

other agricultural machinery replace the mule. The huge collective farms can be tremendous cotton-growing factories. The land, no longer divided up into small tenant lots, can now be plowed by a tractor, planted by a seeding machine, chopped by modern agricultural equipment. The mechanical cotton picker, whose development has been retarded by the present system of growing cotton, could now be employed profitably. There would be a tremendous saving in human labor. Hundreds of thousands of farm families would now have the possibilities of leisure and peace, plenty and abundance, education and culture.

Social planning will make this possible. The nearest capitalism has come to "planning" is to plan the destruction of millions of acres of cotton under the A.A.A. and the Bankhead Bill. The new planning will plan, not destruction, but production and distribution.

Where will the resources and capital be obtained for this transformation of Southern agriculture? At the present time the bankers, other creditors, large commission and merchanting houses and the large landowners obtain great profits from the cotton country. Much of the surplus now produced in the cotton country is accumulated by the financiers in the form of exorbitant interest, in some cases reaching as high as 700 per cent per annum. This parasitism will no longer exist. All cotton will be sold directly to government agencies either from the collective or state farms or by the cooperatives of the individual owners. Government credit will be made available, on easy terms, to the poorest section of the farming population and to the collectives. Thus the capital produced by cotton cultivation will not flow into the coffers of Wall Street but will be utilized for improving Southern agriculture and the conditions of its workers.

But this will not be the only source of capital. The government of the Negro Republic could allocate to agriculture additional funds from the revenues of the State, largely obtained from State-owned industry.

Thirdly, there would be even greater aid from the Central Soviet Government of the United States. The principal policy of the Central Soviet Government with regard to the Negro Republic would be to establish the basis of full equality by rapidly raising the economic level of this region. Funds would immediately be allocated for agricultural and industrial development in

the South; the necessary skilled technicians and experts would be supplied. This was precisely the policy followed by the government of the Soviet Union in relation to the backward areas where the formerly oppressed nations lived. If the Soviet Union could do this, with its relatively limited resources, the Central Soviet Government in this country will be able to do it on a much greater scale. This question is connected with that of the building of industry in the South.

INDUSTRY

In comparison to the rest of the country, there is a very undeveloped and unbalanced industry in the plantation area of the South today. With the exception of cotton mill towns, there are no important large-scale industries in the Black Belt. The only heavy industrial center is in Birmingham, which is just off the northern tip of the Alabama Black Belt. The textile industry, by far the largest industry in the South, is centered in the North and South Carolina Piedmont and in the Northeastern part of Georgia. The rayon and tobacco industries are also removed from the plantation area. The only industries within the plantation area itself are those which are *closely connected* with agriculture, such as fertilizer, cotton gins, cotton-seed oil, lumber, turpentine.

The basic policy of the Soviet government in this respect would be to industrialize this area. Such industries as already exist would pass into the hands of the Soviet state. Even before new industries are built the first steps are likely to be: to open the textile industry to Negro workers, to incorporate such an important area as Birmingham in the territory of the Negro Republic in order to create a basis for the machine-building industry; to modernize and improve the fertilizer, cotton-ginning and other similar industrial plants; the use of scientific methods in the exploitation of the pine woods, which under the competitive capitalist system, are now being quickly exhausted; to develop the furniture industry in connection with lumbering.

One of the principal problems would certainly be the supply of agricultural machinery. The development of such a large-scale industry in connection with the Birmingham area would be on the order of the day. Birmingham has not been developed to its full potentialities because of the competition of the northern steel-producing centers. Yet Birmingham is conceded by all specialists in the field to be ideal as the center of a huge metal