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PROGRESS AT NOWA HUTA CREATES LABOR PROBLEMS

"STEEL CITY" IS BIGGEST PROJECT OF 6-YEAR PLAN -- Buenos Aires, Argentinisches
Tageblatt, 8 Mar 51

The first factories at Nowa Huta are to be put in operation at the end of
May 1951. Nowa Huta, the new steel city located on a gigantic site in a
thinly settled, purely agricultural region near Krakow, is the biggest project
of Poland's Six-Year Plan. Eight blast furnaces, ten Martin furnaces, and nu-
merous factory installations are to be erected there.

Under the Six-Year Plan, Poland's coal production is to reach 100 million
tons in 1955. Iron ore output is to be raised to 3 million tons and electric
power output to 19.3 billion kilowatt-hours. One of the most important goals
is a steel output of 4.6 million tons, which would represent a doubling of
1949, and a tripling of 1938 production.

This goal is to be attained by the founding of Nowa Huta. Plans for the
road network and for the extension of railroad lines were begun last spring,
to accumulate the materials, all of which are to be shipped from the USSR. The
USSR is furnishing all construction machines, from dredges to trucks. Like-
wise it is providing all machinery and equipment for blast furnaces and facto-
ries. The supervision of construction and personnel is in the hands of Soviet
engineers and architects. Polish specialists work under them.

By the end of this year, 5,000 one-room apartments in the workers' city
are to be ready for occupancy. The plan of the city and the style of the
homes, schools, cultural institutions, and cinemas correspond completely to
the new Soviet industrial cities in Siberia. When finished, Nowa Huta will
look just like Magnitogorsk, Kuznetsk, and Komsomol'sk-na Amure.

To get the personnel needed to carry out the Six-Year Plan, more and more
women are being introduced into the labor force. The Central Committee of the
Communist Party decided in summer to employ 900,000 women in the socialized
economy. Today, the number of women workers totals 1,230,000. Women are em-
ployed in all branches of industry, and even in heavy industry and mining must
perform the same work as men. According to official Polish declarations,
22,624 women are presently employed in mines.

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EQUIPMENT FOR NOWA HUTA BEING BUILT IN USSR -- Warsaw, Przyjazn, 20 Aug 50

Under the long-term agreement signed between Poland and the USSR, the USSR is to supply Poland with machines and equipment for Nowa Huta. The equipment is already being built in USSR plants. The task is to be handled by Gipromez, one of the largest builders of metallurgical equipment in the USSR with the greatest experience and the best experts in this field. Many of the planners and builders of Nowa Huta gained their experience in Magnitogorsk, the largest metallurgical plant in the world.

Poland has always used small blast furnaces. The modern metallurgical plants built in the USSR in the postrevolutionary period are using 1,000-cubic-meter capacity blast furnaces. This type blast furnace will be used in Nowa Huta. These blast furnaces, which are greatly superior to the small ones, because they can achieve greater production with the same crew, cannot be operated by using Polish coke, which is of poor quality and easily crushable. USSR experts made hundreds of tests and developed a method of producing adequate coke from Polish coal, which will benefit the entire Polish metallurgical industry.

Several hundred Polish metallurgists are being trained in USSR plants, using the same machines and equipment which will be used later in Nowa Huta. Polish engineers are also in the USSR getting acquainted with techniques.

LABOR PROBLEMS AT NOWA HUTA -- Warsaw, Przegląd Związkowy, Nov 50

In late spring of 1949, construction work began on Nowa Huta near Krakow. Warehouses and barracks were being built, equipment and vehicles were being accumulated, and workers were being recruited. But little thought was given to the fact that the execution of the plan depended on the spirit of enthusiasm and self-sacrifice engendered in the mass of workers. No preparations were made to handle elections to the factory council in such a way that the creation of the council would not be merely a mechanical performance of legal requirements. Yet, the creation of the factory council could not be treated as a perfunctory administrative action at a place where people did not know one another and where 80 percent of the workers did not belong to labor unions. There were soon evidences of an undesirable situation. In the Ori Cooperative Building Enterprise, only 30 percent of the labor force belonged to the trade union, and of these only 50 percent paid dues. In the Mogila Cooperative Building Enterprise, only 50 percent of the workers belonged to the union, and of these only 80 percent paid dues. In fact, the trusted representative of the union did not belong to the union.

The first year of the construction of Nowa Huta proves what an important role the trade union organization plays. As a result of the inactivity and ineptness of the factory councils, numerous commissions had to come to investigate conditions at Nowa Huta. Conditions showed a deplorable lack of participation on the part of union members, leaving all the work to the chairman, who, according to regulations, is relieved of other duties. But the chairman was not able to cope with the hourly complaints about shortages in pay, lack of waterproof clothing, requests for transfer of possessions from the western territories, requests for family allowances, requests for wage differentials for former port workers, etc. Voluntary activities on the part of members often take place during the work hours, drawing skilled workers from their work, with no public-spirited contribution on their part.

Complaints are heard that it is difficult to obtain good attendance at meetings because the workers all have to catch their trains. On the other hand, when it was announced that an engineer would demonstrate the operation of various machinery, 70 percent of the workers stayed after hours and none left the meeting even after the second train left. This proves that an interesting subject must provide the incentive for attending meetings.

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It is first that the factory council must have a concrete program each month. The following is a typical monthly program undertaken by one of the factory councils after reorganization of its work.

For the month of July the trusted representatives were assigned to persuade an additional 5 percent of the workers to join the union and increase the proportion of dues-paying members to 95 percent; they were to discuss the matter of piecework before the prosecutor the case of two workers who broke the labor discipline law; they were to initiate work competition between groups to obtain the highest productivity; they were again to present the matter of long-range pledges in connection with Renaissance Day; they were to designate candidates for group work trips; and discuss the latest serious accident; and they were to insure the attendance of the group at three lectures in the social room.

The cost and wage committee was assigned to audit the list of wages in the mechanical division; work out with the board of directors further piecework agreements; revise the norms in the sheet-metal division, together with the factory council; and designate a candidate from each division for the course in calculation.

The work competition committee was assigned to aid the casting division to carry out its pledge to produce the additional number of castings to enable the mechanical division to make full exploitation of its machinery; to give special attention to the organization of work and performance of cranes under foreman X; initiate work competition for the title of Best Founder; aid groups in undertaking long-range pledges in honor of 22 July; guarantee the supply of materials necessary for carrying out pledges; organize a meeting between scientists and foundry workers at the plant and at the Institute of Founding; and present a report analyzing work competition during the past month.

The work-safety committee was assigned to see that the terms of the collective-bargaining agreement were carried out with regard to the supply of protective clothing for certain categories of work, and special incentive pay for work injurious to health; to inspect the equipment in the forging division in connection with the frequent accidents there; to organize a lecture for each shift on the subject of work-safety regulations, and to see that the budgeted expenditures for work safety were made; to see that each trade-union group subscribes to at least two copies of the monthly Przyjaciel przy pracy (Worker's Friend); and to work out a plan for a work-safety office.

The social committee was assigned to audit its budget expenditures for the second half-year period and present its conclusions; work out a plan for setting up a nursery at the plant; present to the council a list of workers scheduled to take vacations; call a meeting of the credit union and find out why only 30 percent of the workers are members; visit the children's camp in R over which the plant has assumed responsibility; and render a report with recommendations within 7 days.

The living-conditions and housing-conditions committee was assigned to inspect the condition of the house renovated by X at the initiative of the factory council; undertake efforts to improve the housing conditions of shockworker Y who lives in a damp basement with five members of his family; check progress on J and R's homes, who received a loan from the trade union; designate five candidates for membership in the store committee of consumers' cooperative No 123; and arrange the transportation of coal for workers who are unable to provide for delivery.

The cultural committee was assigned to carry out the peace campaign among trade-union groups in connection with US aggression in Korea, and organize peace guards in cooperation with the work-competition committee; submit a report on

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the work of the radio study group for the first 6-months' period; organize two chapters to study the history of the UKP(b) among nonparty workers, union activists, and nonparty technicians; organize a study group in economics; and inspect the library card catalogue and remove insignificant literature.

The above outline of duties indicates how the various cells of the factory council can make a substantial contribution and relieve the chairman of routine duties. In addition to the above program, the trusted representatives should make a semiweekly check of the various committees to see how the members are carrying out their assignments.

This article does not discuss the broad problems of trade-union groups. That is a separate subject, although it is intimately associated with problems of the factory council. It must be emphasized that trade-union groups cannot function properly without well organized factory councils. Trade unions must, therefore, give more attention to training factory counselors and preparing new cadres of activists.

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