

to the concrete benefits of socializing agriculture.

So a long step has been taken forward by the decision to issue orders for manufactured goods in exchange for grain assessments. That policy was rendered possible only by the increased output of Russia's factories, which makes it feasible to give the peasants a share of these products, instead of a mere future promise to pay, such as paper money represented.

As yet, the Soviet government cannot give the peasants manufactures for more than a part of the food necessary to support the city workers. This does not indicate a failure of the Soviet system. The facts that the country is cut off from the markets of the world, that it has been fully occupied defending itself from foreign capitalist attacks, added to the general backwardness of Russian industry, scarcity of trained workers, and lack of raw materials, make it a miracle that the government has done as well as it has. The Russian proletariat is performing wonders. But it cannot do the impossible. It can only do all

in its power. It cannot completely socialize Russia all alone, and never believed it could. It will never be able to pay the peasants from the products of Russian factories, under existing conditions, for all the food necessary to support the people of the towns. The moment that were possible, we would have complete socialization of Russian agriculture. The latter is something toward which the government is constantly striving. But since the Russian industrial proletariat alone cannot accomplish this, it must make temporary concessions to the capitalist ideas of the peasants, in order to secure their cooperation. It is quite likely that a larger part of the country's agricultural produce than heretofore, may fall into the hands of the bourgeoisie, which will continue its parasite existence as long as it has anything which it can trade for food. However, it will be for the peasants' interest to deliver more goods than hitherto. So if the bourgeoisie get somewhat more liberal rations than previously, this will not be taken from the rations of the proletariat.

THE MODERN BRITISH UNIVERSITIES

From The London Times, March 23.

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IN the educational fervor which has followed the Armistice no institutions have been called upon to bear a heavier strain than the modern universities. With all their faculties—arts, science, medicine—filled to overflowing, with laboratories improvised from empty houses and army huts, they indeed present a scene of vitality and activity as varied as the needs of modern civilization itself.

With the exception of the wholly

residential and so less elastic Durham Colleges, as distinct from the other constituent members of Durham University, Armstrong College and the College of Medicine at Newcastle, all the universities have the same tale to tell of an expansion which even the best-founded calculations of the effect of a five years' breach in academic activities could not have anticipated. Manchester now has, apart from its evening classes, 2,788 students, Liver-

pool 2,615, Birmingham, 1,968, Leeds 2,025, with 228 evening students in addition, the Newcastle Colleges 1,365, and Bristol 1,226, while Sheffield, on which the heaviest demand is made for evening and part-time courses, has a combined total of over 3,000 students. To this increase of between 70 and 80 per cent. on the numbers of 1915 the presence of ex-service men, of whom 900 are at Manchester alone, makes, it is true, the more immediate contribution; these numbers themselves are some 20 per cent. less than those of 1919 and there is likely to be a further drop in the next session. But the universities are feeling the effect of more permanent influences than those; a fuller appreciation by industry of university ideals, a quickened belief in education as the basis of all national progress, and, more concrete than these, the growing strength of the municipal secondary schools, have combined to lay on the new universities a responsibility which, as these forces themselves develop, must become greater instead of less. They are convinced that in five or ten years' time they must expect a permanent increase of hardly less than 60 per cent. of their old numbers, and on this basis they are endeavouring to take stock of their resources and to lay, while there is time, the foundations necessary to support this wider need.

Unhappily, the increase in their staffs has borne no relation to that in the number of their students. Dislocation in the supply of men trained for university lectureships, growing competition among industrial firms for such men as are available, and, the most potent reason of all, the financial limitations of the universities themselves have made any commensurate addition impossible. Laboratories are not elastic, and with the inadequacy of

existing buildings the duplication of lectures is far from uncommon. So far the staffs have sacrificed themselves to these changed conditions with a devotion which has had to be its own reward; but research has been seriously hampered, and the loss of time for research and independent work has been the loss of what in the past was the only inducement to take posts notoriously underpaid. Before the war a university junior lecturer received on first appointment a salary of 150 pounds, with the goal of a possible professorship at 600 pounds a year; even now lecturers usually begin at only 300 pounds, and the professorial chairs which exceed 800 pounds are in the minority. It is indeed surprising that so much research has been able to thrive; it has done so mainly in vacations and at week-ends, and the intense and disinterested keenness in research can only be measured by the difficulties which attend it. On this point professors express themselves very strongly: temptations to enter industry, for science men at least, have become more and more seductive; industry offers better salaries and often better facilities for independent work, and already the universities have lost to industry some of their most progressive teachers.

On no side of academic life has the war had a more beneficent influence than on the social activities of the undergraduates. Literary, art, music, debating societies are alive as they never were before; and, what is still more welcome, they are ceasing to be circumscribed by departments, and, like their traditions, are widening out into possessions for the whole university. The keenness which ex-service students have shown in their work—only 4 per cent. have been given unfavourable reports and have lost their

training grants—has been still more marked outside the laboratories; from men and women alike there has come a demand for a fuller and more organized corporate life than ever existed before the war, and through their body politic, the Guild of Undergraduates, they are doing their best to establish it. In this they are warmly backed by their principals, to whose hearts the development of this side of university life is perhaps the dearest of all projects. By great personal enthusiasm they have already done much, but opportunities for a full corporate life, except in the residential Durham colleges, are, judged by Oxford and Cambridge standards, lamentably deficient. Manchester and Liverpool alone have buildings designed for 'Union'; Bristol hopes soon to take over as its refectory and 'Union' one of the latest of its gifts, the Victoria Rooms; the rest have to content themselves, apart from their halls for meetings and their refectories for meals, with such provision as they can find in the university buildings themselves or by adapting private houses. Games again are a difficulty; in most cases the playing fields are from three to four miles from the university buildings, and distance alone, apart from the heaviness of laboratory work, is a powerful enough deterrent to people many of whom come from schools where games are hardly regarded as an integral part of educational training.

The full satisfaction of this social and physical need can indeed only come with the development of residential accommodation. Private munificence has already allowed all the universities to possess at least one hostel; Manchester heads the list with eight, of which Hulme Hall and Ashburne Hall, built in a pleasing Tudor-Gothic

style, and providing single study-bed-rooms for 134 men and 65 women, are the best examples; Birmingham has one excellent hostel for women adjoining the Edgbaston buildings; the other universities have adapted dwelling-houses on very happy sites, such as that of Bristol's halls overlooking the Avon Gorge, and in this way are endeavoring to build up a university quarter. In the Weetwood estate of 170 acres, lying three miles north-west from the centre of the city on a tableland which falls away in the green and grey slopes of a typical Yorkshire landscape, Leeds has a site perhaps unequalled by any university old or new. It already has its playing-fields and one hostel for women there, and looks forward to the day when all its departments, except the engineering and medical schools, will be transferred there and, housed under the one roof, be the true residential university of the West Riding. The hostel ideal appeals very strongly to the under-graduates themselves; they feel their want, and though they are proud of the social life which they have already helped to create, and not least of the good relations between men and women, they frankly envy Oxford and Cambridge the possession of those means to fuller human expression which the intimate associations of collegiate life alone can give. There is no need on which the University Grants Committee in their recently published report dwell with more evident feeling than this:

Provision for common life and intercourse is a condition of the highest value in a university education. Not only is the intellectual training of students apt to be stunted if they remain as isolated units after leaving the classroom; beyond that the training of the students for citizenship is bound to suffer until these defects in university equipment are made good. We hope that benefactors may be

forthcoming to whom these objects would make a special appeal, and we consider that we might properly take into account such benefactions in estimating local support.

This ideal is one whose absolute fulfilment it is, in present conditions, hard to foresee. Many of the universities, with a faith and a foresight which it is impossible not to admire, had before the war secured new sites and prepared their plans to build new hostels, or new wings to those which already existed. They are all ready for expansion; whether and when they will be able to carry out their designs finance alone must decide.

The great strength of the New Universities in the past has lain in the success with which they have adapted themselves to the intellectual and industrial requirements of their districts. Beginning as the centres of higher education for their cities, they have gradually broadened their spheres so as to divide between them the counties which geographically form their provinces. As their residential accommodation increases the area on which they can draw will still further expand, and for specialized subjects they are already attracting students from all parts of the world. But their main duties will remain to their areas, and it is as regional universities that they can best fill their fitting place in the education of the nation as a whole. As in the past, the pace will be set them by Oxford and Cambridge, who, with

their centuries of tradition and their absence of local obligations, must remain the national Universities and the final tribunal of appeal. Already the New Universities are sending to them the best of their students, especially in the arts faculty, for post-graduate courses, and with a more ample provision in research studentships Oxford and Cambridge will tend to become more and more the national centres of post-graduate study. The New Universities in their turn are setting the pace for the schools of their areas, and not only by the supply of elementary and secondary teachers whom they are passing through their various faculties, but also, as at Sheffield and Manchester, by direct cooperation with a representative headmasters' committee, they are speeding up the slower units of the educational fleet. In the still wider sphere of city life, they have become in the truest sense the centres of the social and intellectual activities of their districts: they are the acknowledged headquarters of their counties' learned societies, most of which they themselves have directly or indirectly called into existence, while from a more general audience their weekly lectures on the widest range of subjects, from music to astrophysics, are always assured of the warmest appreciation. The New Universities are the best answer yet made to Newman's tenet that a university cannot intellectualize its neighborhood.

IN A TURKISH VILLAGE

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

From *The Manchester Guardian*, April 1

(RADICAL LIBERAL DAILY)

WE started from the *konak* at Aidin after lunch—myself, the sergeant, nine soldiers, and two horses. That morning I had climbed the acropolis of Tralleis—a steep, isolated hill on the plateau behind Aidin, where the ancient city stood—in order to get some notion of the road we should follow, but it had shown me little. The ravines, ploughed deep into the flanks of the hills by the abundant streams, wound away out of sight, and the nearest spurs hid the summits of the mountains. Southwards, in the opposite direction, the marvellous plain of the Maeander was in view, with the winding river, the bridge where the Greek and Italian outposts face each other, and beyond that the mountains of China and Mughla. However, that was not my direction. The village beyond the bridge, on the Italian side of the river, is the headquarters of a young man called Turuh Ali, and the Italian Government does not guarantee your nose and ears if you trespass there.

Very strange reports come from across the river. That very morning, before starting, I talked with a Turkish peasant who had come across himself the night before, swimming the river to avoid the Italians at the bridge. He told me that if a Turkish peasant had not papers from Mustafa Kemal exempting him from military service, the Italian authorities conscripted him and sent him to Angora! Now that he was on the right bank of the river he meant to

stay. He had some fields this side. Some other dark night he would bring his family across to join him. A resident at Aidin (not a Greek) told me that, some months ago, he had heard the Italian Commandant at Sokia make a public speech in French. 'We Italians,' he said, 'are not here to look after the Christians, we are here to look after the Moslems.' It is deplorable that an occupying Power should take sides for one local nationality against another, but it becomes unpardonable when the favoured party is the top-dog, and the Turk is now top-dog south of the Maeander, thanks to the Italians, who keep out the Greeks. But all this is a digression. I make it because everything that I hear about Italian policy in Anatolia is bad, and the conditions in the Italian zone ought unquestionably to be examined by the Conference. But to return to my journey northwards that afternoon.

We followed the track up the stream that comes down from the mountains between the Turkish and Greek quarters of Aidin. For the first hour we passed ruined and abandoned water-mills, then a ruined Turkish village on the further side of the ravine. Then we began to climb a zig-zag path through ever thicker brushwood, and emerged after two hours on a spur of the mountains cleared of trees and occupied by the Turkish village where we were to pass the night.

Dagh Emir is a good village, as