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SOURCE Gornyy zhurnal, No 12, 1950.

SOVIET NONFERROUS METAL CONFERENCE OUTLINES PROGRESS, PLANS;
STRESSES CONCENTRATION INDUSTRY'S NEEDS

In October 1950, an all-Union conference of leading workers and engineering and technical personnel of the nonferrous metallurgy industry was held in Sverdlovsk. The conference, attended by more than 1,000 delegates, discussed and adopted progressive norms proposed by different enterprises. It also adopted measures to aid in the fulfillment of the fourth quarter 1950 plan and the 1951 year plan.

Minister Reports General Progress

The main report was given by Kuz'min, Minister of the Metallurgical Industry, who spoke of the successes achieved in all branches of nonferrous metallurgy, particularly in mining enterprises. Mining of ore has considerably increased, much work has been done on mechanization, and high-speed methods of mining are being introduced. The introduction of high-speed methods has been particularly noteworthy at the Severoural'sk Bauxite Mines, where a Stakhanovite at the Severnyy Mine has set a new record of 268.6 running meters of drift in one month. High-speed drift-cutting methods are being successfully introduced also in the "Severonikel" Combine, "Boksitstroy," and other enterprises. The plans for mine-cutting operations, however, are not being met at a number of mines (Achisay, Leninogorsk Combine, and others).

The level of mechanization of basic processes in enterprises of "Glavtsinksvinets" (Main Administration of the Lead and Zinc Industry) and several others is low. There are still cases where mines which have compressor installations and the necessary equipment are still not providing compressed air at the standard pressure to the shafts; this decreases productivity and negates the effects of extensive introduction of machine equipment.

One of the causes of lags in plan fulfillment at some enterprises is unsatisfactory preparation for winter. An inquiry has shown that this year a number of mines and plants are still not ready for work under winter conditions.

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The working out (razubozhivaniye) of the ore exceeds established norms at the Achisay and Tekeli mines, Kirovgrad Mine Administration, and at a number of enterprises of "Glavvol'framredmet" (Main Administration of the Tungsten and Rare Metals Industry) because of unsatisfactory technological discipline and weakness on the part of the chief engineers in controlling the conduct of mining operations. The work of the mines' technical control divisions is poorly organized. These divisions and the chief engineers of mines and shafts must be more careful in controlling mining operations.

Kuz'min outlined the following tasks for the industry: step up the drive for ore quality; speed the discovery of better methods of working blocks of untouched ore; introduce complex mechanization of mining operations by using new and more powerful equipment; and improve the utilization of existing machine equipment.

In the copper, lead, and aluminum industries, work should be done on intensifying the development of deposits by the top-slicing method (sloyevoye obrusheniye) accompanied by full mechanization.

Kuz'min also pointed out that, despite success in the work of concentration plants, the problems of ore concentration are being solved entirely too slowly. Below-plan recovery of metals has been observed. The basic cause for the unsatisfactory work of a number of concentration plants is that they lack efficient production management, there is no systematic analysis of advanced methods of work, and new technology and new equipment are being introduced too slowly.

A permanent, uniform production regime should be established in the plants, since nonuniformity results in above-plan losses of metal. One of the chief problems to be solved is the supply to these plants of ores of uniform content and quality. Cooperation between mines and the plants should be developed, reserves of ore should be created so that they can be neutralized, and the plants should be operated on a continuous basis. The supply of flotation agents, particularly frothing agents, to these plants is inefficient. Serious attention should be given to the organization of a strict technological schedule of operations, and the practice of continual interruption and arbitrary change of the schedule should not be permitted.

The report also cited several examples of the possibility of improving the work of concentration plants. Stakhancvites Rybakova and Shirokov of the Krasnoural'sk Copper-Smelting Plant, Sverdlovsk Oblast, have developed new and advanced methods by which they are exceeding the plan for recovery of metals. Innovators at the Kirovgrad, Sredneural'sk, and Balkhash plants have increased output and improved production quality by using advanced work methods. However, the main administrations, the ministry's Technical Administration, "Metallurgizdat," and the periodicals Tsvetnyye metally and Gornyy zhurnal have not yet concerned themselves with the task of making these improved methods available to everyone.

The report next considered the problems of combating losses of nonferrous metals, and proposed to decrease these losses to a minimum. It called attention to the large losses which occur in transport of concentrates from mines and concentration plants to metallurgical plants and underlined the necessity of using haulage containers to eliminate these losses.

A large section of the report was concerned with the question of the profitableness of nonferrous metal enterprises. As a whole, these enterprises fulfilled the January - August plan for decreasing production costs, but certain plants are not meeting this plan. The drives for increasing labor productivity and for decreasing consumption of raw materials, fuel, power, etc., should be stepped up. The strictest economy in the use of all these resources must be observed.

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Delegates Urge Improved Supplies, Technology,
and Further Development of Urals

The discussion following the minister's report was carried on by 46 Stakhanovites, engineers, and party and administrative workers in nonferrous metallurgy.

Rybakova of the Krasnoural'sk Plant criticized the work of the directors of "Glavmed'" (Main Administration of the Copper Industry) who are permitting inefficiency in providing material and technical supplies to flotation plants, particularly in the supply of frothing agents.

Stepanov, chief of the mining department of "Glavmed'," spoke on the dissemination of advanced work methods, introduction of mechanization, and modernization of technology which have all played an important part in the success of the Dzhezkazgan and Kounrad mines, Karaganda Oblast, Kazakh SSR, but which are not being efficiently carried out at the Krasnoural'sk and Tur'inskiy Mine Administrations in Sverdlovsk Oblast. Stepanov recognized the fact that in recent years, the main administration and the ministry have not been sufficiently concerned with the problem of the further development of the copper-ore base in the Urals.

Kagramanyan, director of the Karabash Mine Administration, Chelyabinsk Oblast, reported that the plan for ore mining and advancing work was exceeded by the administration as a result of the use of modern methods of mining and high-speed advancing methods. Hydraulic methods of filling are used at the mine.

Strigin, director of "Gintsvetmet" (State Scientific Research Institute of Nonferrous Metallurgy), reported that associates of the institute, together with engineering and technical personnel of the Balkhash Plant, have created new methods of concentration which have helped to improve the quality of copper concentrates and to increase the recovery of molybdenum. A large research program on the introduction of these methods is being conducted at the Krasnoural'sk Plant, the Irtysh Combine, and other enterprises.

Strigin also stated that the great prospects for further increasing the production of nonferrous metals, particularly copper, lead, zinc, and tin, demand basic rebuilding and re-equipping of the work on a new technical basis. These tasks can be solved only under conditions of decisive, permanent, and extensive introduction of new technology and utilization of the latest achievements of scientific research.

Bunin, deputy chief of the ministry's Technical Administration, reported the unsatisfactory utilization at a number of mines of a large volume of mining equipment, and this is one of the causes for the lag in advancing operations. Bunin made sharp criticism of the directors of the Mine imeni "III Internatsionala" and the Achisay and Tur'inskiy mines for the poor condition of their compressor installations.

Drobchenko, director of the Kirovgrad Copper-Smelting Plant, Sverdlovsk Oblast, took the miners to task. The ore the plant receives for concentration has varied flotation properties, thus making it difficult to organize the correct processing or neutralization of the ore.

Murav'yev, chief of the Department of Heavy Industry of the Sverdlovsk Oblast Party Committee, pointed out the achievements of nonferrous metal workers in the oblast and revealed the causes for the lag in a number of enterprises. He also noted that the ministry has not given sufficient attention to the development of the copper industry of Sverdlovsk Oblast and to the complex utilization of the copper ores which contain valuable components.

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Basov, director of the Kounrad Mine, reported on the great effectiveness of using cumulative blasting charges at the mine. The experience gained in their use, however, has not yet been made available to other enterprises. Nothing has been done in this direction, despite the fact that the ministry's Technical Administration has proposed the introduction of the use of cumulative charges in the mines of "Glavnerud" [Main Administration of the Nonmetallic Mineral Industry?].

Malinkovich, director of the Belovo-Salair Combine, Kemerovo Oblast, reported that the increasing mechanization of mining operations (drilling and underground haulage have both been mechanized 100 percent) and the considerable intensification of mining out the ore made it possible for the Salair Mine to fulfill the plan. The mine has introduced a new and more productive system of mining, in addition to sublevel caving -- breaking down the ore in panels by blasting and complex shrinkage of the ore. This new system has increased the efficiency of the work three times and cut the need for development work by $\frac{1}{2}$ times.

Gorevanov, director of the Shakhtominskoye Mine Administration [possibly Shakhtaminskoye, Chita Oblast], reported that the administration, which had been lagging, has begun to meet its plans regularly. This is the result of improvement in the organization of mining work, conversion from the overhand stoping method to the highly productive shrinkage system, the organization of planned and preventive repair, and establishment of a strict technological regime at the concentration plant.

Kuchabayev, secretary of the Leninogorsk City Party Committee, Vostochno-Kazakhstan Oblast, reported on the competition among miners of the Leninogorsk Polymetallic Combine to mine 1,000 tons of ore per month per brigade. In September 1950, at both the Sokol'nyy and Leninogorsk mines, 45 brigades had achieved this level.

Pichenyuk, director of the Achisay Polymetallic Combine, Yuzhno-Kazakhstan Oblast, reported that in 1950, the Mirgalimsay Mine had introduced deep drilling (40-50 meters) in the room and pillar system of mining and also partial shrinkage of the ore (approximately 50 percent). Pichenyuk noted the tremendous assistance offered the combine by "Uralmekhanobr" (Ural Scientific Research Institute of Mechanical Processing of Mineral Resources). At the same time, he sharply criticized the poor condition of the supply of flotation agents to concentration plants.

A miner at the Combine imeni Frunze, Kirgiz SSR, reported that the drill hammers, particularly those put out by the Kyshtym Plant, Chelyabinsk Oblast, were often of poor quality and not designed for work at increased pressure.

Desyatnikov, director of the Balkhash Copper-Smelting Plant, gave special attention in his speech to the problem of introducing new technology and further development of creative work in enterprises. In this connection, he criticized the attitude of the ministry's Technical Administration toward the planning of the work of plant scientific-research laboratories and the supply of flotation agents to concentration plants.

Doctor of Technical Sciences Bogdanov, delegate from the "Mekhanobr" Institute, told of the institute's achievements in giving practical assistance to plants on increasing qualitative work indexes, and also criticized the conservatism of the directors of "Glavvol'framredmet" toward introducing and adopting new techniques.

Sukhakov, director of the "Unipromed" [Ural Scientific-Research Institute of the Copper Industry?] Institute, spoke of the necessity of increasing the drive against underground fires, of making a more decisive introduction of highly productive mining methods, and of extensive mechanization of mining operations. He also reported on the work of the institute toward complex utilization of Ural ores.

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Lomako, Deputy Minister of the Metallurgical Industry, then underlined the necessity of a rapid improvement of the level of organizational and technical leadership and production administration. Using the Sokol'nyy Mine as an example, Lomako pointed out the tremendous reserves for improving operations which are not realized because of poor utilization of personnel and weak management. Simakov, director of the Chikent Lead Plant, was criticized for failing to take measures to ensure regular fulfillment of plans.

During the conference, sections dealing with various branches of nonferrous metallurgy worked on setting up new progressive norms and measures for putting them into effect.

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