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SOME ASPECTS OF SOVIET EDUCATION

"Citizens of the U.S.S.R. have a right to education" Article 121 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R.. This is a RIGHT of every Soviet citizen enjoyed by every member of the 59 nationalities of the Soviet Union, and vests inalienably in every child from the moment of its birth, whatever its physical or mental condition might be. "Today, there is not a single illiterate person in the Soviet Union!" Like the principal of a Girls' Middle School in Moscow told us in 1953. Like the scourge of poverty, the blight of ignorance, which was the lot of the toiling masses is buried forever with the Tsars and their minions.

The flood of friendship and humaneness with which we were welcomed and embraced by Soviet people and children wherever we went, in theatres, in the streets, or at schools, is a quality of the Soviet people which their system of education specially aims to instil in them. From the moment that I met a Soviet citizen I felt the warmth of that friendship and cheerfulness, in the warm and powerful handshake or embrace. The robust, ~~and~~ physique of the Soviet is carefully developed during their whole period of schooling.

The education of the Soviet child begins when he goes to ~~the~~ one of 6,000 kindergartens, at the age of three. Here, primarily through games, he is taught the habits of work, neatness and the ability to get along with other children. Through music, singing and drawing, and rhythmic exercises his artistic qualities are developed. As a preparation for school the older groups of children are taught to read and write.

~~There is free, compulsory and universal education~~

Since the establishment of universal, compulsory and free education in the Soviet Union in 1930, every child upon reaching the age of seven and wherever he may be enters a school. In some places schools are provided for as few as 15 children. The general school provides the child with a comprehensive, integrated and full education on a truly scientific basis. In major cities there are ten-year schools, and in other places there are seven-year schools. Despite the fact that during the last world war, 82,000 schools ~~were~~ which accommodated 15,000,000 students



The general school provides the child with an integrated comprehensive and full education on a truly scientific basis. Polytechnical education has been introduced in secondary schools and its aim is to acquaint the students with the scientific principles of the processes of production and to teach them how to apply the knowledge they acquire, in order to enable them to choose their professions freely.

~~Through the Soviet education~~
Soviet

Soviet education aims at the all round development of the physical, mental, and moral aesthetic abilities of the individual. The mental training is planned so as to develop a scientific outlook towards the world, the ability to think and to acquire and apply knowledge independently. The correctness of Soviet training in this regard is clearly evidenced in the outstanding advancement made by the country in all spheres. At a ^{high industrial} sweet factory in Moscow, a worker proudly showed us his different contributions to the mechanisation of the factory he also showed us his latest mechanisation problem, which he said he hoped to solve soon, and so reduce further the number of processes which must be operated. In the Pioneers' palace in Baku, secondary school boys were busy constructing five-valve radio sets, radio-controlled ship models, young naturalists ~~were~~ in another room were studying animals and plants, in the same palace, a group of young aspiring astronomers were peering through a telescope at an artificially created sky.

In the very early stages of his education, the Soviet individual is provided with an aesthetic training whose function is to ^{develop} ~~develop~~ an understanding and appreciation of all that is beautiful in nature and society and to develop artistic talents. Famous artists and writers visit schools and discuss with the children. Children have their theatres and artistic circles in Pioneers' palaces. As a result of planned aesthetic education there has been a considerable growth of artistic talent amongst Soviet children. During our visit to Azerbaijan Peoples Republic, Mr. Sisulu, Ismail Bhoola and I were invited to a children's theatre. We squeezed onto the small chairs among the children, and we were fascinated and thrilled by the performance rendered by young artists in their variety programme of folk music and dancing, and extracts from ballets. The Pioneers' palaces are the kingdoms of the children, they are not kingdoms of make-belief divorced from life.

enrolment of more than 1,442,000. No country in the world has so many. These establishments include Technical Colleges, medical institutes and various specialised institutes and Universities. There are 33 Universities in the U.S.S.R., in 1914 there were 10. The largest University in the U.S.S.R. is the Moscow Lomonosov State University. Towering over Moscow, on the Lenin Hills is this magnificent edifice of education.

The firm, fine structure of the University derived its handsomeness from the blending of material from almost all parts and Republics of the Soviet Union- Georgian marble, Ukrainian ceramics- and so the University seems to have been carved fashioned and built by the hands craft and energies of thousands of Soviet workers, some of whom were working thousands of miles away from Moscow. Like the material constituents of the University, the human composition too- the students and lecturers- came from the different Republics of the U.S.S.R. The Youth of 57 nationalities attend the University. The University therefore reflected the unity of Soviet creative work, and the collective enjoyment of the fruits of that work. This huge, generous institution fascinated me. I met the students and envied them.

The Soviet people were rightly proud and jealous of their splendid gift to their children. Rightly proud, because it was part of that undeniable change and rise of the living standards and conditions in the Soviet Union, which one cannot honestly fail to notice. It is a lasting expression of the Soviet people's desire to develop the creative abilities of their youth under the most stimulating and comfortable conditions. Rightly jealous, because it reflects their love constructive peaceful effort, which some war-crazy destructive maniac might destroy with a single bomb.

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