

was to organise a systematic examination and periodical supervision of the health of the Joachimstal miners, to watch the results closely, and to make proposals concerning the discovery and elimination of the noxious factors to which miners are exposed during the performance of their work.

(To be continued.)

The Employment of Women in Soviet Industry

During the years 1926-1929 the proportion of women employed in Soviet industry varied slightly around 28.5 per cent. of the total number of industrial workers, while the number of women workers increased annually by some sixty to seventy thousand. The year 1930 was a decisive turning point in this respect. On 1 January 1931 the percentage of women workers in the industries subject to census was 30.7, as against 28.4 on 1 January 1930.¹ During 1930, 422,900 new women workers entered industry, making a total of 1,304,000², and representing 37 per cent. of the total increase in industrial labour, which was 1,142,600. The plan for 1931 provided for the employment of nearly a million and a half new women workers in the various branches of the national economy, of whom some five to six hundred thousand were to be employed in industry. During the first half-year the engagement of women workers in industry proceeded apace: out of 280,000 new workers entering industry between 1 January and 1 July, 167,500, or some 60 per cent., were women. On 1 July women thus formed nearly one-third (32.5 per cent.) of the total number of industrial workers and numbered 1,471,500.³

On 1 January 1932 the total number of workers employed in industry (manual workers and apprentices) cannot have exceeded five million, since the average number employed during the first nine months of 1931 was only 4,409,100.⁴ At the same date the percentage

¹ About 93 per cent. of the total number of industrial workers are employed in industries subject to census.

² Including apprentices but excluding subordinate employees. This system is applied throughout this article.

³ *Voprosy Truda*, 1932, No. 2, p. 47.

⁴ The total rose from 4,247,400 on 1 January 1931 to 4,527,800 on 1 July 1931. Exact statistics are not yet available for the second half of 1931.

of women workers was estimated at 33 per cent., so that the number of women employed in industry may be assumed to have risen by about 180,000 during the second half of 1931.¹ Thus the total increase of women workers in industry must have amounted to about 350,000 during 1931.

The plan laid down for 1932 provides for the absorption of over 1½ million women into the Soviet economy, of whom over half a million, or 45.3 per cent. of the total demand for labour, are to enter industry.

So far only a very small proportion of women has been employed in the heavy industries, but the Soviet authorities are of opinion that the number of skilled women workers in this branch of industry might be increased by about 50 per cent. It may be noted that most of the women who have recently entered the heavy industries are employed on unskilled work.²

WOMEN WORKERS AS PERCENTAGE OF ALL WORKERS IN INDUSTRY IN
THE U.S.S.R.¹

Date	Heavy industries	Light industries	All industries
1928 : 1 January	11.1	49.5	28.7
1929 : „	11.3	50.0	28.8
1930 : „	12.4	51.0	28.4
1931 : „	17.9	52.2	30.7
„ 1 July	—	—	32.5

¹ *Narodnoe Khoziajstvo SSSR* (The National Economy of the U.S.S.R.), 1932, p. 437.

Most of the women are employed in the textile industry, which in 1927 absorbed nearly 60 per cent. of all women workers. The clothing and food industries come next, with about 16 per cent. of all women workers in 1927. It is in the textile industry too that women form the highest percentage of all workers. Since 1928, however, the number of women workers in the textile industry has not increased, whereas it has risen appreciably in other industries, in particular in clothing and certain branches of the metal industry. The two tables given below illustrate the changes that have taken place in the principal industries.

¹ *Trud*, 8 March 1932.

² *Voprosy Truda*, 1931, No. 2, p. 50.

PERCENTAGE OF ALL WOMEN WORKERS EMPLOYED IN DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES ¹

Industry	1 Jan. 1928	1 Jan. 1929	1 Jan. 1930	1 Jan. 1931
Textiles	57.6	55.4	49.2	32.3
Clothing	7.7	9.9	11.5	15.7
Food	8.8	9.1	7.0	8.7
Chemicals	4.1	4.4	4.8	4.7
Engineering	3.0	3.0	3.6	8.6
Iron and steel	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.7
Printing	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.4
Coke and coal	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.7
Wood	2.0	2.2	3.4	4.3
Paper	1.3	1.2	1.7	1.7
Leather	0.5	0.7	1.2	1.0

¹ These percentages are calculated on the basis of the data published in *Narodnoe Khoziajstvo SSSR*, 1932, pp. 424-429 and 432-437.

WOMEN WORKERS AS PERCENTAGE OF ALL WORKERS (MALE AND FEMALE)
IN DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES ¹

Industry	1 Jan. 1928	1 Jan. 1929	1 Jan. 1930	1 Jan. 1931	1 July 1931
Textiles	60.5	61.0	62.6	63.6	—
Clothing	54.2	54.2	53.7	61.3	—
Food	26.4	26.3	27.0	30.1	—
Printing	22.0	22.6	25.4	35.0	—
Chemicals	34.1	34.0	34.3	36.6	—
Iron and steel	6.1	7.1	8.2	13.8	18.1
Engineering	7.0	6.8	7.1	13.6	17.8
Coke and coal	7.6	8.4	8.4	10.5	13.7
Wood	16.7	17.9	20.4	26.3	—
Paper	29.5	27.5	27.5	31.3	—
Leather	12.1	12.9	15.5	25.5	—

¹ *Narodnoe Khoziajstvo SSSR*, 1932, pp. 432-437.

The great majority of the newly engaged women workers are the wives and daughters of workers, and were formerly occupied mainly in household work. Every endeavour is made to tap these local reserves of labour in order to reduce the cost of engagement and eliminate heavy travelling expenses for new workers. By engaging workers of this kind, moreover, the necessity for building new dwellings is avoided and local unmarried workers are freed for transfer to other districts where labour is scarce.

The Rationalisation of the Work of Farm Women in Germany ¹

Land und Frau, the organ of the Federal Union of Rural Housewives' Associations (*Reichsverband landwirtschaftlicher Hausfrauenvereine*), devotes the whole of a recent number to the work that is being done in Germany for rationalising the work of the rural housewife. The articles contributed by various authorities in this field all lay stress on the importance to German agriculture of the work contributed by women. Women form half of the total number of persons actively engaged in agriculture in Germany. Of the 7 million women working on German farms, 5¼ million are relatives of farmers, 428,000 are heads of undertakings (but only 152,000 of undertakings over 2 hectares), and 18,000 are in a supervisory position. More women work on the small than on the large farms, as might be expected from the fact that so many are relatives of farmers. The following table shows the percentage of women on agricultural undertakings from 0.5 to 200 hectares and over :

Size of holding (Hectares)	Percentage of women
0.5-2	55.8
2-5	52.9
5-20	50.0
20-50	46.1
50-100	41.5
100-200	40.1
200 and over	34.3

It has long been recognised that the multifarious tasks imposed on the country housewife — the care of house and family, as well as work on the farm itself — constitute a burden which is often beyond

¹ *Land und Frau*, 20 Aug. 1932 ; Berlin. Cf. also roneoed report of the League of Nations, Conf. Hyg. rur./37.