

about 10 per cent. This is an amazing achievement when one considers that only in 1917 the vast majority of the workers lived in barrack-like dwellings with complete absence of hygienic and sanitary conditions. In 1917 only 162 cities had a water supply and only 18 cities had a sewer system. Quack doctors were numerous. During confinement the majority of the women were either unattended or had a quack doctor called in. In the eastern part of Russia witchcraft was resorted to during confinement.

The Soviet government by its labor legislation protects the maternity rights of women.²¹ There is a vast system of social insurance, cultural institutions, a network of institutions for the protection of motherhood and infants and a broad system of sanitary instruction. Day nurseries, consultation stations and children's playgrounds have been developed on a wide scale. Milk stations and free feeding of school children is very extensive. In 1932 alone, over 5,000,000 workers and their families and 3,800,000 other toilers were served by communal kitchens. The social insurance organs alone spent 250,700,000 rubles in 1932 for the work of the above mentioned institutions. The trade unions spent 14,000,000 rubles for nurseries in 1932. The Soviet government spent (in 1932) 532,000,000 rubles for workers' pensions; 35,000,000 rubles for dieting treatments; 203,000,000 rubles for workers' sanatoria.

In 1913 there were 1.5 doctors for every 10,000 population. In 1930 there were 4.23 doctors in the service of the Soviet government for every 10,000 population. These doctors serve the workers free of charge. The Soviet government spent 920,000,000 rubles for workers' and peasants' medical treatment in 1932.

In 1932 over 3,000,000 workers were sent to rest homes and additional numbers to the sanatoria. The supply of raw milk increased by 92 per cent in 1932 over 1931; of pasteurized milk by 136 per cent. Output of clothing increased by 53 per cent in 1931 compared with 1930.

12. How Is Labor Protected in the Soviet Union?

Labor protection in the Soviet Union is under the control of the trade unions. An institute of inspectors, who are elected in the factories by the workers, has been organized. In 1932 there were 49,000 such inspectors. They not only inspect labor conditions, but carry on mass cultural work, encouraging development of workers' inventions in the sphere of improvement of the working conditions. In addition, there are inspectors appointed by the trade unions. Their main task is to control the fulfillment of the labor legislation. Also there are the sanitary inspectors who supervise and control the sanitary condition of the factory and, under the guidance of a special network of scientific research institutions of labor protection, they introduce latest achievements for improving the sanitary conditions of labor in the factories.²²

The Soviet government spent 169,000,000 rubles in 1932 for the protection of labor. This included the installation of various safety devices in the coal mines.

The Workers' and Peasants' Inspection (in which hundreds of thousands of workers and peasants give voluntary service) checks up on the work of the labor inspectors.²³

13. Why Is There a Housing Shortage in the Soviet Union?

Before 1917, the workers lived herded up to 50 in a room. They paid three rubles a month for a space big enough only for a small cot—no privacy, no sanitary or hygienic conditions. Some lived with their families in one room, in old dilapidated wooden houses held together with wooden pegs. Others slept on the bare floors of the factories.

After the October Revolution, it was necessary to do away with this shameful housing condition. But first it was necessary to re-build old factory buildings, to replace much of the machinery which the interventionists had smashed, to re-build the railroads, which the interventionists had wrecked. Without