THE FIFTEEN SOVIET REPUBLICS
TODAY AND TOMORROW

AZERBAIJAN

A Land in Bloom



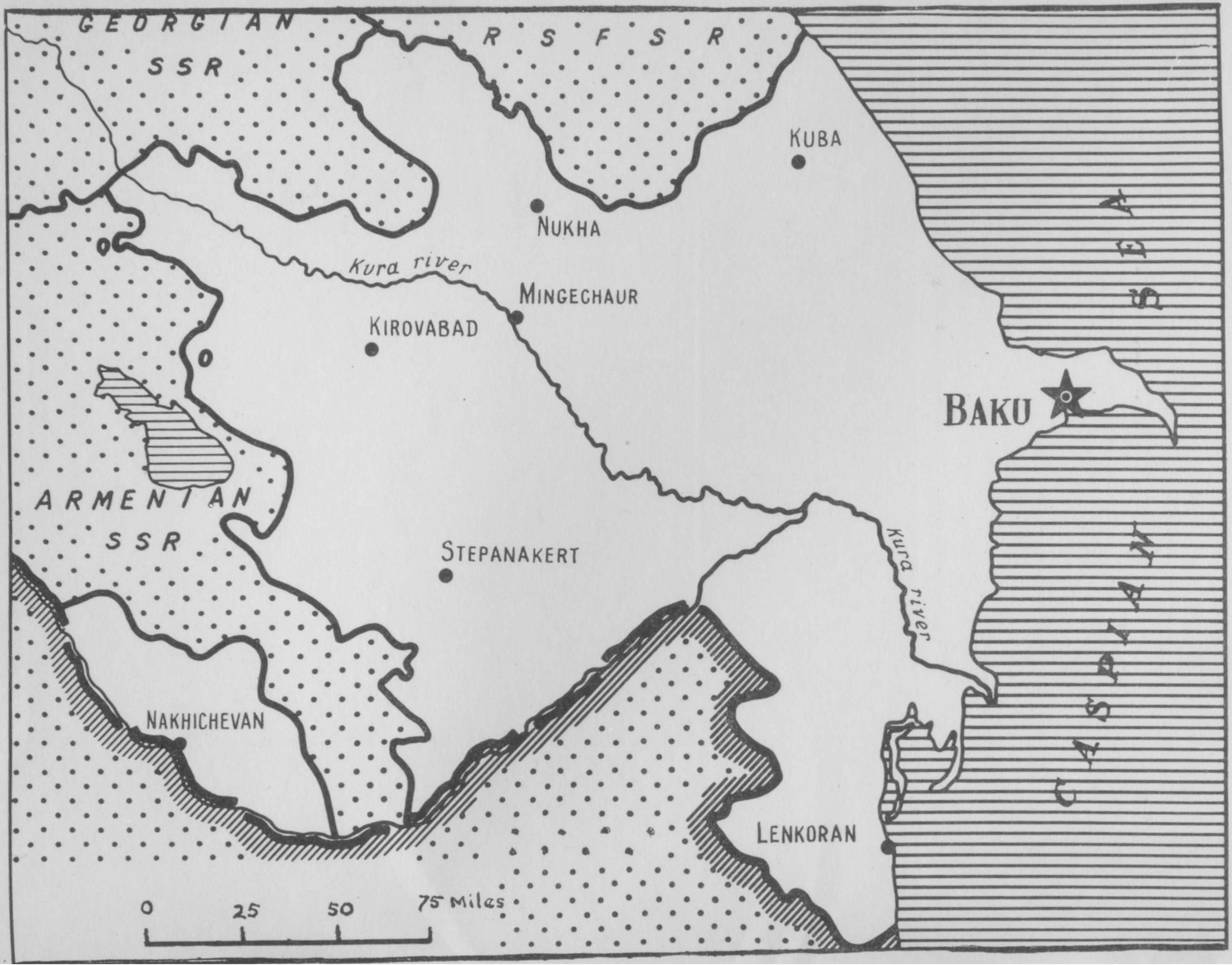
Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic

by

Mamed Iskenderov
Chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers

Soviet Booklet No. 60/G

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MAMED ISKENDEROV

A Note on the Author

MAMED ISKENDEROV was born in the small village of Eivazlar, in 1915. The Soviet system gave him, the son of a poor peasant, wide opportunities. At the age of fourteen, after finishing elementary school, he enrolled at Azerbaijan Teachers' Secondary School.

On receiving his teacher's certificate he left for the distant village of Khanlyg where he worked for some time as a secondary-school teacher.

On returning to Baku, Mamed Iskenderov enrolled at the Azerbaijan Industrial Institute, receiving the diploma of a geological engineer.

During the Second World War he was with the engineering corps of the Soviet Army and participated in the defence of the Caucasus against the Nazi invaders.

After being demobilised from the army he worked in the oil industry. Mamed Iskenderov successfully combined his work with his studies, presenting first his master's thesis and then his doctor's thesis in geology and mineralogy.

From 1949 Mamed Iskenderov held a number of important posts in the oil industry. In 1953 he became Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan. In 1959 he became Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan S.S.R.

Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic

A Land Ancient Yet New

AZERBAIJAN is a small country in Transcaucasia with an area of 34,600 square miles and a population of 3,700,000.

Most of its territory is mountainous: the Greater Caucasus in the north, the Lesser Caucasus in the west, and the Talysh Mountains in the south.

In between these three ranges lies the Kura-Aras lowland, the republic's main agricultural region, which is bordered by the Caspian on the east.

Baku, capital of Azerbaijan and one of the Soviet Union's largest industrial and cultural centres, stands on the Apsheron Peninsula, on the Caspian coast.

Our republic is a land of mountains with a splendid climate and curative springs, with plains that blossom the year round, as if it were eternal springtime there. It is an ancient and at the same time young land of countless natural riches.

Azerbaijan has the world's largest reserves of oil as well as deposits of iron ore, copper, pyrite and barite. It also has rock salt, arsenic, molybdenum, iodine, bromine and various chemical raw materials, building materials and mineral fertilisers.

The agricultural produce is varied, ranging from cotton and wheat to barley, tobacco and tea. There are large orchards and vineyards. Animal husbandry is highly developed.

Azerbaijan is a country with an ancient culture and a long history, but it came into full flower only after 1920, when it established the Soviet system.

The centuries-old struggle of the Azerbaijan people for freedom and independence, for the right to decide their own destiny, was crowned in April 1920 with the proclamation of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. Having taken power into their own hands, the working people became the real sovereigns of their country for the first time.

The Communist Party has played a great role in the historic gains of the working people of Azerbaijan. Communists headed the people's struggle for economic and social emancipation, and took up arms to defend the Soviet system against its numerous foreign enemies. They have always marched in the vanguard of the builders of the new life.

That is why the Communist Party of Azerbaijan enjoys the love and gratitude of the workers, peasants and intellectuals. The Communist Party has opened up to the Azerbaijan people—as to all the other nations of the Soviet Union—a clear and straight road to prosperity and culture.

The October Revolution of 1917 put an end for ever to the oppression of national minorities by tsarism. It gave the Azerbaijan people freedom and independence. The Communist Party's solution of the national problem is a voluntary alliance

of nations that excludes any form of violence by one nation against another and is founded on complete trust, fraternal unity and accord.

An important event in the life of all the nations of the Soviet land, including the Azerbaijanians, was the formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1922.

The Soviet Republics formed this union because they felt the need to pool their economic and financial resources and put them to the most rational use in order to restore the economy, which had been wrecked by the Civil War and the foreign intervention, and then to go on to build a socialist society.

Furthermore, in view of the natural division of labour which had taken shape through the centuries among the various regions of Russia, as well as the close economic ties between them, the Soviet Republics could not have made good progress if they lived separately.

Multi-National State

The Soviet Union is a new type of multi-national state. It is founded not on the subordination and oppression of some nations by others but on equality and fraternal co-operation.

Mutual assistance, and above all the aid given by the Russian people, enabled backward Azerbaijan quickly to build up and expand her industries and rich agriculture, and train a large number of engineers, doctors and other specialists. In a word, to become a republic which is now thriving in all spheres.

Machine-tools made in Moscow and Leningrad, Riga and Sverdlovsk are to be seen at Azerbaijan factories and mills. Farm machines from Rostov and Chelyabinsk, Minsk and Stalingrad are working on the fields of our republic. Passenger cars, lorries and buses made in Gorky, Lvov and Moscow drive along the streets of our towns and villages.

The close economic ties between the Soviet republics promote their rapid progress.

The Soviet Union has a unified system of finances. Each constituent republic, however, has its own state budget.

Every year the highest organ of power in the Soviet Union, the Supreme Soviet, considers and approves the State Budget of the U.S.S.R., which determines the sources of revenue and the expenditure for financing the national economy and for social, cultural and other undertakings.

Incidentally, the lion's share of the budget revenue is made up of the profits of state establishments. Taxes on the population account for only 7.8 per cent of the revenue, and in a few years from now they will be done away with altogether.

The Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. also determines the budgets of the Union Republics.

To ensure that the interests of each republic are taken into consideration the Supreme Soviet consists of two equal chambers, the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities. Each Union Republic is represented in the Soviet of Nationalities by an equal number of deputies; each Autonomous

Republic, Autonomous Region and National Area also has equal representation.

After thorough examination in the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities the State Budget of the U.S.S.R. is submitted for the approval of a joint sitting of the two chambers.

The revenue side of the budgets of the Union Republics is made up of receipts from the enterprises under their jurisdiction and also a percentage of the U.S.S.R. revenue and taxes.

The budgets of the Union Republics are growing from year to year The 1959 budget of Azerbaijan, for instance, is 5,286,850,000 roubles, or nearly 225 million roubles more than in 1958.

With the fraternal assistance of the other Soviet nations the Azerbaijan people have made striking economic and cultural progress.

Our Main Wealth

Azerbaijan used to be known only for its oil industry. Now we have built up many other heavy industries and developed them to a high level: power production, engineering, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, ore mining, chemicals.

We have also made big progress in expanding the light industries, particularly textiles. In Soviet times our industrial output (not counting oil extraction) has increased nearly forty times. The output of oil has grown nearly seven times.

Azerbaijan's economy is developing at a faster rate than that of the central regions of the U.S.S.R. (from 1913 to 1958 gross industrial output in the Soviet Union as a whole went up thirty-six times). This is a result of the Soviet Government's policy of promoting the most rapid economic and cultural advancement in the former tsarist border regions.

Azerbaijan now produces iron ore, steel, rolled stock, aluminium, synthetic rubber, machinery for the oil industry, ball bearings, electrical goods, mobile power generators, steel pipes, building materials, television sets and many other consumer goods and foodstuffs.

Up until 1920 Azerbaijan had to depend on outside sources for nearly everything it needed, from matches to the simplest machines. Today it exports more than 120 industrial items and equipment to countries in Europe, Asia and Africa.

Azerbaijan now produces, per head of the population, more electric power than Italy and France, more steel than Japan and Italy, more cement than Japan and has a bigger fish catch than France.

Still, the oil industry is the main branch of our economy. Efficient technology and organisation of production ensuring a steady rise in labour productivity are the features of the Azerbaijan oil industry today.

"Oil Academy"

Before 1920, oil was extracted only on the Apsheron peninsula. Now the derricks stretch out along the bank of the Kura, the foothills of the mountains, and also far out into the Caspian Sea.

Baku, our capital, is often called an "oil academy". And with good reason. Many engineers who are now working in new oil districts of

the Soviet Union went through a splendid school there. Oilmen from abroad also come to Azerbaijan to learn new methods.

A big achievement of Azerbaijan's oilworkers is the development of new gas deposits. The production of natural gas is growing rapidly. Total production last year was about 6 million cubic yards. Nearly all the republic's power stations, industrial establishments and municipal services have been transferred to gas, a convenient and economical fuel.

The reorganisation of the system of management of industry and construction carried out in 1957 played an important part in accelerating our industrial development.

An Economic Council was set up in our republic and is doing good work. It has under its jurisdiction more than 380 industrial enterprises and construction sites and other organisations.

Previously, all these establishments and organisations were subordinated to different government agencies. The biggest ones came under the jurisdiction of the U.S.S.R. Ministries, which had their headquarters in Moscow. Others were managed by various Azerbaijan Ministries.

In its time this system of management played a positive role. It helped to concentrate labour and raw material resources and also production capacities on the most important sectors during the period when Azerbaijan's economy was getting on its feet and acquiring strength.

Today, however, when the republic's economy has reached a high level, when Azerbaijan has its own highly qualified economic executives and engineers, management of the republic's economic life has been reorganised to give as much scope as possible to the initiative of all establishments and their staff.

All factories, mills, mines, construction projects and other establishments in the republic are subordinated to the Azerbaijan Economic Council. The formation of the Economic Council has contributed to Azerbaijan's further rapid economic advancement.

Our Flourishing Farms

There are now about 1,500 big collective farms and seventy-five state farms in Azerbaijan. Each year sees larger crop areas, higher yields, more livestock and higher livestock productivity.

In the five years from 1954 to 1958 the production of our main industrial crop, cotton, went up 68 per cent compared with the previous five years; tobacco, 27 per cent; green tea leaves, nearly 200 per cent; grapes, 50 per cent; vegetables, 100 per cent. The total crop area increased from 2,700,000 acres in 1953 to 3,200,000 in 1958.

The number of cattle increased in five years by 176,700 head, including an increase of 95,700 in the number of cows. The production of meat (taking into account the growth of the herds) rose by 63 per cent; milk, 64 per cent; eggs, 70 per cent; wool, 20 per cent, including an increase of nearly 200 per cent in the fine-fleeced and semi-fine-fleeced varieties.

State expenditure on agricultural development totalled more than 2,000 million roubles between 1952 and 1959.

Big sums have been invested in irrigation and drainage work. In the

sixty-nine districts where irrigation farming is carried out the length of the canals is about 28,000 miles; and the drainage network is some 2,000 miles long.

The outlays on irrigation and drainage pay for themselves very quickly. The yield of cotton per acre is now nearly six times as high as in 1920. Harvests and yields of tobacco, grapes and other fruit, and cocoons have also risen, as has the output of livestock products.

The achievements attained in Azerbaijan's agriculture are the result of carrying out the measures of the Communist Party aimed at a rapid development of this branch of the economy.

These include: an increase in state purchasing prices for agricultural produce, the complete abolition of state deliveries from the personal economies of collective farmers, much greater provision of machinery to the collective farms, and the reinforcement of agriculture with leading production and technical personnel.

Our Towns

In the thirty-nine years of the Soviet system* the towns of Azerbaijan have changed beyond recognition. A number of new industrial centres has arisen. Lovely Baku has spread out along the shore of its broad bay and now has a population of 968,000.

The breath of antiquity is wafted to you from the graceful structures of the Khan's Palace, the Maiden Tower, and the Sukharan temple of fire-worshippers, a reminder that gas fountains flamed here in ancient times.

Every once in a while you come across reminders of past centuries in the old town, the Citadel, with its maze of narrow lanes. But antiquity is not the main feature of Baku, a city which has acquired a second youth.

Blocks of new flats rise in tiers from the shore all the way up to the plateau. The city expanded to this section not so long ago, but looking at the streets you find it hard to believe that this place was once stony wasteland.

The massive buildings of the Polytechnical Institute, the huge structures of the Academy of Sciences, the hotels, and most of all, the blocks of spacious flats with all modern conveniences have given the city an entirely new appearance.

Nor is the plateau the only section to be built up. New blocks of flats have appeared in many other parts of Baku.

Second youth has also come to other towns of Azerbaijan. Kirovabad has expanded greatly; Nukha, famed for its silk, is a flourishing garden-town; Mingechaur, a big hydro-electric centre, has been built up anew.

The young industrial giant of Sumgait, a town of hospitable squares, avenues and boulevards, is expanding and improving day by day. Founded fifteen years ago on a deserted spot along the coast, it now has broad streets lined on both sides with four- and five-storey houses, stretching from the factory grounds to the shore.

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* i.e. in Azerbaijan. The Soviet system has existed in most of present-day U.S.S.R. for forty-two years—Ed.

The People Come First

Azerbaijan's vigorous industrial and agricultural development is a firm basis for the steady improvement in the people's living standards.

Today, very few remember the time when poverty and ignorance were the lot of thousands upon thousands of Azerbaijanians. The slums have disappeared. Unemployment has been done away with forever.

All roads are open to the younger generation. They can choose any trade or profession they like. Interesting work awaits them in the oil fields and the factories, in the ore mines and vineyards, in the collieries and cotton plantations.

Besides creative satisfaction, the Soviet citizen receives fair payment for his work. Real earnings are rising from year to year. In the period from 1940 to 1958, for instance, the real incomes of industrial, office and professional workers doubled and those of collective farmers more than doubled.

The Soviet State puts the interests of the people before everything else. It does everything to make the life of the people better and better all the time.

In the past few years, for instance, it has raised the wages of factory and office workers in the lower-paid category; repealed the taxation of low-paid factory and office workers and students who receive small grants; adopted a new pensions law substantially increasing old-age pensions; reduced the working day by two hours on the days preceding free days and the days before holidays; started the gradual switch over of factories to a six- or seven-hour day without any cut in wages; freed, beginning with 1958, the personal husbandries of collective farmers and of workers from any deliveries of farm produce to the state.

The scale of housing construction in Azerbaijan is growing from year to year. The Communist Party and the Soviet Government devote utmost attention to this question. The target is to provide all Soviet people with modern housing during the next ten to twelve years.

This programme is being successfully carried out. Most of the construction is financed by the state. Rent, gas, electricity, and so on amount to an insignificant sum, not more than 4 to 6 per cent of the family's monthly earnings.

Life Marches Ahead

It is not only in the towns that new blocks of flats are going up. A large army of builders is developing lands that had lain idle.

The cement and gypsum works in Karadag was founded eight years ago. A modern housing estate standing amid a profusion of vegetation has been built nearby. Nearly everybody employed at the works has a house of two or three rooms and a large garden plot. There is no need to go inside the houses to get an idea of the material position of their inhabitants: on the roof of each house you will see radio and TV aerials.

To each of these householders Karadag is associated with the best things in his life: here he is doing the work he likes, here he has his home, into which happiness has come to stay.

Life marches ahead at a rapid stride. Each new year brings people

something new, something good. People have begun to dress better. The shops carry a wide range of high-grade goods.

Every year the consumer goods factories manufacture more woollen, silk and cotton fabrics, footwear, clothing, knitted goods, and so on.

In 1958 the light and food industries of our republic produced about 7 million yards of silk fabrics, nearly 10 million articles of knitted underwear, 6,500,000 pairs of leather footwear, 38,000 tons of meat and sausage, 96 million tins of food, 7,700,000 gallons of wine, and large quantities of butter, tea, confectionery and other goods. These figures are not so small when you remember that the population of our republic is 3,700,000.

In a socialist country every citizen is constantly aware of the support and aid he receives from the state. Here, for instance, is what A. Akperova, a worker at the Volodarsky Factory in Baku, says in a letter to a newspaper:

"I am an ordinary working woman, a mother who has brought up eight children. What could give a mother greater joy than to see her children healthy, attending school, and working conscientiously?

"After finishing secondary school my eldest daughter, Khumar, went to work at the Volodarsky Clothing Factory. My eldest son, Eldar, is in the ninth form. Another three sons also go to school. The three youngest children, Khoshbakht, Intigam and Sakina, attend kindergarten.

"My husband and I would have a hard time raising such a large family if the state did not help us. We receive a monthly grant-in-aid from the state.

"When boarding schools were first opened a few years ago we put our son Takhir in one of them. He likes it there very much.

"Not long ago the factory kindergarten, which we call our 'flower garden,' moved into new premises, large and comfortable enough so the children can stay there all week. We take them home on Saturdays for the week-end."

There are many families like this one in Azerbaijan. Before the revolution theirs was a hard lot; today they lead a rewarding and happy life.

The schools, hospitals, recreation centres, theatres, parks and sports stadiums in Azerbaijan are built for the use of the entire population.

There are no children in Azerbaijan who do not attend school. Yet not so long ago 90 per cent of the population was illiterate.

Forty years ago the inhabitants of many mountain villages had no idea of the meaning of the words "doctor" or "hospital". Today Azerbaijan has 8,400 doctors and 23,000 persons with an intermediate medical education. Our republic has more doctors per thousand inhabitants than any other country in Europe, Asia or America.

Masters of Their Fate

The Azerbaijan people have been leading a new life for only thirty-nine years. Yet these thirty-nine years are equal to many centuries when you consider the changes that have taken place in our land. The most wonderful change of all, of course, is in the people themselves—men who have found a worthy place in life through free labour, women who have cast off the hated veil and acquired equal rights with men.

The story of Aladdin and the magic lamp with which he found the hidden treasure is famous throughout the East. It is a story that often comes to mind when you look at the Azerbaijan people today.

What would shepherd Makhmud Hasanov and his wife Khalisa have said forty years ago if anyone had told them their daughter would one day be helping to govern the country? They never would have believed it. But Makhmud's daughter Shamama is today a member of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. and an honorary member of the Academy of Agriculture of Azerbaijan. She has been awarded high Government honours in recognition of her excellent work.

The children of many workers and peasants have become famous. At the age of twenty-five Khudu Mamedov, son of an illiterate peasant, became an eminent crystallographer.

Aslan Osmanov left his native mountain village of Juliam together with his friends in 1944, when he was nineteen. They went to help build the new town of Sumgait. Today Osmanov is well-known in the Ukraine, Siberia, the Baltic Republics and Kazakhstan for his work as stonemason.

In Sumgait, where he has worked for fifteen years, he helped to build a tube rolling mill, a synthetic rubber factory, schools and dwellings. Today stonemasons come from many other towns to study Osmanov's work methods.

Osmanov studied in his spare time in the secondary school he and his team built. After he married he moved into a flat in a house he also helped to erect.

He was a delegate to the Twenty-First Congress of the Communist Party, at which the target figures for the development of the Soviet economy beween 1959 and 1965 were adopted.

These are far from isolated examples. Many men and women in Azerbaijan have had similar lives.

"The Privileged Class"

In the Soviet Union all citizens are equal in the eyes of the law. A man's position is determined not by wealth or heredity but by the work he performs. There are no classes or social groups that enjoy privileges—with one exception, the children.

The Azerbaijanian's love of children has a particular sincerity and warmth. In the parks and playgrounds you will see children of all ages, from the tiniest tots to neatly-dressed schoolboys and girls wearing red Young Pioneer ties. Every courtyard has a playground with a sign over the entrance saying "Khosh Geldiniz," meaning "Welcome".

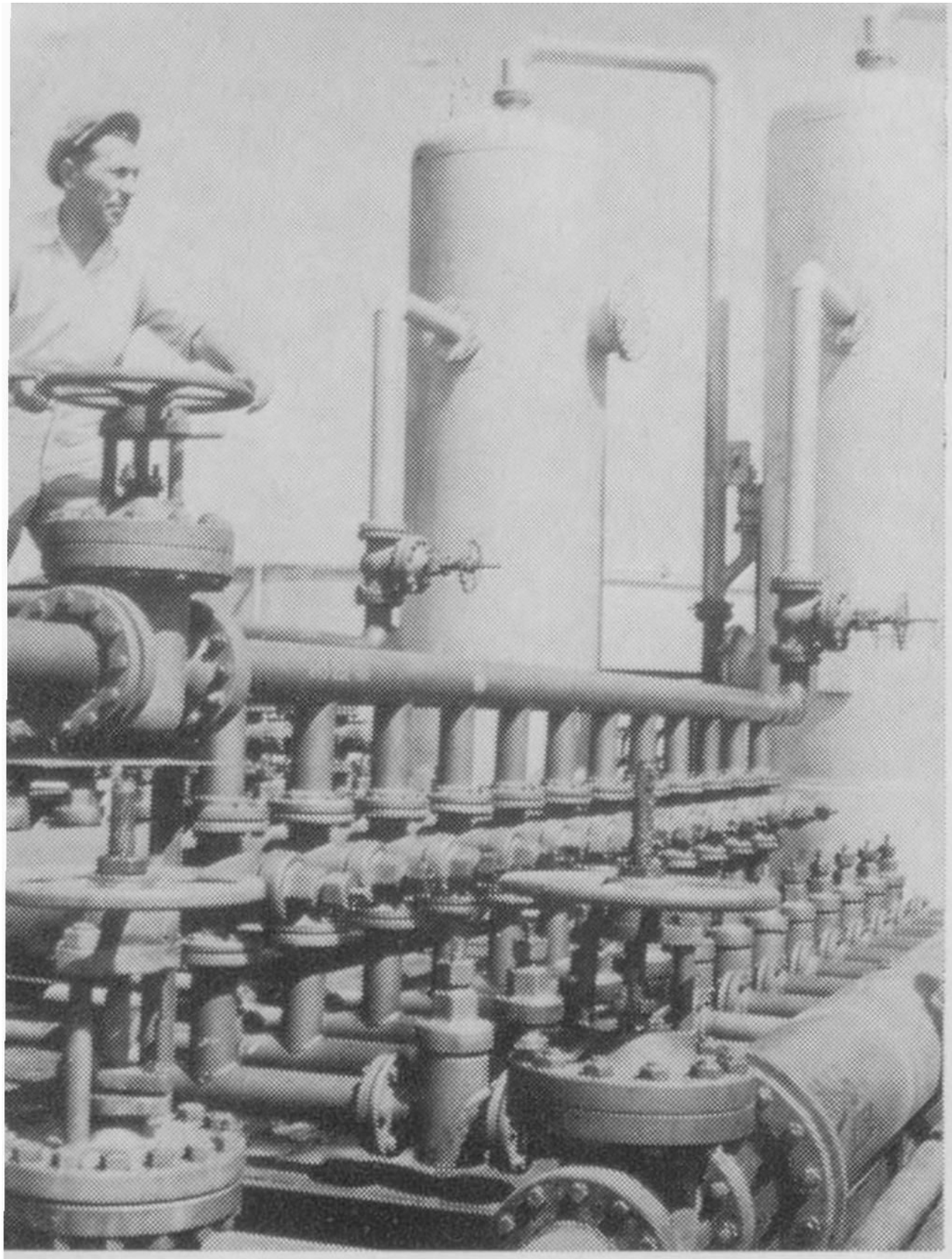
Large families are popular in our republic. The largest "family" of all is the Palace of Young Pioneers in Baku, where 500 children spend their after-school hours in healthful recreation.

The Palace has its chorus, orchestra and dance groups, which perform at factories, mills and collective farms. The favourite number on their programmes is "Judzhialarim", or "Chicks", a song that has become popular all over the Soviet Union. It is also sung by adults in variety shows and has been heard in Soviet variety performances given abroad.

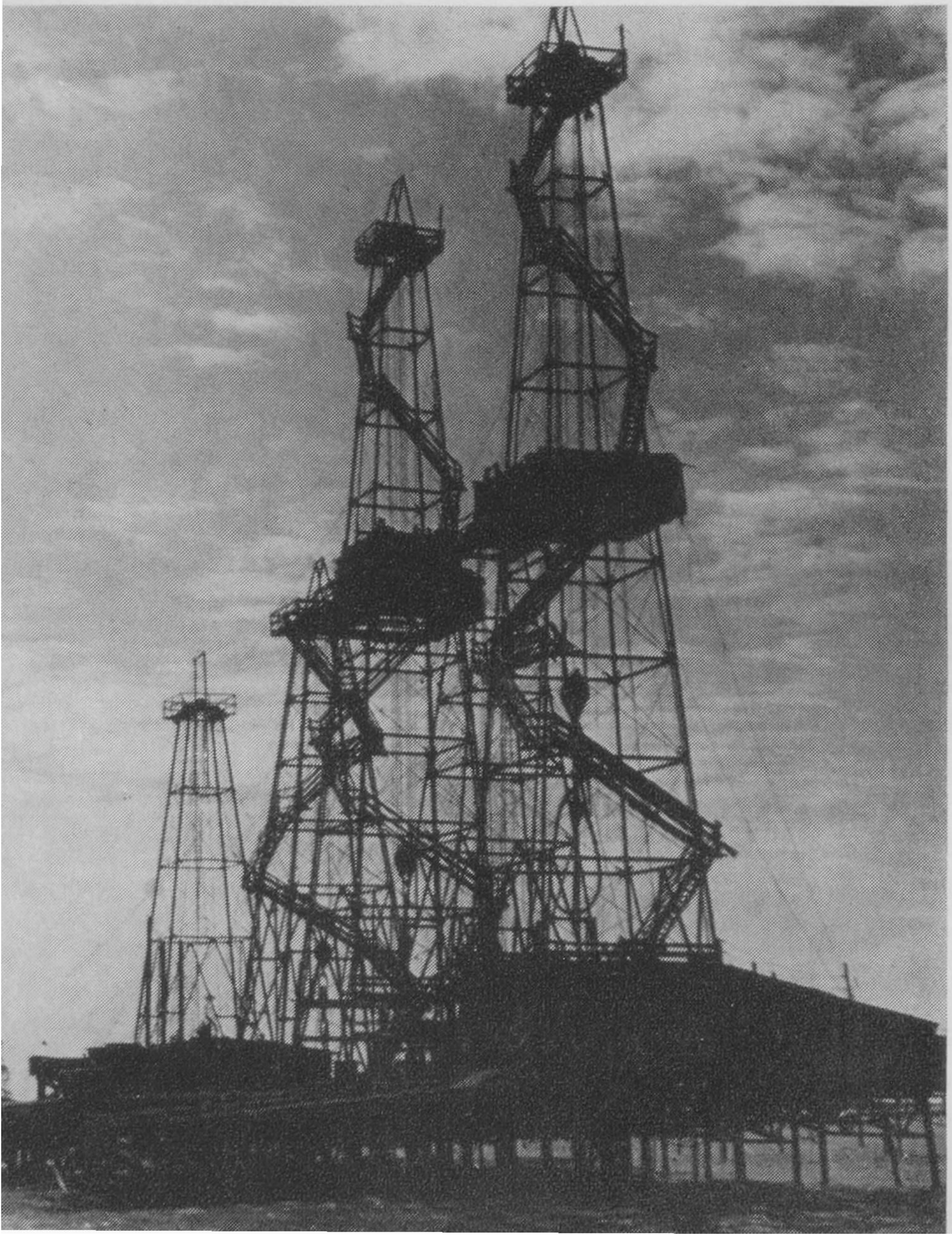
The author of "Chicks" is a self-taught musician named Gambar Huseinli. The dance groups at the Young Pioneer Palace in Baku have

The Dance Suite "Harvest", performed by artists of the Akhundov Opera and Ballet Theatre and the Song and Dance Ensemble of Azerbaijan.

Southern sunshine in Kirov Street, Baku.







OIL: top left—*Vartan Avetisov is on shore at the receiving end of the pipelines from the deep offshore wells at Baku.* Right: *an oil-prospecting diver about to descend.*

Left: *oil- derricks in the Caspian Sea off Baku.*

Top left: *A town at sea—oil-workers' dwellings at the Neftanye Kamni oilfield are built on piles in the Caspian Sea near the oil-derricks. This community has its own power-station, club, and kindergarten.*

Top right: *A corner of the oil-field on land, near Baku.*

There are many other industries in Baku besides the predominant oil, and on the right a girl is spraying electric motors made at the Baku Electrical Engineering Factory.

BAKU: a general view of the city and its harbour on the right, *and*, below, *Nizami Square.*

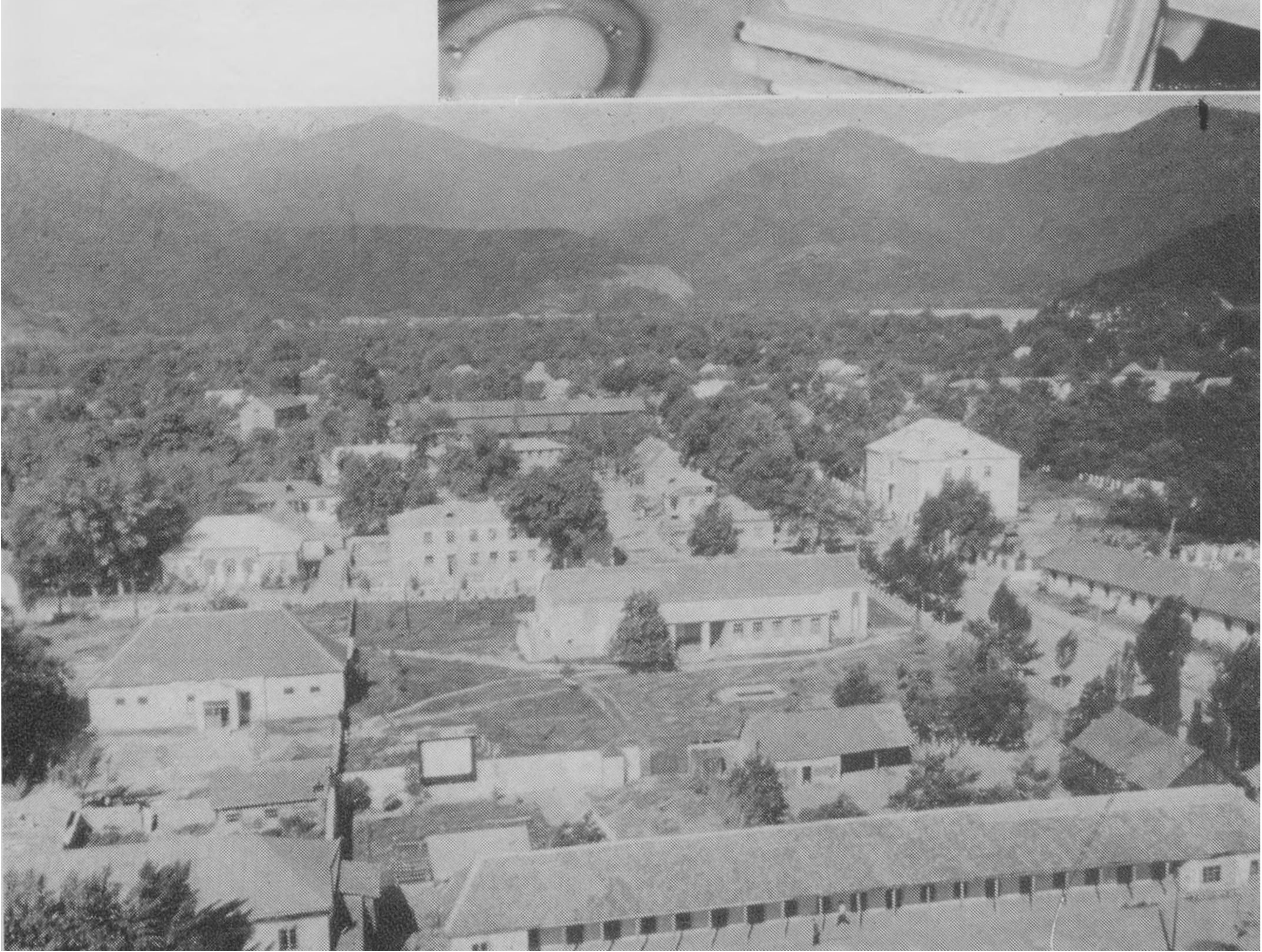
Left: *The building of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences on Nizami Square, Baku.*

Below: *The Mingechaur Hydro-electric Station which harnesses the River Kura.*

Another industry for which Azerbaijan is famous is rug and carpet making. These hand-woven products are exhibited at international fairs all over the world and find many buyers. Lyatif Kerimov (right) *has been compiling a two-volume work on the craft for the Academy of Sciences.*



Below: *The village o, Belokany, nestling among orchards at the foot of the Caucasus.*



A rest home run by the All-Union Council of Trade Unions in the village of Bilgya, near Baku.

A school in the town of Mingechaur—a young town ten years old.

evolved a dance suite based on the tune. To watch children of pre-school age going through the steps of that simple dance, dressed in yellow costumes to represent chicks, is a touching experience.

The children at the Baku Palace go in for aeroplane model-making, painting, embroidery, music, photography and amateur movie-making. Children in other towns and villages in Azerbaijan have similar activities at their Palaces and Houses of Young Pioneers.

Children are our hope for the future. That is why they are given every attention and care. Schools, Palaces of Young Pioneers, summer camps, children's nurseries and kindergartens are built for them.

Yet pre-revolutionary Azerbaijan did not even have a children's hospital. Only after the Soviet system was established were medical institutions for children set up. The Mother and Child Welfare Institute in Baku was one of the first establishments of this kind.

Today the republic has hospitals, polyclinics, medical consultation centres and health centres for children everywhere, in both the towns and the rural localities.

Children's health centres and sanatoria are located in Azerbaijan's finest resorts, such as Shusha, Chukhuriurt and Ajikend and at Pishagy, Mardakiany, Buzovny and Bilgiya on the Apsheron Peninsula.

With us the life and health of our children come first.

Culture for the People

Real, all-embracing culture has been made accessible to everyone in Azerbaijan in Soviet times. Today 750,000 persons, or every fifth person in the republic, engages in some form of study. Adult education is widespread.

Usta Piri, an expert in oil drilling, started work when he was fourteen. He went back to school at the age of sixty. At sixty-five he received his engineer's diploma. Three of his sons, Hamed-pasha, Israfil and Danil, have all obtained a higher education and done post-graduate work.

There are 529 schools for adults and for young factory workers and farmers in Azerbaijan. More than 1,222,000 persons have finished secondary school in the past seven years.

The republic's fifteen higher schools and seventy-two specialised secondary schools have a total student body of 62,000. Instruction is in the native language.

There are 5,611 research workers in Azerbaijan's Academy of Sciences, Academy of Agriculture, higher schools and dozens of research institutes.

Before the revolution there were only twelve Azerbaijan engineers and forty-five Azerbaijan doctors. Only 10 per cent of the population could read and write. Today Soviet Azerbaijan has 120,000 college-trained specialists.

In 1958 more than 1,000 books and pamphlets were published in Azerbaijan in a total of 9,489,000 copies. This includes 810 books in the Azerbaijan language in editions totalling 7,381,000 copies. The nineteen magazines and 118 newspapers put out in the republic have an annual circulation of 128 million.

Many Azerbaijan poets and prose writers, among them Samed Vurgun, Jafar Jabarli, Mekhti Husein, Suleiman Rustam, Rasul Rza and Suleiman Ragimov, have been translated into the languages of other peoples of the U.S.S.R. and into foreign languages. The works of Mekhti Husein can be read in twenty-seven languages. They have been published in Baku, Moscow, Paris, Sofia, Peking and Bucharest. Louis Aragon, the French author, has highly praised Husein's writing.

Azerbaijan has always been famous for her *ashuga* or folk singers, but opera and symphonic and chamber music have a fairly short history. Azerbaijan opera is no more than fifty years old, and symphonies and ballet music still younger. For that reason the strides Azerbaijan culture has made are particularly appreciable in the field of music.

Kara Karayev's lovely ballet *The Seven Beauties*. which is based on a story by the great Nizami, is performed in Leningrad and Prague as well as in Baku. Equally successful are the symphonic pieces of Fikret Amirov. Recordings of his *Shur* and *Kurdi Ovshari* can be heard in many countries of Europe and the Near East and in the United States. Leopold Stokowski, noted American conductor, asked the composer to send him the score of these pieces for performance in the United States.

Festival of Azerbaijan Art

Azerbaijan music has been played in Prague, where discriminating audiences had high praise for the Azerbaijan conductor Niazi Tagi-Zade. Azerbaijan songs have been heard in Delhi, Bombay, Helsinki and Beirut at concerts given by the popular Azerbaijan singer Rashid Beibutov.

The ten-day festival of Azerbaijan art and literature held in Moscow in May 1959 was a highlight in the life of the Azerbaijan people and all the other peoples of the U.S.S.R. It afforded brilliant evidence of Azerbaijan's cultural progress.

The demonstration of the achievements of the Soviet republics in the sphere of culture has already long ago become a good tradition. The festivals which are held regularly can in a way be regarded as an account of the creative activities of workers in art and literature, and facilitate the mutual enrichment of the culture of the peoples of the Soviet Union. Moscow has been introduced in this way to the songs of the *ashuga* and to music performed on the *kemanchi, tara* and *saz,* folk instruments that have been popular with our people for hundreds of years.

During the festival Moscow saw three Azerbaijan ballets: K. Karayev's *The Seven Beauties,* A. Badalbeili's *Maiden Tower,* and S. Gajibekov's *Gulshe,* and heard two Azerbaijan operas: *Ker-Ogli* by U. Gajibekov, founder of Azerbaijan opera, and *Seville* by F. Amirov. These productions were presented by the Azerbaijan Opera and Ballet Theatre, which has trained outstanding singers like Lutfiar Imanov and Ibragim Jafarov and dancers like Leila Vekilova and Maksud Mamedov.

Maiden Tower was the first ballet written by an Azerbaijanian. The music, based on national motifs, widely employs folk melodies and rhythms. The composer also successfully weaves Georgian, Armenian and Uzbek dances into the Azerbaijan fabric of his music. The poetic legend

on which the ballet is based stresses the strength inherent in the common people. Courage, and a determination to fight for their happiness are the outstanding characteristics of the hero and heroine, fiery Polade and gentle Gulianak. These are what give the ballet its heroic, life-asserting ring even though it ends with the tragic death of Gulianak.

Among the plays which the Azizbekov Drama Theatre brought to Moscow for the festival was *Almas,* by J. Jabarli. The play is set in a village lying at the foot of the mountains, and the time is the twenties of this century. Jabarli has painted a stirring and convincing picture of the young school-mistress Almas and her struggle against the selfish aims of the rich men of the village, the superstitions of religious fanatics, the enslavement of women and the vestiges of the feudal past in the minds and lives of the peasants. The play ends in hard-won victory over the old way of life.

The Samed Vurgun Russian Drama Theatre showed Muscovites its productions of N. Pogodin's *Kremlin Chimes,* E. Mamedkhanli's *Morning of the East,* Samed Vurgun's *Vagif* and Lermontov's *Masquerade.*

Programmes of Azerbaijan music were given in the Kremlin Theatre, the Moscow Conservatoire and the Tchaikovsky Hall by the Uzeir Gajibekov State Symphony Orchestra and the Azerbaijan Song and Dance Company.

Besides professional theatres and music groups Azerbaijan's best amateur talent groups took part in the festival. They included a song and dance company from the Schmidt Engineering Works in Baku, a male dance company from the Nukha House of Culture, two rural groups of folk instrument performers and folk singers, and the Chinar dance group of the Azerbaijan Institute of Medicine.

The cinema, another of Azerbaijan's young arts, also has noteworthy achievements to its credit. Ten full-length feature films and nine documentaries released by the Baku film studios were shown in Moscow during the festival. The most popular were *Arshin Mal Alan, Distant Shores* and *The Stepmother.*

More and more interest is being shown by Azerbaijan art and literature in the contemporary scene. Writers, artists, composers and actors frequently visit the oil fields near Baku, the chemical works in Sumgait, the mines of Dashkesan and the site where the first open-air thermal electric station in the Soviet Union is being built at Ali-Bairamlin.

The Azerbaijan Film Studio and the Central Documentary Films Studio spent half a year at the Neftyanie Kamni oil workings out in the Caspian making a stirring picture called *Conquerors of the Sea.*

Most of the work produced by artists and sculptors deals with people of our day.

The Azerbaijan art and literature festival in Moscow was vivid evidence of what our people have achieved in the thirty-nine years of the Soviet system.

Pearl of Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan has many beautiful spots. Probably the richest and most beautiful is the Kura-Aras lowland. It is hard to say at what time of year it is the most beautiful. In spring the air is filled with the fragrance of

gardens, orchards and fields in bloom. All Nature rejoices as the sun sheds its gentle rays on the green fields of winter crops, the young cotton plants, and the fruit trees covered with blossoms and tender leaves.

Summer turns the steppe into an endless field of golden grain with big square islands of cotton that turn white, cream-colour or pink as the bolls ripen and burst.

In autumn, when the snow-covered peaks of the Greater Caucasian Range dazzle the eye, the steppe is covered with a blanket of green as the winter crops come up. There, between September and November, the republic's most valuable crop, cotton, is harvested. Then the cotton plantations look as though some giant had used a huge brush to dot the fields with a myriad white bolls.

Besides cotton, wheat and grapes the collective farms and state farms in the Kura-Aras lowland produce silk cocoons, vegetables, fruit, meat, milk and wool.

No wonder this rich, flourishing lowland is called the Pearl of Azerbaijan!

But up until a few decades ago it was parched by drought. Irrigation canals were built from the Kura and the Aras to the Karabakh, Shirvan, Mil and Salian steppes. The Kura-Aras lowland now has nearly 2,000 miles of main canals.

The water collection and drainage system is about the same length.

Over 10,000 hydro-technical structures of various kinds have been built on the canals and reservoirs. This has given the Azerbaijan peasants additional thousands of acres of fertile land.

Of all the structures built in Azerbaijan in recent years the largest and most complex is the Mingechaur hydro-electric development which in 1955 tamed the swift, capricious Kura once and for all. The highest earthen dam in the world has been built in a gorge running down Mt. Bozdag, above the town of Evlakh.

No longer does the Kura flood fields and villages. Instead, its waters gather in the Mingechaur reservoir and then turn powerful turbines that provide Azerbaijan as well as the neighbouring fraternal republics of Georgia and Armenia with cheap and abundant electricity.

The Kura-Aras lowland is steadily being developed. It is becoming still richer, more beautiful and more productive every year.

What Tomorrow Will Bring

Man has always wanted to know what the future holds for him. When our fathers and grandfathers tried to picture the future forty years ago they dreamed of their children being properly clothed and fed and becoming educated, cultural people.

They saw Azerbaijan as a land where everyone had work and a roof over his head, where every worker had the right to a happy life. Those were bold dreams, and the day when they would come true seemed far off.

But that day came—and much sooner than many expected. What seemed unattainable became reality thanks to the selfless work of the people and the socialist system of economy, which develops according to scientifically-based plans.

These plans embody the collective thinking of millions of people for

they are the result of the creative activity of thousands upon thousands of factory workers and farmers, engineers and scientists.

The current seven-year plan for the development of the Soviet economy between 1959 and 1965 is also the fruit of collective thinking. Fifty million people took part in discussing it. What the Soviet people now dream of accomplishing has been embodied in the concrete figures of the seven-year plan.

When this plan is fulfilled the Soviet Union will be stronger and richer than ever. It will have surpassed the United States in the total production of certain important types of goods; in others it will approximate the present level of U.S. industrial output.

By that time the Soviet Union will have exceeded the present U.S. level of output of major agricultural products as a whole and per head of the population. During the seven-year period the real incomes of Soviet farmers and wage and salary earners will rise by 40 per cent.

Almost Double

Azerbaijan will become a still more prosperous republic in the next seven years. In 1965 its industries will be producing nearly 90 per cent more than in 1958; in other words, they will almost double their output.

Incidentally, in 1965 total industrial output in the Soviet Union will be 80 per cent higher than at the beginning of the seven-year plan period. That Azerbaijan's industrial growth will be 90 per cent illustrates the attention which the Soviet Government gives the formerly backward peoples.

The rise in industrial output in Azerbaijan will be achieved by enlarging existing establishments, building new factories and mills, opening up new mines and oil wells, introducing more mechanisation and automation, and installing the most modern machinery. The years of the seven-year plan will be years of great technical progress.

Oil will remain the main branch of the republic's economy. Output will increase by 33 per cent, reaching 22,000,000 tons in 1965.

Neftyanie Kamni, the oil town out in the Caspian Sea, will be considerably enlarged. From this town steel trestles will stretch out to sea for dozens of miles to new oil deposits. A forest of derricks will rise over the sea near Karadag where a fountain of oil gushed forth not long ago at the first drill hole sunk during prospecting.

New oil wells will be sunk in the lowlands along the Kura, in the Shirvani hills and in Kiurovdag. Prospecting data promises big deposits of oil in other places too.

An increase in drilling speed and depth will lead to the discovery of many oil and gas deposits that cannot as yet be reached. The discovery and exploitation of gas deposits in Karadag, for example, have resulted in gas comprising about 80 per cent of the fuel used in the republic. This has led to higher labour productivity and greater efficiency in industry.

Production of natural gas will be particularly intensive during the seven-year period. It will increase by 160 per cent and amount to 15,000 million cubic yards in 1965.

This will, first of all, provide the powerful chemical industry that is developing in Azerbaijan with raw materials.

Secondly, it will allow gas to be used still more extensively both in factories and in the home.

Finally, Azerbaijan will be able to help her neighbours, Georgia and Armenia. When the Transcaucasian gas pipe-line is finished in the near future Baku will be able to send cheap, convenient fuel to Tbilisi and Yerevan.

In order to ensure the planned rate of economic development there will be a significant increase in Azerbaijan's power capacity. By 1965 Azerbaijan will be generating 11,500 million kwh. of electricity as compared with 5,600 million kwh. in 1958.

This increase in power capacity will be due in great measure to the Ali Bairamlin gas turbine station now being built. The station will work on natural gas, and will produce a large amount of cheap energy.

None of the turbines, boilers or auxiliary equipment will be under cover. The station will have no generator hall or boiler house. Production processes will be completely automated. Operation of the units and electrical equipment will be by remote control.

During the seven-year plan period Azerbaijan intends to build 665 miles of electric cables. By 1965 electricity will have been brought to every community in the republic, including the most remote mountain villages.

A Republic of Chemistry

A sharp advance in the chemical industry is the most salient feature of Azerbaijan's seven-year plan. Output will increase by 540 per cent, a rate remarkable even for a socialist country.

Already today Azerbaijan's highly developed chemical industry annually produces tens of thousands of tons of ethyl alcohol, synthetic rubber, weed-killers and pest-killers, detergents and other items. Further expansion of the industry will lead to improvement in organic synthesis and the production of varous polymers.

The growth in the chemical industry will enable Azerbaijan to produce a greater quantity and variety of consumer goods.

A factory is now being built to manufacture lavsan, a synthetic fibre far superior to wool. Plastics produced by the chemical works are enabling Azerbaijan to launch output of machine parts, fittings, pipes and linoleum. A synthetic rubber tyre factory will go into operation in Baku this year.

A few years from now Azerbaijan will be producing all the mineral fertiliser it requires. Nitrogen fertiliser, superphosphate and potassium works are to be built.

The Azerbaijan Turbodrill

Wherever oil is extracted in the Soviet Union or prospectors drill for minerals or water, equipment made at Azerbaijan factories is employed. This equipment is also used abroad.

Soviet turbodrills have become famous all over the world. As a matter of fact, businessmen in the United States have bought the patent for their manufacture.

A turbodrill made in Azerbaijan was used to drill the first well to strike oil in India. The drilling, incidentally, was done by oilmen from Azerbaijan, among them the well-known driller, Sharif Fatakuliev.

The Azerbaijan Economic Council will treble its engineering output under the seven-year plan. Construction of an up-to-date electrical engineering plant in Baku is now nearing completion. Its equipment will include automatic lines and electronic computers to take the place of human hands and eyes in producing many components. Labour productivity will rise significantly.

Instrument-making factories will supply the oil industry with means of automation, including apparatus for the remote control of derricks and pumps, instruments for registering the yield of wells and regulating their operation, and so on.

Every year Azerbaijan's engineering works are putting out more consumer goods. During the seven-year period they will considerably step up output of gas ranges, domestic air conditioning installations, refrigerators, electric fireplaces and lighting fixtures. Output of these articles in 1965 will be 35 times greater than in 1958!

From Dashkesan, called the "Urals of Azerbaijan," cars filled with iron ore move down from the mine on a cable way above the gorge of the raging Kokshar-Chai. Dashkesan has enough ore to supply the Transcaucasian iron and steel mill in Georgia which, in turn, supplies Azerbaijan. Here is another example of fruitful collaboration between two Soviet peoples.

The Sumgait Tube Works, the first iron and steel industry plant in Azerbaijan, will increase steel output 74 per cent during the next seven years. After another rolling mill and two open-hearth furnaces are completed and the existing equipment modernised, tube output will double.

Non-ferrous metallurgy will make still greater strides, for Azerbaijan has one of the biggest alunite deposits in the Soviet Union. A large mine is being built there.

The aluminium works in Sumgait is being enlarged. Its second section will be as large as the first. In other words, there will be two plants instead of one. Altogether, non-ferrous metals production in Azerbaijan will go up 250 per cent under the seven-year plan.

The extensive capital construction planned during the coming period will require exceptionally rapid development of the building materials industry. Main stress is being laid on increased output of reinforced-concrete articles. Never before has building been carried on in Azerbaijan on the scale it will reach in the next seven years

Building cranes and scaffolding are now a common feature of the urban scene in Azerbaijan. An interesting sidelight is that in 1965 the industries in the town of Sumgait will produce as much as those of Baku did in 1958. Yet only about fifteen years ago flocks of sheep grazed on the site where Sumgait's big factories and residential districts stand today.

Prospects for Agriculture

Now let us see what changes the next seven years will bring in farming in Azerbaijan. In 1965 the cotton area will be 670,000 acres, and the crop

will amount to 600,000 tons. Grain crops will occupy more than 2 million acres, 470,000 of them planted to maize.

By 1965 gross output of tobacco will reach 14,000 tons; green tea leaf, 7,000 tons; silk cocoons, 3,600 tons. Up to 472,000 tons of vegetables will be grown.

Azerbaijan will devote much attention to viticulture. Young grapevines are to be planted over an area of 435,000 acres during the seven years, so that by 1965 the republic will be producing up to 400,000 tons of grapes, or six times more than in 1958. Fruit output will reach 130,000 tons.

The Apsheron Peninsula is the only place in the U.S.S.R. where olive trees grow well. At present, state farms on the peninsula have more than 300 acres under olive trees. By 1965 this area will be brought up to 7,500 acres and then Apsheron will become a major olive producer.

Irrigation and other forms of land reclamation are to be further developed. The government will spend 2,000 million roubles during the current seven-year period to build new irrigation canals, reservoirs and water-collector and drainage networks, bringing new land under cultivation.

This is as much as was spent for these purposes in Azerbaijan over the past 39 Soviet years.

All This is for the People

In the final analysis, Azerbaijan's seven-year development programme, like the plan for the whole Soviet Union, has one major goal: raising the people's living standards and cultural level.

That is the reason why new factories and mills are built and new towns developed. That is why oilmen, farmers, engineering workers and everybody else are making an all-out effort on the job.

The aim of the Communist Party is to create such a society where everyone will work according to his abilities and receive according to his requirements. Communism as a social system envisages an abundance of material wealth, a high cultural level of the people.

The Soviet Union has for over four decades been steadily advancing towards Communism having already built socialism, its first stage. During the period of the seven-year plan the material and technical base of Communism will be built in the U.S.S.R., a base on which it will be possible to satisfy most fully all the material and spiritual requirements of the Soviet people.

This is why the Communist Party devotes such great attention to the development of the national economy. The successful development of industry and agriculture is the main source for improving the well-being of the Soviet people.

It would be in place here to note that the entire national income in the U.S.S.R. is distributed in the interests of the people. Three-quarters of it goes to satisfy personal and public needs. There are no exploiter classes in the Land of Soviets. Here wages and salaries conform to the quality and quantity of the work performed

The living standards of the Soviet people are not determined

only by what they receive for their work. Free medical service, free education, state pensions and various social insurance benefits, paid vacations, accommodation at health and holiday centres free of charge or at reduced rates—all these social services provided by the state play an important part in raising living standards.

More than 215,000 million roubles were spent for these purposes in the Soviet Union in 1958. In 1965 the sum will be approximately 360,000 million roubles, or about 3,800 roubles per worker for the year.

There will be a sharp increase in the production of consumer goods in Azerbaijan during the seven-year period. Among the plants to be built in this connection will be a dye-works and finishing factory at the textile mill in Baku, a cotton factory in Mingechaur, a worsted fabrics mill and leather factory in Baku, a silk mill in Nukha, a carpet factory in Kirovabad, and a factory producing glassware in Evlakh.

Life Will be Still Better

In the seven-year period, output of cotton fabrics will rise from 108 million yards to 174 million yards: output of silk fabrics will increase approximately 50 per cent, while production of woollen fabrics will more than treble.

Azerbaijan will produce a large quantity of cotton prints, satins, knitted fabrics, woollen serge and gaberdine. Output of popular silks like Azerbaijan crepe, Karabakh crepe, silk bedspreads and tablecloths will be increased.

The Kirovabad carpet factory will be turning out 660,000 square yards of carpeting annually by 1965. The republic is also to produce synthetic fur and artificial leather.

Meat and dairy output is to rise steeply. The meat-packing plant in Baku will be expanded and its capacity increased considerably. A meat freezing plant and slaughter-house will be built in Agdam, and packing plants in Nukha, Kirovabad and Lenkoran.

The poultry plant in Baku intends to bring output up to 21 million eggs and 365 tons of meat annually. New, up-to-date milk, butter, and cheese factories are to be built.

Life in Azerbaijan will become still better. The change-over of factory and office workers to a seven-hour day will be completed next year, while mining workers employed underground will get a six-hour day. By 1964 the working week will be reduced to 30 or 35 hours, with two days off. The shift to a shorter day and a five-day week will be accompanied by a further rise in wages.

The health services and the network of children's nurseries, kindergartens and boarding-schools are to be extended. Pensions are to be raised. More shops will be opened. In the next seven years Azerbaijan will build close to 10 million square metres of housing, **or more than 250,000** flats. About 3,300,000 square metres of housing was built in the previous seven years.

Gas will be introduced into 223,000 flats; 430 miles of gas pipe-lines will be laid. This economical and convenient fuel will be brought to

Kirovabad, Evlakh, Shamkhor, Geokchai, Agdash, Akhsu, Ali-Bairamli, Kazakh, Tauz, Akstafu and other districts.

New hospitals with a total of 6,000 beds will be built by the state. By the end of the seven-year plan period Azerbaijan will have **over 10,000 doctors and about 34,000 persons with an intermediate medical education.**

Large sums are being invested in public education. By 1965 the general education schools will have a total enrolment of 854,000 as against 596,000 in 1958, while the republic's boarding-schools, where the child is maintained entirely at state expense, will be attended by 38,000 boys and girls, or 33 times more than at present. **During the seven years schools accommodating 129,000 are to be built. This is 370 per cent more than were built in the period 1952-1958.**

New automatic telephone exchanges are being built in the cities and rural areas of Azerbaijan. The capacity of the exchanges will be increased 150 per cent. Every community in the republic will be wired for radio. **By 1965 there will be 400,000 radio sets in use. Radio broadcasting on ultra-short waves will become widespread. Several TV stations and five relay stations are to be built to serve all of Azerbaijan's most populated areas.**

After the Baku-Tbilisi radio relay line is built television will become available to many more rural dwellers. Many rural districts, for instance, Neftechala, Kuba, Khachmas and Salyani can now pick up TV programmes from Baku. When the Baku--Tbilisi line is finished the two cities will be able to exchange programmes on a broad scale. Viewers in Baku will be able to see Moscow programmes and, through Moscow, European programmes.

By 1965 all of Azerbaijan's towns and villages will have cinemas. Seven cinemas are to be built in Baku alone, one of them a panorama cinema seating 2,500

The people of Baku will also have a new circus building. Fourteen cinemas and twelve Palaces of Culture will be built in other parts of the republic. During the seven-year period 908 new libraries will be opened.

* * *

At factories and mills, building sites and mines, oil fields and research laboratories, collective farms and state farms, Soviet men and women are translating the target figures of the seven-year plan into lathes and machines, dresses and suits, grain and cotton. They know that this magnificent programme is in their basic interests. That is why they are pledging to raise labour productivity to a still greater extent in order to fulfill the plan in five or six years.

Everywhere—at the Baku oilfields, the factories of Sumgait, the Dashkesan mines and the collective farms—the movement to complete the plan ahead of schedule is spreading. From month to month target figures are being exceeded.

The industrial establishments of Azerbaijan fulfilled their programme for the first four months of 1959 by April 28, two days ahead of schedule. They produced thousands of tons of oil and iron ore, tens of thousands of yards of fabrics and many refrigerators, television sets and other goods over and above plan.

There is no doubt that the seven-year plan will be carried out as successfully as all previous plans.

We Stand for Peace and Friendship Among Nations

I have told you about my native land of Azerbaijan. Even the longest story, including columns of figures and hundreds and thousands of examples and comparisons, would fail to give you a complete picture of it.

There is an Eastern saying that it is better to see a thing once than to hear about it a hundred times. Those who have visited Azerbaijan will recall the words of Henri Barbusse, that wonderful French writer and humanist, who advised anybody wishing to understand the miracles a free people are capable of to go to Baku, to Azerbaijan.

Delegations of young people, students, scientists, stage people, trade union and public leaders, journalists, tourists and statesmen from Afghanistan, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Great Britain, Indonesia and many other countries have visited our republic.

Our scientists, sportsmen, public figures and statesmen have travelled to many countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and America.

Visitors to Azerbaijan from abroad have seen our republic's economic and cultural progress for themselves. They have particularly stressed the warm, friendly reception they met everywhere. Ahmed Bedaun, rector of the Ain Shale University in Cairo, declared that all the members of his delegation, outstanding cultural and educational figures in the United Arab Republic, immediately felt they were among friends and brothers in Azerbaijan.

We want to establish closer economic and cultural relations with other countries. Azerbaijan is now exporting machinery, oil equipment and instruments, electric engines, tubes, chemical goods, cement, cotton fibre, tinned fruit and fish, drugs and other goods to many foreign countries.

We want the Azerbaijan people's contacts with nations abroad to continue to expand and strengthen. We want all countries to live in peace and friendship. We want everlasting peace on earth.

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