THE FIFTEEN SOVIET REPUBLICS
TODAY AND TOMORROW

GEORGIA

Land of the 'Golden Fleece' Reveals its Riches



Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic

by

G. Djavakhishvili
Chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers

Soviet Booklet No. 60/F

6D

R S F S R

SUKHUMI

TKVARCHELI

Rioni river

KUTAISI

CHIATURA

Kura river

TBILISI

RUSTAVI

BATUMI

BLACK SEA

TURKEY

AZERBAIJAN SSR

ARMENIAN SSR

0 25 50 75 Miles

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GIVI DJAVAKHISHVILI

A Note on the Author

GIVI DJAVAKHISHVILI was born in Tbilisi in 1912. He was brought up in a doctor's family. At the age of twenty-two he graduated from the Tbilisi Polytechnic Institute with an engineer's diploma in geology.

After several years' work as geologist be became a member of Georgia's State Planning Committee. Later he held positions of responsibility in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia.

In 1952 Djavakhishvili was elected chairman of the Tbilisi City Soviet of Working People's Deputies, after which he worked for some time as First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Georgian Republic and in 1953 was appointed to Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Georgian Republic by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian S.S.R.

He has twice been elected a member of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic

The Land and its People

THE Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic covers an area of 28,000 square miles. It has a population of a little over 4 million. Included in the Georgian Republic are the Abkhazian and Ajarian Autonomous Republics and the South Ossetian Autonomous Region.

Georgia is a land of rich and varied scenic beauty. To the west it is washed by the Black Sea. The Caucasian Range of high mountains covered with perpetual snow and glaciers protects it from the cold winds of the east. Flourishing valleys, age-old forests, and beautiful Alpine and steppe pasture-land stretch for scores of miles. The swift, full mountain rivers are a vast source of energy.

The Surami range divides the country into two parts. To the east of the range are the valleys of Kartli and Kakheti. The valleys of the Rioni lie to the west. Here is the ancient country of Kolkhida (Colchis), a land of fertility and abundance.

Georgia possesses rich mineral resources. The manganese deposits at Chiatura, for example, are among the largest in the world, with ore of the finest quality. Coal is found near Tkibuli and Tkvarcheli in the south. Tungsten, molybdenum, zinc, arsenic and dozens of other valuable minerals are mined in the mountains of Svaneti.

Soil and climate offer extremely favourable conditions for the development of agriculture. Lemons, tangerines, oranges, tea and other subtropical plants are grown along the Black Sea coast, where rainfall is plentiful. This happy combination of good climate and rich land produces bountiful harvests of grapes, tobacco, grain and other crops.

For centuries Georgia was an agrarian country. Industries were poorly developed. Her inexhaustible raw material and power resources were exploited to an insignificant degree, and the people were not able to display fully their abilities and talents.

In their ancient legend of Amirani the Georgian people reflected their age-old dream of a hero who would bring their country freedom and a happy life. Today this dream has come true. In the past forty years of Soviet government the Georgian people have taken a leap forward in their historic development, reaching, together with the other peoples of the Soviet Union, a high economic and cultural level.

Pages from History

Georgia is one of the world's most ancient countries, with a rich and unique culture. The Georgian alphabet came into being in the seventh

century B.C. Christianity became the official religion in Georgia early in the fourth century. By the sixth century Georgia had special schools, including the famous higher academy of rhetoric, to which people came to study from as far away as Greece.

From time immemorial Georgians have grown grapes and grain, worked in metal, written books, and built temples, fortresses, bridges and canals.

Georgia's museums contain numerous monuments of the country's ancient culture; there are rare collections of manuscripts written by astronomers, philosophers, medical men and geographers, remarkable examples of Georgian jewellery and chase-work, and unique pieces of cloisonné enamel.

By the twelfth century literature, architecture, painting, sculpture and the art of enamel and mosaic work had reached a high level of development. The great Georgian poet, Shota Rustaveli, author of the immortal *The Knight in the Tiger Skin,* lived in this country.

A large number of the temples, fortresses and other structures built at that time have come down to our day. Their monumentality, grace and rich ornamentation are astounding.

Among these monuments of Georgian architecture, the unique medieval cave city of Vardzia is the one of the most interesting. This city, now a museum, is carved out of a section of rock some 600 feet above the river Kura (Mtkvari). In the twelfth century it possessed great military and strategic importance.

For centuries the Georgian people suffered from brutal wars that devastated the country and left towns and villages in ruins. The invasion of the Khorezmians and Mongols in the thirteenth century, the hordes of Tamerlane in the fourteenth century and the Turks in the fifteenth century laid waste to Georgia, and the country's economy declined.

State and economic disintegration, economic ruin and frequent wars produced a profound political crisis in Georgia. The only real and progressive force capable of protecting Georgia from foreign invasion and ensuring her conditions favourable to economic and cultural development was Russia, a country with the same religion as Georgia and which was, by that time, a strong centralised state.

Georgia's affiliation with Russia was of enormous progressive significance in the further political, economic and cultural development of the Georgian people.

Georgia was now reliably protected from foreign enemies; she achieved political and economic unity; the danger that the Georgian people would be physically destroyed by foreign invaders disappeared.

Rapprochement with Russia and the abolition of serfdom helped to develop Georgia industrially. The first factories and mills were built, and the first railway in the Caucasus was laid.

Tsarist Russia, however, regarded Georgia as a colony and a source of raw materials. To strengthen its domination it took steps to colonise the country. Russian military settlements were set up; hostility was fomented among the Georgians, Azerbaijanians and Armenians; schools were forbidden to teach the Georgian language; Georgian newspapers were closed down.

The People Struggle

The Georgian people began to understand the injustice of a system based on feudal and capitalist exploitation; advanced ideas of emancipation began to spread.

At the end of the nineteenth century progressive Russians, whom the tsarist Government had exiled to Georgia, sowed the seeds of Marxism on Georgian soil. An organisation of Social Democrats arose in Tbilisi in 1898, which progressive Russian, Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijanian workers joined, and in which a revolutionary grouping, headed by J. V. Stalin, V. F. Ketskhoveli, A. G. Zulukidze and others, came to the fore.

The working people of Georgia began to struggle against the exploitation and oppression of the tsarist autocracy and their own bourgeoisie.

Sorrow and deprivation were the lot of the Georgian people until February 25th, 1921, the historic day on which the Soviet system was proclaimed in Georgia. This great event was the natural result of many centuries of struggle for freedom and independence. It marked the beginning of a new era in Georgia's history.

The Communist Party's Leninist policy on nationalities, aimed at ensuring every nation all-round economic and political development in conformity with its specific features, the help which the fraternal peoples of the country render one another, their close co-operation, and the wholehearted devotion of the Georgian people to their Soviet way of life are what have made possible the success which the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic has achieved.

Aided by the Soviet Union

From the very beginning the working people of the Soviet Union, primarily the people of the Russian Federation, helped the still weak Georgian Republic to develop economically and culturally.

The textile workers of Moscow sent the town of Kutaisi a gift of equipment for a textile mill. At Lenin's proposal the Soviet government allocated 700,000 roubles in gold to build the Zemo-Avchala hydroelectric plant, the first in Georgia. Turbines for the plant were manufactured in Leningrad.

Experts came from Russia in large numbers to help the Georgian people build new industrial establishments and reconstruct old enterprises. Russian scientists, engineers and specialists trained Georgians for work at these establishments.

Now the Georgian Republic exercises state power independently and makes wide use of its sovereign rights.

The political basis of the Republic is the Soviet of Working People's Deputies and the highest organ of state power is the Supreme Soviet. The following data on the results of the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian Republic in 1959 point to the triumph of Soviet democracy, the unity and solidarity of the working people of the Georgian Republic with the Communist Party.

Of the total number of electors who took part in the voting 99.95 per cent cast their votes for the candidates to the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian Republic.

Of the 368 members of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian Republic, sixty-four are workers, ninety-nine collective farmers and thirty-six scientists and cultural workers. Of the total number of deputies, 106 are women.

The overwhelming majority of deputies are Georgians.

Industry Forges Ahead

Large-scale work to develop the Georgian economy began as soon as the Soviet system was established in the country. New hydro-electric stations, built under Lenin's electrification plan, went into operation.

In Soviet times Georgia has built more than 1,000 large modern industrial enterprises. Total output is now from thirty-five to thirty-six times greater than in 1913, while the large industries produce over 100 times more than in 1913.

In other words, Georgian industries now produce as much every ten days as Georgia produced for the whole of 1913.

New industries were established, including iron and steel, engineering, electrotechnical, chemicals and cement.

New industrial centres arose. Hundreds of big industrial enterprises were built, including an iron and steel mill at Zestafoni, a cotton mill at Gori, an oil-refining plant in Batumi, dozens of large tea factories, and a machine-tool works, an electric locomotive works, and other factories in Tbilisi.

Striking figures show the development of the light industries. In 1958, Georgian factories produced 22 million yards of silk fabrics, 5,500,000 yards of woollen fabrics, and 53 million yards of cotton fabrics.

Georgia produces as much silk goods per head of the population as France, and 50 per cent more cotton goods than Turkey.

During the pre-war five-year plan periods Georgia established a well-developed electric power economy utilising the rich water-power resources of the Republic.

Big hydro-electric plants have been built on the Kura (Mtkvari), Rioni, Adjaris-Tskhali, Alazani and other mountain rivers. Still larger power stations are to be built during the current seven-year plan period, among them the Lajanuri and the Second Khrami.

It is planned to build a hydro-electric station on the Inguri and a thermo-electric power station working on gas.

Managerial Changes

The reorganisation of management in industry and construction carried out in the U.S.S.R. in 1957 has contributed to accelerating the development of Georgia's economy. Georgia was made a single economic region headed by an Economic Council in charge of more than 500 large industrial establishments.

Previously, these establishments were under different departments and ministries. Some, embracing establishments of national importance, were located in Moscow, others in Georgia.

There was a time when such a centralised form of managing industry had been extremely necessary. But when Georgia's economy had reached a high level of development and Georgia had its own experienced

executives and engineers, management of the Republic's economy had to be reorganised.

In the comparatively short period of its work the Economic Council has shown that this new form of industrial administration has considerable advantages. Management has been brought closer to the point of production; the rate of growth of industrial ouput has increased; production capacities and the Republic's natural wealth are utilised more efficiently.

The Economic Council is drawing the workers into the management of industry and construction on an ever wider scale. Innovators in production and the best workers sit on the technical councils at factories together with prominent specialists.

Suggestions on how to improve work come from numerous industrial establishments. The Economic Council has applied many of them and obtained a saving that runs into tens of millions of roubles.

Cities and People

From year to year more and more new cities, industrial towns, communication lines and hydroelectric plants appear on the map of Georgia. The economic might of the Republic is growing steadily, bringing with it improved living standards and changes in Georgia's appearance.

We shall have a better idea of these changes if we make a brief survey of the history, past and present, of several of Georgia's cities, both the new cities and the old, and describe the life of their people.

We call **Rustavi** a city of two births. The first goes back many centuries, to the time when Rustavi arose as a large settlement on the outskirts of Tbilisi. It was inhabited by bold warriors, skilful craftsmen, and industrious peasants.

But then came foreign invasions that brought devastation to the settlement, and it vanished many centuries ago.

Rustavi came alive again, interestingly enough, during the Great Patriotic War. While the war was still going on the Communist Party looked ahead to peace and planned the country's further development, directing the attention and efforts of the people to new construction and the revival of the old towns and villages.

With the erection of the Transcaucasian iron and steel mill at Rustavi a new socialist city rapidly arose in the steppes.

Five thousand Georgian young people, the future workers at the mill, were the ones to restore the fame of Georgian steel and Georgian metallurgy. While the first section of the mill was going up these young men were sent to learn to make steel at the country's biggest iron and steel mills.

While he was studying at the Enakievo mill Vardish Koberidze, a collective farmer from Velistsikhe village, Gurdjaani District, twice won the title of best furnaceman in the Soviet Union.

When Vardish Koberidze and other young men like him returned to Rustavi they were iron and steel men with experience and knowledge, and well known for their achievements.

The mill in Rustavi produced its first melt of steel in 1950. By 1955 the Transcaucasian iron and steel mill was making a complete metallurgical cycle, producing pig iron, coke, steel, pipes, sheet steel and rolled metal.

Throughout the mill young Georgian metallurgists skilfully directed production along with Russian and Ukrainian specialists.

Iron and steel formed the foundation for a number of large establishments, among them a nitrogen and fertiliser plant and a cement factory. Today Georgia produces three times more cement per head of the population than Japan and 20 per cent more than Britain.

In the next few years enterprises in Rustavi are to be enlarged and new establishments built, including those for light industry.

Gas will be used to produce kaprolactam and various goods from synthetic fibre.

Pupils not so long ago, Rustavi iron and steel men are now teaching their trade to others. People from other countries come to Rustavi to learn. A large group of Rumanian tube-mill workers, and iron and steel workers from China and India have gone through periods of practical work at the mill.

The iron and steel mill which the Soviet Union is building at Bhilai, India, resembles the Rustavi mill in many ways. A group of Rustavi engineers has been in Bhilai for three years now helping India to create its new iron and steel centre; and Prime Minister Nehru visited Rustavi when he was in the Soviet Union.

Today Rustavi has a population of more than 60,000. The handsomest section of the new city is its main avenue, which has many-storied apartment houses, shops with large windows, and asphalted pavements lined with trees, bushes and flower-beds.

Tkvarcheli, famed for its coal and electric power, is another of Georgia's new cities. It was founded after the Great October Revolution and owes its existence to the Communist Party and to Lenin personally. In a letter to the Communists of the Caucasus written in 1921 he mentioned development of the Tkvarcheli mines as one of the tasks in developing Georgia's productive forces.

The successful development of the mines was due chiefly to the fact that the Russian Communists sent scientists to Tkvarcheli to carry out systematic geological exploration there.

There are now six mines in operation at Tkvarcheli, and a seventh is being built. Their importance has grown still greater with the construction of the iron and steel mill at Rustavi, which uses coal from Tkvarcheli.

People of many nationalities work in Tkvarcheli. It is not surprising that the town's main street is called Friendship Avenue. The Georgian engineers M. Simonishvili and S. Mikashavidze, the Russian miner G. Bordulin, and F. Skrebnev, Russian leader of a team of hewers and loaders, the Ukrainian engineer D. Lazarenko and the Ukrainian technician D. Plakin all have made their homes in Tkvarcheli and look upon it as their native city.

Coal is mined at other places in Georgia besides Tkvarcheli, of course. Tkibuli is one of the Republic's oldest coal districts, while the youngest is Akhali-Tsikhe, which extracts brown coal.

Altogether, Georgia now produces forty times more coal than in 1913.

Intensive exploration is going on at present in the district of **Shaori.** Geologists are certain that Shaori will reveal even larger coal deposits

than are found at Tkvarcheli and prove to be the largest coal field in the Republic. A new mining town will grow up at Shaori in the next few years.

Georgia's Capital

Many roads lead to **Tbilisi,** capital of Georgia and one of the world's oldest cities. In the same way as Tbilisi was once the place where caravan routes met, so it is now a big rail, road and air junction.

From whichever direction you approach Tbilisi a magnificent and uniquely beautiful city spreads before you in the valley of the Kura (Mtkvari). You see old churches and the ruins of still more ancient fortresses and temples, and side by side with them new buildings, squares and streets and modern industrial enterprises.

Forty years ago the Communists and working people of Tbilisi were faced with the difficult task of reconstructing the city, developing its industries, and turning it into a modern capital for Soviet Georgia. That they were able to accomplish this task so successfully is due to the help given them by the other fraternal Republics of the Soviet Union.

These years have seen Tbilisi transformed into a modern city of still greater beauty than before. The capital of Georgia, where the new blends with the old, which is carefully preserved as a monument to the past history of the Georgian people, has a distinctive beauty of its own.

In reconstructing the city, elements of Georgia's national architecture were widely employed. Flats and public buildings are ornamented with columns, arches and balconies in the Georgian style. The ornamental mouldings around the doors and windows of dwellings make them highly decorative.

Modern Soviet architectural achievements are combined with the traditional features of Georgian architecture to form an integral whole.

Government House, the Institute of Marxism - Leninism, the Georgian Coal Centre building and the circus building are the most outstanding examples of modern Georgian architecture in Tbilisi.

Amongst other constructions in Tbilisi in the past few years are the large park and Burevestnik stadium in the new district of Vake, the new bridges across the Kura (Mtkvari), Varaziskhevi Avenue and the Saburtalo development area, where the Georgian Academy of Sciences, several institutes, a metallurgical school, and hundreds of flats and public buildings are located.

Each block in the Saburtalo development area covers between 25 and 30 acres and has its own parks, playgrounds, kindergartens, children's nurseries, swimming pools, shops, laundries and private garages.

New construction in Tbilisi is not limited to the Saburtalo section. Other districts are being developed.

The high rate of construction of dwellings and public amenities in Tbilisi, as in other cities in the Soviet Union, is evidence of the concern of the Soviet Government and the Communist Party for the welfare of the people. In Tbilisi construction proceeds at the rate of one large apartment house every three or four days.

A Tbilisi Family

Spiridon Zadikashvili lives in one of these new houses. He was an inexperienced village lad when he first came to Tbilisi to work at a car-

repair factory. There he learned carpentry. He is now married and has a family.

When Zadikishvili was preparing to go on holiday not long ago the bookkeeper at the factory calculated his holiday pay on the basis of monthly earnings amounting to 1,872 roubles.

Zadikashvili has two sons. The eldest, Givi, is a fourth-year student. at the Agricultural Institute of Georgia, where he is studying farm-machine operation. The second, Guguli, is in his second year at the Georgian Polytechnic Institute. The field he has chosen is electrification of railways.

Neither young man pays tuition and both receive cash grants from the state. Together with these allowances the family income is 2,500 roubles a month. Spiridon Zadikashvili finds this quite sufficient to support his family.

Givi also attends a music school. When Spiridon fell ill he not only received free treatment at the Institute of Cardiology but was twice given free accommodation at the Tskhaltubo health resort.

"I can't complain, any more than any other worker can," says Zadikashvili. "This flat, which I received from the factory, is in no way inferior to the living quarters of a college-trained specialist. And things are going to be still better.

"By 1965 Givi will have been working five years as an agronomist and farm-machine expert, and Guguli will be a railway engineer. Then the family income will be double what it is today.

"By that time this lovely flat will be too small for us if my sons get married and start raising families. So I am putting up a house on a plot of land which I received from the state.

"The house is going to be modern in every respect. The factory is helping me to build it by providing me with building materials at reduced prices. Soon I shall ask for a loan from the state. I'll be able to pay it off in a few years time. I've already planted 100 grape vines on the plot and intend to plant fruit trees too."

Some 90,000 flats have been built in Georgia's cities since the war. Besides, factory and office workers have put up another 40,000 flats of their own, built with help from the state.

During the current seven-year plan period the rate of housing construction is to increase still faster. During this period the state plans to build over 100,000 dwellings, while people building their own homes will erect another 60,000.

Work on the Seven-Year Plan has Started

By the time the current seven-year plan, 1959-1965, is completed the Soviet Union will be still richer and more powerful. In absolute production of certain types of goods it will exceed the present level of U.S. industrial output and in others it will approach this level.

By 1965, output of the most important agricultural products as a whole and per head of the population will be greater than in the United States at present. During the course of the seven years there will be a 40 per cent increase in the real incomes of the Soviet people.

The seven-year plan for the economic development of the Georgian Republic is a component part of this magnificent plan. The plan was

The tube-rolling shop of the Stalin iron and steel works in Rustavi.

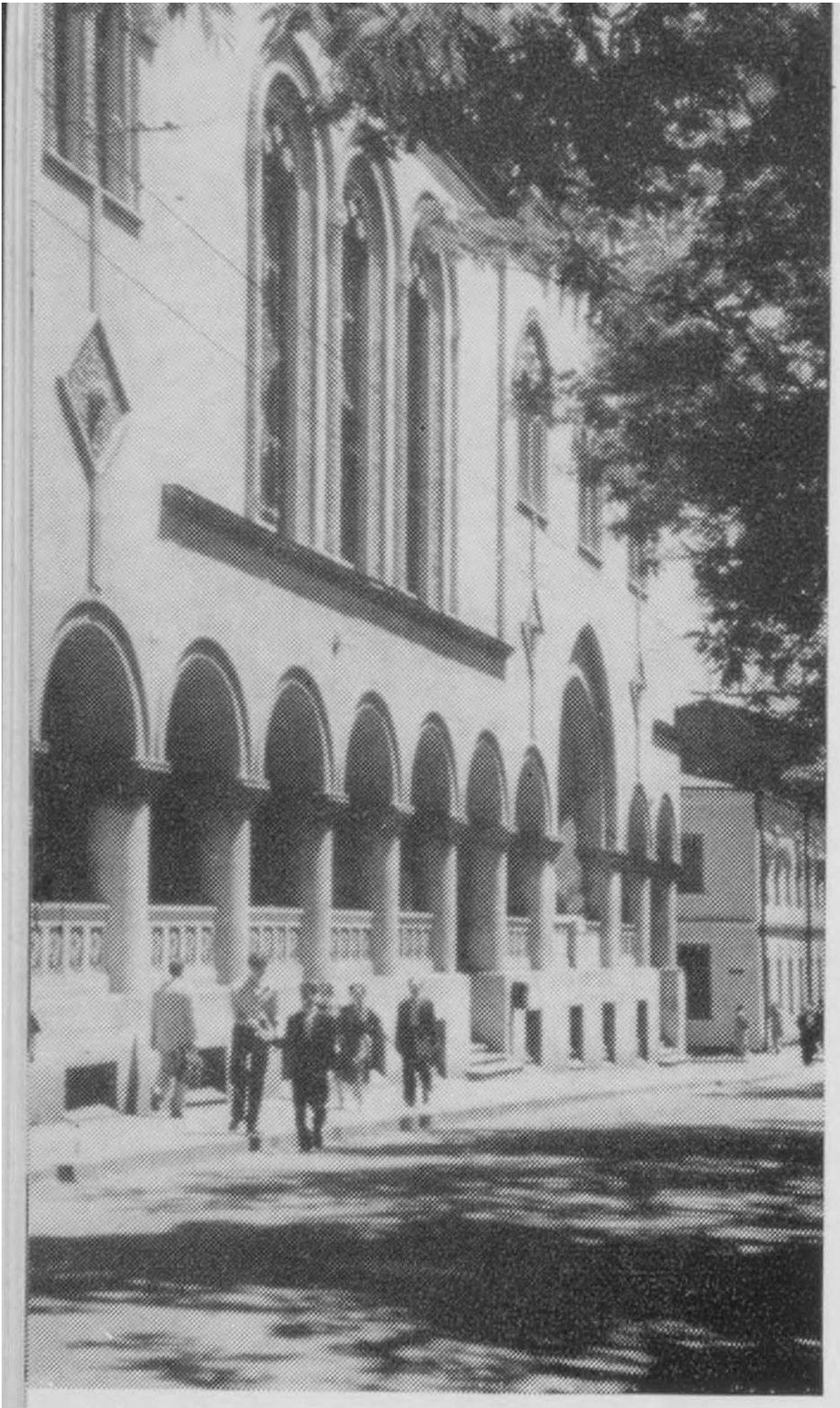
Tapping one of the furnaces at the Zestafoni ferro-alloy plant. This shop was built in 1959.

The old and the new are often to be found side by side in Georgia. Here the Zemo-Avchali hydro-electric station is overlooked by the ancient Djavari Monastery.

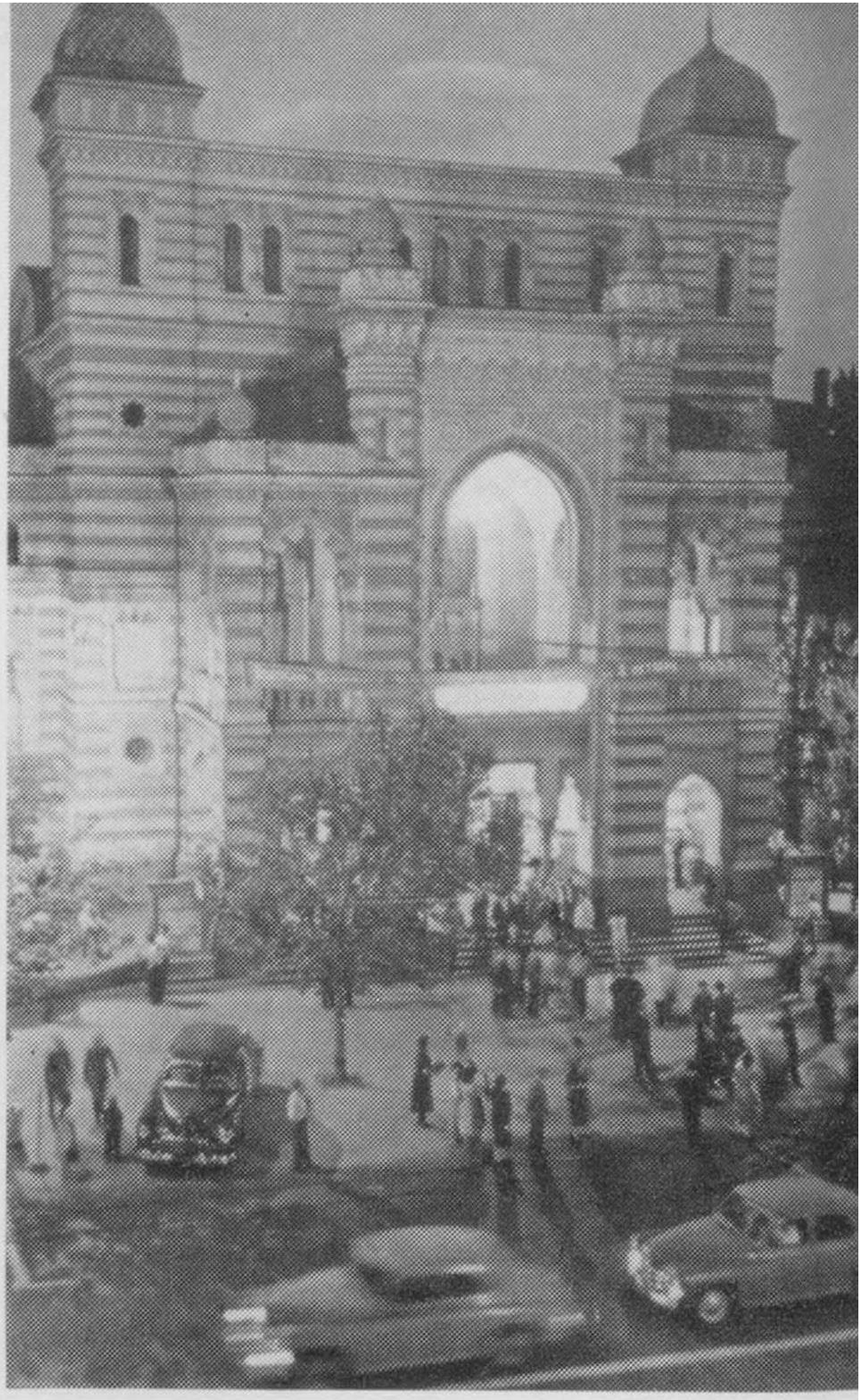
The Kutaisi motor works has become a valuable part of the Soviet transport industry. Below we see one of its new products — the side-tipping lorry KAZ-600.

The Caucasus Mountains provide mountaineering for all grades of skill. Those on the right are on the summit of Semyonov Bashi.

The Daryal Gorge and the Terek River shown below have now been tackled by the hydro - electric planners, and Georgia's largest electricity station will stand here.

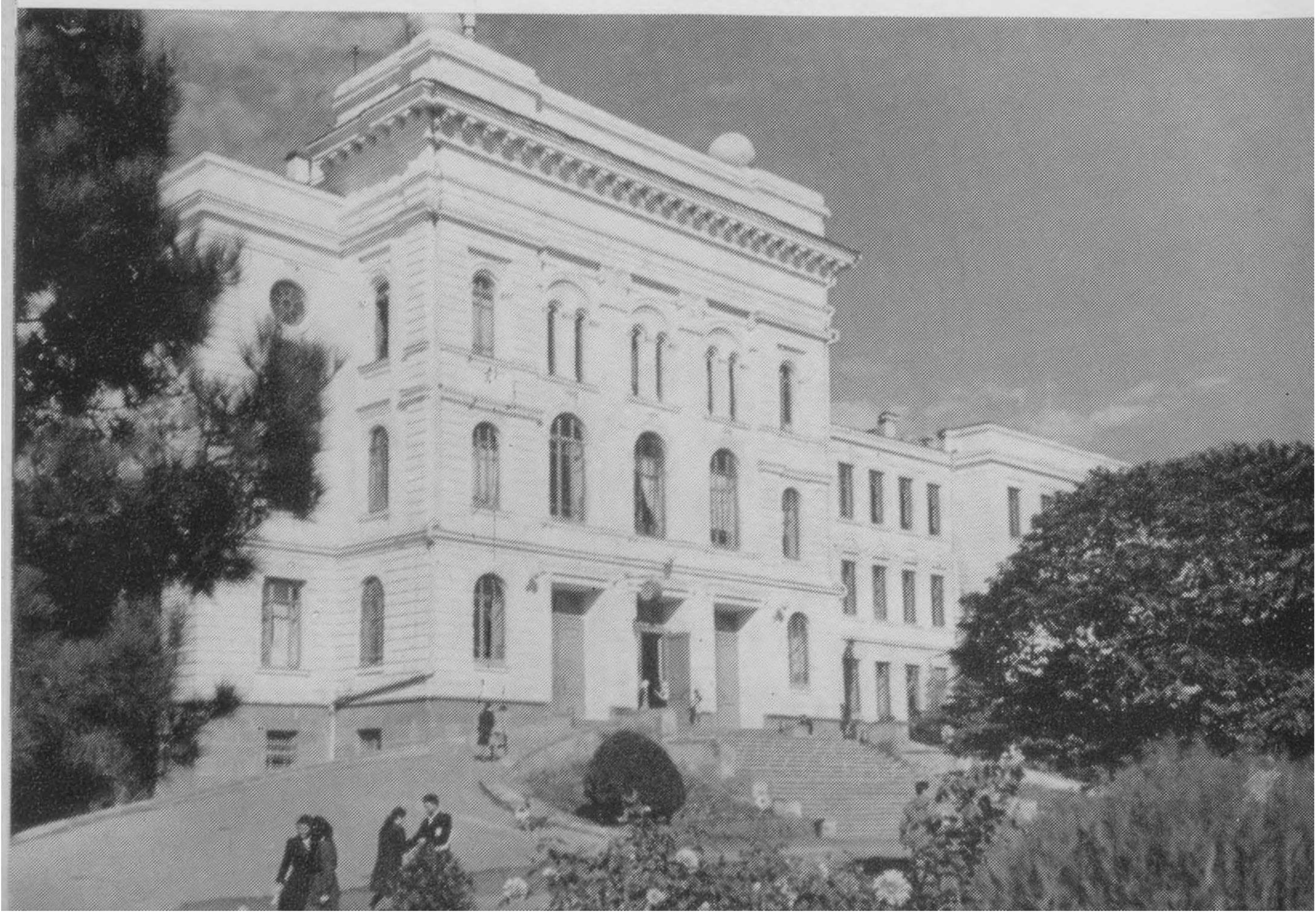


The State Public Library, Tbilisi.



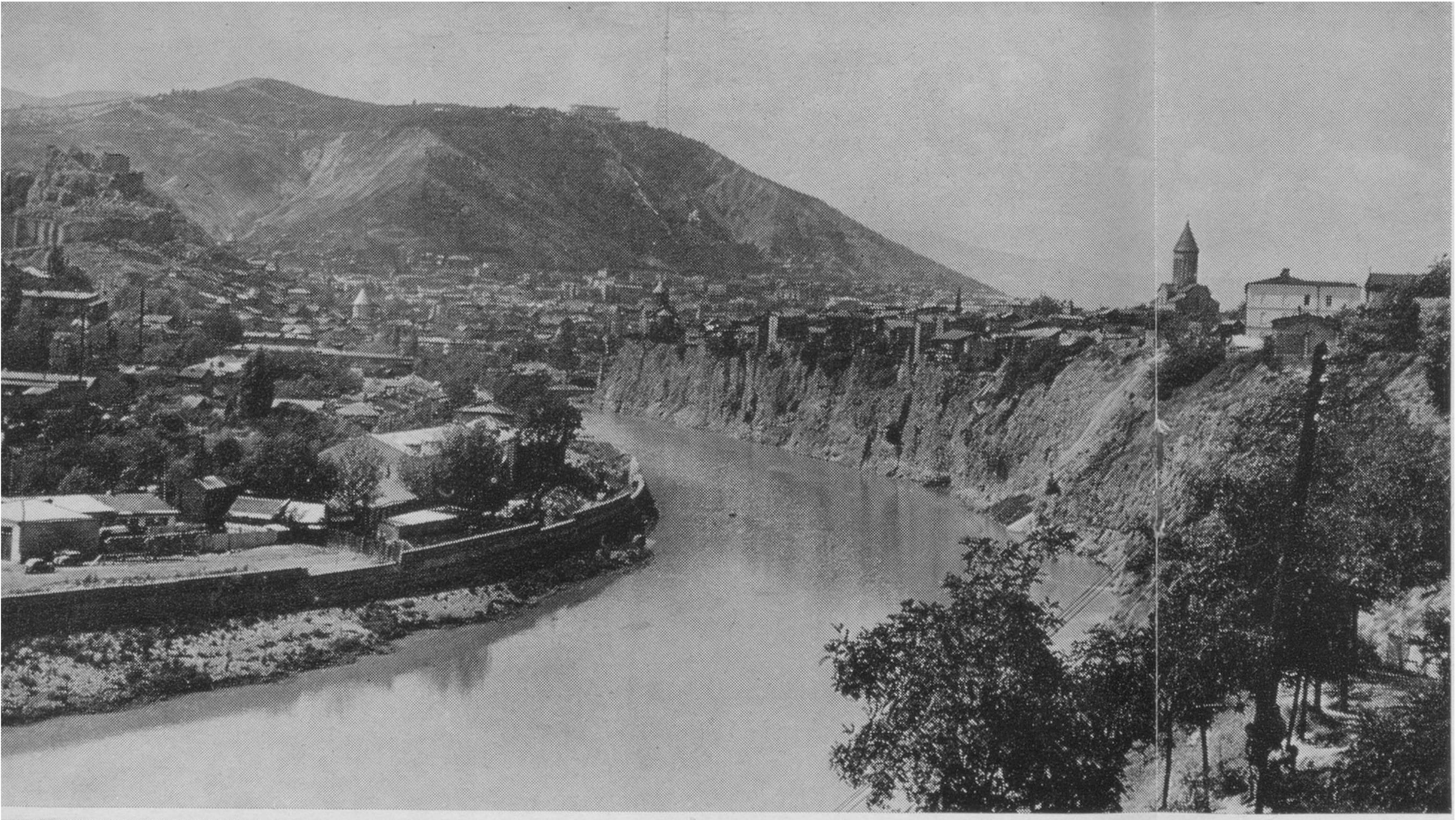
The Paliashvili Theatre of Opera and Ballet, Tbilisi.

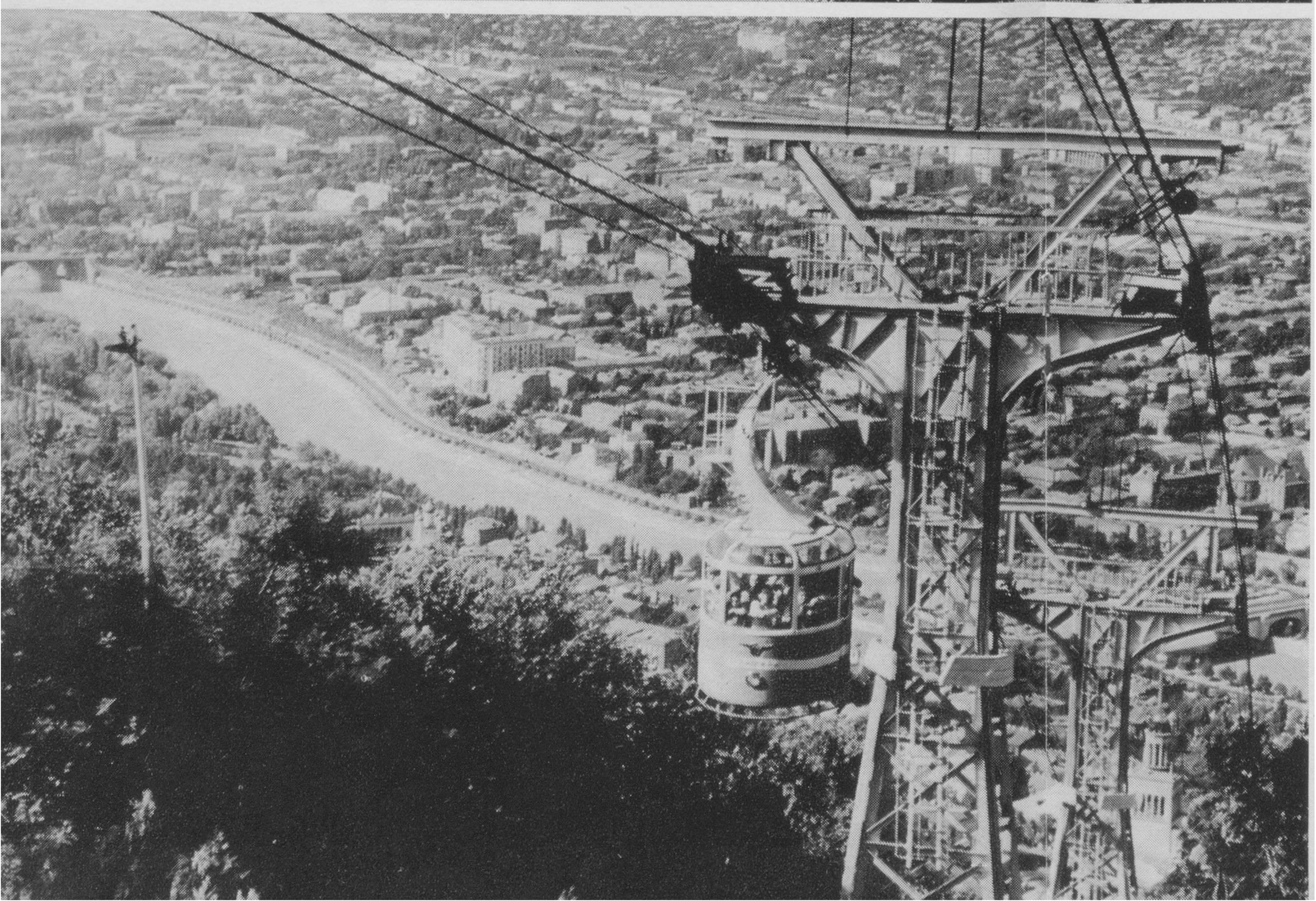
The State University of Georgia in Tbilisi.

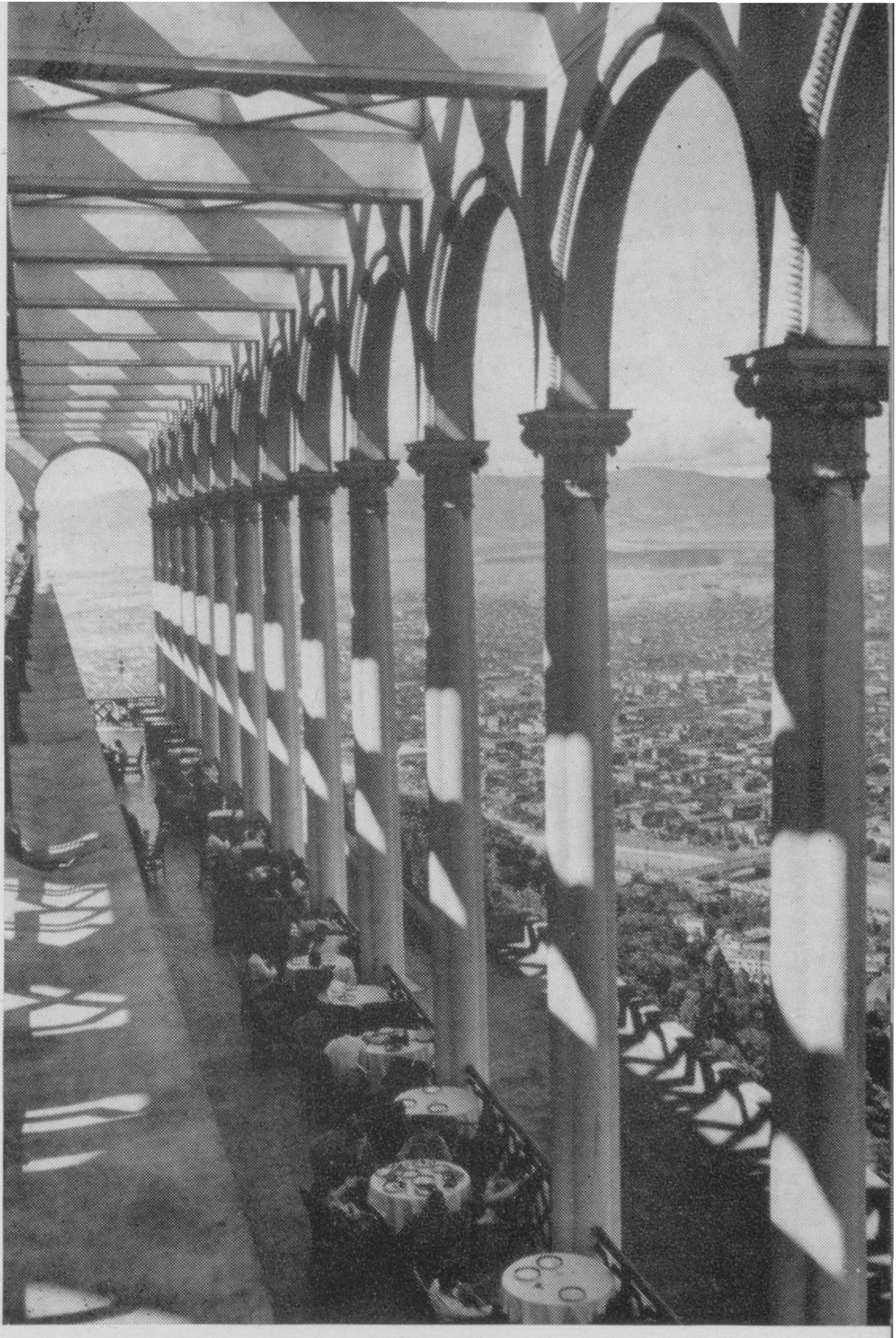


The Square of Heroes in Tbilisi, and on the hill behind, the new building of the winter circus—one of the largest circus buildings in the Soviet Union.

The Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute on Rustaveli Avenue. The street name commemorates the 12th-century Georgian poet Shota Rustaveli, author of the poem "Knight in a Tiger's Skin".







TBILISI

Georgia's capital is at least 1,500 *years old. Fortress ruins and ancient cone-topped churches are numerous, and testify to the forty foreign invasions endured since the city's foundation.*

The Kura River—now harnessed to hydro-electric stations —flows through Tbilisi, and dominating the scene is Mtatsminda Hill (top left). *A funicular railway* (left) *runs up its side to Stalin Park, where stands the TV tower and a restaurant pavilion* (above).

From its terrace there is a splendid panorama of the city, which is now the industrial centre of Georgia.

The plantation of young citrus fruit trees above, is protected against frosts by shrouds of triple-cheesecloth (Adjarian Autonomous Republic).

Acres of sunflowers in Tsiteli-Tskaro District. They are grown for their oil-bearing seeds, from which valuable stock-feed is obtained.

The sheep loaded into lorries above are moving from their lowland winter pastures and will soon be winding up Daghestan mountain roads to their summer quarters.

Harvesting tea at the Laitur State Farm.

A corner of the "Mother and Child" sanatorium at the Tsikisdziri health resort in Adjaria on the Black Sea Coast.

Left: *The sanatorium of the Soviet Coal Ministry in Tskhaltubo.*

A choir which sings at the People's Art Club in Sukhumi (Abkhazian Autonomous Republic). A unique feature of this choir is that all its members are centenarians.

The Georgians are famed for their dancing, and their State Ensemble has delighted audiences in many parts of the world. Below we see A. Yevtimishvili and L. Koridze dancing the "Khendzhluri".

GEORGIA'S PAST AND FUTURE:

Georgian culture is one of the oldest on Soviet territory. The archaeologists above are examining Middle Ages pottery unearthed in Tbilisi.

Left: *The 2,000 kilowatt atomic reactor newly established at the Institute of Physics in Tbilisi.*

drawn up by the planning bodies of the Republic, which based it on the target figures approved by the Twenty-First Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

It takes into account Georgia's climatic conditions and resources, the level of her economic development, and the proposals made by the working people of Georgia during the countrywide discussion of the seven-year plan.

By 1965, the last year of the seven-year plan period, total industrial output in Georgia will be 75 per cent higher than in 1958.

Output of the chemical industry is to show a six-fold increase. Georgia's newest industries, like engineering, large-scale electro-technical, and instrument-making, will make particular progress.

The reader will undoubtedly be interested in the extent to which Georgia's leading industries are scheduled to develop. There will be a 120 per cent increase in electric power output during the current plan period; mineral fertiliser production will also rise by 120 per cent, the output of metal-working lathes by 160 per cent, and that of lorries by 150 per cent.

Great attention will be paid to developing the manganese industry. Incidentally, 1959 marked eighty years since development of the Chiatura manganese deposits started. During the current seven-year period new mines will be built, new machinery manufactured to meet the conditions at the Chiatura fields, and a number of extraction and dressing processes mechanised and automated.

Dozens of New Factories to be Built

The number of big new industrial establishments that are to be enlarged or set in operation during the seven-year plan period run into dozens. One is the electric locomotive works in Tbilisi, which by 1965 will be turning out 12.5 times more locomotives than in 1958. Georgia will then be producing more electric locomotives than France.

Tbilisi electric locomotives now pull heavy freight trains on the railways of Siberia. They develop high speeds, and have almost double the capacity of ordinary electric locomotives. The works is to be considerably expanded beginning with 1959.

Workers and engineers there have resolved to attain the capacity planned for 1965 a year earlier, in 1964.

Among the new establishments there are to be twenty-two electrotechnical plants and fifteen factories for the tea industry. In the previous seven years Georgia built two electrotechnical plants and ten tea factories. From this it is easy to see how much work Georgia has planned to accomplish by 1965 and the rate of her industrial development.

As in the other Soviet Republics, a high level of technical progress based on a scientific foundation is a characteristic feature of industrial development in Georgia. This results in a significant growth in labour productivity which, under socialist conditions, means making work easier and transforming it in all of its aspects into mental work demanding less and less physical effort and more and more knowledge.

Georgia is beginning to produce mounted farm machinery on a mass

scale to mechanise the cultivation and harvesting of tea, tobacco and other specialised crops grown on mountain slopes.

The electrotechnical and instrument-making factories now being built in Georgia will produce mobile electric welding equipment, automatic machines for fillet welds, speedometers, electric engines to drill oil wells, laboratory auto-transformers to measure circuit voltage, electric-vibration machines, differential pressure-relays, electrotechnical equipment for tower cranes, electric-machinery amplifiers, alternating current magnetic stations, and many other goods.

Mechanisation

Designers at the Orjonikidze auto works in Kutaisi have produced motor vehicles of new construction, among them a five-ton lorry, tip-up lorries of various carrying capacities, and a small garden tractor.

Georgia has thirty research institutes and designing bureaus working on mechanisation, automation and the introduction of new technology into industry. Under Soviet conditions automation means not only increased output and a reduction in labour-expenditure but a basic improvement in working and living conditions.

To show more clearly the influence mechanisation has on labour and living conditions I shall quote from an article published in a Georgian newspaper recently. The author visited the assembly shop at the Kutaisi auto works and in his article he describes how Guram Kirkitadze works on a conveyor.

"The vast shop where they assemble and test tip-up lorries is amazingly quiet. Only a frame lies on the conveyor when a plate chain sets it in motion. The conveyor takes the frame to the first worker. Slowly but surely the vehicle grows as the conveyor carries it along, collecting a rear axle, a front axle, steering gear, an engine, a cab, and a body. There are 349 operations involved in putting the lorry together.

"To talk with a worker while he is at the conveyor is hard. The conveyor has its own rhythm and every minute counts. For that reason I had to interview Guram Kirkitadze after work.

"There was not a trace of weariness on his smiling face as he entered the little office of the shop management. Engineer Koba Kiladze, assistant shop superintendent, helped me to understand what was most important about this rank-and-file worker at a conveyor.

"A man can work twenty years for Ford and never learn a trade. His job is one tiny operation, broken down to its smallest element. Guram Kirkitadze attended a trade school.

"He is a fitter and assemblyman with a fine knowledge of the other work that goes into manufacturing lorries. Today he may be putting in cabs, but if necessary he can be shifted to perform any other operation.

"Boris Vashakidze, a test driver, had this to say:

" 'I was doing what Guram is doing now almost ten years ago. In fact, all the foremen and drivers in the shop used to work on the conveyor. All of us know all the jobs involved in automobile manufacture.'

"Guram told me when we said goodbye: 'Come to see us again soon and you'll find our conveyor has become a still more mechanised assembly line. By 1960 it will be equipped for serial production of new five-ton lorries and truck tractors. The speed of the conveyor will be increased but that does not frighten us because there will be new automatic lines.'

"So there are going to be innovations in conveyor equipment. That's fine! The Plant will see that the workers receive additional training; it will send them to school. The country will have new and better motor vehicles, and that, in its turn, means we'll all be living better."

Raising Material and Cultural Standards

The seven-year plan for the development of the national economy with all its great variety of indices has one idea behind it, pursues one major aim—to raise the material and cultural standards of the people. It is an economically necessary aim, a natural objective under the socialist system. It is the basic aim of the Communist Party, which guides the development of the country's economy, in all its practical activity.

The national income in the Soviet Union is distributed in the interests of the entire people. Three-fourths of it goes to satisfy the personal and public requirements of the population. This means that in the final analysis each citizen gains by having all branches of the national economy develop.

The current seven-year plan will bring with it many improvements in the production of consumer goods. Compared with 1958, Georgia will produce in 1965 67 per cent more woollen and silk fabrics, 29.3 per cent more leather footwear, 30 per cent more withered tea leaf, and 150 per cent more grape wine.

The Tbilisi confectionery factory, the largest in the Transcaucasus, went into operation at the start of the seven-year period. Many more enterprises of the food and light industries are scheduled to start work during the current seven-year plan period.

Tbilisi is to have a new bent-wood furniture factory and a new fine-cloth factory. The second section of the cotton mill at Gori will be completed.

This means that by that time, and perhaps even earlier, the Soviet Union will come to hold first place both in absolute volume of production and in *per capita* production, thereby giving the Soviet people the highest living standards in the world.

Exceptional Enthusiasm

This will, of course, be far from easy to achieve. But the Soviet people know it can be done, in the same way as they have achieved everything the Communist Party has planned.

The remarkable scope of the seven-year plan, and its clear object of raising living standards have aroused exceptional enthusiasm among all sections of the population.

At the time, on the eve of the Twenty-First Party Congress, when the entire Soviet Union was discussing the target figures for the seven-year plan, a new patriotic movement arose in many parts of the country, including Georgia, to organise Communist work teams.

One of the first Communist work teams to be organised in Georgia was at the iron and steel mill in Rustavi. The team is headed by Alexander Dzamashvili, leader of the second blast-furnace team, who was elected a delegate to the Twenty-First Party Congress and has been a member of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian Republic since March of this year.

Dzamashvili's team has pledged to fulfil its seven-year plan ahead of schedule. The team has already turned out hundreds of tons of pig iron over and above plan.

Alexander Dzamashvili and another member of the team, Revaz Kafiyan, a gas watchman, combine work with study at the Rustavi branch of the Georgian Polytechnic Institute. Still another member, Yuri Yanchuk, a plumber, has taken examinations entitling him to enter the Institute of Agriculture, where he will study by correspondence. Vazha Buachidze, who operates the car scales, attends the local school of metallurgy. Furnacemen Anzor Ivanidze and Irodion Shamatava are completing their secondary education at the mill's school for young workers.

What has changed since the team became a Communist work team? For one thing, this has given each member a new incentive. Each feels it a matter of duty and honour not only to work in exemplary fashion but constantly to add to his knowledge and look for ways to improve production, and help those who are lagging behind.

In other words, to have his life and work be an example of how people in communist society should conduct themselves.

To try to develop to the full man's finest qualities in preparation for communism is a new feature of Soviet life today, including life in Georgia.

Land of Plenty

For decades agriculture in Georgia was poorly developed. The best land belonging to the princes, landlords and kulaks,* who cultivated it in primitive fashion.

The Soviet system transferred the land to the peasants free of charge and for use in perpetuity. Individual farmers joined together to form large collective farms which the state supplied with machinery and agricultural implements.

By 1958 there were 6,249 tractors, 1,492 harvester combines and tens of thousands of other farm machines working the fields of Georgia.

Tremendous changes have taken place in Georgian agriculture in the past few years. This has been due to the implementation by our farmers of the decisions of the Communist Party.

The most striking progress has been in subtropical crop cultivation. Georgia is the youngest region in the world growing tea. The 125,000 acres of tea gardens with their eternally green carpet of bushes are the pride of the Republic.

Before the Revolution tea-growing in Georgia was represented by several hundred acres of land cultivated in primitive fashion and producing a low yield of third-grade leaf that was processed at a small, primitive factory. This fact makes the success tea-growers in Georgia have achieved in such a comparatively short period all the more striking.

Academician Ksenia Bakhtadze, Stalin Prize Winner, was the first

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* Capitalist farmers who derived their income from exploiting wage-labour, combined with trading, pawning, rent from land, and the hiring out of cattle and tools.—Ed.

scientist in the history of tea cultivation, which goes back for more than 1,000 years, to evolve select varieties of tea.

Soviet tea-growers were the first in the world to mechanise the labour-consuming work of cultivating and plucking tea. Georgian scientists and designers have produced highly productive machines to use in inter-row cultivation, pruning and plucking.

In 1965, according to the seven-year plan, Georgia is to deliver 170,000 tons of green tea leaf to the state. Georgia's tea-growers have pledged to pluck 200,000 tons of tea leaf in 1965, which means that by the end of the seven-year plan period the Soviet Union will have all the tea it requires.

Other branches of agriculture are also scheduled to make great progress in the 1959-65 period. Some 9,200 acres are to be planted to citrus trees, so that by 1965 Georgia will be able to deliver up to 55,000 tons of fruit to the state. The same period will see the area planted to orchards brought up to 350,000 acres, thereby enabling the Republic to sell the state at least 160,000 tons of fruit.

Vineyards will cover an area of 300,000 acres at the end of the period compared with the 170,000 acres at the present time. They will yield 500,000 tons of grapes, of which 330,000 tons will be sold to the state.

The areas under tobacco, sugar beet, maize and other crops are also to be extended. Livestock farming will also make new advances. Meat production per 100 acres of farmland will increase from 25 cwt. to 51 cwt. in live weight.

The Golden Fleece

The Kolkhida (Colchis) lowland is to play an important part in the further development of agriculture in Georgia.

This ancient land abounds in legends of deep significance. Colchis was the goal of Jason and the Argonauts when they set out in search of the Golden Fleece.

The Kolkhida swamps that poisoned vast areas with the stench of rotting verdure concealed the wealth that lay hidden in that fertile soil. For centuries this wealth awaited a new generation of Argonauts capable of taming nature and taking her treasures from her to place them at the service of man. This the Soviet people have done.

The fruits of their labour in Kolkhida can be seen on the renewed lands of the Poti, Khobi, Lanchkhuti and other districts in the lowlands.

Fields, orchards and gardens now spread across territory that once was marshland; new collective-farm villages have arisen.

Georgia is the classic land of viticulture and wine-making. It is considered one of the birthplaces of the grape. The most valuable grape varieties go to make the fine Soviet wines that are so popular at home and have become well known in other countries. They invariably win the highest awards at international exhibitions.

It is planned to increase wine production by 150 per cent during the current period, while the area under grapes will be brought up to 132,000 acres.

Yields of tea, grain, tobacco, citrus fruits, grapes, fruit and other crops are increasing from year to year, and socially-owned livestock farming is on the increase.

The total monetary income of Georgia's collective farms is now four times greater than in 1940, and exceeds 2,000 million roubles annually, while the indivisible funds* of the collective farms are five times what they were in 1940, and amount to 4,000 million roubles.

Grape-growing is one of the main sources of income at many collective farms. Viticulture gave the collective farms of Gurjani District an income of more than 47,000,000 roubles in 1958, and accounted for 70.5 per cent of their entire monetary income.

"We Never Dreamt of Such Wealth"

Let us see what these figures mean to the average collective farm member. Here is what vigorous ninety-year-old Gio Gogiashvili, one of the oldest residents of Bodbe, a mountain village in Signakhi District, says:

"The old days, before Soviet times, were hard for the people of Bodbe. No roads led up the mountain to our village. We lived in mud huts and worked for a landowner. Entire families left to work for rich landlords because they had no land of their own. When you recall the past you can only wonder how people stood it.

"The Soviet system has brought us land and machinery. Before, all we dreamed of was having enough to eat. Now a good worker can earn enough in a year to last him for several years. My neighbour Beso Abulashvili used to be poor. You should see the fine house he's built himself! Who ever heard of a Bodbe peasant knowing how to read and write? But now we have a big school and an evening school. It isn't enough for our young people, though. They go to the big cities to study besides.

"The people of Bodbe do important work now. There was a time when, if a peasant fell ill, he'd have to go to the district centre to find a doctor. But now we have our own hospital and chemist's shop. We've grown so prosperous that we've been able to build a recreation centre like those in the cities. Films are shown there every evening.

"In 1959 our collective farm had an income of 4 million roubles. In the old days the peasants of Bodbe could never have dreamed of such wealth. And the seven-year plan is going to make us still richer."

In Chumlaki, a village in the neighbouring district of Gurjaani, the changes have been equally great since the establishment of a collective farm there. A visit to the homes of the farmers makes you realise how much the collective farm system has given them.

Conscientious work on the collective farm has brought Ivané Natsvlishvili happiness. Once a poor peasant for whom a wooden hut was an inaccessible luxury, he now lives in a two-storey brick house, where everything speaks of a life of plenty and culture. No peasant before the great October Revolution could have dreamed of a home like that. But today the new furniture and cut-glass in Ivané Natsvlishvili's house gives no impression of anything out of the ordinary.

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* The indivisible funds of a collective farm include machinery and equipment used in farm production, farm buildings and structures, forest tracts and tree plantings, and the commonly-owned livestock. They are called indivisible because they are the joint property of the members of the farm and cannot be divided and given to those withdrawing from membership in the collective farm.

There are many homes like his in Chumlaki.

Almost all the villages in Georgia have attained the same level as Bodbe and Chumlaki.

The Flowering of Georgian Culture

There were tens of thousands of illiterates in Georgia at the time the Soviet system was first established there. Today everyone in Georgia can read and write. The Republic's 4,500 schools have an enrolment of 700,00. Instruction is in the native tongue.

Universal eight-year compulsory education is now being introduced. The new system of educating the rising generation is based on the principle of bringing study closer to life. A broad network of evening schools for young people employed in industry and agriculture is being developed, and study by correspondence and after work is being encouraged in every way.

The number of boarding schools in the Republic is to be considerably increased in the seven-year plan period, so that by the end of the period there will be fourteen times more children attending boarding schools than at present.

Particular progress has been made in higher education. Today Georgia's higher schools have a total enrolment of more than 40,000. There are eighteen persons with a higher education for every 1,000 of the population. This is three-and-a-half times more than in France, four times more than in Britain, ten times more than in Turkey, and fifty times more than in Iran.

In number of persons with a higher education per 1,000 of the population Georgia now holds first place in the world, having a greater number than Belgium, Italy, Turkey and Iran taken together.

An Academy of Sciences was established in Georgia in 1940. This gave a new impetus to the development of all the sciences. The research work of Georgia's historians, linguists, mathematicians, physicists, astronomers and chemists is known far beyond the confines of Georgia itself. An Academy of Agriculture was founded in Georgia a short time ago.

Tractor Driver Becomes Academician

Georgia has 130 research institutions at which several thousand scientists are doing fruitful work. These scientists have emerged from the midst of the common people; the Soviet system placed scientific research and creative work within their reach.

Early in the thirties Vakhtang Makhaldiani was a tractor-driver in Kartli, Georgia's chief grain-growing district. Today he is a member of the Georgian Academy of Sciences and founder of the Georgian school of specialists in internal combustion engines. No one, including Academician Makhaldiani, finds this astonishing; many Georgian scientists have a life story similar to his.

In recent years there has been extensive research in Georgia into automation, instrument making, electrical engineering and telemechanics. New scientific centres have arisen like the Institute of Applied Chemistry and Electrochemistry, the Research Institute of Automation of Production Processes, and a big electronic data-processing centre.

Establishment of these institutions is not simply due to the growth of Georgian science. The Twenty-First Party Congress laid particular stress on research into problems connected with the all-round mechanisation and automation of production.

In addition to the six institutes of the Academy of Sciences, research in the field of technology is also conducted by the teaching staffs of of the Georgian Republic.

Georgian scientists are doing advanced research in nuclear physics and the physics of low temperatures and cosmic rays. They are working on problems of major importance to mankind. Together with scientists of Moscow and Leningrad and all the Soviet Republics, Georgian scientists have done successful work in the field of controlled thermo-nuclear reactions.

The nuclear reactor recently established in Tbilisi will enable scientists there to do research into the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Academy of Sciences is setting up an Institute of Semi-Conductors which will be important in the further development of computing techniques, telemechanics and automation.

Contacts with other countries are growing more varied, concrete and effective all the time. In 1958 Georgia's scientists represented various spheres of science at conferences and scientific meetings in Edinburgh, Leyden, Berlin, Leipzig, Geneva, Rochester, London, Vienna, Bucharest, Rome and Brussels.

Many of Georgia's research institutes have established close contact and co-operate actively with scientific institutions abroad. The Abastumani Observatory, for one, is studying variable stars together with observatories in the United States, Canada, Holland and Ireland. The Razmadze Institute of Mathematics is working in co-operation with the Institute of Fundamental Technology of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Literary Achievements

In Soviet times 44,000 books have been published in Georgia in a total printing of 190 million copies. Editions of newspapers, magazines and books run into hundreds of thousands of copies.

This is still not enough to satisfy the demand. And although by the end of the seven-year plan period one new printing and publishing house will be putting out as many books a year as do all the printing houses of Georgia today, we plan a still greater rise in the output of books, magazines and newspapers in the future.

Books, magazines and newspapers are published in the Georgian, Abkhazian, Ossetian, Armenian and Azerbaijanian languages. The Republic has several literary magazines and a literary newspaper. The Union of Georgian Writers has its own publishing house.

Many of the works of Georgia's poets and prose writers have been translated into Russian and the languages of the other Soviet Republics, and have been published abroad.

Never before have Georgian writers had such favourable conditions for work; never have their works been so popular. A writer is always a chronicler of his time. When you want to know how people lived at some period in history, what their thoughts and interests were, what they strove for, you turn to the writings of that period.

Since the Soviet writer is also a chronicler of the age in which he lives it is only natural that Georgian authors should record the contemporary scene and that the heroes should be the active builders of the new society.

The names of outstanding Georgian prose writers and poets of the older generation are well known in the Soviet Union and beyond its borders. They are: Galaktion Tabidze, Niko Lordkipanidze, Paolo Yashvili, Titsian Tabidze, Shalva Dadiani and others.

Outstanding among these authors is Leo Kiacheli, whose novels encompass a wide range of events—the main stages in the history of the Soviet people over the past half-century.

Konstantin Lordkipanidze is another of our most eminent novelists, contemporary in the full sense of the word. Each of his novels is permeated with the spirit of our Soviet life; his characters are active builders of the new world. In his latest novel, *The Magic Stone*, Lordkipanidze presents the inner world of a man helping to build up a collective farm. One of the author's greatest merits is his ability to show the romance of work. His characters subdue the land and nature, and they do this with the help of the machinery which the state has provided the collective farm. Lordkipanidze's characters love work; this is what imparts beauty and spirituality to them.

Widely popular are the works of other modern authors of Georgia such as Simon Chikovani, Konstantin Gamsakhurdia, Irakli Abashidze, Demna Shengelaya, Akaki Beliashvili, G. Leonidze and others. A whole gallery of young Georgian prose writers and poets such as Revaz Margiani, Khuta Berulava, Iosif Noneshvili, A. Kalandadze and others are also very popular.

"Othello"

The Georgian ballet has long been famous far beyond the boundaries of the Soviet Union. *Othello* is one of its greatest achievements in recent years. This colourful ballet, with music by A. Machavariani, was produced by that great dancer Vakhtang Chabukiani, People's Artist of the U.S.S.R., who wrote the libretto for it and dances the main role.

It was long believed that to create a ballet based on *Othello* was impossible. But Georgian choreographers have translated verbal images into the vivid language of the dance with such superb artistry that the tragedy, with its wild passions, stirring ideas and deep emotions has come alive on the ballet stage.

Othello interpreted through the medium of ballet remains profoundly Shakespearean, and this is due in great part to Vakhtang Chabukiani. For *Othello* Vakhtang Chubukiani received a Lenin Prize in 1958.

The gifted and exceptionally musical Georgian people have two fine professional companies of folk music and dancing that are deservedly popular among the Soviet people. One is the Georgian Folk Dance Company under People's Artists N. Ramishvili and I. Sukhishvili, and the Georgian Song and Dance Company led by the composer Tsagareishvili.

Cultural contacts between the Georgian Republic and foreign countries are steadily growing broader and stronger. In the past year our Republic was visited by thirty-six foreign delegations of cultural workers from sixteen countries, and nine musical groups.

The Georgian Ballet Company has made a triumphal tour of Latin America. The Schvidkatsa Vocal Ensemble has visited Brussels and towns in England and Scotland. The Georgian Instrumental Trio has played before audiences in the United Arab Republic. The Folk Dance Company has performed with great success in Britain, France, Italy and Czechoslovakia.

Our ties with foreign countries help to acquaint our friends abroad with the history, culture and way of life of the Georgian people.

Sports

Sports have long been popular among the Georgian people. Many, like Georgian wrestling, lelo (Georgian-style Rugby), and equestrian games have a history dating back many centuries.

Today more than half a million people in Georgia engage regularly in some form of sports activity. There are at least 6,000 physical culture groups at factories, mills, collective farms and schools. These groups train in up to forty different kinds of sport.

With so many people taking part in sports (there are fifty-seven sports schools for children scattered throughout Georgia) it is only natural that many gifted sportsmen should come to the fore and win fame far beyond Georgia.

Georgian Olympic champions, and many other Georgian wrestlers, track and field athletes, gymnasts, basketball players, weight-lifters, football players and mountain-climbers are highly thought of in sporting circles.

As members of U.S.S.R. teams, Georgia's ten best sportsmen participated in the Sixteenth Olympic Games at Melbourne and made a fine showing. Eight of them returned home with Olympic medals. They received more points at Melbourne than sportsmen from many countries far larger than Georgia.

Georgia has seventy-two men and women who hold the title of Honoured Master of Sport, and about 600 with the title of Master of Sport.

Some twenty years ago there were only a few sports facilities in Georgia. Today the Republic has seventy stadiums, 1,000 football fields, 4,500 volleyball and basketball courts, 270 gymnasiums, twenty swimming pools, and many ski jumps, cinder tracks and wrestling rings. By the end of the seven-year plan period there will be a great many more of these facilities.

Georgia is a land of sunshine, a health centre famed all over the Soviet Union. Health resorts stretch in a picturesque belt along the Black Sea coast from Gagra to Batumi. Large health and holiday centres have been built for the working people at Borzhomi, Tskhaltubo, Abastumani and other places high in the mountains where baths and mountain air restore health and strength.

Tens of thousands of people from all over the Soviet Union and people from many foreign countries take treatment at these resorts annually.

The health resorts of Tskhaltubo, Abastumani, Gagra, Sairme and Tskhaisha are to be considerably enlarged during the seven-year plan period; a new resort is being built on the Pitsunda promontory.

Great attention will also be paid to other branches of the health service. In 1958 Georgia had 13.3 times more hospital beds than in 1913.

The Republic has an average of three doctors for every 1,000 persons. The United States has 1.7, Britain 1.2, Italy 1.6 and France 1.4.

During the current seven-year plan period the number of hospital beds is scheduled to increase from 27,800 to 39,000

The Fraternal Family of Soviet Peoples

The Georgian people look back with pride on the path they have covered in Soviet times. These years have seen the genuine flowering of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic. As one of the fifteen equal Union Republics of the Soviet Union Georgia is taking an active part in the successful building of a new society in our country.

The rapid economic and cultural development of the Union Republics has led the Communist Party to carry through a number of important measures in recent years to extend considerably the sovereign rights of these Republics in industrial and construction management and in justice, education, science, culture, finance and other spheres of economic and cultural development.

"The seven-year plan envisages a tremendous growth in the economy of all Union Republics. Each Republic is to give priority to the development of those branches of economy for which it has the most favourable natural and economic conditions in order that the resources of the Republic should be utilised with the greatest efficiency and the interests of the individual Republics be correctly co-ordinated with the interests of the Soviet Union as a whole," says the resolution of the Twenty-First Party Congress.

These measures contribute to the development of the state system and sovereignty of the Union Republics; they enhance the role of these Republics in deciding basic problems of the national economy, strengthen the mutual trust that exists among the peoples of the U.S.S.R., and encourage the creative initiative of the public at large.

Together with all the other people in our country the Georgian people warmly support the wise Leninist home and foreign policy of the Communist Party, a policy of strengthening the economic might and defence capacity of the Soviet Union, ensuring further intensified industrial and agricultural progress, developing science and culture, raising living standards, and consolidating world peace.

People from other countries who visit the Soviet Union are very impressed with our achievements—the low rents, the free medical services, the state allowances for college students, and so on.

The large number of recreation centres for working people, the Palaces of Culture, health and holiday homes, the widespread system of pensions, and paid holidays, have become part and parcel of Soviet living.

But there are some people in the Western countries who do not like the stupendous prospects of Communist construction, the flourishing of the material and spiritual forces of all the nations and nationalities of the Soviet Union. They try to distort reality and to discredit our system and our way of life.

No Small Contribution to Mankind and Happiness

However, most of the foreigners who have visited our Republic could not but acknowledge those grand achievements that were scored by Georgia during the years of Soviet power.

Let us give the floor to the foreign guests who visited the Soviet Union, particularly the cities and villages of Georgia, and who acquainted themselves personally with different aspects of our life.

"We found a high level of culture in Georgia," writes Marcel Prepin, rector of the Sorbonne. "It is amazing, simply astounding, that this small country has as many scientific workers as France with her population of forty million."

Ronald Brown, prominent American industrialist from Cleveland, declared that besides the modern buildings, public gardens, parks and walks, the happy, gay people of Soviet Georgia made a big impression on him.

"The Soviet system has given Georgia a great deal," says Sunit Kumir Gaverji, Professor at Calcutta University and president of the legislative assembly of the state of West Bengal. "National culture and art are freely developing here. The Georgians energetically take advantage of all the opportunities provided by the Soviet system. It has been very pleasant and useful to get acquainted with your small nation, which has made no small contribution to mankind and its happiness."

Balakumar Mikhadeva, head of a delegation from Ceylon and a tea expert, said: "we have learned a great deal on this trip concerning both tea cultivation and the organisation and methods of tea manufacture. We can only wish that the technical improvements in tea manufacture we saw in Soviet Georgia could be applied at home."

"Wherever you look building is going on and there are blocks of modern houses," says Abdul Majid Hassan, mayor of Baghdad. "It is noteworthy that the latest building techniques are used everywhere. Such techniques are not yet widespread in our country. The Soviet system has created much in Georgia that puts this Republic on a level with the world's most advanced countries."

These statements are not the superficial impressions of the casual tourist. They are carefully formulated declarations made by eminent specialists from various countries concerning different aspects of Soviet Georgia's economy and culture.

Throughout its long history the Georgian people have struggled for happiness. Today they have acquired this happiness. It is not a gift of the gods but something which the Georgian people have themselves won under the leadership of the Communist Party, in joint struggle with their fellow Russians, Ukrainians, Azerbaijanians, Armenians and other members of the multi-national family of the U.S.S.R.

The Georgian people are advancing with enthusiasm and hope towards a still more happy life in Communist society, for which they are today working with success.

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