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RECONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES IN BELORUSSIA,
UKRAINE, ESTONIA

[Numbers in parentheses refer to the sources listed at the end.]

Belorussia

The Belorussian building industry has expanded considerably in postwar years. The city of Minsk alone is spending one million rubles daily for reconstruction and construction work in 1949.

Several large construction organizations of the republic have adopted high-speed, assembly-line building methods. Construction trusts of "Glavpromstroy" (Main Administration of Industrial Construction) have made great progress. Woodworking plants of these trusts produce nearly all wooden parts necessary for housing construction, including window and door frames, wall closets, paneling, framework, floor boards, railings, etc. Construction organizations of "Glavpromstroy" are applying industrial building methods in 20 to 40 percent of their operations. However, these methods should be applied more widely. In many smaller construction projects industrialization is only in its first stages of development. A large number of Minsk projects are using antiquated building methods. (1)

Construction workers of Minsk and Stalingrad have been competing with each other in the fulfillment of their plans. Although both cities completed the state plan for construction work in the first 6 months of 1949, a number of important pledges have not been fulfilled. For instance, neither one of the cities met the plan for lowering production costs and releasing funds from their working capital. Glavminskstroy is lagging behind Glavstalingradstroy with regard to housing construction. Stalingrad workers completed 67.8 percent of the year plan for housing construction during the first 6 months of 1949, and Glavminskstroy completed only 1,200 square meters of housing area, out of a total of 2,700 provided by plan. Minsk builders have been severely criticized for not introducing prefabricated reinforced-concrete structures in their construction projects. (2)

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Two large buildings are under construction in Minsk, one 11-story building on Privokzal'naya Ploshchad', and one eight-story building on the corner of Sovetskaya and Dolgobrodskaya ulitsa.

The Moscow architect Barshch is working on a plan for a new 13-story building to be constructed at Dolgobrodskaya and Sovetskaya ulitsa. (1)

One eight-apartment house and two 24-apartment houses were recently built in Minsk. Three multistoried buildings have just been finished in the settlement of the Belorussian Tractor Plant. Workers of this plant received 80 new apartments. Construction of a multistoried apartment house on ulitsa Karla Marksa will soon be completed.

There are many new buildings in other cities of Belorussia. A 16-apartment house has been built in Mozyr', a 32-apartment house for workers of local enterprises in Vitebsk, and the Technical School of Construction in Gomel' has received a new building. (3)

General reconstruction plans have been worked out for the largest towns of Belorussia, including Brest, Baranovichi, Grodno, Pinsk, Molodechno, and others.

Brest is to be transformed into a garden city. Construction plans for this city include large-scale construction of dwellings and administrative buildings, also a stadium, a hotel, and a general store.

Molodechno and Baranovichi are to undergo great changes. A great deal of construction work is in progress in these towns. (4)

Grodno on the Nemman River has been completely transformed in the past 10 years. Many new buildings have been constructed. The first unit of a fine-cloth combine has been put into operation. A shoe factory with modern equipment has also been established in Grodno. Leather plants, lumber mills, a tobacco factory, and other enterprises have been reconstructed. A pedagogical institute, a theater, and many secondary special schools have been opened in this town. The ancient Grodno castle has been restored and transformed into a museum. (5)

A 20-year construction plan has been approved for the town of Mogilev. The plan provides for the construction of new industrial enterprises, a dramatic theater, clubs, schools, dispensaries, etc. The industrial districts will be connected with the center of the town by streetcar lines. (6)

During postwar years, over 10,000 Belorussian villages have been reconstructed. About 400,000 houses have been built in these villages. Every single village in Belorussia has several new buildings. Building activities have been especially extensive in the new kolkhozes of western Belorussian oblasts. The general reconstruction plan is to be completed in 3 years. (7)

The first Belorussian sugar refinery is being built in Skidel'skiy Rayon, Grodno Oblast. Construction plans include the plant buildings, a power plant, and a workers' settlement. (8)

Ukraine

During the war, 6,000 dwellings in Kiev were destroyed and burned. Until now 600,000 square meters of living area have been reconstructed and newly built. Eighty-eight dwellings were completed in 1949. Fifty houses are now under construction on Bagrinovaya Gora. (9)

Two eight-story apartment houses are under construction on Kreshchatik, a main thoroughfare in Kiev. These are the first large buildings to be constructed according to the general plan. The new houses will have 122 apartments with a total living area of about 5,000 square meters. The first stories of the buildings will be faced with red granite, the remaining stories with ceramic tiles. All apartments will have central heating, gas, elevator service, garbage disposal, etc.

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Construction is to be done by high-speed assembly-line methods, and with the latest mechanical equipment. (10)

Most of the important industrial enterprises operating in Kiev before the war have now been rebuilt. Kiev is a city of medium and precision machine-building, as well as light industry and food industry. Kiev enterprises have mastered the production of many new types of products, including motorcycles, various gas installations, etc. The construction materials industry has developed considerably during the past five years.

The plan for new construction, especially housing, is being augmented from year to year. In 1948, construction of new buildings constituted 10 percent of the entire reconstruction program, whereas in 1949 it constitutes 50 percent. (11)

The "Kievzhilstroy" Trust construction workers have finished building two new schools: No 14 on Kurenivka and No 51 on ulitsa Chekistov 2. A five-story building with a living area of 900 square meters has been built on ulitsa Zhadanovskogo 3. Workers of the penicillin plant moved into this building on 24 August. Two more eight-apartment buildings have been completed on ulitsa Kovaya 6. According to plan, these houses were scheduled to be finished by 1 October 1949. (12)

In the Ukraine, 2,500 new schools have been built. Following the example of workers in Zhitomir, Chernigov, Kiev and other oblasts, 519 new schools have been built in the Ukraine with the help of community building methods, and 28,974 schools have been repaired. About 6,000 schools have been equipped with electricity. (13)

The number of new dwellings in Zaporozh'ye is increasing daily. The "Zaporozhstroy" Trust alone has built 89 houses during 1949, with a total area of 37,000 square meters. This trust will soon complete construction of 40 more houses. Construction is done by high-speed methods. (14)

Individual building is developing in the Transcarpathian Oblast. During the 4 years of Soviet government, workers of this oblast built over 8,000 dwellings. Individual builders received from the state 10 million bricks, over 4 million tiles, 66,000 cubic meters of timber, and large quantities of other building materials. (15)

During the last 3 years, 116 factories and plants have been rebuilt and newly built in the Transcarpathian Oblast of the Ukraine. The number of enterprises has increased six times, and the number of workers seven times; industrial production has increased ten times. Five large sawmills have been built in Transcarpathia. (16)

Estonia

Tallin is one of 12 cities of the Soviet Union which are under the jurisdiction of the new All-Union Ministry of City Construction. A new general reconstruction plan for Tallin has been made and reconstruction work begun. Considerable funds have been allocated in the 1950 budget for city construction purposes. By the end of 1951, Tallin is to reach its prewar level of living area and number of other buildings. The basic area of land now occupied by the city will be preserved to its full extent and will reach from Pyaaskyala to Merivyal'ya. The ancient, historical part of the city will be left intact.

The most important construction project in the future center of the city is the House of Ministries. This huge building is to have a capacity of 128,000 cubic meters and a length of 150 meters. The general construction plan has been approved. The new building will occupy a land area of 2 hectares and will extend along the entire length of the new central square. The new administrative building of the Executive Committee of the City Soviet is to be built next to the House of Ministries, at the corner of ulitsa Viru and Mere puyestee. (17)

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During the past 5 years, over 1,300 dwellings covering an area of more than 400,000 square meters were reconstructed and newly built in Tallin, including two large settlements for construction workers, a large dwelling for workers of the "Vol'ta" Plant, and houses for workers of other enterprises. However, the need for living area is still very great and city organizations must continue to speed up housing construction. (18)

The town and railroad junction of Valga on the Estonian-Latvian border was badly damaged during the war. In the past 5 years, a great amount of reconstruction work has been done. Sixty various industrial enterprises have been rebuilt and 20 new ones built. Construction of a new railroad station building is near completion. (5)

Construction in Other Parts of USSR

Novorossiysk is now the largest industrial city of the Kuban' region and one of the most important ports of the Black Sea coast. During the war, nearly all of its dwellings (a total of 9,000 buildings) were destroyed. At present the city has about 400,000 square meters of living area, which is more than 80 percent of the prewar area. The city has three technical schools, 16 schools, 8 clubs, 5 movie theaters, a dramatic theater, 30 children's institutions, and several hospitals. Streetcars have resumed operation.

One of the leading enterprises of the city is the "Proletary" Cement Plant, which has been producing thousands of tons of high-grade cement above plan each month.

Construction of new buildings is in full progress. The construction plan has been fulfilled 106 percent, labor productivity has increased 46.2 percent over 1948, production costs are 1.7 percent below plan. These results were achieved mainly by mechanization of construction work.

Novorossiysk builders were the first in Krasnodar Kray to use colored plaster. Buildings covered with this type of plaster do not require painting or whitewashing. Colored plaster is highly resistant to wind and rain. (19)

The ancient Russian city of Bryansk was seriously damaged during the war. It had to be practically rebuilt from its foundation. At present, 30 union-republic and local enterprises in Bryansk have been reconstructed and new types of industry have been created. The most important railroad junctions have been restored.

Great progress has been made in housing construction in the city. Over 185,000 square meters of living area have been rebuilt and newly built. The state has been extremely helpful to workers in the construction of dwellings. Individual builders have built over 2,500 houses. The city has a number of multistoried buildings, including the Hall of Soviets, the Forestry Institute, the Communications Administration, offices of the State Bank, and the Oblast Committee of VKP(b). Over 80 buildings were built during 1949, of which 50 are dwellings. A new dramatic theater with a seating capacity of 750 was recently opened. Much has been done in the reconstruction of schools, hospitals, and cultural institutions.

Two new bridges have been built across the Verkhniy and Nizhniy Sudki ravines. A new street, Fokinskaya, will run over these bridges. This is to be the main thoroughfare of the city. (20)

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