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LIGHT AND LOCAL INDUSTRIES STILL LAGGING

CHITA LOCAL INDUSTRY CRITICIZED -- Zabaykal'skiy Rabochiy, No 118, 18 Jun 49

Chita Oblast local industry has exceeded the 1940 production level by 46 percent, but many of its enterprises are still operating inefficiently. The Chita Shoe Factory, which completed only 78 percent of the 1948 plan, has not improved this year. It completed only 58 percent of the first-quarter plan and had 256,000 rubles losses. The Baleykiy Rayon Industrial Combine has not improved this year, after completing only 16 percent of the 1948 plan and incurring tremendous losses.

Zabaykal'skiy Rabochiy, No 119, 19 Jun 49

It was reported at a recent session of the Chita City Soviet of Workers' Deputies that the city's local industry enterprises and artels of industrial cooperatives are operating at a considerably lower level this year than in 1948. For 5 months of 1949, the city's cooperative industry has fallen short of the consumers' goods plan by almost 2 million rubles' worth of goods. Equipment is being inefficiently used and mechanization is progressing slowly in many enterprises. The City Food Combine (director, Vaysberg) has obtained sufficient centralized funds to produce confectionery and macaroni products, but is still producing a very limited assortment, and produces a poor quality of nonalcoholic beverages and ice cream.

The session passed a resolution which named several measures to improve local and cooperative industry and the supply of consumers' goods. The City Industrial Combine has been ordered to specialize in production of furniture, school notebooks and paper, and haberdashery. The City Food Combine must complete construction of the mechanized confectionery factory, with a capacity of 1,000 tons per year, by 1 October. Expansion of the macaroni factory must be completed by the same time. The "Rabotnitsa" Artel must increase its output of stockings and socks to 50,000 pair per year, while other artels must increase and improve output of sewn articles and expand the network of sewing shops.

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CHITA TRADE NETWORK DISORGANIZED -- Zabaykalskiy Rabochiy, No. 178, 18 Jul 49

At a recent meeting of Communists working in Chita city trade organizations, it was pointed out that in 1948 and 1949 the network of stores and public eating enterprises in the city had expanded substantially. Trade and public eating enterprises, however, are not meeting the monthly plans for trade turnover, and the current needs of the population are not being satisfied. There was almost no meat or meat products available in the city's stores recently.

The scarcity of these and other food products in the stores of "Kooperg" (cooperative trade) can be traced to the fact that transport of them from the rayons of the oblast has not yet been organized. Some of the warehouses are overstocked with goods difficult to find in the stores. The meeting ended with several proposals for improving the situation, including expansion of the network of specialized stores, particularly in the sale of industrial goods, conversion of the large stores to cost accounting, organization of the training of trade personnel, of which Chita has a dire need, and better organization of kolkhoz market places.

AZERBAIDZHAN SHOE QUALITY POOR -- Bakinskiy Rabochiy, No 140, 19 Jul 49

Recently the shoe industry of Azerbaydzhan SSR has improved its work remarkably. However, the quality and assortment of shoes still leaves much to be desired. The poor quality of shoes produced locally is the result of a low-productive system and a lack of technical control in the factories of the Ministry of Light Industry. Poorly qualified workers fail to reject clearly defective semifinished shoes and allow them to proceed through the final stages of manufacture.

Letters to Bakinskiy Rabochiy complain about the poor assortment of shoes, saying that canvas shoes for men and women and sandals for 5- to 7-year-old children cannot be bought in Baku.

HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES MANUFACTURED IN LENINGRAD -- Pravda, No 165, 15 Jul 49

Local industry enterprises and industrial cooperatives artels in Leningrad have started production of various household appliances. The industrial combine of Zhdanovskiy Rayon is producing a portable vacuum cleaner and is planning to begin production of electric floor polishers. The "Metallist-kooperator" Industrial Cooperatives Artel is making washing machines and potato peelers. The "Ob'yedinenny metallist" Artel is making vegetable slicers, and the "Saturn" Artel is making baskets for drying dishware on gas or ordinary stoves with hot air. It is necessary to note, however, that many of the household appliances put out by local industry and industrial cooperatives industry have a very high sales cost. The executive committees of rayon soviets and enterprises should take steps to lower the cost of these goods.

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