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REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN USSR LOCAL AND COOPERATIVE INDUSTRIES, JANUARY 1953

[Comment: This report presents information, from January 1953 Soviet newspapers, on construction and production achievements and shortcomings in USSR local and cooperative industries.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Karelo-Finnish SSR

In 1952, republic local industry increased production 30 percent, as compared with 1951. In 1953, the Kondopozhskiy Rayon and Ukhta City industrial combines are to produce more than 25,000 pairs of skis. In 1953, republic local industry is to increase production more than 40 percent.(1)

The Petrozavodsk Sewing and Knitwear Artel is the largest enterprise of republic industrial cooperatives. However, the artel is not operating satisfactorily and is not fulfilling plans assigned to it. The artel did not fulfill the 1952 plan and failed to deliver to trade organizations more than 10,000 knitted outer garments, 3,500 pairs of underwear, and more than 9,500 pairs of hosiery.

During the first 11 months of 1952, the Petrozavodsk Artel did not concern itself with improving its organization of knitwear production or with establishing uniform production of jumpers, scarves, children's suits, stockings, and socks, which is the assortment called for by plan. However, at the end of the year, leaders of the artel ordered a curtailment in hosiery production, which requires a great deal of care and complicated dyeing techniques. All production resources were concentrated on above-plan production of women's wool jackets. As a result, 1,221 jackets were manufactured instead of the planned 552. By the end of the year, more than 1,000 jackets worth 196,000 rubles had accumulated in the artel warehouse. Trade organizations refuse to accept the merchandise as it is of extremely low grade.

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This situation, however, did not seem to worry the artel leaders. To them it was important only that the knitwear shop be credited with fulfillment of the December plan by 102.6 percent, even though in so doing the shop failed to produce 2,670 of the more important knitted garments and 870 pairs of hosiery.(2)

Estonian SSR

The most important assignment of local industry enterprises is to utilize effectively and completely all industrial wastes, both their own and those received from other enterprises for reprocessing. Only a few enterprises of Estonian local industry are devoting any time and effort to this problem. The Morskij Rayon Industrial Combine has organized production of small articles necessary for domestic purposes to be manufactured out of tin scraps and wastes. The Tsentral'nyy Rayon Industrial Combine in Tallin is producing neckties out of silk fabric scraps. This same combine is reprocessing fabric scraps for wadding which is used in stuffing mattresses.(3)

During the first 2 years of the Fifth Five-Year Plan, production of Estonian industrial cooperatives increased almost 50 percent, as compared with 1950.

In 1952, new mechanized production of rubber was mastered at the Tegur Artel in Tallin. The principal product of this new industry is rubber cloth. This artel is capable of producing up to one million square meters of rubber cloth annually. The artel is using this product in the manufacture of children's toys.

In 1952, the Puyt Artel in Tartu organized woodworking and furniture production. A new combine entirely for personal services has been constructed at the Edasi Artel in Narva. In the combine are housed a shoemaker's, tailor's, hairdresser's, watch repair, and other shops.

Production of sewn articles at the Terasniyt Artel in Tallin has increased 50 percent during 1951 and 1952. Dozens of highly productive sewing machines, which have been received from other republics, are now power driven. Continuous production lines have been installed in the artel. This artel also produces specially constructed saws.

During 1951 and 1952, brick production enterprises of industrial cooperatives in Antsla, Vyru, Vil'yandi, and Rakvere were completely reconstructed. During this period, the re-equipped brick enterprises doubled brick production, as compared with 1950.

In 1952, the Rakhva Toyt Food Artel opened two new shops for production of fruit and berry wine and candy. The Presto Artel, which in the past produced only bakelite buttons, has converted to production of a variety of bakelite consumers' goods. The Vyal'k Artel is successfully reprocessing industrial wastes. The artel produces ladies' fur coats from wastes of the fur industry and all kinds of children's underclothing from wastes of the textile industry. The Konserv, Agu, Progress, and Pyarnuprodukt fishing artels have started to process fish in their own shops and are producing marinated and salted fish as well as a variety of canned pickled fish.

In 1953, production of mirrors, footwear with microporous rubber, tile, green paint from glauconite, and many other products is to be mastered by metal, chemical, and other enterprises of Estonian industrial cooperatives.(4)

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The Keylaskiy Rayon Industrial Combine in Tallinskaya Oblast produces wool fabrics. With the looms, cards, and mules with which shops of the combine have been supplied, the combine could produce nearly 30,000 meters of wool fabrics monthly. However, at present the combine is producing only 10,000 to 11,000 meters.

During 1952, stoppages due to lack of raw materials and electric power at the combine amounted to nearly 28,000 man-hours. As of 27 January 1953, nothing had been done by administrative leaders to eliminate these interruptions in operation.(5)

Latvian SSR

Local industry enterprises of Skrundskiy Rayon are not supplying kolkhozes with the construction materials necessary in rural construction. The Skrundskiy Rayon Industrial Combine is not operating at all satisfactorily. The Nigrade Calcium Plant of the combine is located in an area of rich deposits of limestone from which is obtained the best white calcium in the Baltic region. The plant is operating inefficiently. Only one small furnace out of two is operating. The plant at full capacity operation could not only supply kolkhozes of Skrundskiy and other rayons with limestone, but could even provide other industrial and construction enterprises of the republic with this valuable product. Thus, the Slokskiy Paper Combine imports annually from the Estonian SSR several thousand tons of limestone, while the best limestone in the Baltic region remains unused in Skrundskiy Rayon.

Kolkhozes of the rayon are experiencing an acute shortage of lumber. For example, the Varonis Kolkhoz could not finish construction of an eight-apartment house because there were no facilities for sawing lumber on the kolkhoz. In this situation, the rayon industrial combine should have come to the assistance of the kolkhoz. But only one of four saw frames at the combine was operating, and that one was fulfilling orders for a Leningrad organization. In the meantime, the kolkhoz had to saw the lumber manually or obtain it from distant sawmills. This situation could have been avoided had the combine set up portable saw frames near the kolkhozes.

Production of bricks has not been extensively organized in Skrundskiy Rayon. The small plant of the rayon combine produces nearly 300,000 bricks annually, which does not begin to satisfy the needs of the kolkhozes. Because of this, Skrundskiy Rayon kolkhozes are forced to import bricks from neighboring rayons. This is all the more annoying since there are two other brick plants in the rayon which have not been put in operating condition. The combine also is not supplying the kolkhozes with enough construction parts, making it necessary for kolkhozes either to produce the parts themselves on whatever equipment there is available on the kolkhoz or to import the parts from other rayons. As yet, tile production has not been organized, although there are rich raw material resources available in the rayon.(6)

Belorussian SSR

More than 30 types of products are produced by the Bobruysk City Industrial Combine. A large number of these products are delivered to kolkhozes and are used in the mechanization of labor-consuming processes on livestock farms. Enterprises of the combine produce feed cookers and roofing material for kolkhozes, help in sawing wood, and repair power and agricultural machinery. As of 13 January, the feed cooker shop had already shipped four railroad cars of feed cookers produced in 1953 to kolkhozes of Mogilevskaya Oblast.(7)

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Ukrainian SSR

In 1952, the network of personal services enterprises was expanded throughout the oblast by order of the Kiyevskaya Oblast Executive Committee. However, these enterprises were not assured of a regular supply of raw materials. In Bukskiy Rayon of the oblast, all 16 personal services shops are located in private homes and utilize chiefly rented sewing machines.(8)

Moldavian SSR

In 1952, production of Moldavian local industry increased more than 50 percent, as compared with 1950. In 1951 and 1952, 15 power hammers and presses, 20 turning lathes, and 7 mechanized sewing aggregates were installed in enterprises of republic local industry. A spinning aggregate with 200 spindles has been put in operation and will replace much manual labor. Although the ministry as a whole fulfilled the 1952 plan, 13 enterprises did not fulfill their production assignments.

The goal of the Ministry of Local Industry Moldavian SSR is to supply adequately each rayon of the republic with construction materials such as quarystone, brick, calcium, and tile. Production of these materials is being developed in industrial combines of all cities and rayons; 33 industrial combines are producing brick, 26 tile, and 5 boilers. In 1952, republic local industry production of brick increased 180 percent, tile 208 percent, and boilers 180 percent, as compared with 1950. In 1953, ten new tile shops are to be constructed and eight existing shops are to be reconstructed.(9)

RSFSR

There are far too few mechanized brick, tile, and calcium plants in Novosibirskaya Oblast to satisfy kolkhoz and sovkhos demands. Production of existing plants is expensive, and products are not always of good quality. In 1952, enterprises of oblast local industry and the oblast council of industrial cooperatives produced nearly 25 million bricks, but only a small part of this production went into kolkhoz construction. In 1952, industrial artels of the oblast were to have produced 250,000 square meters of roofing paper for rural construction, but actually produced 16,000 square meters. Industrial artels delivered to kolkhozes 1,528 metric tons of lime instead of the planned 2,800 metric tons.(10)

In 1952, local and cooperative industries of Omskaya Oblast produced 14 million rubles worth of furniture.(11)

Uzbek SSR

Enterprises of the Ministry of Local Industry Uzbek SSR are increasing production of construction materials. A new brick plant with a productivity of more than 2 million bricks annually has been put in operation in Syr-Dar'inskiy Rayon of Tashkentskaya Oblast. Soon, the brick plant in Akhunbaba-yevskiy Rayon of Ferganskaya Oblast is to go in operation. By 1955, 20 such plants are to have been put in operation in the Uzbek SSR. A plant for binding materials production is being constructed in Kuvasay, Ferganskaya Oblast. Mass tile production is being set up in Termez, and lime production is being greatly expanded in Kara-Kalpakskaya ASSR and Samarkandskaya, Tashkentskaya, and other oblasts.(12)

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Tadzhik SSR

In 1953, production volume of Tadzhik SSR local industry is to increase 20 percent.

In 1953, republic production of table salt is to be greatly increased. In 1952, salt steaming was organized in Kolkhozabadskiy Rayon. This salt is crushed in Stalinabad, packed, and then put out for sale. Salt shipments to southern rayons of the republic are to be increased in 1953.

New brick plants in Kulyab and in Gissarskiy Rayon and new enterprises for construction materials production in Shakhrinay and Ura-Ryub are to supply kolkhozes with all materials necessary for new construction. Production of tile is being organized at the Gissar Brick Plant. New equipment has been installed at the Ordzhonikidzeabad Tile Plant.(13)

In 1952, the Stalinabad City Industrial Combine was to have produced 4 million rubles worth of sewn articles, but actually produced only one million rubles worth. At the same time, 3,500,000 rubles worth of unplanned products, such as bags, aprons, tarpaulins, etc., were produced, although the combine was aware that certain artels of cooperative industry must produce these products. According to the 1952 plan, the combine was to have produced 2,500,000 children's suits, dresses, shirts, and other articles, but produced only 260 in all.

Even worse was the fulfillment of the 1952 plan for clothing and footwear repair. This plan was fulfilled only 10 percent. Of 1,000 pairs of children's footwear to be repaired according to the plan, only 67 pairs were actually repaired.

There are 30 percent more workers at the combine than called for by plan. One third of the workers are not fulfilling established production norms; consequently, the 1952 labor productivity plan was fulfilled little more than 80 percent.(14)

Cooperative industry of the Tadzhik SSR is operating very inefficiently. During the first 11 months of 1952, artels of Tadzhikpromsovet (Tadzhik Council of Industrial Cooperative) did not fulfill the plan and failed to meet state deliveries by many millions of rubles. One third of the production artels of the republic are consistently not fulfilling their plans. Tadzhikpromsovet fulfilled the 11-month gross production plan 94 percent, but fulfilled the production plan for footwear, cotton fabrics, and metal beds only 40 percent and for brick only 20 percent.

Operation of Tadzhikkoopinsoyuz (Tadzhik Union of Invalids' Cooperatives) is even worse. Tadzhikkoopinsoyuz did not even come close to fulfilling the 11-month plan and failed to meet state deliveries by almost 9 million rubles. As a rule, artels of Kulyabskaya Oblast are consistently not fulfilling plans. Cooperative industry of Kulyabskaya Oblast fulfilled the 1952 plan 76 percent, and the Leninabadskaya Oblast Koopinsoyuz even less. Koopinsoyuz is not fulfilling assortment plans and is producing low-quality goods; the 1952 plan for footwear production was fulfilled only 72 percent and for cotton fabrics little more than 60 percent.(15)

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5. Ibid., 28 Jan 53
6. Riga, Sovetskaya Latviya, 13 Jan 53
7. Moscow, Sotsialisticheskoye Zemledeliye, 14 Jan 53
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9. Kishinev, Sovetskaya Moldaviya, 14 Jan 53
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12. Sotsialisticheskoye Zemledeliye, 8 Jan 53
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