

ings to discuss further improvements. These institutions are financed by the Soviet government and the trade unions.

It is unnecessary to say much to convince any working woman that Soviet women are joyously taking advantage of these opportunities created for them by the Soviet government, which cannot be equaled by any other country.

20. Are There Divorces in the Soviet Union? What Is the Cost?

In the Soviet Union the relation between the sexes is incomparably better and more wholesome than in capitalist countries. The Communist Youth movement is the school from which boys and girls emerge with genuine comradely relations to each other. It is necessary, however, to carry on an energetic struggle against the remnants of the capitalist morality inherited from czarist Russia, against the so-called "double standard," which considers woman to be a slave, a means of enjoyment for men. These ideas are not yet completely uprooted, particularly in the villages. But this is an exception in the Soviet Union, while in the capitalist countries it is the rule.

In the Soviet Union, woman has been freed economically. She does not depend on the husband for the pay envelope. She may earn her own living. She has a place in which to leave her children under expert care during working hours and in case she wishes to engage more widely in social life. The Soviet government decreed that not less than 30 per cent of the students in the factory trade schools must be women. This gives women a chance to improve their skill and increase their earnings. The Communist Party is her best friend, which assists her to liquidate her backwardness. Therefore the only condition upon which she enters into the marital relationship is genuine companionship and equal responsibility in family life. If this has disappeared, she may obtain a divorce without cost through the municipal government and without any red tape. The condition is equal responsibility for the care of the children up to 18 years of age.³⁰

21. Is the Further Building of Socialism Assured in the Soviet Union?

Before the October Revolution, the capitalist-landlord government protected the exploiters who took the last morsel from the peasants, by way of enormous rentals, high interest, etc. The peasant and his family was compelled to work the lands of the landlords in payment for life-long debts. By means of this cheap labor of the vast mass of the peasants, (60 per cent were poor peasants), through this ferocious exploitation and plunder of the mass of the peasantry, the capitalist-landlord class made huge profits in Russia—the "granary of Europe."

The Soviet government abolished this plunder of the peasants. Debts were decreed out of existence. The poor peasants were exempted from taxation. For the first time the peasant was able to properly feed his family. The prerequisites for abolishing poverty in the village were created.³¹

The domination of the rich landlords was abolished, but the backward economic condition on the land permitted the kulak still to possess many economic privileges. Even up to 1928, the kulak was the one who furnished 40 per cent of the market grain in the entire country. It was still necessary to permit the kulak to hire workers for the working of the land.

The mass of the peasantry were not yet able to satisfy the increased demand of the market. The old capitalist way of working the land still remained. Divided up into 26,000,000 small peasant holdings, each peasant working his land individually, many with wooden plows, the mass of peasants were not yet able to supply, to the extent necessary, the raw materials required by industry and food for the workers in the factories.

The social insurance against unemployment for factory workers attracted many peasants to the cities to seek work in the factories. But up until 1929 the factories were not able to absorb all these peasants. Many peasants hired out to the kulaks as land workers.

In addition to profits, the kulaks began to demand political rights, otherwise they threatened to refuse to sell grain to the