FLASH!

NEW WAGE SCALES

A new decision of the party and government was announced on April 1st which calls for the lowering of the higher salaries of cadres and intellectuals, so as to reduce the differences between incomes of workers and farmers and that of cadres.

It also provides for some improvements in the wage system of the working people, and for further narrowing the differences between town and country.

A more detailed report of this important decision will appear in the next issue of *Albania Report*. □

SHORT ITEMS OF INTEREST

** Vol. 20 of Enver Hoxha's Works came off the press in February. It covers the period Jan.-Apr. 1961, and includes the material of the 4th Congress of the Party of Labor.

** The Albanian Olympic Committee wrote to the International Olympic Committee on Feb. 17th demanding that the regime of the South African racists be excluded from the Olympics.

** Retirement age for Albanian women is now 45 to 55 years, while for men it is 50 to 60 years, depending on occupation, etc.

** During 1975 the "Naim Frasheri" Publishing House turned out 221 literary and artistic works (27 of which were novels) all by Albanian authors.

** An earthquake occurred on Mar. 2nd centered on Ballsh City, Fieri district. Several hundred houses were damaged, some severely, but no casualties resulted.

** The Albanian press has written a number of articles supporting Iceland in its "fishing war" with Great Britain.

. . . BOLETINI (cont.)

POJAN FARMER'S LETTER

Another similar letter was sent to Enver Hoxha on Feb. 3rd by a group of Kossovar farmers, members of the "Bajram Curri" coop in the Pojan region of Fieri district. After describing the "nightmare" of their old life, and counting up all the joyful achievements of the Kossovar people living in the socialist society, they concluded: "Thus we can tell you, dear Comrade Enver, that your desire and the desire of the party that the troubles and suffering of the Kossovo families should be wiped out once and for all, has become a reality for us."

The Kossovar farmers pledged to defend the country with their lives, to educate the new generation with love for the party and the people, with love for work, and with love for the rifle, "because the freedom we are enjoying today stems from the barrel of the gun." □

FOLK MEDICINE STUDIED

A new development in Albania's health service is the setting up of the Institute of Popular Medicine which was reported by the press in January.

After liberation, along with the extension of modern health institutions, a careful study of the experience of folk medicine was also begun, which has revealed "a great treasure of the national traditions of the Albanian people."

The setting up of this new Institute creates more favorable conditions for a broader and better organized scientific study of this folk medicine, based on experimental, laboratory and clinical work.

In cooperation with other health institutions, the Institute will organize a wide collection of these methods of popular medicine, the historic documentation of these experiences, the folk terminology, etc.

Good results are being achieved through the activation of regular health personnel, amateurs and practitioners of folk medicine, agricultural workers, and collectors of medicinal herbs. Many of these curative folk medicines have been put to good use.

NEW HEALTH SPA OPENED

A new health spa has been opened in the Kolonja district near Leskovik. Its medicinal waters have very strong curative effects, especially with regard to rheumatism. During the past two years, 94% of such patients have improved significantly.

These mineral waters have also been effective in curing or ameliorating a number of other disorders, liver, hepatitis, bile, gastritis, ulcers, colitis, hypertension, etc. The treatment includes both drinking the water and bathing in it. Some skin diseases have been helped by it. Studies are now going on to see if these waters can lower the cholesterol in the blood, or if it may have a positive effect on arterio-sclerosis.

A number of other spas have been in operation in various parts of the country for some time, such as in Elbasan, Peshkopia, Glina, etc. They have all had good results in improving the people's health. □

** New archeological finds near Durres date back to the 4th century B.C.

** During this three month period, trade agreements have been signed with People's China, North Korea, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, and Cuba. Also a cultural exchange plan was signed with Sweden.

** During this period the following delegations visited Albania: a government trade delegation from Hanoi, C.P. (M.L.) from Ecuador, C.P. (M.L.) from Sweden, M.L. Youth from Sweden, Revolutionary C.P. from Uruguay, government trade delegation from People's China, Algerian T.U. delegation, Portuguese C.P. (Reconstituted), M.L. Communist League from Denmark, Finnish M.L. Groups, and Revolutionary C.P. from Chile. □

NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION

SELF-RELIANCE & INDEPENDENCE

All over Albania, intensive discussions are going on by the people on the new constitution which has been proposed for adoption.

Some of the key elements in the new constitution are those provisions to guarantee the complete economic and political independence of the country.

Article 26 prohibits the granting of concessions to any foreign economic or financial companies or other institutions, or any companies jointly owned with bourgeois or revisionist capitalist monopolies or states. It also prohibits the acceptance of credits from such sources.

The article states that the development of the economy and the whole construction of socialism is based mainly on self-reliance, as well as on the internationalist aid of other socialist countries.

Article 93 reads: "No one has the right to sign or accept, in the name of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, the capitulation or occupation of the country. Such an act is condemned as treason to the country.

Article 94 reads: "The stationing of foreign military bases and troops in the territory of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania is prohibited." □

. . . GREEK MINORITY (cont.)

hold flocks into collective herds, just as the farmers of Pogon have done.

We know there are enemies who are cooking up plots against our borders, who spread base slanders against our homeland. But we of Dropulli will keep a firm grip on the pick and the rifle. □

. . . STATE BUDGET (cont.)

won the title "Advanced Worker of the Fifth Five-Year Plan." The workers of this plant at the beginning of the year started a new emulation drive which has already been taken up all around the country, to win a new title for achievement in 1976, "Advanced Worker of the 35th Anniversary of the Founding of the Party." □

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