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CPW Report No. 14 - USSR

CHANGE TO
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SUMMARY

Agriculture, Party activities and ideological weaknesses continue to claim the attention of Soviet regional transmitters, although a considerable portion of radio time is also devoted to poor housing and libraries and other cultural deficiencies. Much stress is laid on the current autumn plowing which is said to be insufficient and inadequate. Sugar beet harvesting and cotton picking also come under close official scrutiny. There is some evidence that the frequent breakdowns of agricultural machinery, particularly tractors, though familiarly attributed to lax Party supervision and poor labor organization, are closely linked with the living conditions of the tractor drivers. There is little reference to industry and mining except in the context of trade union activities and socialist competition among industrial workers.

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AGRICULTURE

Most of the propaganda pressure in agriculture is directed toward the completion of annual targets ahead of schedule, that is, by the 34th October Revolution anniversary on 7 November. Plowing, sugar-beet harvesting and cotton picking are repeatedly referred to as the bottlenecks of agriculture and they are said to be short of the minimum objectives by varying degrees. RYDANSKA UKRAINA (10 October) publishes an appeal to all agricultural workers of the Ukraine to intensify their efforts in order to meet their commitments by 7 November. Similar exhortations are broadcast from a number of other regional sources.

The first forthright admission that autumn plowing is "well behind schedule" (vse esche daleko otstayet) is contained in a BUGSKAYA ZARYA editorial (2 October). The oblast as a whole, in fact, slipped to a low performance level by completing only 47% of the target by the end of September as compared with 71.5% in 1950. A number of rayons--particularly Tiligulo-Berezansky, Voznesensky and Lysogorsky--have barely managed to fulfill only half of their over-all plowing assignments as compared with last year. Poorly organized tractor repairing, inefficient supply of spare parts, fuel and water are given as the main reason for the poor showing, and strict control (techniy kontrol) is prescribed as the only remedy. Rsesheiko and Merkushev, the respective heads of the oblast agricultural and cotton departments, are accordingly urged to improve "this unbearable situation" (eto nesterpimoye polozhenie) by taking effective measures including, if need be, a revision of the work quotas (peresmotr rabochikh norm) of every machine-tractor station in the oblast.

Listing a number of rayons which have shown a "considerable lack of leadership" in the organization of grain deliveries to the State, ORLOVSKAYA PRAVDA (2 October) for the first time alludes to what might be construed as a refusal to deliver any grain: "...and certain collective farms have not even taken part in the grain delivery campaign." (...a nekotorie kolkhozy dazhe ne prinyali uchastia v kampanii khlebobostavok) Following is the paper's assessment of the oblast's agricultural activities, by rayons, in familiar Soviet terminology:

Drokovsky, Volodarsky and Pokrovsky	-- singular lack of use of agricultural machinery and transport;
Orlovsky and Maloarkhangel'sky	-- failed to achieve the required level (of grain deliveries);
Zalogoschensky, Korsakovsky, Irosnyansky and Stanovlyansky	-- are still in debt to the State.

Plowing: The vague charges of "insufficient attention" to plowing in most of the rayons is made by MOLOT (5 October). Five of them--Alexeyev-Isosovsky, Anastasievsky Bataisk, Orlovsky and Egorlinsky--are singled out as extreme examples, but the reason given by the paper is hardly more illuminating than the accusation: "Their poor work is the result of their failure to grapple with delays in the operation of the machinery." KOROVOGRADSKA PRAVDA's claim (5 October) that the oblast as a whole "is not working satisfactorily" is more specific. The spring crop-plowing plan, it says, was completed by only 28.7% by the end of September, and only 32.9% of the planned areas was plowed by the machine-tractor stations. The latter, however, are said to be "only partially guilty" since the major fault--inadequate supply of fuel, water, etc.--lies elsewhere. Among the "many" rayons doing a poor job, four are named as being "especially in arrears"--Adzhamsky, Khmelevsky, Dolynsky and Tyshkovsky. Five of the machine-tractor stations serving other rayons are doing "very badly," and one of them--the Krasnoselska station--violated its agreements (narushayet svoi dogovory) with the collective farms, having completed merely 20% of the plowing under contract.

CHERVONE ZAPORIZHYE (9 October) calls attention to the slow fallow-plowing in the oblast which is causing "great anxiety" (seryoznoye opasenie). Some rayons are as much as a month behind schedule, and the oblast as a whole is not much better off. The familiar label of "bad leadership" is pinned on the machine-tractor station directors who are displaying "ignorance of field work." This ignorance, the paper claims, resulted in extremely poor performance. The Chapayevsky station, for example, plowed only about 650 out of the 7,000 hectares specified in the plan. The Vassilevsky station's production is just about as low. Using 10-12 tractors out of the 34 available, it completed 8.2% of the plan.

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Sugar-Beet Harvesting: The disclosure that sugar beets (and potatoes) had not been dug on "thousands of hectares" is made by RADYANSKA ZHITOMIRSCHINA (10 October). There is no mention of the reasons for this failure but the appropriate Party, government and agricultural officials are told to change their attitude and to see that this "intolerable situation" does not continue. Popelnyansky, Berdychev, Lubyansky and other rayons are said to be the slowest in the oblast.

RADYANSKA UKRAINIA (5 October) takes a dim view of the sugar-beet situation in the Ukraine as a whole, summing it up in the statement that the delayed harvesting operations in the republic "lead to great losses of crops." Sumy, Poltava and Kiev oblasts are making "the worst progress," and the other areas, as listed below, are not much better:

	<u>Plan</u> (in thous. hectares)	<u>Performance</u> (in thous. hectares)
Sumy oblast	35	21.3
Poltava oblast	42.2	31.7
Kiev oblast	68.6	63.2
Kirovograd oblast	20	13.9
Chernigov oblast	11	5.8
Ternopol oblast	10	6.8

No figures are given for Vinnitsa oblast which, after showing "an example of good organization," has begun to lag behind and is still in arrears. (Of some interest, in this connection, is a report from Kiev in dictation speed (5 October), saying that an analysis of the Ukrainian sugar industry shows that production is running ahead of schedule, and the plan has so far been exceeded by 10%).

How much of the mentioned failure is due to red tape is indicated in the case of Khotinsky rayon (Sumy oblast). Sugar-beet harvesting was to be completed there by 20 September, but the work schedules drawn up for every collective farm "remained hidden" in the desks of the Party Committee until 24 September, when it was too late. In Kharkov oblast, which is on the whole well-organized, the damage to the best roots caused great losses to the State, amounting in some rayons to 10% of the entire crop.

The same paper deplores the unnecessary time lag between the harvesting and the delivery of sugar beets--particularly in Vinnitsa and Kharkov oblasts--and points to the mismanagement of transportation facilities as the only reason. According to the plan approved by the Ukrainian Council of Ministers, the Kharkov oblast authorities were to assign 692 trucks for sugar-beet transportation, but only 150 were made available.

Cotton picking: The cotton situation in Uzbek SSR, the largest cotton-growing area in the Soviet Union, is discussed by PRAVDA on 3 October. The USSR Ministry of the Cotton Industry and its organs, says the paper, are not paying sufficient attention to the "correct utilization" of machinery much of which is remaining idle. This is further aggravated by the fact that the Uzbek cotton pickers, having "given their word" (dav svoye slovo) to deliver 500,000 tons of cotton more than last year, are not even up to schedule. PRAVDA intimates that even the Central Committee of the Uzbek Party is not entirely faultless as the workers' promise to exceed last year's quota "made it incumbent on...the Central Committee of the Uzbekistan Communist Party" to pay great attention to the preparations for cotton harvesting. The Party's final responsibility in the matter is stressed in the editorial assertion that neither the harvesting nor the delivery plan for September has been fulfilled by the Uzbek cotton industry.

Among the other central Asiatic areas where cotton harvesting calls for close official scrutiny, according to PRAVDA, are Kirghiz SSR which "failed to cope" with the implementation of the plan, and Stavropol and Krasnodar krajs which "are progressing very slowly."

That cotton harvesting in the Ukraine has deteriorated in the past two weeks may be inferred from RADYANSKA UKRAINIA (4 October). It lists five oblasts as running behind schedule, and two of them--Nikolayev and Odessa--as being especially bad.

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As pointed out in a previous CPW report, this paper castigated the cotton authorities of Kherson and Nikolayev oblasts for the poorest showing in the Republic. That charge has now been extended to include Zaporozhye, Odessa and Stalingo oblasts whose dereliction is attributed partly to "poor mass political work" on the part of the Party organizations. The chief cause, however, according to the paper, is to be sought in the Ukrainian Ministry of the Cotton Industry and its branches who "are not assisting" the collective farmers in their efforts. The editorial does not define the type of assistance the Ministry failed to offer but merely points to the deplorable results that this failure brought about. In Zaporozhye oblast alone, at least three rayons have been unable to account for more than one fifth of their quota. In another rayon, Veliko-Belozersky, the performance was 11.8%. As for the oblast as a whole, the paper says that "there has not been a single day during which (it) fulfilled the State cotton delivery quota."

Taking its cue from RADYANSKA UKRAINA, BOLSHEVITSKOYE ZNAMYA (5 October) looks into the grim cotton situation of Odessa oblast and declares that it is "the most backward" in the Republic. Among the shortcomings that contributed to the sorry state of affairs are low labor discipline, "extremely poor" organization of work and an "intolerable time lag" between the harvesting and the delivery of cotton. Listed as the worst rayons are Razdelnyansky, Berezovsky, Kominternovsky and Ivanovsky, but "a similar situation" is said to exist in many other rayons.

NADNEPRYANSKA PRAVDA (10 October) complains that cotton picking in Kherson oblast has reached a new low, and demands a "decisive" (reshitelny) increase in harvesting tempos. Kalininsky rayon, which "occupies next to the last place" in the oblast in point of efficiency is pilloried for tolerating such a low daily output as 16 kilograms per cotton picker. (There is no reference, however, to the "normal" or planned production average per worker.) The highest rayon Party and government officials are said to "have lost all sense of responsibility" and, being aware of it, they are resorting to all sorts of devious methods to maintain their position. They have even "begun to cheat and put out eye wash" (stali na shlyakh oko-zamyliivania ta obmanu). The secretary of the Party Committee was "justly" relieved of his duties, two other officials were told to mend their ways or be subjected to "strict action by the Party" (todi voni prityagnutido surovoy partiynoi vidpovidalnosti), and several others were "severely reprimanded" (ogolosheni suvoru naganu). Intimating that Kalininsky rayon is neither an isolated case nor the worst in the oblast, the paper concludes that this "serious warning" (serioznoyu perestroguyu) had better be heeded by all the other rayons unable to improve labor organization on the cotton plantations.

Livestock: Rostov reports (5 October) that communal stock breeding in the oblast is carried out "most unsatisfactorily" (kraine neudovletvoritelno). No details are given but the cattle, sheep and poultry are said to be suffering from inadequate supply of fodder and lack of winter shelters. A dispatch from Izmail (4 October) states that the productivity of the oblast's livestock "has not increased sufficiently" since 1948. STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA (10 October) refers to certain practices on the part of cattle breeders which "are opposed to the interests of the government and the people." It appears that many cattle farms, after fulfilling or even surpassing their annual livestock plan, proceed to sell the offspring right and left, thereby offsetting any gain they may have made. Such cases are known to be common in at least three rayons--Proleika, Palassovsky and Gorodische---and are subject to the "strictest censure" (strozhaisheye poritsanie). Nor is this the only shortcoming, according to the editorial:

Loss of cattle frequently occurs as a result of poor fodder, poor premises and lack of even the most elementary care. Unfortunately these errors are frequently being repeated.

Potato crops: Potato gathering is "inadmissibly behind" (nedopustimo otstayet) on a huge area including Belorussian SSR and Pskov, Kaluga, Smolensk, Novgorod, Belikie Luki and "several other" oblasts, according to a PRAVDA editorial of 6 October (not broadcast). The Belorussian Ministry of Agriculture is censured for making "one of the largest" potato-growing areas of the country the most backward. The slow tempo is familiarly attributed to the incorrect utilization (nepravilnoye ispolzovanie) of technical facilities and the "extremely low productivity" (kraine nizkaya proizvoditelnost) of the potato-digging machines. In Vladimir oblast, for example, mechanized potato-digging accounted for only 150 hectares while in Gorki oblast all the work is being done by hand. Pskov oblast has completed only 16% of its plan. Not mentioned but strongly implied is the old practice of squandering potatoes away from the seed plots (semennie uchastki) and using it for other purposes, and the paper urges "the most decisive measures to nip in the bud any attempt" (samym reshitelnym obruzom presekati popytki) to squander potatoes.

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Agricultural Specialist Training: The inference that collective farm chairmen and other leading personnel should be selected primarily for their knowledge of agriculture rather than for their Marxist-Leninist training alone may be drawn from the PRAVDA editorial of 8 October. Marxism-Leninism is, of course, not to be neglected, but the paper implies it should not be considered a primary qualification for appointment. In other words, collective farm chairmen must be selected first on the basis of their ability and indoctrinated later. The paper says that a number of Party organizations have done the right thing in proposing qualified specialists for posts of agricultural management, and deplores the lack of such practice elsewhere:

In certain oblasts of the Ukraine, Belorussia and Kazakhstan and in Smolensk, Kalinin and Yaroslavl oblasts only a very inconsiderable proportion of the collective farms is managed by agronomists and zoo-technicians

Tractor drivers' living conditions: Discussing the frequent mechanical breakdowns and the enforced idleness of a great number of tractors throughout the oblast, CHERVONE ZAPORIZHYE (9 October) hints that the living conditions of the tractor drivers may be a factor. The local Soviets are called upon to pay proper attention (udelyat dolzhneye vnimanie) to the creation of better living conditions for the tractor drivers. Proper conditions, said to be lacking now, are described as including warm living quarters, hot food, warm clothes and footwear.

Another report dealing with the human element involved in mechanical failures comes from Kirovograd oblast. Reviewing instances of slow fallow-plowing which are "not isolated cases," KIROVOGRADSKA PRAVDA (9 October) attributes the poor performance to the "violation of work schedules, disorganization and deteriorating labor discipline among the tractor drivers and combine operators." Referring to the life of these mechanizers, the paper says that their house-trailers are "neither heated nor furnished," are "dirty and cold," and that the communal feeding of these workers is "non-existent."

TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA (11 October) appeals to all the collective farms and machine-tractor stations to "create normal working conditions" for, and "provide every assistance" to, the agricultural machine operators so that all available machinery may be used without interruption (bezn pereryva) and according to schedule.

INDUSTRY

Attention to industry and industrial shortcomings continues to be slight. A VOROSHILOVGRADSKAYA PRAVDA editorial (4 October) admits that "not a few" enterprises in the oblast are running behind schedule. At least one large plant, the "Artem" enameled-goods works, is producing large quantities of defective products and "nothing is being done about it." The Voroshilovgrad locomotive builders are said to be "in debt to the state" because technological discipline is frequently violated and no attention is paid to the matter of improving labor efficiency. It is no secret, continues the editorial, that many of the workers are not familiar with their tools, and "damage to machinery becomes inevitable." The Plant's repair service is badly organized, and the situation as a whole is intolerable.

The same paper (9 October) complains of the poor showing made by various oblast housing and other construction organizations. Work is particularly slow on the installation and repair of the water supply system, house construction and repairs and the improvement of city transportation in a number of towns. Voroshilovgrad, Voroshilovsk and Krasny are singled out as examples of "how not to work." Contributing to the general confusion, says the paper, is the performance of "Gorremontstroy" (Town Repair and Construction Trust): "much of the work already done by this trust requires prompt modification."

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IDEOLOGICAL WEAKNESSES

Mistakes of a "nationalistic nature" and lack of ideological content are still common to certain writers, according to PRAVDA (9 October). Reference is made to recent plenary meetings of the Union of Soviet Writers of the Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Belorussia, Kazakhstan and other republics, where cases of ideological mistakes in literary works have been discovered and subjected to severe criticism. The paper does not elaborate on the nature of those errings but emphasizes that such ideological aberrations extend beyond the literary field, as "Soviet public opinion has also noted" them in the work of painters, architects, composers and theatrical workers. The sharpest criticism, however, is reserved for the Uzbek SSR where art and literature still betray the influence of "bourgeois nationalism," a "non-political attitude" and a "lack of ideological substance."

An "inadmissible deterioration" is imputed to the activities of the Moscow branch of the Union of Soviet Writers which is also accused of an "isolationist attitude." The Kuybyshev branch of the Union of Painters is badly organized and characterized by "a spirit of stagnation, complacency and negligence." Zhukovsky's opera "From the Bottom of the Heart," one of the chief targets of Soviet Radio and press attacks in recent months, has apparently failed to serve as a needed lesson or elicit the desired reaction. PRAVDA complains that even after the weakness of Soviet operatic art has been exposed for all to see, the central administration of the Union of Composers did not find it necessary to organize "creative discussions" to study the problems connected with Soviet opera.

A short dispatch from Kiev (in Ukrainian, 3 October) announces that, following a discussion of the PRAVDA article on ideological perversions in literature held by the ninth session of the Union of Ukrainian Artists, the chairman of the Union's central administration was dismissed and a new one appointed. There is no reference to the nature of the discussion or the reason for the chairman's dismissal.

From Proskurov comes a terse announcement that an oblast conference of newspaper editors and directors of printing works approved a number of measures designed "to improve" the ideological stand of the local press. (in Ukrainian, 11 October)

RADYANSKA UKRAINA (11 October) attacks the methods of training young scientists, especially in social sciences, linguistics, literature and art--which are replete with "serious mistakes and shortcomings." The latter, according to the paper, are grave enough to "hinder further development of science and culture in our Republic." The Ukrainian higher education establishments, where "the state of affairs is still worse," is assailed with equal vehemence. "Inadmissible liberalism and lack of principles" (nedopustimy liberalizm ta bezprintsipnost) on the part of responsible officials is held to be the main reason.

One of the chief faults of the universities, according to the paper, is the irresponsibility of their directors. "They allow people without any scientific degree to supervise the work of the graduates." The result, the paper points out, is "an extremely unsatisfactory" situation. Another reprehensible shortcoming is that students do not defend their dissertations satisfactorily, and there is too much "formality" (lack of ideological emphasis):

The leaders of the Councils of Scientists apparently have forgotten Stalin's teaching that no science can develop and succeed without a struggle against the mind...

Ukrainian version:

Kerivniki vchenykh rad ochevydno zabuly vkazyvku Stalina te shcho niyuka nauka ne mozhe rozvyvatysia i robyty uspikhyv bez borotby z umom...

The ideological aspect of scientific training is re-emphasized. Young scientists should be "bred in the spirit of Bolshevik intransigence to all manifestations of bourgeois ideology." (na vykhovania ikh v dusi bilshovytskoy neprimyrennosti do vselyakikh proyaviv burzhuasnoi ideolohii).

MOLOT (2 October) reminds its readers that the libraries are "a vital section of the ideological front" and readers' conferences are an important feature of library work. Such conferences, however, are all too often neglected by the oblast Department of Cultural Enlightenment whose duty is to sponsor them. The progress

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in the library network of Neklyuncovsky, Tarasovsky and Voloshinsky rayons is said to be "extremely slow," and the qualifications of the librarians not up to standard: "It is essential that all library workers be experienced political workers."

PARTY ACTIVITIES

Despite the difficulties attendant upon joining the Communist Party, it is the latter's policy to increase its membership and organizational units, particularly in the rural areas, with a view to a better distribution of Party members among the farmers. This point is stressed by KIROVOGRADSKA PRAVDA (2 October) which appeals for more Party groups (partiyne gruppy) in the collective farms. Such groups, says the paper, are not but should be organized in shop, farm, agricultural, building, fodder-growing and horticultural brigades. The chief purpose of these groups is "to remedy shortcomings," which they are in a position to do because they are "nearest to the worker." Making no reference to any difficulties in the way of strengthening Party influence, the paper implicitly admits their existence: "It is sufficient to state that not a single Party group was formed in the primary Party organizations in 16 rayons..."

PRAVDA (13 October) refers to the Party groups as "links with the masses," and says that their chief task is to be active organizationally and politically "where the fate of production plans is being decided." This is particularly important in view of the expansion of collective farms. What is more important, continues the paper, is that the Party groups, once organized, should be active. This, however, is not the case in Chelyabinsk oblast where the 400 groups do not get much help or encouragement from the local Party organization, and the end result is slower production.

Insufficient attention to "full-blooded leadership" is the subject of the PRAVDA editorial discussion of 4 October. The Kursk oblast Party Committee is "not maintaining any close ties" with the lower Party echelons and seems to take little interest in the eventual implementation of its own decisions. The Kara-Kalpak oblast Party leadership wastes most of its time "drafting resolutions," and the Murmansk Party Committee "is not paying adequate attention" to Party organizational political work.

Deficiencies in Party education are discussed in a number of regional transmissions and in PRAVDA along familiar lines. RADYANSKA UKRAINA (11 October), speaking of the unsatisfactory organization of seminars, cautions the lecturers to toe the Party line, particularly in the instruction of propagandists. The latter are to be taught to fight wholeheartedly against all types of bourgeois poison, especially "Ukrainian bourgeois nationalism."

PRAVDA (15 October) notes the "purely formal attitude" (chisto formalnoye otnoshenie) of certain Party Committees toward political studies. It focuses attention on the quantitative rather than qualitative aspect of school enrollments, saying that a number of Party Committees seek to enlist as many Communist students as possible without regard to their educational qualifications. Such instances are particularly frequent in many Daghestan rural rayons and in Estonian SSR where Party officials "automatically enroll people with differing standards." One reason for such indiscriminate enrollment of students may be inferred from a MOLOT editorial (14 October). Discussing the low standard of political studies in Rostov oblast and the lateness of Party school opening, the paper says that the new academic year got a late start "owing to low school attendance."

SOVIET PATRIOTISM

In a broadcast for agitators (in Ukrainian, 2 October), Niskoy says that Soviet patriotism does not reject the national past. It has, in fact, combined all the best national traditions and the patriotism of the Great Russian people... The national past of a people, says he, is characterized by its contribution to the history of mankind, and in this respect the Great Russian people have done more than anyone else. Having defeated Kenghiz Khan, Napoleon and Hitler, they have "for the third time saved Europe" from oppression and slavery. The patriotism theme is developed further in the conclusion that there can be no world science, literature and music without such great Russian luminaries in those respective fields as Lomonosov, the "discoverer" of the law of atomic structure, the poet Pushkin, the composer Tchaikovsky and others. Discussing the larger aspects of patriotism, Niskoy points to Marxism-Leninism as final authority for the belief

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that the proletariat cannot regard a bourgeois state as its fatherland. Hence true patriotism is possible only in a proletarian state. The proof of such patriotism is in the crucial test of defending the Soviet Union which "is a duty not only of the citizens of the Soviet Union but of every honest man in the world."

The Ukrainian people, Niskoy concedes, "also have their past" and should be proud of it. That "past," it appears is inextricably tied to their struggles against foreign oppressors. ~~until~~ they "united with the brotherly Russian people."

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The radio journal PIONEERS' CAMPFIRE No. 31 tells its youthful audience that "the threat of a new war has overshadowed the whole world," and that the conspiracies of the Anglo-American imperialists make it clear who wants to start a new war. (Kursk, 4 October). A broadcast for junior school children in Ukrainian (Kiev, 10 October) tells a story of a little boy in London whose father was killed by a policeman during a march of unemployed on the street, and whose mother and sister subsequently died of hunger. Recalling what he had heard about the Soviet Union, the little boy suddenly realizes that all children there lead a happy life. The upshot of the story is that the boy, anxious but unable to visit that "wonderful country," also realizes that he is "not alone" since the workers of both the USSR and England are fighting for his cause.

MISCELLANEOUS

Medicinal Herbs: A report from Tbilisi (in Russian, 11 October) speaks of the sub-tropical, volatile oil-bearing plant "aloe" now cultivated on a large scale in a special Sovkhoz (State farm). The juice extracted from that plant is said to be very useful in biogenetical therapy. Another medicinal plant now under cultivation is the (Madi). Developed by Soviet scientists from the "Mexican Tea" plant, it yields a type of oil which is used effectively to combat intestinal worms. The bush-type plant known as "cat's whiskers" (koshachiy us) is said to have become known recently in medicine as "an effective remedy" against kidney trouble and jaundice.

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