SOCIAL INSURANCE IN THE U.S.S.R.
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IN THE U.S.S.R.

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INTRODUCTION

The system of social insurance in the U.S.S.R. is one of the most important achievements of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Not only does it ensure the right of citizens to material security in case of disability, but it is a powerful factor in raising the material and cultural standard of the people.

In the U.S.S.R. the system of social insurance is based on the principles of socialist democracy. The management of the entire system of social insurance, as well as the administration of social insurance funds, is in the hands of the trade unions.

Social insurance benefits are paid to all wage and salaried workers irrespective of occupation. The workers have to make no contribution whatever to the social insurance fund; the contributions are paid entirely by the factory or office managements. Soviet workers are entitled to social insurance benefit from the first day of employment; there is no waiting period.

Social insurance benefits are paid in case of temporary disablement due to sickness or accident; working women are entitled to maternity benefit for a definite period before and after childbirth and also to a nursing allowance. The social insurance fund pays permanent disablement pensions, old-age pensions, long-service pensions, and pensions to families which have lost their breadwinner. Benefit on a par with sick benefit is paid in cases where circumstances
require that a worker should stay away from work to look after a sick member of the family.

The social insurance fund also pays for places for workers at sanatoriums and rest homes, for the organization of summer camps and sanatoriums for workers' children, and for special food in those cases when such is prescribed for medical purposes.

The population receive, at the expense of the state, allowances and grants from the social insurance fund to wage and salaried workers; pensions from the social maintenance fund; accommodation in sanatoriums, rest homes and child institutions free of charge or at reduced rates; allowances to mothers of large families and unmarried mothers; free medical aid; free education and professional and trade instruction; students' stipends, and a number of other payments and privileges. These payments and privileges received by the population at the expense of the state amounted to 125,000,000,000 rubles in 1951.

Thus, in the U.S.S.R., the social insurance fund is, together with other grants and privileges, a substantial addition to the wages of the workers and other employees.

In 1927, in the interview he gave to the first American workers' delegation to the U.S.S.R., J. V. Stalin pointed out: "It will not be superfluous to add also that our workers in all branches of industry, in addition to their ordinary money wages, receive benefits equal to about one-third of their earnings in the form of social insurance, improvement of living conditions, cultural services, and so on."

Along with the successful development of the Soviet Union's national economy, the steady increase in the number of wage and salaried workers and the increase in their earnings, there is a corresponding annual increase in the social insurance fund.

During the first five-year plan period, social insurance expenditures amounted to 10,400,000,000 rubles. In the second five-year plan period they increased to 32,500,000,000 rubles. In the first postwar five-year plan period (1946-50),
the social insurance fund exceeded 80,000,000,000 rubles, not counting expenditure on medical service for wage and salaried workers and their families.

In 1952, the social insurance fund amounted to 21,400,000,000 rubles.

The five-year plan of the development of the U.S.S.R. in 1951-55 provides for a further increase in state expenditure on the social insurance of workers and other employees, which will grow by 30 per cent as against 1950.

Social insurance outlays are to increase in the field of sanatorium and health-resort services for the working people; a much greater number of children will be sent to Young Pioneer summer camps.

The five-year plan also provides for the extension of the network of hospitals, dispensaries, maternity homes, sanatoriums, holiday homes, children’s nurseries and kindergartens. Accommodation capacity in hospitals will increase by not less than 20 per cent, in sanatoriums by 15 per cent, in holiday homes by 30 per cent, in nurseries by 20 per cent, in kindergartens by 40 per cent. The number of doctors in the country will grow by not less than 25 per cent under the five-year plan. Supply of medical equipment to medical establishments will be improved. Production of medicines, medical instruments and equipment will increase by not less than 150 per cent as compared with the year 1950.
PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

Soviet social insurance covers all cases of disablement, temporary and permanent. Every wage and salaried worker knows that if he or she falls sick, they will receive a money allowance from the social insurance fund for the whole period of sickness.

For example: in February 1951, M. Serov, a miner at the Kadala Pit, controlled by the Trans-Baikal State Coal Trust, fell sick and was absent from work for fourteen days. For this period he received from the social insurance fund the sum of 1,162 rubles 84 kopeks, which was equal to 100% of his average fortnightly earnings. Sick benefit to the amount of 100% of average earnings is paid to miners and to workers in the metallurgical, chemical and certain other important industries, if they have worked continuously at the given enterprise for not less than one year. To those working less than one year, 60% of average earnings is paid.

Wage and salaried workers in other branches of the national economy are entitled to sick benefit ranging from 50 to 100% of earnings according to length of employment at the given plant or office. If the period of employment is less than three years they are entitled to 50% of earnings. If the period is three to five years, the rate of sick benefit rises to 60%; from five to eight years the rate is 80%; if the period of continuous employment is over eight years, the rate of sick benefit is 100% of average earnings.
Ex-steel man Alexander Chastov and his old friend and colleague Dmitri Zhukov are now on pension.

If a working woman's child up to two years of age falls sick, the mother is released from work irrespective of whether or not some other member of the family could look after the sick child. Workers may also be released from work to look after a sick member of the family if circumstances require it. In all such cases the worker receives sick benefit from the social insurance fund.

Sick benefit is paid as from the first day of disablement until complete recovery. If sickness is prolonged (4 to 6 months), full benefit is paid until a medical commission certifies the patient as incurable. From that moment he receives a permanent disablement pension.

The wide scale on which pensions are paid in the U.S.S.R. is striking evidence of the care the Soviet state
displays for the welfare of the people. Every year larger and larger sums are paid out in pensions.

The Soviet citizen has no fear of being left unprovided for in old age, permanent disablement, or loss of breadwinner.

Soviet social insurance provides the workers with pensions in case of permanent disablement, old age, long service, and loss of breadwinner.

Let us examine these pensions in greater detail and see how they are paid out.

All wage and salaried workers without exception are entitled to pensions in case of permanent disablement due to accident at work, occupational disease, or to any ordinary disease.

Wage and salaried workers permanently disabled as a result of accident at work or occupational disease are en-

Pensioner Vasili Tishkin and his wife Pelageya, on a holiday at Trade Union Sanatorium No. 22 in Essentuki, have a chat with school children
titled to pension irrespective of length of employment, and this pension is higher than that paid in case of permanent disablement due to ordinary disease. The amount of the pension depends upon the cause of disablement, degree of disablement (group), branch of the national economy in which the pensioner was employed, and average earnings before disablement.

Cause and group of disablement are determined by a commission consisting of medical experts and representatives of the trade union.

The rules at present in operation divide disabled persons into the following groups:

Group I—those who are completely disabled and need care.

Group II—those unable to follow their former occupation or engage in a different occupation.

Group III—those unable to follow their former occupation regularly, but able to engage in a different occupation.

Those disabled as a result of accident at work or of occupational disease receive pensions at the following rates irrespective of branch of national economy in which they were employed:

- Group I—100% of earnings.
- Group II—75% of earnings.
- Group III—50% of earnings.

Those disabled as a result of ordinary disease receive pensions at the following rates according to branch of national economy (per cent of earnings):

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<td>Group II</td>
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<td>Group III</td>
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The 1st category includes wage and salaried workers engaged in underground work and in other harmful occupations. The 2nd category includes wage and salaried workers in the metallurgical, machine-building, electrical engineering, coal, ore and oil, chemical and rubber industries, railway and water transport, and industrial enterprises that produce telegraph, telephone and radio apparatus. The 3rd category includes all other wage and salaried workers.

The rate of pensions for permanent disablement due to ordinary disease for wage and salaried workers over twenty years of age is determined by the number of years the pensioner had been at work. The rate for those under twenty is fixed irrespective of the number of years the pensioner had been at work.

All wage and salaried workers are entitled to old-age pensions on reaching a certain age and after having worked a certain number of years, irrespective of their fitness for work or state of health. Men are entitled to old-age pensions on reaching the age of 60 and after having worked twenty-five years. Women are entitled to such pensions on reaching the age of 55 and after having worked twenty years.

Workers, engineers and technicians in the coal, metallurgical and chemical industries, and in a number of other branches of the national economy, are entitled to old-age pension on reaching the age of fifty, and having worked for twenty years.

Wage and salaried workers in the coal, metallurgical and oil industries, the transport and communications services and other major industries are granted old-age pensions at the rate of 50 to 60% of their pay.

Old-age pensioners who continue to work receive their pensions irrespective of their earnings.

When a wage or salaried worker dies, his dependents are entitled to a pension. The amount of the pension is based on the number of members of the family who are
In a home for aged persons at the Orekhovo Textile Mill. Here are old textile workers, pensioners, Anna Azhkova (left) and Anastasiya Rezhchikova.
eligible for such pension, and varies from 50 to 125% of the pension which the breadwinner would have received had he been a Group II invalid.

Continuous employment pensions are paid to persons employed in the educational system, doctors, pharmacists, zootechnicians and veterinary surgeons, and several other categories of persons, upon completion of 25 to 30 years of work in their particular field. For instance, teachers are paid continuous employment pensions amounting to 40% of their salary; zootechnicians and veterinary surgeons receive continuous employment pensions amounting to 50% of their salary. As in the case of old-age pensions, continuous employment pensions are paid out irrespective of the earnings of those who go on working.

When a person belonging to these categories dies, part of the pension is paid to the not able-bodied or aged members of the family. The widow or widower receives one half of the full amount of the pension, while each of the other members of the family receives one quarter of the full amount of the pension.

In addition to paying pensions, the state takes measures to provide pensioners with employment commensurate with their state of health and also with cultural and other services. Pensioners also enjoy other privileges. There are homes, maintained entirely by the state, for disabled and aged persons who have nobody to care for them.

The following, for example, is related by F. Kalugina, an old-age pensioner, 78 years old, formerly employed at the Pyotr Alexeyev Textile Mill in Moscow, and now living in the home of aged working women organized at that enterprise:

"I am an old textile worker. Under the tsar I lived in dire poverty and degradation. Since the millowners and landlords were overthrown my life has been a happy one, and in my old age I am free from care and worry.

"We old folks here are quite a happy family, living in cleanliness and comfort. We cannot be grateful enough to our Soviet Government and to Comrade Stalin for all this
—the good food and clothing, the bright, clean, warm rooms, with comfortable furniture—couches, wardrobes, sideboards, carpets, flowers—everything one could wish for."

In former Russia things were entirely different.

Anna Maximovna Pavelyeva, a veteran worker at the Krasny Bogatyr Plant, relates the following:

"Happily, our children and grandchildren are not experiencing the burdens and privation that we old workers had to put up with in the old days before the Revolution. If any of us fell sick we dragged ourselves to work just the same. What else could we do? We got no assistance when we were sick, and if we stayed away from work for more than a couple of days we lost our jobs. The old people had a particularly hard time. If a worker became too old to work there was nothing left for him to do but go begging. Nobody helped him, neither the state nor the factory owner for whom he had sacrificed his strength."

These words, spoken from the heart, vividly reflect the inhuman and unbearable conditions of the working people of tsarist Russia.

This life of torment and suffering was swept away forever in October 1917. The Great October Socialist Revolution, which established the Soviet regime in Russia, gave the working people not only freedom, but also material benefits, the possibility of leading a prosperous and cultured life.
HOW THE WORKERS REST

The Constitution of the U.S.S.R. guarantees the working people not only the right to work, but also the right to rest and leisure.

The right to rest and leisure is ensured by the establishment of an eight-hour working day, and for certain occupations a seven-, six- and four-hour day, by annual vacations with full pay for factory and office workers, and by the provision for the working people of a wide network of sanatoriums, rest homes, palaces of culture, recreation clubs and parks, stadiums, etc.

Annual vacations last from 12 to 48 working days, according to nature of occupation.

Certain categories of workers engaged in underground jobs in the mining industry, as well as persons employed in the iron and steel and nonferrous metals industries, the transport services, and the oil, chemical, printing and certain other industries, are granted vacations lasting from 18 to 48 working days.

Scientific workers at research institutes receive an annual vacation of 24, 36 or 48 working days.

Members of the teaching staff at elementary, secondary and higher schools receive an annual vacation of 48 working days.

All workers directly engaged in production in the basic industries (metallurgical, coal and ore mining, oil, textile, the transport services, large construction jobs, etc.) are
A holiday home for iron and steel workers in the city of Zhdanov
entitled to an additional three days' annual vacation after two years of work at one enterprise.

Persons in need of sanatorium treatment receive an additional vacation for the period necessary for their stay at the sanatorium and the trip there and back. This vacation is paid out of the social insurance fund.

Out of the social insurance fund the Soviet trade unions provide working people with places at sanatoriums or rest homes either free of charge or at a reduced fee not exceeding 30% of the normal price of places at such resorts. For example, if a fortnight's stay at a rest home costs 240 rubles, the workers and office employees pay only 72 rubles; the rest is paid by the trade union committee at the given enterprise or office.

In the Soviet Union sanatoriums and rest homes are within the reach of every wage or salaried worker. A visit to a health resort is a common event in the life of every Soviet family. Four-fifths of all sanatorium accommodation which are acquired by the trade unions with money from the social insurance fund are provided to wage and salaried workers at 30% of the cost, and one-fifth is provided free of charge. Of the places at rest homes, 90% are provided at 30% of cost and 10% free of charge.

Every year, millions of Soviet people rest and recuperate at numerous sanatoriums and rest homes and return to their creative, constructive work with fresh vigour.

The Soviet Union is exceptionally rich in natural facilities for the creation of mountain, seaside and other health and holiday resorts. Numerous sanatoriums and rest homes are situated in the most picturesque parts of the country—on the Black Sea and Baltic coasts, on the plains of the Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, in the Caucasian mineral water region, in the Urals, and on the banks and shores of rivers and lakes in the Moscow Region.

A big health resort centre is Sochi, with its sanatoriums and rest homes stretching along the Black Sea coast for a distance of more than 25 kilometres. Annually they
Trade Union Sanatorium No. 41 in Zheleznovodsk
accommodate some 100,000 working people. Hydrogen sulphide springs and a number of balneological establishments are situated in the valley of the Matsesta River, eleven kilometres from the town of Sochi. These springs are effective in the treatment of chronic ailments of the locomotive organs, cardiovascular diseases, diseases of the peripheral nervous system, gynecological, skin and metabolism ailments, and other diseases. The mild sea climate, heliotherapy, sea-water baths and sea bathing are also valuable curative agents at this resort.

*Kislovodsk* is one of the major watering places in the Caucasian spa group. Its chief curative agent is the Narzan carbon-dioxide waters, which are employed both for balneotherapeutics and for drinking cures. Cardiovascular and nervous ailments are effectively treated at this resort.

Another Caucasian resort is *Zheleznovodsk*, with 20 mineral springs effective in the treatment of diseases of the digestive organs. Medicinal muds are also employed for treatment here.

In addition to the numerous health resorts of national importance in the Caucasus and on the Black Sea and Baltic coasts, there is in the Soviet Union a wide network of local health and holiday resorts, and their number is steadily growing.

For example, there is *Tskhaltubo*, the Georgian resort famous for its radioactive springs which are employed in the treatment of ailments of the locomotive organs, the peripheral nervous system, cardiovascular diseases, and gynecological and skin diseases. New sanatoriums were built here in 1951—for the miners, railwaymen and oil men.

*Darasun*, away in the east, is rich in carbon-dioxide springs, and is a second *Kislovodsk*. In the Kazakh S.S.R., 26 kilometres from Alma Ata, the capital of the republic, there is a mountain health resort, *Alma Arosan*, where there are numerous hot springs.

The health resort *Ust-Kachka*, near the city of Molotov in the Urals, is justly called the “Urals Matsesta.” The
Siberian and Far-Eastern health resorts have also become famous.

There are health resorts run by the trade unions around Moscow and in a number of central districts. Besides those belonging to the trade unions there is a wide network of sanatoriums and holiday homes run by the Union and republican health protection ministries of the U.S.S.R. Other ministries and institutions have their own health resorts. Many sanatoriums and holiday homes belong to the larger enterprises.

Last year new health resorts were opened in the Kazakh, Uzbek and Latvian Soviet Socialist Republics, and in the Krasnoyarsk Territory. The beautiful Bilgya Rest Home has been erected on the shore of the Caspian Sea.

The trade unions are making considerable extensions to
their existing network of health and holiday resorts for the working people.

A striking example of health resort development is provided by the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic. Georgia has long been famous for her health resorts, but planned health resort development was started only after the Soviet regime was established. In 1913 there were only 5 sanatoriums in Georgia; in 1952 there were 102.

In Tbilisi, the capital of the republic, a public-bath has been built in the sulphur hot springs district. Extensive work has been carried out to develop the rich hydroresources of the health resorts at Ukhneti, Kojori, Manglisi, Kiketi, Borzhomi, Abastumani, Gagra and Kobuleti.

The Soviet sanatoriums are equipped with the latest medical apparatus, X-ray, physiotherapeutic and medical physical culture departments and diagnosis laboratories.
Diverse bath and mud treatments, medicinal dieting and vitamin therapeutics are extensively employed.

As part of its constant concern for the people's health and rest, the Soviet Government devotes much attention to building specialized sanatoriums not only in the Caucasus and the Crimea, but also in many industrial sections of the country. These sanatoriums are built to provide the workers and other employees with various treatment facilities. For example, it has established the Barnaul general therapy sanatorium, which conducts mud treatment; a sanatorium in Voronezh Region for patients suffering from digestive ailments; in Gorky Region, a sanatorium providing bath and mud cures for diseases of the peripheral and central nervous systems; a general therapy sanatorium in Ivanovo Region, and so on and so forth. The curative methods and equipment of these specialized sanatoriums, which are to
be found in almost every region are on a par with those at the Caucasian resorts.

Take, for example, the sanatorium at Monino, near Moscow, one of the numerous sanatoriums situated in the central region of our country. This sanatorium provides treatment for heart and nerve complaints.

It is equipped with all the necessary apparatus for making quick and exact diagnosis. It has a staff of physicians and visiting consultants who have at their disposal an excellently equipped clinical and biochemical laboratory, an X-ray department with the most up-to-date apparatus, and a functional diagnostics department. Improved methods of X-ray examination—kymography and orthodiography—are employed, making possible a more exact diagnosis of heart complaints, so that a thorough examination of the patient can be completed within two days after his arrival. If the doctor prescribes it, the patient can take a course of radioactive, hydrosulphide or carbon-dioxide baths, or of medical shower baths. Peat, paraffin and ozocerite treatment is widely used. There is a special veranda for aero-therapy. The medical staff conducts extensive research work.

Every year 2,775 patients visit the Monino sanatorium. We shall mention another of the numerous trade union sanatoriums, the Zeleny Mys (Green Cape), situated on the Caucasian coast of the Black sea, near Batumi.

This sanatorium, which is open all the year round, is a regular “health factory,” equipped with all the resources of modern medical science. The dormitories are roomy and comfortable, sunny and abound with fresh sea air.

The working people who visit these rest homes and sanatoriums are loud in their appreciation of the benefit and pleasure they derive from them.

For example, in the summer of 1951, Maria Zhuravlyova, a weaver at the Tryokhgornaya Textile Mill, stayed at a sanatorium in Sochi. In a letter from there to her friends she wrote:
On the grounds of a Moscow one-day rest home
“Greetings from Sochi, dear fellow workers. I am resting at a sanatorium in Sochi. The sanatorium is right on the seashore. All of us here receive the best of care from the medical staff. The food is excellent and all the better for its variety. The place is surrounded with palm, oleander and cypress trees, there are flowers everywhere. And there is the wonderful blue sea!

“I have put on plenty of weight. When I return to the factory, I'm sure you won't recognize me.”

Thousands of other letters of a similar kind are received from workers and office employees who have stayed at sanatoriums and rest homes.

No less appreciative are the opinions about Sochi expressed by foreign delegations that have visited the Soviet Union.

For example, the Marseilles docker Andreani, a member of the delegation of the French General Confederation of Labour, said over the radio in November 1951:

“We visited the Sochi health resort in the Caucasus. If only you could see this place with your own eyes, comrades! There are magnificent palaces, in which Soviet working people rest. We visited the sanatorium for our Soviet friends, the miners. They have everything that is needed for rest and recreation—sports grounds, a library, a cinema, and so forth.”

A British delegation that visited the Soviet Union in May 1951 said in a statement issued for the press:

“Whilst in Sochi, we stayed at the Red Moscow Sanatorium which belongs to the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions who were our hosts in the Soviet Union. We inspected the sanatorium for textile workers as well as the mine workers’ sanatorium and we were very impressed with all three. The food was superb and the people looked happy, well-fed and rested. Sochi is a workers’ paradise.”

Four hundred of the largest mills and factories in the country have what we call night sanatoriums. These are provided for workers, men and women, who show symp-
toms of incipient disease which can be prevented by timely treatment, or who suffer from a chronic ailment. Patients stay at these sanatoriums for a month, after working hours. Here they receive all the medical treatment they need, as well as excellent meals. Board, lodging and medical treatment are provided either free of charge or for a nominal sum.

In all the Union Republics, regions and territories, there is, in addition to sanatoriums, a wide network of rest homes run by the trade unions.

Rest homes are provided for healthy people who are not in need of the special treatments given at health resorts and sanatoriums. The purpose of these homes is implied in their name—they are holiday resorts, which provide workers in factory or office with healthy and cultured rest and recreation.

The rest homes are furnished with recreation rooms, libraries, boating stations, sports grounds, grounds for mass games and dancing and cinemas. Excursions and lectures are arranged, and concerts in which the visitors themselves also take part.

A typical rest home is the one near the ancient city of Kashira, in the Moscow Region. It is a beautiful two-story house situated on the picturesque bank of the Oka. The rest home has been functioning for thirty years, and during this period over 115,000 working people from Moscow have spent their vacations here.

An excellent means of spending a vacation is provided by the "floating" sanatoriums and rest homes arranged on riverboats that run on the Volga, Oka, and other rivers.

There is, for example, the Gorkovskaya Kommuna, a boat that runs from Moscow to Astrakhan, on the Volga. The journey there and back takes twenty-four days. The boat is furnished with apparatus for physiotherapeutic and hydro-treatments, a library, recreation rooms, cinema and so forth. The boat stops at Gorky, Ulyanovsk, Saratov,
Kuibyshev and Stalingrad, where the passengers can get off and see the sights of these cities.

In the suburbs of many of the big industrial centres there are week-end rest homes, where workers can stay from Saturday afternoon until Monday morning.

In addition to the ordinary rest homes, there are in the Soviet Union special rest homes for expectant and nursing mothers. There are also family rest homes, where a worker can spend his vacation together with his wife and children.

The extent to which working people avail themselves of the facilities provided by the trade union sanatoriums and rest homes may be seen from the following figures.

In 1946, the number of people visiting sanatoriums and rest homes at the expense of the social insurance fund was 1,360,000.

In 1950, the number was 2,500,000.

In 1951, the number was 2,700,000.

Hundreds of thousands of workers and students spend their annual vacations in hiking tours through various parts of the country. Many thousands of them go mountain climbing. In districts like the Crimea, the Caucasus, the Black Sea coast and the Volga, the trade unions organize hiking and mountaineering camps for the service of those who spend their vacations in this way. These camps are also maintained out of the social insurance fund.

The working people of the Soviet Union are justly proud of their sanatoriums and rest homes, which are available for the broad masses.
PUBLIC HEALTH
IN THE SOVIET UNION

Illustrative of the Soviet Government's constant concern for the health of the population is the broad and steadily increasing network of medical establishments—hospitals, clinics, polyclinics and first-aid stations—as well as medical research institutes, laboratories, and medical colleges.

In 1951 the U.S.S.R. had more than twice as many doctors as before the war.

The entire population of the Soviet Union enjoys free medical aid. Various medical aid at the patient's home and at clinics and polyclinics, hospital treatment, medical aid during childbirth, all types of examinations and tests, as well as every other form of medical assistance, are accorded all citizens free of charge, at state expense.

Take the case of N. A. Tyaplina, a woman worker at the Moscow Tool Plant. Feeling unwell, she telephoned the district polyclinic. Shortly afterwards a car drove up to the house where Tyaplina lives bringing the ward doctor. The doctor examined the patient, prescribed treatment and medicine and made out a "certificate of temporary disablement," or "bulletin" as it is called. The bulletin entitles the patient to be released from work until the doctor certifies that she is fit for work again. It also entitles her to sick benefit from the social insurance fund during the period of her illness.
The ward doctor can be called home for any member of the worker’s family. The doctor’s visits are free of charge. Each doctor is attached to a particular ward in the district so that he becomes familiar with its inhabitants, can watch their health, and often give timely advice which helps to avert or check incipient ailments.

In addition to the district polyclinics, the health of the workers is cared for by the medical staffs that are
Quartz-lamp treatment at the Orekhovo Textile Mill
employed in all large Soviet enterprises. These doctors study the conditions of life and work of the workers and also the technological processes of the work carried on at the given plant; they also see to it that the sanitary and hygienic conditions in the shops are kept up to the proper standard.

In large plants there are medical-sanitary departments which coordinate the activities of the factory hospital, the factory polyclinic, the shop medical centres, the night sanatorium and the special diet dining room.

As a rule, the factory polyclinics are divided into a therapeutical and surgical department and provide medical advice and treatment for all complaints; they are furnished with X-ray apparatus, clinical-diagnostical laboratories, physio-therapeutic apparatus and a dental department. The medical staffs of these polyclinics also serve the inhabitants of the adjacent workers' settlements.

The staff of the shop medical centre serves the workers in the given shop. All workers in harmful occupations, young persons, men who were wounded in the war, expectant mothers, and certain other categories of workers undergo compulsory periodical medical examination.

The aim of the public health service in the Soviet Union is not only to heal sickness, but also to prevent it, to create conditions that will preclude the possibility of sickness. As a result of the improvement in the standard of living of the people and of the exemplary organization of the public health service there is a steady decline of sickness in the U.S.S.R.

State assignments for the protection of public health increase year after year. In 1946, the sum of 14,800,000,000 rubles was assigned in the State Budget for this purpose; the sum assigned in 1952 for health protection and physical culture is 22,800,000,000 rubles.

The Great October Socialist Revolution brought about a radical improvement of the health services in all the non-Russian republics of the U.S.S.R.
Elena Dronova, crane operator at the Kharkov Tractor Plant, is taking a course of treatment in the water and mud bath clinic built recently at the plant.
In the region that is now the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic, for example, there was no skilled medical service at all in the rural districts before 1917. At the present time there are over 6,000 village doctors and numerous country hospitals.

In 1917, in Turkmenistan there was hospital accommodation for only 66 persons, 7 dispensaries and 16 doctors to serve a population of 415,000. In the capital, Ashkhabad, at that time, there was hospital accommodation for 26 persons and only one bed was set aside for inhabitants of the Ashkhabad rural district.

Since the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic was established a large number of medical centres have been set up, both urban and rural. At the present time there are 1,500 certified doctors in the republic, over 6,000 doctors’ assistants and nurses, 95 professors and 100 medical research workers.

Medical aid of every kind, including the most highly specialized, is provided. Since 1940, hospital accommodation has increased nearly 50%.

There is a Medical Institute in the republic for training medical personnel, chiefly from among the Turkmen people.

In the vast territory that is now the Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic there was, before the October Revolution, hospital accommodation for only 100 persons, and there were only 16 doctors and several assistants. The sum spent by the tsarist government on the medical service in this region amounted to 30 kopeks per head of the population per annum.

The work of organizing a real public health service was started in the very first days after the Soviet regime was established in Kirghizia. Hospitals were built in the rural districts as well as in the towns, and the first mother and infant welfare centres were set up in the towns. At the present time there are hundreds of hospitals and thousands of doctors and trained nurses in the republic. The Medical Institute founded in the city of Frunze not so long ago already
The polyclinic at the Hammer and Sickle Mill in Kharkov has outfitted a sun-lamp department.
has 1,700 graduates. In every region there are now skilled specialists in the various branches of medicine.

The inhabitant of any remote mountain district of the republic, wherever he may be, in his village or in the pastures, can receive skilled medical assistance whenever he requires it. Doctors as well as medical consultants, professors and docents, from the capital often make flights to remote districts in planes of the aviation medical service.

Of immense assistance in the solution of the problems that face the Soviet public health authorities are the scientific research institutes that have been set up everywhere. In the Georgian S.S.R., for example, there are fourteen institutes of this kind, in which members and corresponding members of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the U.S.S.R., 83 professors and over 600 docents, assistants and Candidates of Medical Science are engaged.

An active part in the development of the Soviet public health service is played by the trade unions. They promote the extension of factory polyclinics, dispensaries, hospitals and medical centres and systematically supervise the work of these institutions in order to keep the medical service for the workers at a constantly high level. This supervision is exercised through active members of the trade unions, social insurance councils, and insurance delegates.

We quote below the opinion about the medical service provided for Soviet workers expressed by a Canadian trade union delegation that visited the Soviet Union in September-October 1951. In the report on its visit to the Soviet Union the delegation stated:

"The most striking thing in the factories, however, is the degree of service and attention given workers, and their families in the way of medical attention. This attention covers all industrial accidents and sickness. It is entirely free for every worker. Every factory, mine, or mill has a clinic that is equipped for any emergency. These clinics are staffed with doctors, nurses and all the equipment that
you would find in a fair-sized hospital in Canada. Not only has the worker free access to this, but also anyone of his family. Of course, the members of the worker’s family can receive free medical service at their district polyclinic and hospital. If a Soviet worker is run down and needs a rest, he can receive a place at a sanatorium or rest home. These sanatoriums are in no way inferior, and most of them, as regards equipment and in other respects, are superior to the majority of our health resorts. This great attention to the health of the worker is not confined to a few plants. You even find such facilities in the outlying lumber camps and on the collective farms.”
MOTHER AND CHILD CARE

In the Soviet Union, women, for the first time in the history of human society, enjoy equal rights with men.

The Constitution of the U.S.S.R. not only accords women equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, government, cultural and political life, but ensures them real possibilities of exercising these rights.

The Soviet Constitution says:

"Women in the U.S.S.R. are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other public activity.

The possibility of exercising these rights is ensured by women being accorded an equal right with men to work, payment for work, rest and leisure, social insurance and education, and by state protection of the interests of mother and child, state aid to mothers of large families and unmarried mothers, maternity leave with full pay, and the provision of a wide network of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens."

Women in the U.S.S.R. play an extremely important role in the national economy. Millions of women are working devotedly in field, factory and office, improving their skill in handling up-to-date machines and appliances and mastering advanced methods of production. Soviet women have every opportunity to learn any trade or profession they please. Over a million women are studying in higher educational establishments and technical schools.
Women in the U.S.S.R. take an active part in promoting the development of Soviet science and culture; over two and a half million women are working in the various scientific, educational and cultural institutions in the Soviet Union. Tens of thousands are working in universities, and scientific research institutes, enriching Soviet science with new researches and discoveries.

There are over a million women schoolteachers in the Soviet Union, and an equal number of women are engaged in the public health service. Since 1940, the number of women doctors more than doubled.

Soviet women are able to take such an active part in the national economy and in promoting the development of science and culture because conditions have been created in the Soviet Union which ease women's task in caring for their families and in bringing up their children.
Working and professional women are able to put their children in day nurseries or kindergartens which, as a rule, are situated near their place of work. They have to pay only a small part of the cost of the maintenance of their children at these institutions, the bulk of the cost being borne by the state. In the nurseries and kindergartens the children are well looked after and receive nourishing food and medical attention.

The network of children's institutions, such as nurseries, kindergartens and pioneer camps in the Soviet Union is expanding year after year. The nurseries, kindergartens and children's homes wholly maintained by the state cater for about two million children. The law lays it down that factory managements must provide day nurseries with accommodation for twelve infants and kindergartens with accommodation for fifteen children for every hundred women employed in the given factory. When dwelling houses are erected, no less than 5% of the total floor space is set aside for day nurseries and kindergartens.

In the summer children's homes, kindergartens and nurseries move out into the country, and children's sanatoriums, pioneer camps and tourist camps are organized for school children during the summer vacation. In 1951, over 5,000,000 children spent the summer in the country.

Expectant mothers receive special service during pregnancy and childbirth in addition to all other forms of medical service. In the U.S.S.R. there is a wide network of maternity homes and medical consulting rooms for mothers and children.

The Soviet state glorifies motherhood and bestows on mothers public honour.

Three and a half million women have been awarded the Motherhood Glory Order and the Motherhood Medal. Over 35,000 women proudly wear the Gold Star of the Mother Heroine that is awarded to mothers who have reared ten and more children.
In the kindergarten at the Kochevarka Colliery in Gorlovka, Stalino Region

The care the Soviet state devotes to mothers and children is also demonstrated by the special grants and allowances that are paid to mothers of large families and to unmarried mothers.

The payment of grants to mothers of large families was first introduced in the U.S.S.R. in 1936. On July 8, 1944, the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. passed an act providing for “an increase in state assistance to expectant mothers, mothers of large families and unmarried mothers, for increasing mother and child care services, for the institution of the honourable title of Mother Heroine, and for awarding the Motherhood Glory Order and the Motherhood Medal.” The grants and allowances paid to mothers of large families and to unmarried mothers run into large sums every year. Since the time the above-mentioned act was passed the total sum paid for this purpose has amounted
to over 20,000,000,000 rubles; in 1951 alone it amounted to 6,000,000,000 rubles.

Until 1944, mothers of large families received grants, which were paid only on the birth of the seventh, eighth, ninth, etc., child. Now the grants are paid on the birth of the third and every additional child, which, of course, greatly increases the number of mothers entitled to these grants. Besides, by its Act of July 8, 1944, the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. provided for the payment of monthly allowances to mothers of large families in addition to the maternity grant which had been paid hitherto.

These monthly allowances are paid until the child reaches the age of five. On the birth of the next child the mother receives a grant and a monthly allowance for it, while continuing to receive the monthly allowance for the previous child until it reaches the age of five.

Take Mother Heroine Ludmila Timonkina of Moscow: in the course of five years she received a total sum of 63,000 rubles. Mother Heroine Anna Krupnik, a worker at a machine-building plant in Moscow, received over 42,000 rubles. Elizaveta Ivanovskaya, a schoolteacher in Zamostoch, Minsk Region, has eleven children; since 1945 she has received a total of 40,000 rubles from the state and continues to receive an allowance of 400 rubles per month. Matrena Loshchinova, of the city of Frunze, a mother of ten children, has during the past three years received a total of 40,000 rubles. Mother Heroine Maria Mikhalikova, a worker at the Charvodar State Farm in the Tajik S.S.R., who has reared twelve children, has received grants and allowances amounting to 80,000 rubles.

If the mother of a large family who gives birth to another child is a factory or office worker, or the wife of a factory or office worker, she receives in addition to the state maternity grant, an extra grant from the social insurance fund of 120 rubles for purchasing the nursery requirements for her newborn child and also a nursing grant of 180 rubles.
A nursery for children of employees of the Moscow underground railway

The Soviet laws ensure the protection of female labour, of the rights of the working mother, and of motherhood and infancy.

The law makes it obligatory for factory or office managements to put women employees expecting to become mothers on lighter and more convenient work if necessary, and their pay must remain the same as they received before.
In general, the Soviet labour laws prohibit the employment of women on heavy work or work dangerous to health. There is a special list of occupations in which the employment of female labour is prohibited, and the weights women are allowed to lift and carry in the course of their work are strictly limited.

In the gravest period in the history of the Soviet Union the Soviet Government found it possible to improve the conditions of working mothers. The above-mentioned act passed on July 8, 1944, in the most intense period of the war, provided for an increase in the maternity leave for factory and office women workers from 63 to 77 calendar days, namely, 35 days before and 42 days after childbirth, with full pay for the whole period to be paid out of the social insurance fund. In cases of abnormal childbirth, or of the birth of twins, postnatal leave is extended to 56 calendar days.

Where a nursing mother, on returning to work after her maternity leave is unable to perform her former duties in factory or office, she must be put on other work in the same factory or office, and irrespective of the grade of the new work she is put on, she receives her former pay during the whole period she nurses her child (approximately for one year).
HAPPY CHILDHOOD

Children in the Soviet Union are the objects of universal care and affection. The road of life, the road to a bright and joyous future lies open before them. Before them lies the prospect of free creative labour for the benefit of their country and of the whole of mankind.

The Soviet state stints no resources for the upbringing of the younger generation. In 1951 alone, the state spent 59,000,000,000 rubles on education.

Universal seven-year education is now the rule all over the country. During the first postwar five-year plan period a large number of new elementary, seven-year, and middle schools as well as technical schools of all kinds have been built. The number of children attending school increased by 8,000,000 during this period, and in 1950 reached 37,000,000. The fifth five-year plan for the development of the U.S.S.R. in 1951-55 provides for an increase in the building of schools of 70 per cent over the preceding five years. By the end of the period covered by the plan universal seven-year education will be supplanted by universal secondary (ten-year) education in the large cities and the conditions will be prepared for its country-wide implementation in the following five-year plan period. Besides, in order further to enhance the socialist educational merits of the general school and to provide secondary school graduates with the opportunity of freely choosing among the professions, polytechnical schooling will be introduced in the ten-year
schools and the ground will be laid for the transition to universal polytechnical education.

There has been an extensive development in the Soviet Union of preschool education. As we have already stated, about 2,000,000 children attend day nurseries and kindergartens during the time their mothers are at work.

The Soviet state takes paternal care of orphans. Orphan children are maintained in children's homes. When they are old enough they attend school and later apprenticeship or technical schools. They are kept on full maintenance by the state until they can independently earn their livelihood.

Every year the Soviet state spends several billions of rubles on the maintenance of children's institutions.

What are the kindergartens like?

They are organized in clean, bright, well-furnished premises, supplied with all that is needed for the children's entertainment and instruction. The children are under the constant care of trained teachers and nurses and receive medical attention. They receive nourishing food. They play games, go for walks in neighbouring parks, learn to sing, to draw and to dance. In the summer they move out into the country.

We have also mentioned the sanatoriums and pioneer camps organized for school children during the summer vacation. In these camps the pleasures of country life are combined with useful instruction.

Take, for example, the pioneer camp organized near Moscow by the Krasnoye Znamya Textile Mill for the children of their workers. It is situated in the grounds of an ancient mansion. Large, bright dormitories, the dining room and recreation rooms for rainy days are provided in a two-story building. All the time the children are at the camp they are under the supervision of experienced teachers and doctors, and their activities are arranged to suit their age groups. They spend most of their time in the grounds or in the surrounding countryside. They go bathing in the nearby river, take sun and air baths, roam in the woods,
District children's doctor L. Smirnova visits one of her young patients
play football, volleyball, and other games; they organize chess tournaments, dramatic, choir and art circles, naturalists' and anglers' circles, photography and radio circles; they make mineral collections and herbariums, which they bring to school when they return home. The children get four nourishing meals a day. There are concert performances, amateur talent evenings, film shows, sports contests and hikes and excursions. Altogether, they have a merry and instructive time.

The parents pay less than a third of the cost of maintenance per child. The rest is paid by the trade union out of the social insurance fund. One-tenth of the places in the camp are provided free of charge for children whose fathers were killed in the Patriotic War and also for children of disabled war veterans and for children of large families.

The camp opens at the beginning of June and closes at the end of August. The children come in two batches, each staying 40 days. In 1951, eight hundred children spent a holiday at the camp.

In 1925, the Artek Pioneer Camp was founded, a splendid children's health resort at the foot of Mount Ayu-Dag, on the Crimean coast. Every year 12,000 boys and girls from all parts of the Soviet Union spend a holiday at this summer camp.

Pioneer country homes have achieved well-deserved popularity in the Soviet Union as a splendid means of educating children and strengthening their health during the summer vacation.

These country homes are organized by the trade union committees in conjunction with the management of the given factory or office. Since the war the trade unions throughout the country have sent over 13,500,000 children to such camps, meeting the cost out of the social insurance fund.

In 1951 the trade unions spent 700,000,000 rubles out of the social insurance fund for the maintenance, improvement and equipment of pioneer camps. Besides, large sums
are spent from the social insurance fund for the organization of extra-school activities for children.

In the Soviet Union wide opportunities exist for the development of children's talent and for the satisfaction of their diverse requirements and interests.

Extra-school activities are conducted by more than 1,000 Pioneer Palaces and Pioneer Halls, 400 young technicians' centres, 230 young naturalists' centres, and 140 children's and puppet theatres. There is also a ramified network of children's music, art and sports schools.

These institutions give Soviet children the opportunity to supplement the knowledge they obtain at school and to develop their capabilities and talent to the utmost.

The trade unions show deep concern for children, placing at their disposal, for extra-school activities, the network of cultural establishments, stadiums and athletic fields which they maintain.
In recent years the trade union cultural clubs and Houses and Palaces of Culture have set up some 1,500 children's departments and juvenile science and mechanics centres. Four hundred thousand boys and girls attend various art, technical and other circles at trade union clubs. More than 1,000 children's libraries and children's departments at libraries for adults have been opened. The trade union libraries number among their steady readers more than 1,200,000 children.

Many clubs have established close contacts with schools and parents and teachers. On Sundays and holidays they arrange concerts, plays and film shows, literary evenings, discussions of books, and meetings with prominent men and women of the land. During the winter school vacations clubs hold New Year parties for children, as well as excursions, ski outings and sports competitions. The spring school vacations are marked by a Juvenile Literature Week, with literary get-togethers with writers and artists. In 1951 more than 81,000,000 children took part in these various activities.

Here, for example, is a brief account of the extra-school activities arranged by the Metallurgical Workers' Palace of Culture in the city of Magnitogorsk, in the Urals. This palace is highly popular among both adults and children. There is a children's library, Sunday lectures are arranged for children, there is a Young Historians' Club, there are 16 art-training circles and 35 technical, sports and other circles attended by 1,500 children. These circles are conducted by the best instructors in Magnitogorsk. About 700 children attend the 33 young technicians' circles. There are radio-technicians' circles, shipbuilding, electrical engineering, photography, thermal engineering, bookbinding, physics, chemistry, naturalists' and carpenters' circles. There are an electrical engineering laboratory, photographer's dark room, and aircraft-model, mechanic's and carpenter's workshops.
Thousands of boys and girls spend their summer vacation in the Crimea, on the Black Sea. Photo shows a group of children in a Crimean sanatorium.
The workshops are furnished with wood-turning and metal-turning lathes, drills, electric saws (strip and circular), electric grinding and polishing lathes, carpenters' benches, a mechanic's vice and all kinds of tools. There is a permanent exhibition of models made by the children.

The trade unions show constant concern for the upbringing of a healthy, strong and happy young generation. Such a happy childhood can be obtained only in a country where the people rule.

* * *

In the U.S.S.R., social insurance is built on a genuinely democratic basis. The entire social insurance scheme is managed by the trade unions, by the working people themselves. The social insurance fund is, as we have said, made up of contributions paid by factory and office managements.

The contributions paid by the factory and office managements are passed on to the central committees of the respective trade unions, and the latter endorse the social insurance expenditure estimates of the factory or office trade union committees.

The expenditure of social insurance funds in the Soviet Union is under the constant public supervision of the working people. Over 1,500,000 active trade unionists, 50% of whom are women, conduct social insurance activities at their place of work. They are not paid for this work, done in off hours. Their active participation ensures the proper expenditure of social insurance funds for the greatest benefit of the working people.

At all factories and offices the workers elect by open vote social insurance councils, which determine the extent of sick and other benefits, see that workers receive proper medical attention, issue certificates for medical dieting, and distribute places in rest homes and sanatoriums among the workers and in pioneer camps for their children.

The social insurance councils work under the direction
of the factory or office trade union committees and they give account of their activities to general meetings of the workers.

Reports on expenditure of social insurance funds are periodically published in the factory or office newspapers and posted up in the various shops for the information of all the workers.

To illustrate how the social insurance councils operate we shall quote the example of the Ordjonikidze Machine-Building Plant in the Urals. An important place in its activities is occupied by the question of preventing disease. This is natural, for the prevention of sickness is one of the principal functions of the social insurance council at every factory and office.

At the Urals Machine-Building Plant, for example, the doctors not only receive patients at the polyclinic, but watch the health of every worker in the shop. The workers undergo periodical medical examination, and if necessary a course of treatment is prescribed or accommodation at a sanatorium is provided.

The conditions of labour of the Soviet workers are under constant medical supervision. The doctor reports his findings to the social insurance council which sees to it that the necessary measures are taken to prevent sickness or accidents.

In the autumn of 1951, the social insurance council at the Urals Machine-Building Plant heard the report of the manager of the steel-rolling shop on the measures he had taken to reduce sickness in his shop. Reports had shown that there had lately been a slight increase in colds in section four of this shop. The social insurance council had appointed a subcommittee to investigate the causes of this and now had its report before it. Basing itself on the findings of the subcommittee, the social insurance council instructed the shop manager and the plant manager to take immediate measures to remove the causes indicated in the report.
It is easier to prevent illness than to cure it. Working to this principle, the social insurance council at the Urals Machine-Building Plant draws up a yearly plan of health-promoting and sanitary measures and sees to it that this plan is carried out.

The social insurance council arranges regular lectures and talks in the shops on the prevention of sickness and accidents. Every shop doctor delivers at least three or four lectures or talks per month, explaining in popular language the measures to be taken to prevent this or that illness.

An important part in the work of the social insurance council is played by the insurance delegates who are elected by open vote at a general trade union meeting in each shop. The insurance delegates visit sick workers and see to it that they get whatever assistance they need.

In all the shops and departments of enterprises and institutions having their trade union committees, social insurance commissions are set up, which number from 3 to 9 persons from among the members of the committee and insurance delegates. In accordance with existing legislation these commissions grant and determine the extent of allowances to the temporarily disabled workers and employees of their shop, work to reduce sickness and accidents, and supervise the activities of the insurance delegates. The shop commissions send the workers and employees to sanatoriums and holiday homes and their children to children's institutions and Young Pioneer summer camps, and help applicants for pensions to receive what is due to them.

There are many insurance delegates who perform their duties so well that they are re-elected year after year. Such a one is Praskovya Ikonnikova, a worker at the Teykov Cotton Mill in the Ivanovo Region, who about twenty years ago was elected as an insurance delegate. From the very outset she was conscious of the importance of her duty to care for the health of her fellow workers and to help them to recover as quickly as possible when they fell sick. Love and care for the working people and the urge to help them
when in need fills a great part of her life. Every woman in her shop knows that if she falls sick, Ikonnikova will be sure to visit her and have a chat about the doings at the mill and about things generally, and bring her every assistance she requires.

* * *

It is a great happiness to live and work in the Soviet Union where the state is concerned for the welfare of every citizen, and where everything is done to promote the growth of the prosperity of the people and the development of their culture.

The working people who create all wealth are the actual masters in the Land of Socialism. All things are accessible to them: work in freedom, science and art. The road to any occupation they choose is open to them. Every Soviet citizen feels that he is master of his own destiny, a creator of the future, a participant in great works that are enhancing the might and glory of the socialist state. Day after day the Soviet people are becoming more prosperous. Every worker in the Soviet Union is paid according to the quantity and quality of his work. Wages and real wages of workers and other employees are steadily increasing. Improvement in the material conditions and social services of the workers by hand and brain is the law in socialist society.

The Soviet social insurance system strikingly illustrates the concern of the state for raising the living and cultural standard of the people.

The workers and office employees in the U.S.S.R. are confident of tomorrow, for the Soviet system has liberated them forever from the curse of unemployment and poverty, and assures them security in case of illness or disablement and on reaching old age.
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