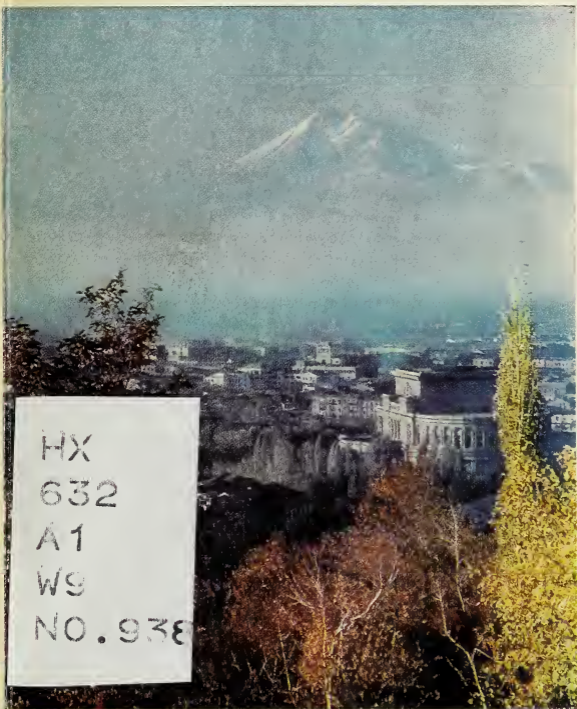


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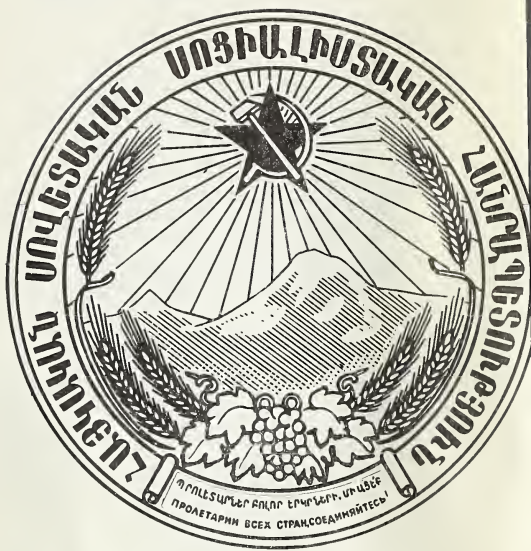




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ПРОЛЕТАРИИ ВСЕХ СТРАН, СОЕДИНЯЙТЕСЬ!

**ARMENIAN
SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC**

ՀԱՅԿԱՍՏԱՆԻ
ՍՈՎԵՏԱԿԱՆ ՍՈՑԻԱԼԻՍՏԻ
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Cover: Yerevan

«АРМЯНСКАЯ ССР»


на английском языке

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LAND OF SUNSHINE

The Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic lies beyond the Caucasian Mountain range almost at the southernmost point of the Soviet Union. It covers an area of 29.8 thousand square kilometres and has a population of 2.2 million. The capital is Yerevan with 665,000 inhabitants.

To the north and east Armenia borders on the Georgian and Azerbaijan Republics; on the west and southeast it is bounded by Turkey and Iran.

It is a mountainous country, surrounded by high ridges on all sides. The lowest areas lie at a height of about 400 metres and the average altitude is 1,800 metres above sea level. There are many fertile plains and valleys along the rivers, which are hemmed in by plateaus and mountains: the Sevan hollow, and the Ararat, Lory, Shirak and Aparan plains. In the south the peaks of the Zangezur range soar to a height of 3,500 metres; it has numerous spurs, including the Megrin, Bargushat and Aiotsdzor ridges.

Armenia is rich in mineral resources. Many of its copper, iron ore and gold deposits were worked in ancient times.

Its copper, molybdenum and aluminium resources are among the best in the country. The mining of iron ore, chromite, lead, zinc and other ores is of industrial importance.

Other minerals include salt, gypsum, dolomite, barytes, pyrites, refractory materials, quartz, mineral dyes, semiprecious stones and marble.

Armenia is a land of extinct volcanoes. A considerable area is covered with eruptive rocks which often possess remarkable physical and mechanical properties and have a variegated range of colours, some thirty in all. These include volcanic tuff, basalt, pumice stone, perlites and slag—all of which are excellent building materials.

There are many rivers—over 200—and few lakes. The largest river is the Araks and the biggest lake, Sevan. The latter is 1,315 square kilometres in size and is situated in a hollow at an altitude of 1,903 metres. Its waters are used for irrigation and the production of electric power.

The Republic is rich in subterranean waters. There are many mineral springs that have acquired fame for their salubrious qualities, among them Jermuk, Arzni, Sevan and Ankavan.

The cool and clear air of the plateau and the abundance of ultraviolet rays also make the mountain climate of Armenia highly salubrious.

Soviet Armenia is in the subtropical zone with the same latitude as Spain, Italy and

Greece. This accounts for the abundance of sunshine and an intensive solar radiation. Summer brings tropical heat to the valleys while the mountain tops are covered with perpetual snow. The number of sunny days in the areas of Sevan basin and particularly the Ararat valley (310-320 days per year) almost equal those of Egypt (the Alexandria area) and Central Asia (Termez).

Armenians make up 88 per cent of the population. In addition there are Russians, Azerbaijanis, Kurds, Greeks and Aissors (Assyrians).

About 1.5 million Armenians live in the USSR outside the Armenian Republic and another two million live abroad.

The Armenian language is an independent branch of the Indo-European family.

Important socio-economic changes that took place in the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th centuries affected the number and ethnography of the population. The territory of the present Armenian SSR was very sparsely populated in the first quarter of the 19th century. The majority of Armenians were concentrated in West Armenia. In the ninety years since East Armenia was annexed to tsarist Russia the population was swelled at certain periods by the mass influx of the people from West Armenia.

By World War I the population of East Armenia exceeded one million. Ethnographically it presented a motley picture, embracing refugees from all over the Middle East, which had been settled by Armenians from time immemorial. They came from the valleys of the Tigris and the Euphrates, the slopes of impassable ridges,

mountain valleys and the Armenian uplands.

The First World War once again depleted the population of East Armenia.

When Soviet power was established the Republic had only 780 thousand inhabitants.

In the last fifty years the population of the Armenian SSR has more than tripled. Average density is 74 per square kilometre, but population is distributed unevenly. The small Ararat valley, which makes up only 6.5 per cent of the entire territory of the Republic, includes half of the population. Here average density is 400 people per square kilometre.

The most sparsely populated districts are along the upper reaches of the rivers Vorotan and Arpa, as well as the southern regions of the Zangezur range and the extreme northwest, where there are only 15-20 inhabitants per square kilometre. Ninety-six per cent of the population lives at an altitude of 800 metres above sea level.

Great changes have taken place socially. High rates of industrial development and the emergence of new towns have brought about a rapid increase of the urban population. Today more than 55 per cent live in towns, as against ten per cent in 1913.

The natural increase is 3.1 per cent yearly. Another source of growth is the repatriation of Armenians from other countries. Already some 200,000 have come home; of these more than 100,000 arrived after the Second World War from Iran and Lebanon, Syria and Greece, the UAR and Argentine, France and Bulgaria, Cyprus and Iraq and many other countries.

In 1946-48 the mass influx of Armenians from abroad entailed many difficulties. The postwar years were still full of hardships: there were not enough dwellings for the newly-arrived, nor was it easy to provide suitable work for all.

Today all newcomers from abroad are given new flats with all modern facilities and are given jobs according to their ability. They have the opportunity to study, work, create and take an active part in political, state and social life.

The repatriates are given loans to build individual houses.

Thousands of young Armenians from abroad have completed their higher education and are now working as engineers, agronomists, teachers, doctors, and scientists. Many have become prominent in literature and art, or are famous scientists and scholars. Others have been elected deputies of the Supreme Soviets of the USSR and the Armenian SSR, and of urban, rural and district Soviets.

Many Armenians still live abroad. Soviet Armenia has opened its doors to all who wish to return to their homeland and take part in building a new life.

The age-old history of the Armenian people has given rise to numerous traditions and customs. Most of them can be found only in books and manuscripts but some have become part of the people's everyday life, particularly in rural districts. Numerous Armenian dishes are highly popular. Armenians are very fond of pastry: *gata*, a sweet flat cake with a crisp filling, and *pakhlava*, with a nut filling, are very tasty.

Tolma—made of grape leaves in the spring and of apples, quince, peppers or tomatoes in the summer and autumn, with a filling of meat, rice and spicy herbs—is a traditional dish. The same can be said of *khorovatz* or *shashlyk* (pieces of mutton roasted on a spit) and *kiufta*—meat balls and soup.

There are still some family traditions, although many of the old customs have been dropped as humiliating and onerous. A new life is being built upon a more sensible basis.

In bygone days young people could not marry without the consent of their parents. Elopement was frequent and often ended in tragedy.

Marriage is still accompanied by traditional rites. In former times rich weddings would often be lengthy, celebrated for “seven days and seven nights.” The bride and bridegroom were dubbed “queen” and “king.” The couple’s relatives and the guests would take part in the ceremony of presenting gifts, each present being announced to show the generosity of the giver.

The people still celebrate pagan and Christian holidays and ceremonies which have often lost their religious meaning.

One of these is the *trindez*, which is celebrated at the outset of summer. Singing songs with torches in their hands, young people light numerous bonfires; then they jump over the fire to “purify” themselves in its flames.

At the beginning of August, when the heat is particularly oppressive and the fields are dry from want of rain, the *vardavar*, or water holiday, is celebrated. On that day everyone is sprinkled with water—there can be no offence.

Then popular games are held. Young men and boys show their skill in horsemanship, wrestlers match their strength. The singers' contest always attracts crowds who come to listen to improvisation in riddle-songs.

IN DAYS OF YORE

The Armenians are an ancient people. When the Bronze Age was at its peak and man was beginning to learn the use of iron the tribes inhabiting the Armenian upland began to amalgamate giving rise to the most ancient state on the present territory of the USSR—Urartu (880-610 B.C.). With Tuspas (now Van) as its capital, it survived till the end of the 7th century B.C., when it fell apart. The ancient Armenian state emerged in 624 B.C. on the territory of former Urartu and the land of Haias (Haiastan—name given by Armenians to their land) and continued its existence for 100 years. Unable to withstand the attacks of its more powerful neighbours, it was subdued by Persia in 520 B.C.

Ever since and until the 19th century, Armenia was subject to constant invasions. Alexander the Great and Pompey, Sassanid Persia and the Arab Caliphate, Byzantium and the Seljuk Turks, came in succession to pillage the country, causing untold suffering to the people and destroying the remarkable monuments of Armenian culture.

Foreign invasions were cut short by brief spells of revival and development. The people's creative abilities, their indefatigable urge for

cultural development were at work, even during the most grim periods of foreign oppression. In A. D. 301 King Tiridates III of Armenia was the first to declare Christianity a state religion. This was an important event which to a certain extent determined the attitude of neighbouring states to Armenia over considerable historical period.

The creation of the Armenian alphabet by Mesrob Mashtotz in 396 had a decisive impact on the development of literature and culture. Numerous books were translated into Armenian, including the Bible and other religious works, as well as those of distinguished ancient writers and scholars: Aristotle, Plato, Eusebius of Caesarea and Zeno, among others.

In the 4th-7th centuries historiography, philosophy, poetry, music, arts, drama and natural science flourished in Armenia; the literary language acquired a stable form.

Anany Shirakatzi, an eminent scholar of his time, who studied philosophy, mathematics, cosmography and geography, wrote a multitude of works, a veritable encyclopaedia of natural-scientific conceptions that were highly progressive at the time. They had a great influence on the development of scientific thought in Armenia and neighbouring countries.

In the period between the 16th and 18th centuries Armenia once again was turned into a battleground—this time between Osman Turkey and Safawid Persia, who in 1639 divided Armenia between them—West Armenia going to Turkey and East Armenia to Persia.

The invaders brought nothing but ruin and

devastation, setting the country back economically and culturally. It was at this time that emigration of Armenians was on a truly mass scale. Great numbers settled in the Mediterranean countries, in Russia, Poland and elsewhere.

Severe political, social and religious oppression, mass repressions and systematic massacres of the peaceful population threatened the very existence of the Armenians in their own land. In those grim years the people and their progressive public figures sought help from Russia, with which they had contacts since the 12th century. Seeking to liberate their country from the Turkish and Persian oppressors the Armenians not only relied on help from the outside but carried on a long and unequal struggle against the powerful enemy.

Even in those difficult times many Armenian centres of science and culture continued to function. These were the universities in Ani, Nor-Getak, Akhpat-Sanain, Gladzor and Tatev.

And even though the epoch was not favourable for the development of national literature, the lyrical poetry of medieval Armenia was, to quote the eminent Russian poet, Valery Briusov, "one of the glorious victories of the human spirit in world chronicles."

Saat-Nova (1712-95), one of the most distinguished poets of his time, who wrote in the Armenian, Georgian and Azerbaijan languages, was the first to show that Armenian poetry was alive as ever, that it had left the cloister walls to come among the people, to be heard in the freedom-loving songs of the *ashugs* (bards).

Saat-Nova is not only Armenian; his work is

not confined to the framework of national poetry—for he belongs to the galaxy of the world's classical poets.

In those difficult times many centres of culture emerged in the Armenian colonies that developed in many countries of Europe, Asia and, later on, in America. There the first Armenian publishing houses were established, and these played an important part in the development of Armenian culture, and especially of literature.

For ages the Armenians sought to free themselves from the yoke of foreign oppression, to be able to live and create as an independent nation. The helping hand came from the north—the hand of the great Russian people.

At the outset of the 19th century a number of important events took place in the life of the people of Transcaucasia. In 1801, East Georgia became part of Russia. At the same time a number of lands in northern Armenia also joined the Russian Empire. This was the beginning of the liberation of East Armenia from Persian rule, which was completed in 1828.

Thus, part of the Armenian population was finally delivered from Turkish and Persian oppression, from the threat of assimilation or physical destruction.

The annexation of East Armenia to Russia had an objectively-progressive impact upon the fate of the people. Despite the reactionary and oppressive character of Russian tsarism, the establishment of close contacts with the Russian people, who were economically and culturally

more developed than the Turkey and Persia of those days, had a decisive influence upon the destiny of the population of East Armenia.

Conditions appeared for the merging of the liberation struggle of the Armenian people with the Russian revolutionary movement. This joint struggle for freedom and social progress culminated in the October Socialist Revolution, bringing to the Armenian people the political and national independence that they had awaited so long.

However, the way to freedom and national self-determination was not strewn with roses. In the second half of the 19th century Transcaucasia was living through a period when feudal relations were making way for capitalism: the first capitalist enterprises appeared in the sixties of the same century. The mining industry, wine-making and cotton-growing began to develop, and several large capitalist enterprises were set up. There began an influx of foreign capital, while the building in the last quarter of the 19th century of railway lines—Tbilisi-Poti, Tbilisi-Baku, Tbilisi-Yerevan and Alexandropol-Kars—gave new impetus to the development of capitalism and drew all of Transcaucasia, including Armenia, into world trade.

Armenian industrialists and merchants, who held a dominant place among the Transcaucasian bourgeoisie, expanded their activities outside of Armenia—along the Black Sea and Caspian Sea coasts, and in large administrative and trade centres of Transcaucasia, such as Tbilisi, Baku and Batumi.

As capitalism penetrated the village, it ruined the peasants and quickened their stratification. Brutal exploitation gave impetus to class struggle, resulting in peasant uprisings against the local rich and tsarist oppression.

The development of capitalism in Russia and the growth of the working-class movement resulted in the spreading of Marxism to Transcaucasia.

In 1902, the Union of Armenian Social-Democrats was formed. Its organ was the illegal Marxist paper, *Proletariat*, published in the Armenian language. From the very first days of their existence the Armenian Marxist Social-Democratic circles and organizations headed the revolutionary movement of the Armenian people, which became an integral part of the working-class movement throughout Russia.

In West Armenia, which was languishing under the tyranny of the Turkish Sultan, where feudalism and backwardness prevailed in all the spheres of economic and social life, the fate of the people was tragic.

Sultan Abdul-Hamid and his government worked out a most brutal programme for the "solution" of the Armenian problem, which envisaged the annihilation of the entire population of West Armenia. Special armed troops (Hamidie—after the name of the Sultan) were formed to massacre the peaceful Armenian population in Sasun, Erzerum, Trapezund, Van, Harberd, Constantinople, Marash and other places. Some 300,000 Armenians fell victims in

this gory crime; 80 000 fled to other countries.

This savage reprisal was condemned throughout the world.

During their age-old history the Armenians went through a number of severe trials; it seemed that suffering and persecution had forever become part of the life of these people. However, all former crimes were reduced to nought as compared with the bloody nightmare that fell to the lot of the Armenians during the years of the First World War. That was when the Young Turks' government, rife with chauvinism, used the war situation and the patronage of the German imperialists to complete its earlier programme of wiping out the original population of West Armenia. At the outset of the war the Turkish government, under the plea of calling up all Armenia men between 15 and 60 years of age for military service, secretly destroyed most of the male Armenian population.

In April, 1915, secret instructions were sent out to all the military-administrative authorities ordering the annihilation or evacuation into the Arabian deserts of the peaceful Armenian population. More than one million children, women and old people were brutally massacred; more than 600,000 were driven into the deserts to die of privation and exposure. Only a few hundred thousand Armenians managed to flee to Russia and other countries.

Many Armenian settlements (Van, Shapin-Garaisar, Zeitun, Suediya, Shatakh and others) came out in self-defence and waged a heroic

but unequal struggle. In many countries prominent public figures raised their voices against the brutal crimes perpetrated by the Turkish oppressors.

"Armenia is suffocating, she is on her death-bed, but she will revive... A people that is so eager to live will not die," were the words of Anatole France.

And the Armenian people have withstood the hardships that had befallen them, and they have revived, for they not only wanted to live but had always waged a heroic struggle for their life. And when times were at their worst they turned their eyes to Russia where the people's revolution, which was to wipe out all forms of oppression and exploitation, was already on the rise.

After the victory of the October Revolution in Russia the ruling classes of Transcaucasia and their counter-revolutionary parties—the Mensheviks in Georgia, the Mussavatists in Azerbaijan and the Dashnaks in Armenia, aided by foreign imperialists from the outside, managed to seize power. The treacherous policy waged by these parties facilitated the occupation of Transcaucasia by the foreign interventionists.

Taking advantage of the complex situation that had arisen in 1918-20, when the young Soviet Republic was standing up to counter-revolution inside the country and foreign enemies, the Turkish government violated the Brest Treaty and with the support of the Western powers, Germany first of all, invaded Transcaucasia at the beginning of 1918. As the Turkish troops

marched through the country, leaving murder and devastation in their wake, the Soviet Republic came to the aid of the Armenian people.

The people's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of Soviet Russia sent a note of protest to the German government demanding that a stop be put to these crimes and brutalities.

The years of Dashnak rule (1918-20) are another grim page in the history of the Armenian people. Ceaseless warfare and massacres, anarchy and tyranny, hunger and poverty, pillage and violence, blood and tears—those are the essential features of that period. The country was on the verge of ruin. Yet, it survived.

On November 29, 1920, an armed uprising of the working people of Armenia, headed by the Communist Party and aided by the Russian people, put an end to the ill-famed Dashnak rule. Armenia became a Soviet state, ruled by the working people—the workers and the peasants.

The first steps taken by Soviet power were to nationalize the land, the mineral wealth, plants, banks, railways, forests, etc.

The economy of Armenia had been greatly deranged. Gross industrial output had decreased in 1919 more than twelvefold as against 1913. Farming and animal husbandry were on the verge of disaster. Gross agricultural output for 1919 had dropped almost sixfold as compared with 1913 and crop areas had decreased more than fourfold.

Under the Dashnak rule the peasants had

over 14 kinds of taxes to pay. Hunger and poverty gave rise to frequent epidemics.

To bring the Republic as quickly as possible out of this drastic situation, to put an end to hunger, epidemics and food shortage and to rehabilitate the economy—these were the chief tasks set before Soviet power in Armenia. Soviet Russia and the other Republics rendered fraternal aid. They helped with grain, foodstuffs and industrial goods, medicines and farm implements.

On January 30, 1922, the First Congress of Soviets of Armenia adopted the Constitution of the Armenian SSR and elected the Central Executive Committee, which was the highest governmental body in the period between the Congresses of Soviets. The Soviet of People's Commissars—the government of the Armenian SSR—was formed.

In 1922, the Transcaucasian Soviet Republics—Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan, united in the Transcaucasian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, which existed till 1936.

On December 30, 1922, all the Soviet Republics, and among them the Transcaucasian Republic, voluntarily united in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Armenia had linked its fate with that of all the Soviet peoples. Side by side with the entire Soviet Union Armenia went through the rehabilitation period, the first five-year plans, collectivization and prewar cultural construction—and all this under the most difficult conditions. Then came World War II, and hundreds of thousands of Armenians took up arms to fight

as partisans and Red Army soldiers against the fascist aggressors. They produced heroes whose names are forever written in the annals of Soviet military deeds: Nelson Stepanyan of the Air Force, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, Marshal of the USSR Ivan Bagramyan; Admiral Ivan Isakov; Marshal of the Air Force Sergei Khudyakov, and many others.

Many Armenians living abroad also took an active part in routing the fascist aggressors. A street in Paris now bears the name of Misak Manushyan a hero of the French Resistance; Mkrtych Dashtoyan was posthumously given the title of Hero of Italy; Artyom Petrosyan is known in Czechoslovakia as the Eagle of Moravia. Donations sent in by Armenians in other countries were used to build two tank detachments bearing the names "David of Sasun" and "General Bagramyan."

After the war, the Armenians were glad to return to peaceful construction. Together with all the Soviet peoples, they took part in rehabilitating the country's economy.

History can boast of a few examples when a people on the brink of destruction was able to muster strength and courage enough for complete revival.

For the first time in their age-old history the working people of Armenia were able to settle down peacefully in their homeland. Today they have every opportunity to apply their efforts and abilities for the common weal. Like a magnet Armenia continues to attract the sons and daughters of the Armenian people who over the ages have been scattered throughout the world.

AN EQUAL AMONG EQUALS

The Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic is a sovereign socialist state of workers and peasants.

All power is vested in the working people of town and country, as represented by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies. The Republic comprises 33 rural districts and 24 towns. There are 960 rural settlements that are embraced by 432 rural Soviets.

By voluntary agreement the Armenian SSR has united with other sovereign Republics in a powerful state—the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and like all the other Republics has the right to secede from the USSR.

Soviets of Working People's Deputies form the political basis of the Republic. Its economic foundation is the socialist system of economy and the socialist ownership of the means of production, which has two forms: state property and cooperative and collective-farm property. In addition to the socialist system of economy, which is the predominant form of economy in the Republic, the law permits small private undertakings of individual peasants and handicraftsmen based on their own labour and precluding exploitation of the labour of others. The economic life of the Republic is determined and guided by the state economic plan.

Work in the Armenian Republic is a duty and a matter of honour for every able-bodied citizen, in accordance with the principle: "He who does not work, neither shall he eat." The principle applied in the Republic is that of so-

cialism: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work."

Every citizen of the Armenian SSR is a citizen of the USSR. In the Armenian SSR citizens of other Union Republics enjoy equal rights with those of Soviet Armenia.

The highest organ of state power and the sole legislative body of the Republic is the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR, which is elected for four years, on the basis of one deputy for every 6,000 of the population.

The Supreme Soviet of the recent convocation comprises 310 deputies, including 209 men and 101 women. Of the deputies, 139 are workers and farmers; 101 are non-Party members.

The Supreme Soviet elects the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, consisting of the President, three Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, 11 members and 10 Permanent Commissions.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic is accountable to the Supreme Soviet.

The Supreme Soviet yearly discusses and approves the economic plan and the budget of the Republic, and adopts decisions on other matters of economic and cultural construction.

The highest executive and administrative body is the Council of Ministers.

It is accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Republic or to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

The Council of Ministers is appointed by the Supreme Soviet and consists of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, the Ministers, the Chairmen of the State Planning Committee (Gosplan) and of

other state committees, and the heads of other departments of the Council of Ministers under Union or Union-Republican authority.

Laws, decrees and instructions issued by the Presidium and the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers are published in the Armenian, Russian and Azerbaijani languages.

The organs of state power in the districts, cities and rural localities are Soviets of Working People's Deputies, elected by the people of the districts, cities and rural localities for two years. Their executive and administrative organs are the Executive Committees elected by the Soviets.

Deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR, and to the district, city and rural Soviets of Working People's Deputies are elected on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot. All citizens of eighteen years of age, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, creed, education, domicile, social origin, property status or past activities, may vote for deputies and are eligible for election to the local Soviets—from eighteen on, and to the Supreme Soviet of the Republic, from twenty-one.

Citizens of the Armenian SSR have the right to work, to rest, to education, to maintenance in old age and in sickness or disability. Women are accorded all rights on an equal footing with men in all spheres of economic, cultural, political and other social activity.

Citizens of the Republic are guaranteed inviolability of person.

In conformity with the interests of the people, and in order to develop the initiative and

political activity of the masses, citizens are guaranteed the right to unite in public organizations: trade unions, cooperative societies, youth organizations, sport and defence organizations, cultural, technical and scientific societies. The most active and politically-conscious citizens in the ranks of the working class, working farmers and working intellectuals voluntarily unite in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

In order to ensure citizens freedom of conscience, church is separate from the state, and school from church. Freedom of religious worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recognized for all citizens.¹

¹ *In the age-old history of the Armenian people a positive organizing and binding role belonged to the Armenian church, which in the years of foreign oppression, when Armenia had no independent statehood, protected the Armenian nation from assimilation, inspired the people to struggle against the foreign invaders and promoted cultural development.*

Today Echmiadzin still remains the spiritual centre of all Armenian worshipers. It is the place of residence of Vazgen I—the Catholicos of all Armenians, and the site of the Ecclesiastical Academy. Together with Catholic and Orthodox churches Armenian church owns a share of the Holy Land in Jerusalem which is managed through the Armenian Patriarch in Jerusalem who is considered the deputy and representative of the Supreme Patriarch.

The Catholicos of all Armenians exercises ecclesiastical authority over the Cilician Catholicate in Antilyas (established in 1446)—a suburb of Beirut (Lebanon), and the Armenian Patriarchates in Constantinople and Jerusalem. He is also the highest ecclesiastical authority for the French eparchy, with its seat in Paris; the eparchy of Southern France with its seat in Marseilles; the Iranian eparchy with seats in Isfahan, Teheran and Tebriz; the North-American—Eastern epar-

In the Armenian SSR justice is administered by the Supreme Court of the Republic, by Special Courts of the USSR, established by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and by People's Courts.

The Supreme Court of the Republic is elected by the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR for five years and is the highest judicial body. People's judges of District and City People's Courts are elected by the citizens of the districts and cities for five years. People's Assessors of District and City People's Courts are elected at general meetings of industrial, office and professional workers and farmers in the place of their work or residence and of servicemen in military units by open ballot for a term of two years.

Judges are independent and subject only to the law.

Judicial proceedings are conducted in Armenian and in districts with a dominant Russian or Azerbaijani population, in Russian or Azerbaijani. Persons with no command of these

chy with its seat in New York (including Canada) and the North-American—Californian (Western) eparchy with its seat in Los Angeles (including Mexico); the South-American eparchy, with its seat in Buenos Aires (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Venezuela); the Bulgarian eparchy, in Sofia; The Rumanian eparchy, in Bucharest; the Greek eparchy, in Athens; the Egyptian eparchy (including Ethiopia and Sudan), in Cairo; the Indian and Far Eastern eparchy, in Calcutta (India, Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand); the Iraq eparchy, in Bagdad, and the Armenian Ministries in England with its seat in London, in Austria with its seat in Vienna (West Germany, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Belgium) and in Italy with its seat in Milan.

languages are made acquainted with all materials through a translator and are allowed to address the court in their native tongue. All cases are heard in public and the accused is guaranteed the right to defence. Supreme supervisory powers to ensure the strict observance of the law are vested in the Procurator-General of the USSR, the Procurator of the Armenian SSR and those of districts and cities.

The organs of the Procurator's office perform their functions independently of all local bodies, being subordinate solely to the Procurator-General of the USSR.

Equal rights of all Republics are guaranteed by their participation on an equal basis in the governmental affairs of the USSR. Each Republic has equal representation in:

the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet—32 deputies from each Union Republic;

the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet consisting of the President, 15 Vice-Presidents—one from each Republic (following tradition the Presidents of the Presidiums of the Supreme Soviets of the Union Republics are appointed Vice-Presidents of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR), a Secretary, and 20 members of the Presidium;

the Council of Ministers of the USSR, which includes the Chairmen of the Councils of Ministers of the Republics *ex officio*;

the Supreme Court of the USSR, which includes the Chairmen of the Supreme Courts of the Union Republics *ex officio*.

Although the Union Republics differ in size,

population, national composition and other features, all of them enjoy equal privileges and rights.

The USSR is a federal state. Therefore a number of questions bearing on the country's general development and the common interests of all the peoples and nationalities, have been turned over by all the Republics, including Armenia, to the authority of the USSR. The latter protects the sovereign rights of each Union Republic. Their sovereignty is limited only within the bounds defined in Article 14 of the Constitution of the USSR.

The jurisdiction of the USSR, as represented by its higher bodies of state power and administration, covers:

- a) Representation of the USSR in international relations; conclusion, ratification and denunciation of treaties of the USSR with other states; establishment of general procedure governing the relations of the Union Republics with foreign states;
- b) Questions of war and peace;
- c) Admission of new Republics into the USSR;
- d) Control over the observance of the Constitution of the USSR, and ensuring conformity of the Constitutions of the Union Republics with the Constitution of the USSR;
- e) Approval of changes to boundaries between Union Republics;
- f) Approval of the formation of new Autonomous Republics and Autonomous Regions within Union Republics;

- g) Organization of the defence of the USSR, direction of all the Armed Forces of the USSR, formulation of principles guiding the organization of the military formations of the Union Republics;
- h) Foreign trade, on the basis of state monopoly;
- i) State security;
- j) Approval of economic plans of the USSR;
- k) Approval of the consolidated state budget of the USSR and of the report on its implementation; fixing taxes and revenues that go to the Union, Republican and local budgets;
- l) Administration of banks and industrial, agricultural and trading enterprises and institutions under Union jurisdiction; general direction of industry and building under Union-Republican jurisdiction;
- m) Administration of transport and communications of all-Union importance;
- n) Direction of the monetary and credit system;
- o) Organization of state insurance;
- p) Contracting and granting of loans;
- q) Definition of the basic principles of land tenure and of the use of mineral wealth, forests and waters;
- r) Definition of the basic principles in the spheres of education and public health;
- s) Organization of a uniform system of economic statistics;
- t) Definition of the fundamentals of labour legislation;

- u) Definition of the fundamentals of legislation on the judicial system and judicial procedure and the fundamentals of civil and criminal legislation;
- v) Legislation on Union citizenship; legislation on rights of foreigners;
- w) Definition of the fundamentals of legislation on marriage and the family;
- x) Promulgation of all-Union acts of amnesty.

Article 15 of the Constitution of the USSR makes the point that the sovereignty of the Union Republics is limited only in the areas defined in Article 14 of the USSR Constitution. Outside of these each Union Republic exercises state authority independently.

* * *

The official language of the Armenian SSR is Armenian. National minorities inhabiting the country are provided with facilities for developing and utilizing their national languages in cultural and governmental institutions.

The coat of arms of Armenia depicts the Great and Minor Ararat topped by a hammer and sickle on a five-pointed star in the rays of the sun. At the foot of the mountains there is a grape-vine surrounded by ears of wheat with the inscription, "The Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic," written in Armenian. Below, against a red background is the inscription, "Workers of All Countries, Unite!" written in the Armenian and Russian languages.

The state flag of the Republic is of red cloth

with a blue stripe across its length. A hammer and sickle in gold, and above them a five-pointed red star bordered in gold, are in the upper corner by the staff.

A REPUBLIC OF DEVELOPED INDUSTRY

Pre-revolutionary Armenia was an agrarian country with poorly-developed industry. Agriculture accounted for 75 per cent of its output.

Its most important industries—copper, wine and cognac-making were in the hands of foreign or Russian capitalists. Other industries were confined to small handicraft enterprises.

After the establishment of Soviet power the old enterprises were reconstructed and new plants and factories built. Entire new industries (textile, tobacco, etc.) were established. A carbide plant—the first in the Soviet Union—was put into operation in Yerevan in 1927, ending the importation of calcium carbide.

By 1928, the volume of industrial production in Armenia reached the 1913 level.

The years of socialist industrialization (1929-40) which found expression in the five-year plans before World War II were decisive for Armenia's industrial development as well as for the entire Soviet economy.

Planned economic development envisaged the construction of several large plants and factories in the chemical, mining, textile, light and food industries. One of the first Soviet plants for the production of synthetic rubber was commissioned in Yerevan in 1940. Its output included rubber with a number of valuable properties,

such as resistance to fire, oil and petrol.

During the war against fascism (1941-45), despite difficult economic conditions, there was a sharp rise in the output of the engineering industry. At that time 70 new industrial enterprises were under construction. Armenia did her share by supplying the Soviet Army with arms, military equipment, foodstuffs and other important items.

The postwar five-year economic development plan (1946-50) provided for further economic and cultural growth of the Republic.

Today Armenia is a developed industrial-agrarian country. Numerous new towns and workers' settlements have gone up: hundreds of plants, factories and power stations have been built. A ramified network of canals, motor highways and transmission lines covers the Republic.

At present industry is represented by some 600 large industrial enterprises: the output of a single day exceeds that of the entire first year under Soviet rule. Industry has become the chief branch of the economy and brings in 60 per cent of the national income.

Armenia is particularly known for its developed non-ferrous metals industry, chemical, electrical, precision instrument-making, building materials and food and light industries.

Powerful mining and metallurgical enterprises have gone up in Alaverdi, Kafan, Kajaran, Agarak, Akhtal and Yerevan.

Chemistry acquired particular impetus after the war. New plants were built: *Polivinilacetate*, a tyre plant and a paint and varnish plant

in Yerevan, factories for the production of sulphuric acid and superphosphates in Alaverdi, a nitrous fertilizer plant as part of the Kirovakan combine, one for acetate slag, and many more.

The output of the chemical industry is extremely variegated, with over 140 types of products. In certain products of organic synthesis Armenia holds a leading place in the Soviet Union. Among these is synthetic rubber, "Nairit," a variety of medicines, and tyres.

At the same time new prospects are being opened in fine organic synthesis, which is based upon existing chemical branches and upon new scientific investigations. Those have for years occupied a prominent place in the work of the Institute of Fine Organic Chemistry of the Armenian Academy of Sciences. New enterprises are under construction. In Yerevan a plant for chemical reagents has started work; others for vitamins and chemical goods for everyday use will soon be commissioned. A mining and chemical combine is under construction in Razdan.

The near future will see the construction of a huge plastics plant, and a latex and plastic goods factory, as well as several pharmaceutical and household chemicals works.

Many new industries were developed in the postwar years, alongside with traditional ones: electrical, machine-building, instrument-making, radio electronics, electronics, production of automation equipment and other progressive industries typical of highly-developed countries.

The machine-building industry produces metal-cutting lathes, generators, electric motors,

power transformers, mobile power stations, electric welding equipment, electric lamps, and cables. As a manufacturer of electric machines and metal-cutting lathes Armenia holds a leading place in the USSR.

During the seven-year period (1959-65) 300 new plants, factories and power stations were put into operation. The largest are the Agarak copper-molybdenum combine, the Yerevan and Artabekyan hydropower stations, the Yerevan and Kirovakan thermal power stations, plants for synthetic fibres and precision machine-building in Kirovakan, an instrument-making plant and one for boring machines in Lusavan, the *Siroimashina* building-machines factory, and others making grinding machines and the *Mikroelectrodivigatel* microelectric diesel plant in Leninakan. Total industrial output has increased by 120 per cent; in non-ferrous metallurgy it has gone up 180 per cent, in chemicals—200, in machine-building—240 and in building materials—180 per cent.

Today the leading industries include precision instrument-making, electronics, and radio-electronics. Razdan and Nairi computing machines are in great demand in the USSR and abroad.

The present five-year plan (1966-70) envisages an 80-per-cent increase in industrial output, as against 1965.

Of importance is the mining of natural building materials, of which there is a great variety in Armenia. It abounds in tuff, obtained in a multitude of colours, basalt, granite, and marble, which can be mined on the surface, and other

minerals which have long become traditional building materials in the country. These were used to build numerous architectural masterpieces in ancient and medieval Armenia. As industrialization developed in Soviet Armenia huge mechanized mines were set up for the production of pink tuff on the northwestern slopes of the Aragats, near Artik. Construction of the Artik-Leninakan railway has made it possible to ship the famous Artik tuff to all parts of the Union.

Of other natural building materials we must mention the so-called easy fillers, which are widely applied to make cement, concrete and ferro-concrete. These include pumice stone, volcanic slag and perlites. Armenian marble has also acquired wide fame; more than two-thirds of the marble produced and of articles of this material are exported.

An important place in the economy belongs to the light and food industries. The small handicraft enterprises that existed in pre-revolutionary Armenia have given way to modern light-industry enterprises manufacturing dozens of millions of metres of silks, cottons and worsteds, millions of knitted goods, carpets and footwear. The food industry fully provides for the needs of the population and much is exported to other parts of the USSR and abroad.

An almost complete absence of fuel and power resources and limited water resources constitute a serious problem for the economic development of Armenia. That is why it is of interest to take a look back and see how the power base was created.

The task of achieving rapid industrialization demanded priority for electrification. A solution was found by utilizing the energy of small but rapid mountain rivers. In 1924, the fourth year of Soviet rule, the first large unit for water-power—the Shirak Canal—was put into operation. In 1926, Yerevan hydropower station I, the first in the Republic, was commissioned.

In 1932, the production of electric power increased more than tenfold as against 1913. This, however, ran short of the demands made by the rapidly-growing economy. Thus came the idea of using the waters of Lake Sevan.

The construction of the Sevan-Razdan irrigation-power complex, with six power stations, numerous canals, reservoirs, tunnels and other structures, provided the economy with cheap power in the last 20-25 years. An immense “staircase” of stations was built: the Kanaker, Sevan Subterranean, Gyumyush, Arzni, Atarbekyan and New Yerevan stations. This, however, led to a fall in the level of water in Lake Sevan. New stations had to be built to stop the excess flow of water from the lake. At present a new “staircase” of power stations is being constructed on the River Vorotan.

It soon became evident that the power reserves of Armenia's rivers were insufficient to provide for the further development of its productive forces. There came a demand for new sources of power. A solution was found by using the fuel resources of neighbouring Republics, particularly the natural gas of Azerbaijan.

In February, 1960, work was completed on the Karadag-Akstafa-Yerevan gas main. Gasi-

fication was started in the Republic and the construction of thermal stations using natural gas was begun in Yerevan, Razdan and Kirovakan.

With the commissioning of these stations Lake Sevan, the "pearl of Transcaucasia," will be saved. The Arpa-Sevan units will serve the same purpose. This project, built high among the mountain ranges, requires a 49-kilometre tunnel to carry the waters of the River Arpa into the Sevan.

In 1965, the thermal power stations produced more electricity than all the hydroelectric power plants.

And yet there is still a shortage of electricity from local sources, particularly for future development. This has been taken care of by huge transmission lines and the construction of a single Transcaucasian power grid.

THE NEW VILLAGE

The Armenian plateau is a cradle of ancient agriculture: from time immemorial field-crop cultivation, viticulture, cotton-growing and animal husbandry were practised there.

The remains of numerous irrigation works: canals, reservoirs, man-made lakes and tunnels laid through the rocks and mountains, testify to the high development of agriculture in ancient Armenia.

Continuous raids and invasions of alien forces were highly detrimental to the country, bringing ruin and destruction to the villages.

The years of the First World War shattered

the backward rural economy of the country, while Dashnak rule hastened its collapse.

In 1919, the agricultural output of present Armenia amounted to only 17.2 per cent, as against even the meagre level of 1913. The crop area diminished by 75 per cent.

In Soviet Armenia agriculture has changed beyond recognition. Under the impact of socialist reconstruction and joint labour the poor and scattered individual peasant households have given way to huge enterprises—collective and state farms.

Today there are 527 collective and 219 state farms, equipped with modern machines and implements.

Armenia has a limited area of arable land. Lands under agriculture make up 1.4 million hectares or 46.6 per cent of the entire territory. Of these, 35.7 per cent is ploughland, 57.1 per cent are meadows and pastures and five per cent is under vineyards and orchards.

The chief branches of agriculture are vineyards, fruits, grains and industrial crops, vegetables and animal husbandry.

Average crop area per capita is among the lowest in the Union. Arable lands are scattered and consist of small-sized plots, as compared with those in other Republics. Nearly two-thirds of the arable lands are made up of plots averaging one hectare.

In the mountain regions every bit of land is used. The main farm regions are the Ararat Plain, the Shirak Plateau and the valleys of the Sevan basin.

Natural conditions are characterized by the

changing climatic belts which have left an imprint on the agricultural features of each area.

The highest districts (above 2,300 metres), with their Alpine meadows, are confined to stock-raising. Somewhat lower, animal husbandry is combined with farming. The lower the altitude, the more variegated the crops (particularly in the watered areas). Deep in the valleys farming is given full priority; here, vines, vegetables and industrial crops are at their best.

Being an arid country, Armenia has a great need for irrigation. Seventy-five per cent of all water is used for agriculture. However, industry and utility services also make increasing demands for water. The arid climate and insignificant supply of natural waters make this problem a key one.

Huge irrigation and land-reclamation projects have been carried out. They have brought to life tens of thousands of hectares of semi-deserts, saline and marshlands. As contrasted with 1919 the area of lands under irrigation has increased more than fourfold and today amounts to 260,000 hectares. They are used for vineyards, orchards and other valuable crops.

In the next decade additional 135-145,000 hectares will be irrigated. In the current five-year period alone nearly 60 new irrigation systems, canals, pumping stations and water reservoirs will be built; 130,000 hectares of new pastures in the arid and mountainous districts will be reclaimed.

Grape-growing is one of the most profitable branches, and the Ararat plain is the chief grape-growing area. In Soviet times irrigation has

extended this culture to former desert lands and to mountain regions. Water has turned arid rocky lands into fertile grape areas. Before the Revolution Armenia had slightly over 9,000 hectares of land under vineyards, today they cover 40,000.

Climatic conditions are favourable for the best grades of grapes, which are used for the famous cognacs: "Yerevan," "Dvin," "Yubileiny," "Otborny," and for sweet wines: "Ashtarak," "Aigeshat," "Oshakan," "Voskevaz," "Echmiadzin" and other brands.

The Republic has plans for expanding further the areas under vineyards. Tens of thousands of hectares of new ones will be laid out on reclaimed lands, while the gross yield of grapes in the next 10-15 years will reach 760,000 tons, a fivefold or sixfold increase over what is produced today.

Fruit-growing is as ancient as grape-growing. The chief fruit crops are peaches, apricots, plums and cherries, known for their exceptional fragrance and taste, which are grown in the plains and the foothills. In the past score years fruit-growing has also been gradually moving upwards, as new mountain lands are developed.

Ochards cover the vast Shirak plateau, the lands of the Sevan basin and have almost reached the Alpine meadows of the Lory steppe.

Today 35,000 hectares of land are under fruit crops, as against 4,400 hectares in pre-revolutionary Armenia. In the next 10 or 15 years orchards will cover more than 70,000 hectares, and gross annual fruit yields will amount to 350,000 tons.

Numerous canneries have been opened on the basis of this rapidly-developing branch of agriculture.

Of industrial crops tobacco has become widespread in Armenia.

Tobacco plantations cover 8,000 hectares, with an annual yield of 14,000 tons of high-grade leaf. The chief brands are "Samsun" and "Trapezond."

Another valuable crop that was introduced after the Revolution is the sugar-beet grown on irrigated lands of the Shirak plateau. These beets cover 4,000 hectares and yield up to 110,000 tons. They are processed at the Spitak refinery.

Vegetables, melons and potatoes are the chief crops in many districts. There are also prospects of further developing these crops through irrigation.

Animal husbandry is also most ancient and important. Its share in gross agricultural output amounts to 44.5 per cent, with priority given to cattle, sheep, poultry and pigs.

Each year increases the stock of farm machinery in the rural economy. Today there is one tractor for every 45 hectares of cultivated land and one grain combine for every 170 hectares of area under cereals.

THE ROADS OF A MOUNTAINOUS COUNTRY

Mountains, non-navigable rivers and the absence of an outlet to the sea have made transportation a serious problem. The nature of the

country makes the building of roads more expensive than in the lowlands.

The almost total absence of roads in pre-revolutionary Armenia has given way to a ramified network of railways, highways and air lines, that link the most remote mountain settlements with the cities. Motor transport, which carries the bulk (85 per cent) of all freight, is important in such a mountainous country.

In the past forty years motor highways have increased in length over fivefold and today total 8,000 kilometres. Broad blacktop highways have been laid between Yerevan and Tbilisi, Baku, Kirovabad, Stepanakert, Minvody, Kislovodsk, Sochi, Leninakan, Kirovakan and other cities of the Union.

Every fourth citizen uses motor transport daily. Every large town can be reached by bus. Interurban buses link Yerevan with all city and district centres of the Republic as well as with Tbilisi, Baku, Orjonikidze, Kirovabad, Stepanakert, Nakhichevan and the resorts of the Black Sea and the North Caucasus.

Railways are important in freight transportation and communication with other Soviet Republics. Yerevan is linked with many towns of the USSR by rail through Baku and Tbilisi.

Railway-building has always developed side by side with industrialization. The completion of the southern branch of the Transcaucasian railway between Dzulfa and Mindzhevan gave Yerevan direct access to Baku. It became the shortest route to the Caspian and the oilfields of Baku, and linked the mining industries of the south with the central and northern parts

of the Republic. Another important railway branch has been completed between Yerevan and Lake Sevan, which services a large, recently-developed industrial area and constitutes part of the future Yerevan-Akstafa line. This will be the shortest route from the Ararat plain through the mountain ridges of the Minor Caucasus to the Kura valley. It will be a third line connecting Yerevan with the Transcaucasian railway.

Radical technical reconstruction was carried out in the last score years to improve railway service. Over half the roads have been electrified. Cars, maintenance of way and superstructure have been improved, and new high-speed locomotives, introduced. Almost all stations have been built and dozens of new ones have appeared.

Air transport is highly significant for such a mountainous country as Armenia. Its lines are serviced by small planes, and the turboprop IL-18, which covers the 2,800 kilometres between Yerevan and Moscow in three hours and 20 minutes, is used for long trips.

Armenia also has extensive communication services (telephone, telegraph, postal services, radio and TV) which are being steadily developed.

As compared with 1940 the number of postal, telephone and telegraph offices has almost doubled. Automatic telephone exchanges have been installed in all cities and district centres and in many towns. Phototelegraph services have long become common. Radio and TV are making much progress. Radio has been installed

throughout Armenia. The Yerevan TV studio has been in operation since 1957. Today a TV set is an indispensable household item both in town and country.

Under the current plan all types of communication will be expanded and modernized.

FOR MAN

Soviet power and the socialist system have brought the Armenian people not only liberty and self-determination. They have also given them economic freedom.

The most general indicator of the people's growing welfare is the increase in the national income. In the rate of growth of the national income Armenia has a leading place among the Republics: during the seven-year period it increased by 76 per cent.

Nearly three-fourths of this income goes to the consumption funds, i.e., to satisfy personal and public needs. The rise in real wages also indicates the people's growing welfare. This gain has been achieved by raising wages and cutting prices.

Thus, in recent years the earnings of workers in education, health services, trade, catering and other services have gone up by an average of 26.2 per cent.

The growth of production and of purchasing power have increased the state and cooperative trade turnover, which in the last 15 years has gone up by 330 per cent. There has been a sharp rise in the sale of goods for cultural and everyday needs. In recent years the annual sale

of refrigerators has increased ninefold, washing machines elevenfold, vacuum cleaners fifteenfold, sewing machines tripled and that of furniture doubled as compared with the previous 15 years.

There has also been a substantial increase in public funds allotted for free education and health services, social security, the maintenance of kindergartens, holiday hotels and other public needs.

The socialist system has ended feelings of insecurity. Today the working people of Armenia are certain of their future. The state provides old-age and disability pensions as well as those for families who have lost their breadwinners. More than 50 thousand collective farmers and their families are now covered by the new pension law.

Large sums are allocated by the state for housing. The entire Republic has been turned into a veritable construction project. New industrial and public buildings are going up everywhere side by side with modern dwellings.

In the last decade 600 million square metres of dwelling space have been built in cities, 80 thousand houses in rural areas. More than half the population has moved into new flats during this period.

New dwelling projects and whole districts with verdant streets and parks, numerous shops and movie theatres are going up in cities, district centres and towns.

A chief gain of socialism has been the establishment of a broad network of free medical services. Cholera, typhus and smallpox, among

other diseases, were the scourge of pre-revolutionary Armenia. One-third of the population suffered from malaria. The mortality rate was extremely high, particularly among children. The entire country had only six hospitals with 77 doctors while rural areas had no services whatsoever.

Today the picture is entirely different. One learns of former epidemics only from history text. There are 289 hospitals staffed with a huge army of highly-skilled doctors, medical assistants and nurses—over 20,000 in all, including 6,000 doctors. There are 27 physicians for every 10,000 of the population, which is more than in a number of Western countries. Many valuable medicines are manufactured in Armenia and exported.

There is a steady growth of children's pre-school establishments, which have today increased to 660, as against the 50 kindergartens, nurseries and creches available 40 years ago.

The growing welfare, better living conditions, and highly-developed medical services have had a favourable effect on the growth of the population and its longevity, and have decreased the mortality rate. In the last ten years the natural increase in population has reached three per cent, or 33.1 births for each 10,000 persons. Average longevity is 71 years, one of the world's highest.

ARMENIAN RESORTS

SOME 400 mineral springs, containing the most variegated chemical ingredients, have been discovered in Armenia.

For ages this boundless natural wealth had lain unused. Today there is a broad network of sanatoriums and health resorts: 40 sanatoriums and 46 rest homes which cater for 5,500 patients and vacationists.

A special research institution is concerned with the development of physical methods of treatment. It carries on experiments studying the properties of mineral waters, peat and other natural medical agents and improving methods of treatment.

Among the resorts Arzni, Dzhermuk and Dilijan are famous for their balneological properties.

Arzni, one of the oldest, is situated at an altitude of 1,250 metres above sea level, 23 kilometres from Yerevan. The construction of the first sanatoriums was begun in 1925. A plant bottling Arzni mineral water has been built; its yearly output is 19.5 million bottles.

Arzni's medium altitude in the subtropical zone accounts for its mild continental climate with a moderately cold winter, hot summer and a warm and lengthy autumn. As for the number of sunny days it is far ahead of all the resorts of the Caucasus mineral-water area and the Black Sea coast.

Arzni provides balneological treatment for cardiovascular and gastric diseases and ranks among the top Soviet resorts.

Dzhermuk is situated much higher—at an altitude of 2,070 metres, in the upper reaches of the River Arpa among mountain forests that border on Alpine meadows.

The salubrious qualities of its waters were

known in remote antiquity; there are still many remains of ancient baths on its territory. The first sanatorium was built on the Dzhermuk plateau in 1936, and by 1949, there were already four fully-equipped sanatoriums. Today their number has increased to 10.

The resort has a typical Alpine climate with a rather mild and snowy winter which is lengthy but windless, and a moderately warm, sunny, dry summer. Sunny days are abundant throughout the year. The hyperthermal waters of Dzhermuk are to a certain extent like those of Sprudel spring in Karlovy Vary, Czechoslovakia.

Numerous clinical investigations have shown that Dzhermuk waters are particularly effective for the treatment of gastric diseases and those of the liver, gall-bladder and pancreas, as well as the motor apparatus of the nervous system, in cases of impaired metabolism and women's diseases.

The resort has an automatic bottling plant which produces 28 million bottles of mineral water yearly.

Of late the demand for Dzhermuk water has increased to such an extent that the plant must be expanded.

The **Dilizhan** resort lies on the bank of the River Agstev at the junction of three picturesque canyons.

The surrounding mountains are covered with deciduous and coniferous forests and Alpine meadows and form a natural barrier against harsh mountain winds. This makes the climate of the resort rather mild, with a cool summer,

warm sunny winter and clear dry weather the year round.

Dilizhan is also rich in mineral waters. The Baldan-chai canyon contains a mineral spring rich in carbonaceous, chalybeate, hydrocarbonate, chloride and sodium waters which are bottled by the local plant. This water is widely used for treating chronic diseases (gastric, liver and gall-bladder) and its mineral content is close to the Georgian Borzhomi and French Vichy waters. The resort has also earned fame for its treatment of tuberculosis of the respiratory organs.

It is a popular place of rest for the citizens of the Republic. Its picturesque locality and multitude of ancient architectural monuments, healthy climate, pleasant air, mineral springs and rich flora attract many vacationists and tourists.

THE GOLDEN AGE OF NATIONAL CULTURE

In less than half a century since the formation of Soviet Armenia great headway has been made in various fields of culture, including education and science, literature and art.

Education and science. Although the Armenian written language is 1,600 years old, it had never been available to the broad masses. Pre-revolutionary Armenia had only a few schools which were closed to working people. Sixty per cent of the population was totally illiterate.

In Soviet Armenia illiteracy has long been done away with and today every fourth citizen

is studying. There are 1,600 general education schools, including 295 for those who combine work and study. Today there are more teachers than there were pupils in pre-revolutionary times.

The current five-year plan envisages a further increase in the number of general and technical schools, and the complete transfer to universal, compulsory ten-year education.

Particular attention is paid to training qualified specialists. The Republic has 12 higher educational institutions and 45 specialized secondary schools which train 70,000 students. All tuition is free, and 75 per cent of the students receive state grants.

In Armenia there are 177 students per 10,000 inhabitants. Actually there are 2.5 times more students in Yerevan than the whole population in 1914.

Numerous graduates of the higher schools have become prominent scientists and scholars, whose names are known far beyond the bounds of the Union. The 480 teachers of Yerevan State University include 10 Academicians, 25 Doctors of Science and 250 Masters of Science.

During its age-old history, despite the extreme difficulties experienced by the country, Armenia had produced a number of remarkable scholars and scientists who have enriched science with many valuable works. But at that time they were forced to struggle on their own.

The socialist system has opened up broad prospects for the emergence and development

of new talents. Today the Republic has 106 scientific institutions staffed with 8,000 workers.

The Academy of Sciences, established in the strenuous war years (1943), is the centre of scientific and research work. It has nearly 30 scientific institutes and within a relatively short period has become a leading scientific centre of the Union.

For many years Viktor Ambartsumyan, a prominent astrophysicist and State Prize winner, was President of the Academy of Sciences. His outstanding cosmogonical research has earned him a name among world scientists and made him an honorary member of more than twenty Academies of Sciences in different countries.

The efforts of Academician Ambartsumyan and his students have turned the rather young Biurakan Observatory into a leading scientific centre.

The Institute of Physics in Yerevan has a unique electronic accelerator of elementary particles. Armenian physicists have many achievements to their credit, particularly in the properties of elementary particles, cosmic rays, high-energy physics, etc.

Armenian geologists have discovered nearly all the existing chemical elements on the territory of the Republic, and their complex utilization affords boundless opportunities for developing a multibranching economy.

The workers of the Institute of Fine Organic Chemistry have synthesized a number of important medical preparations, including such popular medicines as gangleron, quateron and

ditilin. Numerous achievements have been attained in mathematics and mechanics, geology, and computing technique, microbiology and roentgenology, physiology and zoology.

The Republic has many talented young scientists, such as mathematician Sergei Mergelyan, who became Doctor of Science at the age of 20 and at the age of 26 was elected Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and Academician of the Armenian Academy.

Literature. Khachatur Abovyan (1805-48), a talented writer and poet, playwright and teacher, and a democratic enlightener, is considered to be the founder of the new Armenian literature. He was also a staunch adherent of Armenian-Russian friendship.

Abovyan wrote in the new Armenian language *Ashkharabar*. He authored the first Armenian novel, *The Wounds of Armenia*, which is valuable both from the literary and historical points of view.

The tenor of this novel, as of all his works, is fraternal friendship among peoples, the liberation of Armenia from alien oppression and the delivery of its people from age-old darkness and illiteracy.

Abovyan had many followers among the enlighteners of the 19th century, who came out resolutely against the reactionary views of the clerical and feudal ruling classes. Mikael Nalbandyan (1829-66), a poet, literary critic and philosopher, became the leader of a revolutionary-democratic movement; his closest comrade-in-arms was Arutyun Svachyan.

M. Nalbandyan shared the views and was a friend of the great Russian enlighteners and revolutionary democrats Belinsky, Herzen, Ogaryov, Chernyshevsky and Dobrolyubov.

"No nation has the right to destroy another nation," wrote Nalbandyan; "let every nation develop freely in all its splendour."

In the galaxy of Armenian writers of the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century stand out the poets Ovanes Tumanyan and Avetik Isaakyan whose poem, *Abu-Lala-Maari*, has been translated into various languages.

Valery Briusov, a prominent Russian poet, said that acquaintance with Armenian poetry should be compulsory for every educated person, just as are the works of the Hellenic playwrights, Dante's *Comedy*, Shakespeare's plays and Hugo's poems.

Tumanyan's lyric poetry gives the reader more knowledge of pre-revolutionary Armenia than would many historical volumes. Expressing a warm welcome to the October Revolution in Russia he wrote, "These events are not accidental; they are the result of historical development. Our future, as I have always said... is linked with Russia, and the more freedom Russia obtains, the better for us and for the whole world."

Prominent Armenian writers of the older generation, like Ovanes Tumanyan, and Alexander Shirvanzade, Ovanes Ioannisyan and Nardos, Avetik Isaakyan and Derenik Demirchyan, who always expressed the interests and aspirations of their people, could not remain indif-

ferent to Soviet rule, which liberated the Armenian people. They became active builders of the new socialist culture. "I believe in the existence of Armenia, a better Armenia," wrote Shirvanzade in 1925. "I believe in this and am ready to glorify new Armenia and devote to her the rest of my life. I believe in the strength, nobility, patriotism and sincerity of its young government. I know how difficult it is to rehabilitate a country which has been devastated by the hands of degenerate elements, but I know what mighty hands the Armenian worker and peasant have."

Following the October Revolution of 1917, when turbulent revolutionary changes were underway, Armenian literature was reinforced by a number of young writers whose creative outlook had been formed in the course of socialist construction. These include the prose writers and poets, Egishe Charents, Azat Vshtuni, Gekan Saryan, Nairi Zarian and Amayak Siras, among others. Today the Union of Armenian Writers has a membership of nearly 250.

Fine arts and architecture. The first artistic monuments of Armenia go back to the 3rd millennium B. C. One of these is an ancient wooden chariot covered with fine carving, that was found on the shores of lake Sevan.

The period between the 7th and 11th centuries was the time when architecture began its classical development and its basic artistic and constructive principles were worked out. From then on this highly-developed architecture and art exerted a strong influence on the peoples of Transcaucasia and the Near East.

Armenian miniature painters and book decorators acquired world renown. The numerous illustrated manuscripts of the 9th-10th, and particularly of the 13th-14th centuries, stand out as examples of the extremely high level of such painting. It was valued for its fine lines and richness of colour.

The Soviet power put an end to the monopoly of art which had made it accessible only to the enlightened few. Many intellectuals who were forced to live and work abroad returned to their homeland.

Painting became a leading art, giving rise to such brilliant painters as Akop Kodzhoyan, Gabriel Giurdzian, Gevork Grigoryan (Dzhotto). Soviet power gave new impetus to the talent of Martiros Saryan, People's Artist of the USSR, whose art retains all its originality and optimism and continues to develop in colour and content.

Saryan's outstanding talent has been acknowledged both in the Soviet Union and abroad. His radiant canvases have won admiration in many countries.

There have been notable achievements in graphic arts, particularly in etching, lithography and xylography, and in sculpture. Wide acclaim has been won by the works of sculptors Ara Sarkisyan and Urartu Stepanyan. In the squares of Yerevan one can see splendid monuments to Lenin and Shaumyan—the work of sculptor Merkulov and a monument to David of Sasun by the sculptor Kachar.

Architecture, which came to a dead stop after the loss of statehood at the end of the 14th cen-

tury, has been revived. It is stimulated by the extensive construction all over the country.

Theatre and cinema. Armenian theatre goes back to the 1st century B.C. and is closely linked with national holidays. The first Armenian theatre was built in 69 B.C., under Tigranes II, in the style of the ancient amphitheatres, and was known to have staged the works of Greek and Armenian classical authors. Artavazd II, the son of Tigranes, was the first Armenian playwright.

In medieval Armenia the performances of the *gusan-mimoses* and the *vardzak* (pantomime actors), whose indispensable attributes were the masks of animals, were particularly popular. There was also a people's theatre which staged plays in town squares.

During Persian and Turkish rule many Armenian actors left their homeland. Theatre continued its work in the colonies established in Lvov, Venice, Madras and other foreign cities.

In 1836, an Armenian theatre was established in Tiflis, which included a number of outstanding actors.

It was astonishing that for ages preceding the October Revolution the Armenian people, whose theatrical culture is 2,000 years old, did not have a single theatre in their native country.

In 1921, less than a year after the establishment of Soviet rule, the first State Theatre was opened in Yerevan, which later was honoured with the name of the great Armenian playwright, Gabriel Sundukyan. Many promin-

ent actors, such as Ovanes Abelyan, Vagram Papazyan, Asmik and Arus Voskanyan returned to Yerevan from abroad. The theatre developed a number of young talents, such as Rachya Nersesyan, Vagarsh Vagarshyan and Avet Avetisyan.

Today the theatre gives remarkable performances by classical authors and produces works by classical Russian and foreign playwrights.

There is also a Russian Drama Theatre named after Stanislavsky, an Azerbaijani Musical Comedy Theatre named after Paronyan, a Young People's Theatre and a Puppet Theatre. There are Drama Theatres in Leninakan, Kirovakan, Artashat, Kamo and Kafan.

An important role in training actors for the national stage was played by the Armenian Theatrical Studio in Moscow. Later studios were established in Armenian theatres in Tbilisi, Baku, Yerevan and Leninakan. Quite recently a Theatrical Institute was set up in Yerevan.

At the beginning of the 20s Armenian cinematography began to take its first steps. *Soviet Armenia* was the first documentary, produced in 1924, and the next year the first feature film, *Namus* (after a novel by Alexander Shirvanzade), was made with script written by the outstanding Soviet producer Amo Bek-Nazarov. He played an important role in developing Armenian cinematography. Since then the studio has produced scores of interesting films which have become popular in the USSR and abroad.

Music. Armenia's extensive literature, heroic epic, theatre, various architectural monuments, fine arts and applied arts have developed side by side with its musical culture, which has preserved much of its originality through the ages.

In the middle ages there was a special, so-called Khaz system of notation in music. Instrumental music was popular with the people and there were instrumental ensembles comprising various wind, string and percussion instruments.

An important part in establishing and developing modern music belongs to composers Komitas and Spendiaryan.

Other leading composers are Spiridon Melikyan, who has continued the work of Komitas in collecting and studying folk songs; Romanos Melikyan, master of national vocal chamber music, Armen Tigranyan, author of *Anush*, the first realistic Armenian opera depicting the people's life whose music has made this original classical opera highly popular to our day.

In 1921, after the establishment of Soviet power in Armenia, the Yerevan Music Studio was founded, the first Armenian musical educational establishment. In 1923, it developed into the State Conservatoire, named after Komitas and became a music centre for the Republic. Today there are numerous music schools in Armenia.

In the 20s and at the beginning of the 30s a symphony orchestra, string quartets named for Komitas and Spendiaryan, a state choir, an Armenian Song and Dance Company, a jazz

orchestra, an Ensemble of Folk Instruments and an Ensemble of Gusan Songs, named for Saat-Nova, were established. Most of these companies were united under the Armenian Philharmonic Society, set up in 1932, which carries on extensive cultural work.

The State Opera Theatre was founded in 1933, in Yerevan, followed by the Theatre of Musical Comedy.

The works of composers Arutunyan, Babadzhanyan, Mirzoyan, Oganesyanyan, Ter-Tatevosyan have become extremely popular. Among new names in music a special place belongs to Aram Khachaturyan, whose rich creative work is closely tied up with Armenian folk music. He has composed a number of interesting works based on characteristic folk rhythms and melodies. All his works are symphonic and emotional and feature an extensive variety of musical genres.

His piano and violin concertos, Symphony No. 2 and ballets *Gayane* and *Spartacus*, are popular throughout the world. His concerts in Italy, England, Latin America and many other countries have been unfailingly successful.

Khachaturyan's work has influenced the development of many young Soviet composers.

Armenia has a number of vocal artists, such as Zara Dolukhanova, Goar Gasparyan, Tatevik Sazandaryan, Pavel Lisitsian and others. Zara Dolukhanova's and Goar Gasparyan's concerts in London, Paris, New York, Tokyo, Prague and many cities of South America and the Near East have brought them fame.

Cultural and educational institutions. Today there is not a single industrial enterprise, not a state or collective farm, an educational institution or enterprise in Soviet Armenia that does not have a club or a house of culture, a movie theatre, a mobile-cinema projector, or library.

The Republic has 2,700 libraries, of which 1,000 are in rural areas, with a total of 20 million volumes. There are 1,058 clubs, 888 of them are in the countryside. Towns and villages of Armenia have 3,300 amateur art groups with 50,000 members. There are 700 cinema units, with more than 600 movie theatres.

Pre-revolutionary Armenia did not have a single museum. Today there are several museums in the Republic where one can find information on the history of the people and find material on the culture created in the course of thousands of years. There are many valuable exhibits in the History Museum, the Matenadaran Manuscript Repository, the Art Gallery, the Museum of Yerevan's History, the museums of geology, literature, theatrical art, zoology, local lore and various memorial museums.

Each year new cultural and educational institutions are founded.

Press, radio and television. Newspapers and magazines, radio and TV have become an integral part of everyday life. Even in the most remote mountain settlements, previously known for their complete illiteracy, one will find newspapers, magazines and books.

Over 80 newspapers are published with a total circulation of 730,000. There are more

than 100 magazines and other periodicals with an annual printing of 3.5 million copies.

The newspapers and periodicals are published in Armenian, Russian, Azerbaijani and Kurdish.

There are four publishing houses, the largest *Aiastan*, which issues over 800 books in eight million copies annually in the four languages.

Armenian Radio also transmits in four languages. Programmes are broadcast for Armenians abroad and in Arabic for the Near East.

Television occupies a prominent place. Daily programmes from Yerevan are received in most districts of the country. Regular programmes are received from Moscow and abroad.

Physical culture and sports. Physical culture has a long history in Armenia. At the Olympic Games in 385 A.D. the Armenian sportsman, Varazdat, won the championship in the Greek pentathlon.

A people forced to wage a constant struggle against its oppressors devoted much time and attention to physical training. For ages physical exercises and competitions in the wielding of arms were popular. Wrestling is still a favourite sport.

In pre-revolutionary Armenia any organized sports were out of the question. It was only after the establishment of Soviet power that conditions were created for physical education. In 1923, the First All-Armenian Games were held in Yerevan. Numerous sports societies were formed. Today they function under the auspices of the Republican Union of Sports Societies and Organizations.

The rapid development of sports called for training qualified specialists. In 1940, the Armenian Pedagogical Institute opened a Faculty of Physical Training, which in 1945 led to establishing the State Institute of Physical Culture.

Today nearly 40 sports are developed. Armenian sportsmen, particularly gymnasts, wrestlers and boxers, have repeatedly been victors at international competitions winning many gold and silver medals as world and Olympic champions.

International contacts are steadily expanding. The Armenian football team is popular abroad and often plays host to foreign teams.

Numerous sports centres have been set up in recent years. There are over a dozen stadiums, more than 3,000 sports fields and nearly 300 gyms.

THE NEW FACE OF ANCIENT TOWNS

The years of the Soviet rule have radically changed the face of old Armenia. This has become particularly noticeable due to the turbulent growth of cities.

Yerevan on the River Razdan (Zangu) in northeastern Ararat valley is the capital. It has become a major cultural, scientific and industrial centre of the Soviet Union.

The first settlements on the site of present Yerevan were founded 2,750 years ago, as shown by a cuneiform inscription discovered in a Urartu fortress on the southern outskirts of the town. In medieval times Yerevan's location near the large trading centres of Artashat, Dvin and Ani caused it to play a modest role in po

litical and economic life, but its importance slowly grew. In the 15th century Yerevan becomes "the capital of the Ararat country" as indicated in a manuscript of the time. Numerous wars and raids left the town in ruins, followed by regular revivals. After the annexation of East Armenia to Russia Yerevan became the administrative centre of the Armenian Region which was established in 1828.

In 1901, a railway line connected Yerevan through Alexandropol (present Leninakan) with Tiflis, and in 1908, with Dzhulfa. At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century the first enterprises were built in the town: a cognac winery, tannery and canning factory. Yet until the October Revolution Yerevan remained a backward provincial town on the edge of tsarist Russia.

Rapid industrial growth during Soviet years and the constant improvement of the people's welfare resulted in an unprecedented growth of population. Yerevan's inhabitants increased in number almost 23 times as compared with 1913 and today total 650,000. The area of the city has increased fifty times.

This once remote town has become a huge industrial centre. It produces metal-cutting machines, generators, mobile electric stations, electric motors, power transformers, electric lamps, cables, electric measuring apparatus, centrifugal pumps, compressors, synthetic rubber, computing machines, quantum generators, watches and clocks and a large variety of consumer goods.

In the last 45 years Yerevan has been built anew. It has become a modern city whose broad

streets, spacious squares and abundance of greenery make it one of the most beautiful in the Union.

The first reconstruction project was developed in 1924 by the prominent Armenian architect, Alexander Tamanyan. At that time the city was planned for 170,000 dwellers. Ten years later the population was well above this figure, and a new plan was adopted, taking into account all the demands of modern city planning. It was only recently that the capital occupied only the left bank of the river Razdan. Today it has spread to the other side, reaching the Kanaker and Nork plateaus and embracing Kanaker, Nork, Shaumyan, Nor-Aresh and other towns.

Soviet architects have made good use of the rich traditions of Armenia in building numerous architectural ensembles and monumental edifices in the capital.

These are truly splendid monuments with granite, basalt and coloured tuff employed to the best advantage.

Lenin avenue, the main street of the city, is especially beautiful. On it is the huge Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet, named for the composer Spendaryan. This brought its author, Alexander Tamanyan, the Grand Gold Medal at the International Exhibition in Paris in 1936. Also on this street is the Large Concert Hall of the Armenian Philharmonic Society, and at the end of the avenue is the famous Matenadaran Manuscript Repository.

The city has numerous buildings of high architectural merit. Among these is the building

of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenia, the Armenian Academic Drama Theatre named for Sundukyan, the complex of buildings housing the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Yerevan State University and modern markets.

Yerevan continues to grow. Everywhere one sees new building sites, active with cranes and excavators.

Everywhere dwelling projects are going up, plants, cultural and service enterprises are rising. Nearly 1.5 million square metres of dwelling space have been built during the last seven-year-plan period.

The capital of Soviet Armenia is one of the most popular cultural centres of the Union. Though it had not a single higher school before the Revolution today Yerevan has 12 higher educational institutions and many technical and specialized secondary schools. It is the seat of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, numerous research and designing institutes, and the centre of art, music, architecture, literature and theatrical life.

On visiting Yerevan William Saroyan, the well-known American writer, remarked that he knew of no other city in the world which was as beautiful and had grown rapidly as Yerevan.

Until now the city grew mainly by expanding to the suburbs and by building additional housing estates. In order to eliminate the remaining dilapidated dwelling blocks the inhabitants of these districts had to be provided with new flats. That is why one can still see dismal-

looking houses in the centre of the capital that clash with the modern buildings around them.

Today stress is on modernizing the centre. The scale of construction is extensive; the city is acquiring new streets and boulevards, underground passageways and bridges, reservoirs and parks. Transportation is being expanded and a Metro (underground railway) is envisaged for the future.

In a short time Yerevan will become more beautiful, a modern city in the full sense of the word.

Echmiadzin. Armenia is rich in monuments dating back to the various periods in its history. Of these a special place belongs to Echmiadzin Cathedral, which is situated 15 kilometres from the capital.

It was built under King Vagarshak, in the first half of the 2nd century, on the site of the former Vardgesavan settlement and was first named Yagarshapat, after the king. After Christianity was proclaimed as an official religion a cathedral was built in Echmiadzin which in the last few centuries has become the spiritual and religious centre of all Armenian believers. It is the seat of the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians, Vazgen I.

In the course of more than 1,660 years of its history the Cathedral was repeatedly rebuilt and remodelled. It contains numerous works by outstanding painters, including the 18th-century murals of the famous Avnatanyan painters.

As time went on other churches and cathedrals were built in Echmiadzin. One of these was

the Rhipsime Cathedral (A.D. 618), situated in the eastern part of the town which commemorates the Christian martyr Rhipsime. This monument has embodied the creative efforts of a whole generation of architects and is a classical example of an Armenian church, with a central cupola.

In the southern part of the city there is the famous Gayane Cathedral. This is very picturesque against the background of snow-covered Mt. Ararat. Built in 630 on the site of a former chapel in honour of Gayane, another Christian martyr and Rhipsime's friend, the Cathedral is a basilica with a central cupola and is among the best monuments of the early Christian period.

A fourth Cathedral, Shogakat, dates from a much later period (1694) and commemorates the burial place of the third Christian martyr, Shogakat, who was stoned to death together with Rhipsime and Gayane.

Not far from Echmiadzin, at the foot of Ararat one comes across the ruins of one of the most ancient architectural monuments, the Zvartnots Cathedral. This remarkable, three-storeyed edifice was built in the 7th century and is a classical masterpiece of the architecture of that period.

It still captures the admiration of visitors by its colossal size and the complex and original solution of construction, its artistic execution and the high level of skill and taste of its builders.

Leninakan (formerly Gumri and later known

as Alexandropol). This city is second to Yerevan in population. On approaching it one can hardly surmise that this modern-looking city, surrounded by a vast plain, is one of the most ancient settlements of Armenia. Actually its history goes back to the Bronze Age.

In the second half of the 19th century Alexandropol was one of the largest craft centres of Transcaucasia. It was also known for its extensive trade.

After the annexation of Armenia to Russia it was turned into an outpost for the tsar's troops in Transcaucasia, when it was surrounded by fortifications. Later it became an important junction on the railway lines between Kars, Yerevan, Dzhulfa and Tiflis.

In less than a century Alexandropol grew into a prominent centre of East Armenia. But having no industrial enterprises it remained a provincial district town with only a variegated local industry.

Its real development began only after the establishment of Soviet power. Following Lenin's death in 1924, the town was renamed Leninkan. Today such branches as electric machine-building, instrument-making and machine-tool building have left the traditional textile and food industries far behind. Its location is favourable for expansion. It is amply provided with attractive and cheap natural building materials. Extensive construction and the large deposits of building stone have led to the construction of a plant specializing in various stone-cutting machines.

Speaking of old Gumri, the people used to say that it looked like a village among towns and like a town among villages. At that time churches were the only prominent buildings. Today the city has been completely rebuilt and is edging into the plain, particularly in the north and northwest.

The centre is filled with multistoreyed houses of tuff; the asphalt streets are bordered with greenery; modern trolleybuses and buses provide comfortable transportation. New parks and public gardens are constantly being added, turning once dust-ridden Alexandropol into a green paradise.

CONTACTS WITH SEVENTY COUNTRIES

Among the radical changes that have taken place in the economy of the Republic, the rapid expansion of economic, scientific and technical contacts with other countries is particularly characteristic.

A colonial territory of tsarist Russia only half a century ago, today Armenia renders considerable technical and economic aid to the developing countries of Asia and Africa.

Famous Armenian cognacs and wines have been awarded many gold and silver medals at international exhibitions. Its canned goods are popular in Middle East and Eastern Europe.

Goods are exported to Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, the GDR, Yugoslavia, Cuba, to the Middle Eastern countries, as well as to

England, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, the FRG, Italy, Sweden, etc.

It was formerly represented at international fairs only by agricultural products, but today Armenia exports industrial goods, electrical machines, lathes, modern electronic and other precision instruments and apparatus to over 70 countries.

Armenia's valuable building materials, such as pumice-stone, tuff, marble, perlites and others are beginning to vie in the world market with those of Italy and Sweden.

Substantial aid is offered to many developing countries in building industrial enterprises. An example is Armenia's technical assistance to Iraq in the construction of an electrotechnical plant. Instrument-making plants turn out products for industrial projects in India, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Iraq, Syria, Ceylon, the UAR, Vietnam, Algeria, Somali, Iran and other countries.

In recent years Armenian enterprises have trained many industrial specialists from Czechoslovakia, the GDR, Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Korea. Further technical progress and the growth of Armenia's economy will provide a suitable base for steady expansion of its ties with other countries.

Each year brings new scientific contacts with foreign nations. Scientists go abroad to study the experience of their colleagues as well as to give lectures in European and American Universities. Numerous specialists from abroad come to learn of the achievements of the Republic and to exchange experiences.

* * *

An ancient country lives through its second spring. This is observed in all the areas of the life of the Armenian people.

As this book is being published new plants will be going up, new dwellings and schools, hospitals, shops and restaurants will be built, new streets and boulevards laid out. It is hardly possible to keep pace with the impetuous development of Soviet Armenia.

One has to see for oneself all that has been achieved in order to grasp the pace of this continuous development. Then he will understand why the well-known American painter, Rockwell Kent, has called Armenia the "Republic of Wonders."



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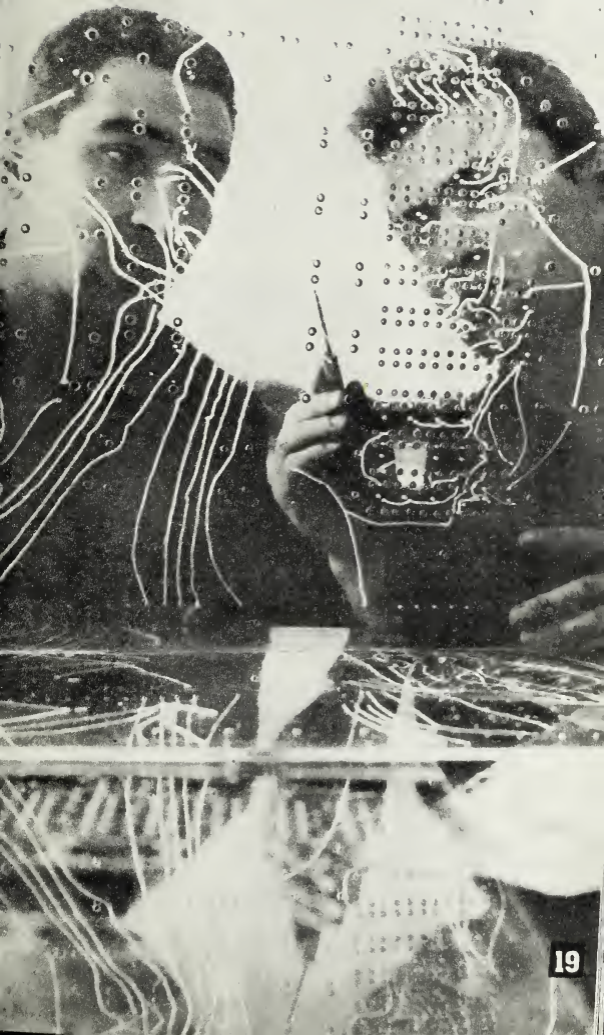
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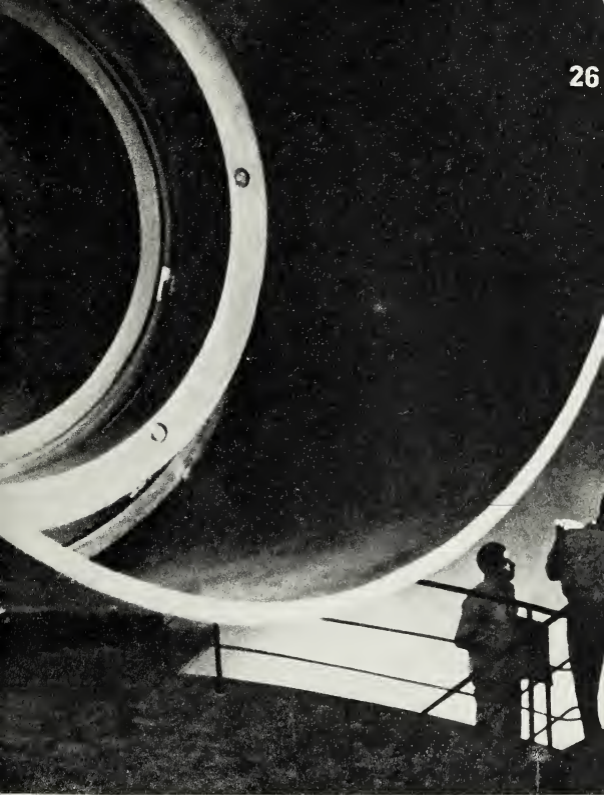






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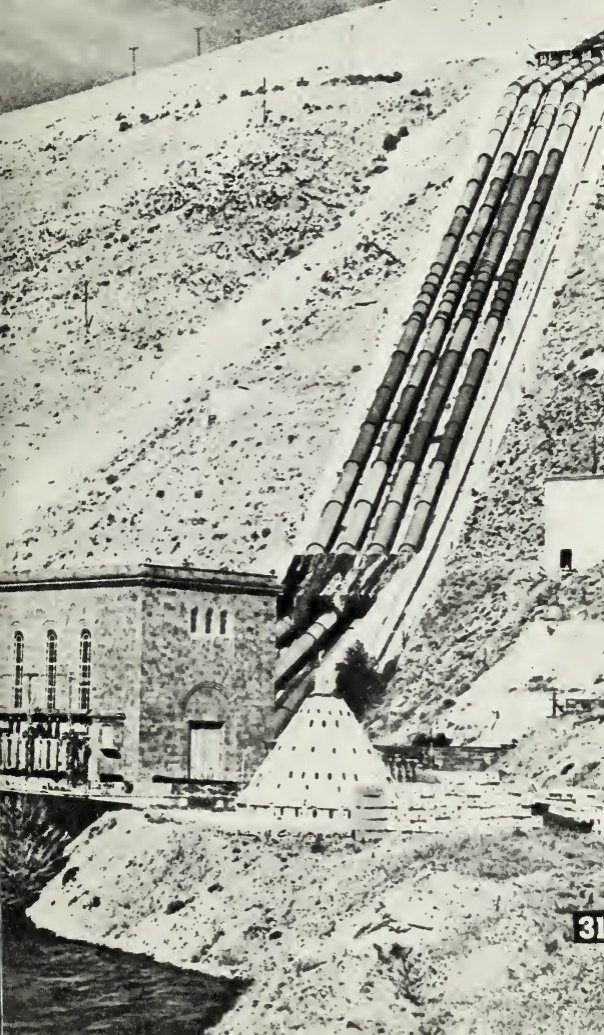


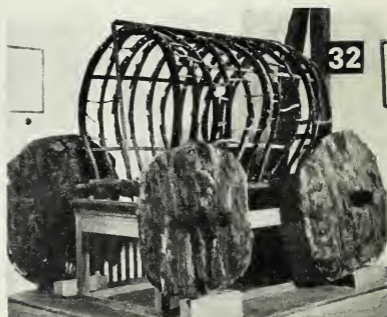






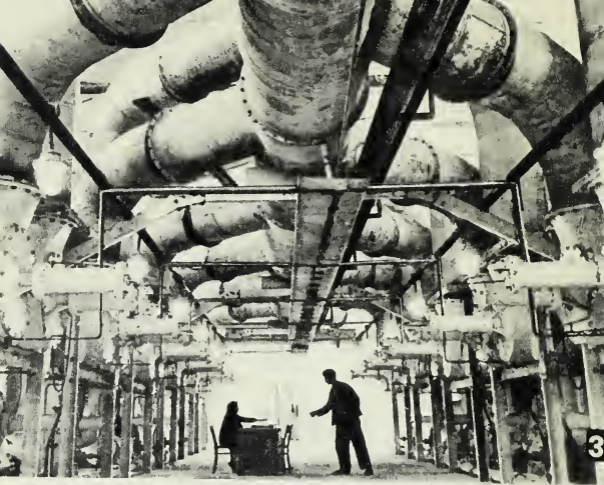


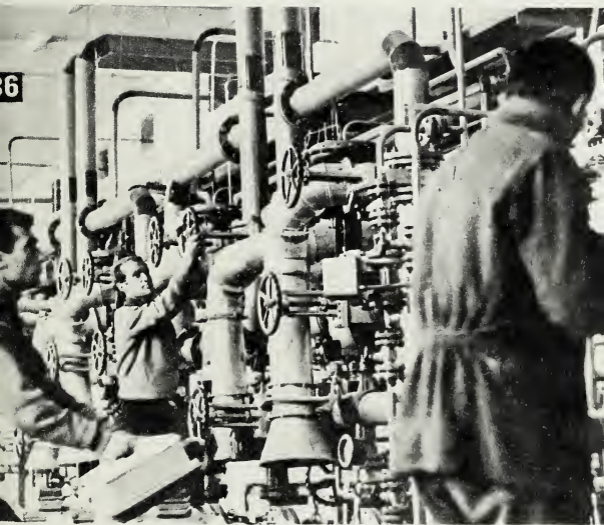




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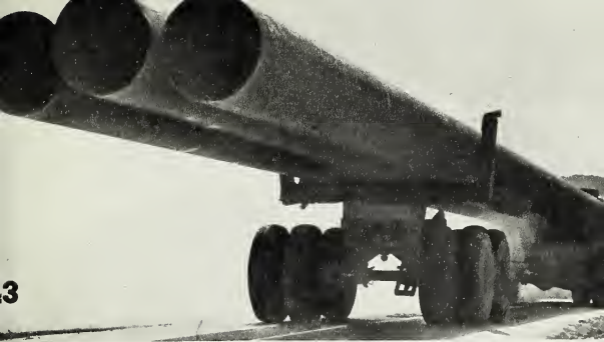




















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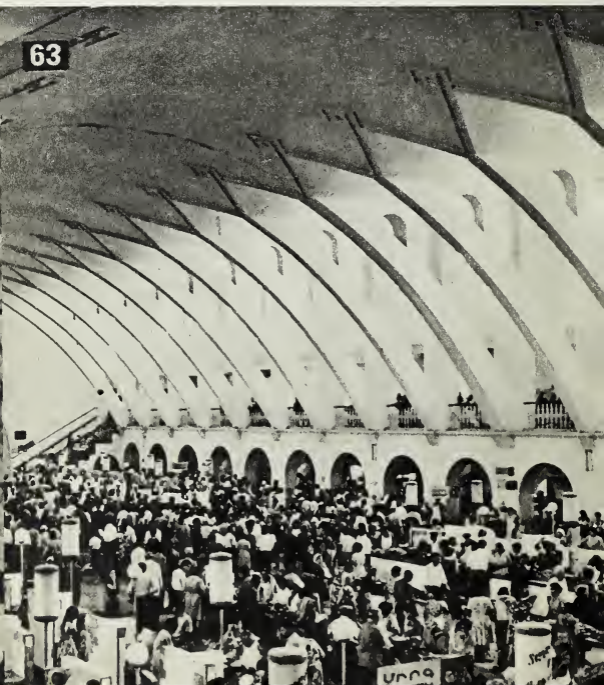
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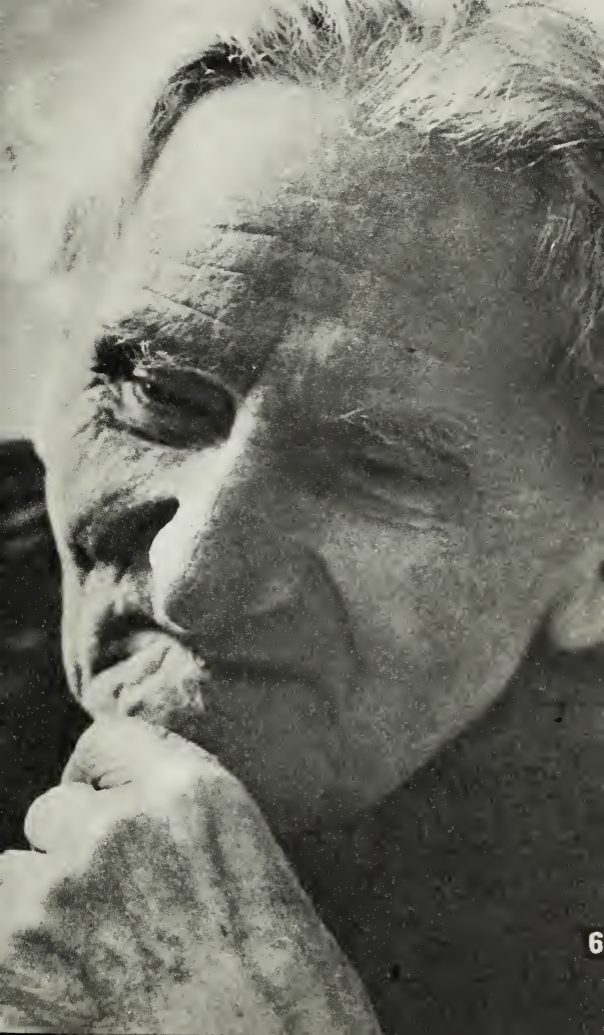




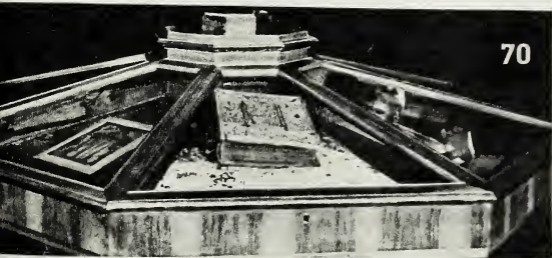
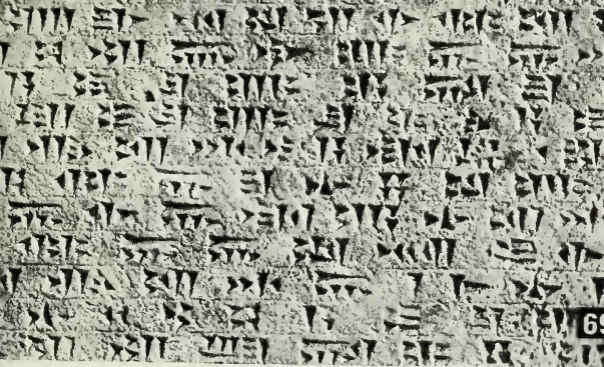
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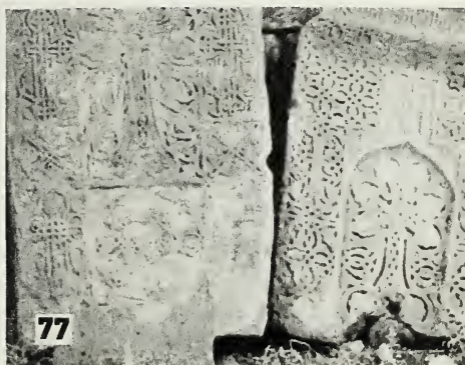








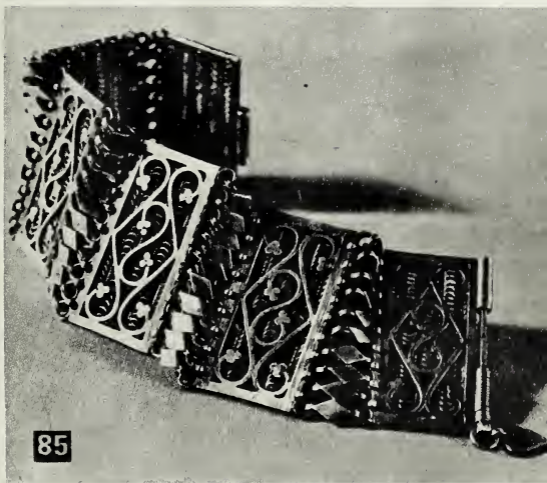
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