in the Georgian language exclusively.

During the years of Soviet power 14,000 engineers, agronomists, doctors, teachers, economists and other qualified workers of socialist construction from the ranks of the workers and peasants graduated from Georgia's higher educational institutions.

In the schools and educational institutions of Georgia the teaching is conducted in the pupils' own language. At the same time Russian is also taught in Georgian schools.

Work of scientific research has been given great scope under the Soviet power. One hundred and twenty research institutes of the most varied type have been founded, and the work of many of these institutes is of great scientific value for the whole Soviet country.

Art and literature are flourishing. The Rustaveli and Marjanishvili state theatres have given many productions of high artistic merit, placing them among the best theatres of the Soviet Union. At present there are 47 theatres working in Georgia, three quarters of them in the Georgian language.

Under Soviet power a cinema industry has been organized in Georgia. A cinema factory has been erected in Tiflis. The State Cinema Trust of Georgia has issued eighty Soviet films.

Physical culture is being widely developed. By January 1, 1936, 110,000 athletes had passed the "Ready for Labour and Defence" test in swimming, running, shooting and other forms of sport. The athletes of Georgia have set up quite a number of Soviet records.

During the past fifteen years of Soviet power in Georgia

35,000,000 copies of books have been issued.

The works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin have been published in Georgian in hundreds of thousands of copies.

The writers and poets of Soviet Georgia are developing. In their works they depict the problems and the heroism of socialist construction. There are growing numbers of Soviet artists, architects, sculptors, who enrich Soviet culture with new works of graphic and plastic art.

The members of the old intelligentsia have firmly linked their fate with the working masses of Georgia; together with them, shoulder to shoulder, they are working at the task of building socialism. They have rallied around the Soviet power, around the Communist Party.

During the fifteen years of Soviet power in Georgia strong cadres of the new, Soviet intelligentsia have grown up from among the workers and peasants. These cadres have been formed by the Soviet power; they are utterly devoted to it.

The tsarist monarchy, which recruited the sons of the working people of Georgia into its army, sent them to distant regions of the empire, fearing to let them remain armed in their native country. Today, Soviet Georgia has its own national divisions, which are loyal fighting detachments of the mighty and glorious Workers' and Peasants' Red Army of the great Land of Soviets.

All this is the embodiment of the national policy of Lenin and Stalin, under the banner of which the working masses of Georgia have freed themselves from the yoke of tsarism and of Menshevik rulers, and are marching on with confidence towards a happy and joyful life.

IV

The unswerving carrying out of the Leninist-Stalinist national policy ensures firm peace and friendship among the peoples of Georgia and Transcaucasia. In place of the former national enmity, kindled by tsarism and by the Mensheviks, all nationalities of Georgia are now living together in friendship and collaboration.

The autonomous republics and regions that form part of Georgia – Soviet Ajaristan, Soviet Abkhazia, Soviet Southern Ossetia – are growing and strengthening.

Great is the friendship of the working peoples of Georgia among one another, great is the friendship of the working peoples of

Georgia with the peoples of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Regarding this friendship between the peoples of Soviet Transcaucasia the head of the Soviet government, V. M. Molotov, has said:

“We have brought it about that in Transcaucasia with its many nationalities, where for a long time a fierce struggle went on among the working people of different nationalities – a struggle which was inflamed in every way by the capitalists and servants of the tsar – that this struggle has now been finally done away with, and that in place of this struggle we have the flourishing harmonious life of all working people of Transcaucasia.”

A great part in the achievement of this success has been played by Stalin's comrade-in-arms, Sergo Orjonikidze, under whose leadership the Bolsheviks of Georgia and Transcaucasia have strengthened and organized Soviet power, and have routed the Mensheviks and national deviationists, educating the masses of the working people in the spirit of proletarian internationalism.

The national deviationists during the first years of Soviet power tried to turn the Bolshevik organizations of Georgia from the true path. National deviationism in the ranks of the Communist Party of Georgia represented an opportunist tendency, reflecting the pressure brought to bear by kulak, bourgeois, nationalist and Menshevik elements on individual strata of the Party organizations. National deviationism, by going against the correct national policy of the Party, lapsed into the position taken by Georgian Menshevism. National deviationism represented aggressive chauvinism, reflecting the jingoist bourgeois nationalism of the Georgian Mensheviks and national-democrats. National deviationism reflected the interests and claims of the Georgian nobles, landlords and kulaks. Only by mercilessly crushing national deviationism has the Communist Party of Georgia ensured the successful carrying out of the Leninist-Stalinist national policy, directing the work of socialist construction in Georgia and educating the masses in the spirit of internationalism.

In the struggle for these victories of socialist construction the Bolshevik Party of Georgia has grown strong and rallied still more firmly around the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. and its leader, Stalin.

Under the banner of the Leninist-Stalinist national policy, under

the wise leadership of the Party of Bolsheviks, the working people of Soviet Georgia are marching onward with confidence to fresh victories of socialism.