



WOMAN

of

UKRAINE

WOMAN OF UKRAINE

HER PART ON THE SCENE OF HISTORY,
IN LITERATURE, ARTS, AND STRUGGLE
FOR FREEDOM



PUBLISHED BY THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE
OF AMERICA

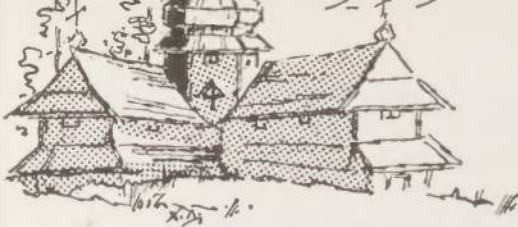
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
1955

CONTRIBUTORS:

Lydia Burachinska
Olena Chekhivska
Olimpia Dobrovolska
Petro Mehyk
Stephanie Nahirna
Halina Selehen
Alexandra Sulima
Olena Trofimovska
Prof. Dr. Natalie Vassilenko Polonska

Cover, illustrations and charts by Christine Dochwat

Cover: Maria Zankowetska, sculpture by Serge Zhuk.



SOME FACTS about UKRAINE

TERRITORY AND POPULATION OF UKRAINE

Ukraine is situated in south-eastern Europe. From the Carpathians in the west its territory extends to the Kuban Province (Northern Caucasus) in the east, and from the Black Sea in the south to the Pripyet marshes in the north. In the west Ukraine borders on Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary; in the south it is washed by the waters of Black Sea, the shore reaching from Northern Caucasus to the eastern bank of Danube, and farther southwest the boundary touches the autonomic Moldavia and Rumania.

The boundaries of Soviet Ukraine are not coincidental with the ethnographic borders of the Ukrainian people. Some lands of Soviet Russia (RSFSR), namely the southern parts of Kursk and Voronizh, and the Kuban Province (Krasnodarsky Kray), are component parts of the Ukrainian ethnographic territory. Also Poland retains Ukrainian provinces of Lemko region, Kholm, Pidlassya, and western part of Galicia, however, the Soviet government removed the Ukrainian populations from these territories and resettled them in Ukraine.

Exclusive of Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR), which comprises many non-Russian territories, the Soviet Ukraine is the largest state in Europe, with a territory of 240,000 square miles (including Crimea, 15,000 sq. mi., which was added to Ukraine on February 19, 1954).

Going to church



The population of Soviet Ukraine is over 42,000,000, including more than 34,000,000 Ukrainians and over 7,500,000 national minorities, mainly Russians and Jews, or 81% Ukrainians and 19% others.

The number of Ukrainians in the entire USSR is 43,000,000, or approximately 20%. Over 34,000,000 of them live in Soviet Ukraine, while about 9,000,000 are within the present borders of RSFSR — half of them in European part of RSFSR, and the other half in Asia, notably in Kazakhstan, Central Siberia, and in Amur Province on the Sea of Japan.

The largest cities of Soviet Ukraine are Kiev (capital, about 1,000,000 population), Kharkiv (also nearly 1,000,000 population), Odessa (800,000), Dnipropetrovske (600,000), Lviv (400,000).

Ukraine lost 7,000,00 of its people in the winter of 1932-33, during the deliberately engineered man-made famine, forced by Moscow's Soviet government on Ukrainian villages.

All these statistics are based on estimations that are very close to correct figures which we are now lacking.

THE UKRAINIANS IN THE WESTERN WORLD

Outside the borders of Ukraine and USSR there are now over 1,000,000 Ukrainians.

The Ukrainian emigration to America started more than 80 years ago. Those were emigrants from western parts of Ukraine. The first wave rushed to United States, and then followed the influx of Ukrainians to Canada and to South America, chiefly to Brazil, (Province Parana) and Argentina.

After World War I many Ukrainian political refugees and combatants escaped to France, Czechoslovakia and Poland. The great exodus, however, came before the bolsheviki overran the West Ukrainian provinces in 1945, when many thousands of Ukrainians abandoned their homeland, fleeing farther west until they found themselves under United States occupation in Germany and Austria. Subsequently most of them resettled in United States, Canada, South America and Australia.

There are now Ukrainian immigrants in the following countries:

United States 550,000; Canada 400,000; Brazil 100,000; Argentina 80,000; Paraguay, Venezuela and other Latin republics 20,000.

Thus there are about 950,000 Ukrainians in North America, and some 200,000 in South America.

There are also some 35,000 Ukrainians in Great Britain and about as many in Australia.

Large groups of Ukrainians still remain in Western Europe — in France, Belgium, Germany and Austria.

THE HISTORY OF UKRAINE

ANCIENT HISTORY

The first inhabitants of Ukraine of whom we have determinate knowledge, were the Scythians, an Iranian nomadic tribe. They were in close relations with Greece in the 7th century B. C.

Herodotus, the Greek historian of the 5th century B. C., traveled through Scythia and described their mode of life. At that time there were many Greek colonies in southern Scythia.

In the 4th century B. C. the Sarmatians, of Aryan origin, invaded Scythia. They mixed with Scythians while pressing on them, and in the 2nd century B. C., occupied the shores of Black Sea.

The Sarmatians were fierce fighting tribes of the steppes. Chief tribes among them were Alans and Roxolani.

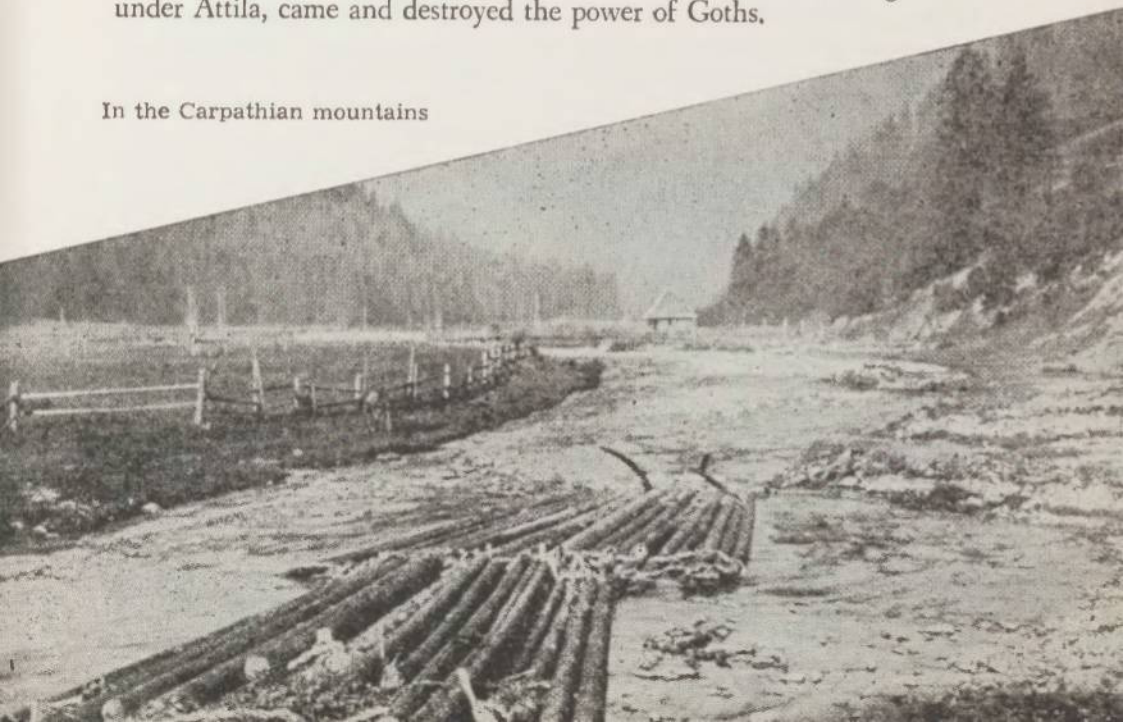
The Alans were known for centuries as artisans who were making spears and iron swords. The treasure found at Novocherkask in 1864 is believed to represent a part of the riches of the Alanic queen who reined probably during the first century A. D. The Alans have mixed with native agricultural population.

Rus (ancient Slavic Ukraine) probably descended from Sarmatians who remained in their homeland and did not fall victims to succeeding invaders, Goths and Khazars.

Goths, a Germanic tribe, came from the north in the 3rd century A.D. They subjugated Slavs in the 4th century A.D.

Toward the end of the 4th century the Huns, a Turko-Mongol tribe under Attila, came and destroyed the power of Goths.

In the Carpathian mountains



Khazars, a Turkish or Georgian tribe, with admixture of Huns and Bulgars, came at the end of the 2nd century A.D. and formed a nation which was in power until the 9th century.

Meanwhile the Alans (Sarmatians) and the Slavs also became Khazar subjects. The latter tried to conquer Caucasus, including Transcaucasia, but were defeated in 737 by Arabs.

The Norsemen (Vikings, Varangians) came from Sweden and began their explorations in the 7th century in northeastern Europe. About 858 some 100,000 Varangian warriors and merchants reached Novgorod (on Volkhov) and after went to Kiev (on the Dnieper). Kiev under Varangian rulers became chief town of Rus.

The Varangians had close commercial and cultural relations with Constantinople. From Greece came to Rus Christianity which was already widely known there for a century or more prior to official acceptance of it by Grand Prince Vladimir the Great, in 988 at Kiev. Even his grandmother, Princess Olga, who ruled in Kiev 1,000 years ago, embraced Christianity in Constantinople.

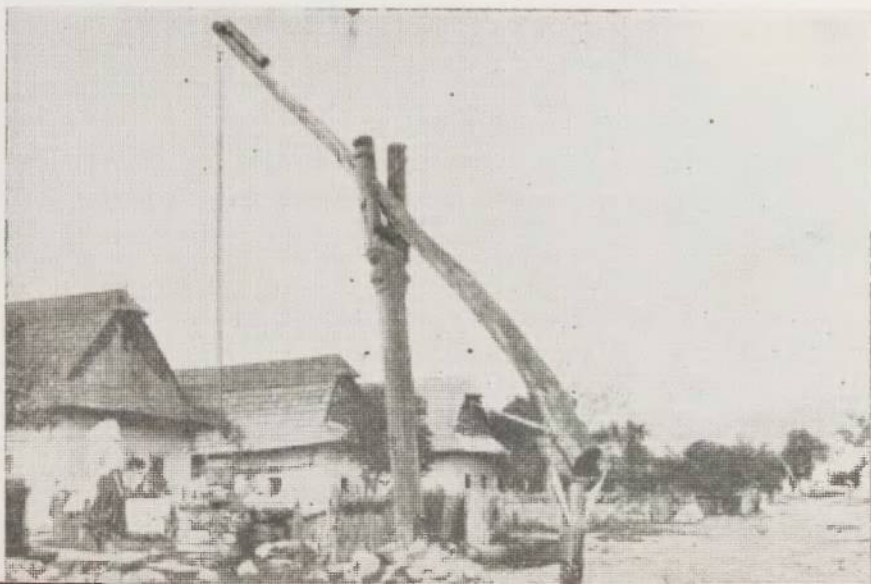
Vladimir's son, Yaroslav, is noted in history as lawgiver since it was at his instance that the laws of Rus were drawn up in 1030.

The invasion by Tartars (1224-37) changed the course of history of Kievan Rus. It had been destroyed as a nation, and since then the North (Muscovy) was beginning to emerge and to gain the upper hand.

COSSACK PERIOD

In the 15th and 16th centuries there appeared in Ukraine a semi-military organized group known as Cossacks who formed guards of the eastern frontiers against the Tartars. Later on the Cossacks were likewise defending Ukrainian lands against the Poles in the west.

Ukrainian village



It should be noted here that the name Ukraine has ever since been widely known and used among Ukrainians (it is derived from Ukrainian stem "kray", "kraina", meaning land, country).

In the 17th century the Cossacks, under Hetman Bohdan Khmelnitsky, played an important role in the war for liberation fought by Ukrainian people against Polish occupants.. However, the Polish menace in the west continued and this was the reason that Khmelnitsky, entered a defensive union with Muscovy (1654) which union turned to be in the course of history a means to incorporate Ukraine into Muscovy and subsequently to enslave it.

An armed resistance against Muscovy, which had already assumed the name of Russia, was organized by Hetman Ivan Mazepa. He joined forces with the Swedish King Charles XII who after victories in Byelorussia turned to Ukraine threatening Czar Peter I from the south. Not only Ukrainian Cossacks under Mazepa but also Don Cossacks and Bashkir Tartars revolted against Peter. Since Mazepa did not dispose of large army and Charles was virtually without artillery, with soldiers exhausted by privations, their situation was precarious. Peter subdued the revolting Don Cossacks (Russians and Ukrainians) and the Bashkir Tartars and subsequently defeated the forces of Mazepa and Charles on the Vorskla River at Poltava (July 8, 1709). After the crushing defeat both Mazepa and Charles escaped to Turkey.



River Delta



University in Kiev

Thereupon Ukraine suffered again for it fell under much stricter control of despotic Russia. The Ukrainian Hetman was ever since only a figurehead of Russian Czars. The Zaporozhian Sich, the last vestige of Ukrainian independence, was devastated by Peter I and finally destroyed by Catherine II, in 1775, the year United States began their war for independence.

RENAISSANCE

Under the centralized regime of Russian autocratic czars the Ukrainian national life was gradually falling into oblivion. The Russian government set on foot a policy to make the Ukrainian people forget all signs of their nationhood. However, in spite of this repression, Ukraine was beginning to reawaken as a nation in the first half of the 19th century, mostly under the influence of liberal movements in Western Europe.

There appeared authors and poets writing in Ukrainian, and the foremost among them Taras Shevchenko, the greatest national poet of Ukraine.

UKRAINIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

Hence, after the revolution broke out in Russia in March of 1917, Ukraine was ready for its national revolution. The Ukrainians soon called the Ukrainian Central Rada (initial constituent council) in Kiev which formed the Ukrainian government and started its arduous work at restoring the old independent nationhood of Ukraine. The Act (Universal) of the Central Rada of January 22, 1918, decreed the independence of the Ukrainian People's Republic. The rejoining of both eastern and western parts of Ukraine was effected on January 22, 1919.

Yet the old enemies of Ukraine were not sitting idly by while its people was rebuilding its time-honored democracy. The Ukrainian Republic was invaded by major armed forces from the north, east, west and south by these enemies, i.e. by Russian bolsheviki, Russian "Whites," by Polish and Rumanian armies. Ukraine was defending its land and freedom desperately until in 1921 it was finally overwhelmed and divided by the neighboring enemies, and then subjugated.

WORLD WAR II

This intolerable situation for the Ukrainian people lasted until the outbreak of World War II. The Ukrainians underwent severe oppression under Moscow, Warsaw and Bucharest. The worst trial the Ukrainian people stood under bolshevik occupation, was when all farmers were deprived of their property, and in 1932-33 7,000,000 were driven to death by bolshevik man-made fraudulent famine.

During the World War II the Ukrainian people suffered again when two enemies of Ukraine — as well as of all mankind — Hitler and Stalin met and fought on Ukrainian territory, leaving devastation and ruin in once rich and prosperous land of Ukraine.

The World War II brought about the unification of the Ukrainian territory, but subjugation and denial of all freedoms the democracies of the West are enjoying, still persist. However, the Ukrainian people never ceased to struggle for their freedom and independence. They are using passive as well as active methods of resistance and fighting, which will continue without fail until Ukraine again reestablishes its freedom, democracy and independence.



Department Store in Kiev (GUM)

SOME LANDMARKS of PROGRESS

The 19th century found Ukraine divided. The eastern part, and a larger one, was under Russia, while the smaller one formed three provinces of Austria-Hungary. Within its land the Ukrainian people could not live its own way of life. Yet liberal movements in Western Europe, of the early 19th century, showed the people the direction and then began the march toward its rebirth as a nation. Against this background rose likewise the Ukrainian woman. Even at the very beginning of this movement she was aware of the meaning of feminist movement and was striding her own pathway toward the goal.

However, the road of the Ukrainian woman was unlike the tracks traversed by the women of other nations. She has earnestly been striving to serve her people, to help it in its struggle for liberation. She has been gathering energies, so as to be able to promote its social and political progress. Hence the woman of Ukraine possesses a better political training than the women of many another land.

On the other hand, while living under alien regimes, she has been unable to influence the jurisdiction or to avail herself of all means for developing and improving her status.



Marko Vovchok

Besides, all parts of Ukraine had experienced different conditions under unlike regimes. Under the autocratic Czarist system a legal struggle for civic rights was not feasible. Therefore the masses of women participated in the strife of the entire community rather than march separately. In this way they won an equal position with men.

In Austria-Hungary the women took the course of building up women's organizations which were drawing the women gradually into social work and in time succeeded in making them a factor which was

determining the major problems jointly with men.

At the present time the Ukrainian women of both parts of Ukraine have united: those remaining in the homeland under bolshevik occupation, as well as those scattered all over the free world, since they face the same mission — to work and struggle for free Ukraine.

THE FIRST STEPS OF UKRAINIAN WOMEN

1856

Against relentless enslavement of the Ukrainian people, against the serfdom of Ukrainian peasants raised her voice a Ukrainian woman. She was the authoress Marko Vovchok (Maria Markovich). She pictured in her masterly sketches the distress of the women serfs which portrayals appealed to the conscience of the world.

She was not the only one to plead the case of serfs. A group of progressive persons planned to elevate the common people through education. There had been opened in Kiev the first Sunday school for the grown-ups which met with great success. Soon after the entire country was covered with a network of Sunday schools. Many women were both founder and teachers. In Kiev Nelhovska created a Sunday school for women; and Alchevska of Kharkiv published a manual for teaching the grown-ups.

1880

All these activities required all-embracing education and professional training. Thus at the very start of this movement the woman was laboring to acquire it. Not many young girls could afford to go to Switzerland to study. Therefore it was considered a great success that Higher Courses for Women were created at Kiev and Kharkiv, with pedagogic faculties. These studies drew multitudes of young women.

IN AN ORGANIZED WAY

1884

The need for an organization was already felt deeply by Ukrainian women of Western and Eastern Ukraine. And the action in this direction



Natalie Kobrinska



Olena Pchilka

was started in both parts. Natalie Kobrinska gave the initiative by organizing the Ukrainian women in Stanislaviv primarily for educational purposes, while Olena Dobrohrayeva was leading a group of Ukrainian girls studying at Higher Courses for Women in Kiev. Hence the Ukrainian womanhood regard this date as the beginning of its organized movement. Thereupon many other societies were started in various centers which had educational or charitable objectives.

1887

It then appeared necessary to Ukrainian women to have a publication of their own.

In this year an almanac under the title "First Garland" was published

through the efforts of Natalie Kobrinska and Olena Pchilka. It included articles on feminist movement and essays of young talents.

1891

The Ukrainian women were fervently desirous to gain the right to study. Natalie Kobrinska called the first meeting of women at Strey, West Ukraine, which sent a petition to the parliament at Vienna demanding that high school for girls be opened in West Ukraine, and that the girls be admitted to the universities in Austria.

1901

The Ukrainian women's work becomes differentiated. The largest society "Club of Ruthenian (Ukrainian) Women" at Lviv gave the initiative to branching of women's activities. A co-operative named "Trud" was established which was to conduct a dressmaking school and a shop. Also a Ukrainian Nursery was organized with the object of maintaining the kindergartens. The Society of Summer Vacation was formed which took care of city children sending them to villages for vacation.

A society for protection of working women was organized in Kiev.



Olena Zaliznyak



Zinaida Mirna

1908

The young Ukrainian women in their desire to set the principles and objectives for the Ukrainian feminist movement, started at Lviv the first Ukrainian periodical for women, titled "Meta" (Goal) which presented views of Ukrainian women patriots from both parts of Ukraine.

Daria Shukhevich and Olena Zaliznyak were the editors of this periodical.

1909

The Ukrainian women's groups at Lviv formed a central organization, named Women's Community, which united under its guidance the women's societies of the time in many towns and villages of West Ukraine. In 1917 the Women's Community changed its name to Ukrainian Women's Association which comprised district subdivisions and local branches.

THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

Shortly after the outbreak of the revolution in Russia there had been called the first Ukrainian revolutionary parliament — the Ukrainian Central Rada. Since the women of Ukraine had already been very active in public life, Rada granted them equal right to vote and be elected. There were 11 women members of Rada, and two of them became members of Mala Rada which was the executive government organ. They were Ludmila Staritska Cherniakhivska and Zinaida Mirna.

In order to bring the masses of Ukrainian women into the ranks of active workers for the government, on the initiative of Cherniakhivska, a women's mass meeting was held in Sept. 1917. It created a central organization, the Ukrainian Women's Alliance, whose branches soon extended over the entire country.



Ludmila Staritska-Cherniakhivska



Sophia Russova

1920

The Ukrainian women desired to attain connections with the women's international world. To this end the Ukrainian National Council of Women was formed in Kamyanets Podilsky as the superstructure for all Ukrainian women's organizations. At the congress in Oslo, Norway, the UNCW was represented by Hanna Chikalenko Keller. It was accepted as a member of International Council of Women. The UNCW was headed for years by Sophia Russova.

Hanna Chikalenko Keller, authorized by the Alliance of Ukrainian Women of Lviv, took part in the conference of the International Alliance of Women at Geneva as a result of which the Alliance of Ukrainian Women was enrolled as a member of the International Alliance of Women.

A section of International Women's League for Peace and Freedom was formed at Lviv under leadership of Blanca Baranova. At the congress in Vienna (1921) the section was received as a member of the League.

FACING THE BOLSHEVIK INVASION

1921

The Ukrainian Republic fell under the pressure of bolshevik armed forces rushing from the north. The government of Ukraine left their

native country and subsequently remained in exile, together with women representatives of the UNCW. The bolshevik invaders dissolved all women's organizations in Eastern Ukraine. The march of Ukrainian organized womanhood instantly stopped before it could gather strength.

Yet the Ukrainian women have already been old strugglers against the enemy, and there were generations behind them who rendered positive and constructive work for their native land. Thus they have been joining the ranks of professions and have engaged in sciences and art. They have been restoring and building, jointly with men, all fields of life bringing them to conspicuous advancement. They also organized, together with men, the resistance against the occupants.

The bolshevik government continued and tightened the terrorism and relentless oppression as well as destruction of independent national life of the people of Ukraine.

1929

The bolshevik occupants started a new horrible aggression against constructive and active forces of Ukraine. The invaders staged in Kharkiv a display trial of the members of a clandestine Union for Liberation of Ukraine. Among those tried was Ludmila Staritska Chernyakhivska, former member of Ukrainian parliament (1917), and the leader of Ukrainian womanhood. Her role in the Union and her attitude during the trial in that court became a symbol of a Ukrainian woman leader and a struggler for freedom of her country.

At that time many other Ukrainian women patriots followed her steps.

1933

The most shocking blow was delivered by bolsheviks to the Ukrainian people, and to its women in particular, when the occupants imposed upon the Ukrainian people a fraudulent man-made famine. During the winter months of 1932-1933 approximately 7 million of Ukrainian men, women and children perished as a result of the policy of murderous forcing of collectivization on Ukrainian farmers.



Hanna Chikalenko Keller

THE ACTIVITIES IN WESTERN PARTS OF UKRAINE

West Ukraine was divided by the Allies after World War II into three parts which fell to Poland, Rumania and Czechoslovakia. Under changed circumstances in western Ukrainian lands the Ukrainian women again began their organized course of action. The first congress of Ukrainian women under occupation was held at Lviv in 1921. It was frequented by women from all Ukrainian provinces who meant to discuss the possibilities of work and to plan its objectives. In the middle of the proceedings the Polish government of occupation forbade the congress. Its participants went home determined to continue the initiated work.



Olena Kisilevska

1924

The conditions in Poland were exacting for the Ukrainian people, still the Ukrainians were trying hard to set their plans into working order. In Galicia, the largest part of West Ukraine, under Poland, the Ukrainians were working restlessly, although they were suffering severely under Polish terrorism. Olga Bassarab, a prominent member of Ukrainian women's organizations, was tortured to death in prison by Polish police.

The Ukrainian women's organizations took steps to protest at international forums against this barbarism. The outstanding figure of Olga Bassarab became henceforth a symbol of heroine for Ukrainian women and the youth.

1925

In United States and Canada there are large Ukrainian emigrations (550,000 in United States, 400,000 in Canada). The Ukrainians of North America have always been in close contact with their homeland and never stopped supporting it on its road to freedom and independence.

The Ukrainian women in both these free countries have felt the necessity of being united in an organization of their own. The Ukrainian National Women's League of America was founded in New York, in May 1925, and next year the Ukrainian Women's Association was or-

ganized in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Other organizations with similar objectives followed. They all comprise members who are good Americans or Canadians, but at the same time devotedly support the efforts of the Ukrainian people in its native land to attain its freedom and independence.

1928

The Ukrainian women take first steps to participate in parliamentary election in Poland. Two women were elected on the ticket of the Ukrainian National Democratic Party, Olena Kisilevska, editor of a periodical for women, a senator, and Milena Rudnitska, president of the Alliance of Ukrainian Women, a member of the diet.

1931

In other parts of the Ukrainian land the Ukrainian women were also developing their strength. The first congress of Ukrainian women under Rumanian occupation was called in Chernivtsi, Bukovina, which put forward its plans for action in this part of Ukraine.

1934

The first congress of Ukrainian women of Carpatho-Ukraine, then under Czechoslovakia, gathered in Uzhorod. It turned to be a great manifestation of Ukrainian women.

In Stanislaviv, Galicia, the first general congress of Ukrainian women was held on the initiative of the Ukrainian Women's Alliance of Lviv. It was in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishing in this town of the first Ukrainian women's society. The congress reviewed the history and the progress of the Ukrainian feminist movement.

1935

In order to elevate the standard of the professional dexterity of women farmers, a new central organization was formed at Lviv. It was affiliated with the Ukrainian organization named Village Economist. It was under direction of senator Olena Kisilevska.

1937

The World Union of Ukrainian Women was founded which united the majority of Ukrainian women's organizations then existant. Milena Rudnitska was its head.



Milena Rudnitska

WORLD WAR II

The occupation of Ukrainian lands during the World War II had interrupted the social life of the Ukrainian people, including that of women's organizations. However, the Ukrainian women found here, too, other ways to manifest their wishes. The difficulties and endurance in war created many necessities and the struggle of the Ukrainian people took on new forms.

The Ukrainian women participated in the work of Ukrainian relief so as to conduct charitable work. They were likewise engaged in underground resistance, as nurses or messengers. This work cost much suffering and many lives since bolsheviki sent many active Ukrainian women patriots into exile, while others were executed by Nazi Gestapo.

1945

After the termination of war many Ukrainian women abandoned their homeland and escaped to foreign countries since they found it impossible to live under bolshevik regime.

Having experienced prolonged prohibitions, they eagerly desired to start organizations of their own. Hence in December the first congress of Ukrainian women was held in Augsburg, Western Germany, in which many delegates participated. It constituted the Alliance of Ukrainian Women in emigration, under guidance of Irene Pavlikovska. The Alliance included members from West Ukraine as well as from the eastern parts.

UNITED WE STAND

1948

The continuation of work of Ukrainian womanhood requires mutual understanding and cooperation between their groups in Western Hemisphereas as well as in Europe. With this object in view the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, led by Helen Lototsky, called the first post-war World Congress of Ukrainian Women in Philadelphia, which was attended by delegates from United States, Canada and Europe. It



Irene Pavlikovska



Helen Lototsky

founded the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO) and elected Olena Kisilevska its president.

As of now WFUWO comprises 12 national women's organizations — of United States, Canada, Argentina, Venezuela, Brazil, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Australia. WFUWO is representing the Ukrainian women in the Free World, it is sending to them the outlines of general objectives and is coordinating their mutual activities. It is in constant communications with all of affiliated organizations.

1949

The resettlement of Ukrainian DP's started for the most part from the camps in Germany and Austria. WFUWO of-

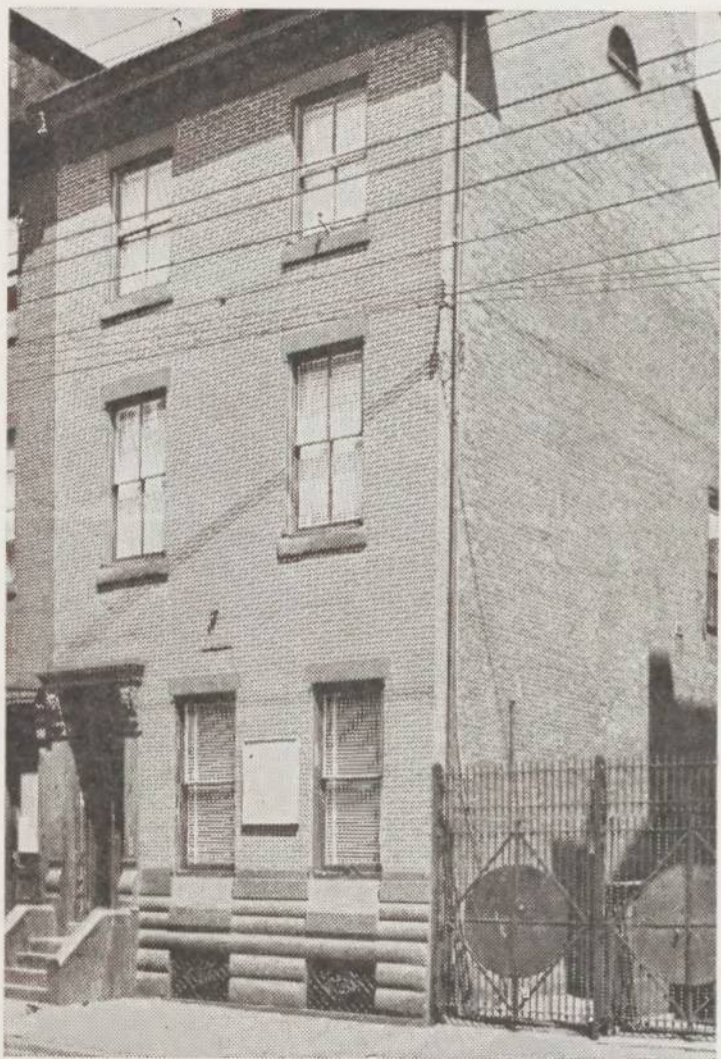
fered its assistance to widows and orphans and the UNWLA helped to bring them to United States. About 40 families with children were brought here.

1950

WFUWO became a member of the World Movement of Mothers (MMM) at Paris. It formed an Educational Committee which is functioning as a national commission of MMM. Its delegates were attending the congresses of MMM at Paris (1950), in Brussels (1953) and Study Days of MMM at Bonn (1954).

A representative of WFUWO is taking part in the congress of All-Ceylon Women's Conference at Colombo, Ceylon, and thereupon in the congress of the International Council of Women, also at Colombo (1955).





UNWLA Bldg 909 N. Franklin St. Philadelphia, Pa.
Headquarters of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's
Organizations (WFUWO) and of the Ukrainian National Wo-
men's League of America (UNWLA).

IN ARTS



LITERATURE

Ukrainian literature became the protagonist of Ukrainian renaissance in the 19th century. Already in the beginnings of the modern Ukrainian literature came to the fore a young authoress, Marko Vovchok (1834-1907), who pictured in her writings in expressive colors the frightful conditions in which lived the serfs, and the women serfs in particular. Her writings had tremendous influence in Ukraine and Russia, and the abolition of serfdom is rightly ascribed, in a great part, to her literary work.

Afterward there appeared in Ukrainian literature other gifted women writers among whom the most prominent was Olga Kobilanska (1865-1942). It was she who helped the women of Ukraine through her female personages to formulize their right to independent life. In the succeeding generation of writers appeared Lessya Ukrainka (1881-1913) who is numbered among the giants of Ukrainian literature. Her ardent words pointed out to Ukrainian people the road to struggle for freedom and independence. Many of the writings of these three authors were translated into others languages. The renowned Russian writer Ivan Turguenev translated Vovchok's short stories and thus made them known in Russia during the striving for abolition of serfdom. Her novel "Marussia" was translated into French and became so popular in France it was used as school text. Kobilanska's novels and many of Lessya Ukrainka's works were likewise translated into other languages.

In Ukrainian literature of recent time the women occupy a lofty position, however, they are more noted in prose. They are: Halina Zhurba, Oxana La-



Olga Kobilanska
and Lessya Ukrainka



Maria Bashkirtsev

turinska, Dokia Humenna, Daria Yaroslavska, Maria Strutinska, Maria Holovinska, Irene Vinnitska.

PICTORIAL ART

The paintings of Ukrainian artists take root in old tradition reaching as far back as Princely period. The first woman painter of prominence was Maria Bashkirtsev of Poltava (1860-1884). Her talent sparkled for a moment in Paris as an artist, as well as an author, yet having lived abroad, she lost the contact with the Ukrainian soil. Olena Kultchitska (1880—), a student of Vienna Kunstgewerbeschule, has been

basing her works on the motifs of Ukrainian folk art. Among the younger artists a prominent place was attained by Halina Mazeppa. She is basing her works of art on Ukrainian ethnographical expressions, giving her original interpretation as well as the force of her subtle perception.

There is a large number of women artists in the family of Ukrainian painters. Among them are Sophia Nalepinska Boychuk, Maria Dolnitska, Sophia Levitska, Yaroslava Muzika, Ivanna Vinnikiv.

Elizabeth Skoropadska is working as a sculptress.

FOLK ART

One of the first ornaments of a Ukrainian settlement was wall painting, both outside and inside of the house. Later on the ornament was introduced into weaving which was done on a loom. In the largest form it is seen on carpets which constitute big florid or geometric compositions. The small ones are on tablecloths or bedspreads, while the smallest ones are on towels and ritual objects, used at weddings and funerals, or are adorning holy pictures in Ukrainian homes.



Halina Mazeppa:

Fortune Telling



Elisaveta Skoropadska: Girl's head

However, the most perfect conspectus of Ukrainian folk ornament presents an Easter egg. It is a symbol of luck and gladness and is indispensable at Easter in every Ukrainian family. The woman writes designs on the eggs in the old-fashioned manner.

MUSIC

The musical tradition is deeply rooted in Ukraine. It has manifested itself especially in Ukrainian folk songs. Over the centuries have been presented the ritual songs which were associated with the agricultural life of the land. Here the woman has been a thoughtful executrix as well as a composer. Her part is most evident

in wedding and funeral songs and in lullabys.

In the 19th century there appeared opera singers who took the Ukrainian songs with them to foreign countries. One of the first opera artists was Salomea Kruselniska (1873-1953) whose talent was instrumental in securing a paramount place for Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" (1904). Then followed M. Litvinenko Wohlgemuth and Maria Petrusenko, the renowned singers in Kiev.

In the 20th century appeared prominent Ukrainian instrumentalists. Lubka Kolessa, an accomplished pianist, was performing in musical halls of European capitals, and of late at Carnegie Hall in New York and in Ottawa, Canada, where she resides. She is unequalled in interpretation of Chopin.

A fine dexterity was achieved by Ukrainian choral singing, both secular and in the churches. A chorus of supreme excellence, under direction of Professor Alexander Koshetz, was heard throughout Western Europe, United States, Canada and South America in 1919-1922. Plato-



Salomea Kruselniska

nida Rossinevich Shchurovskia who subsequently distinguished herself in her own artistic work in Czechoslovakia, was his associate.

THEATRE

As high a position as in literature the Ukrainian woman attained also on the stage. Maria Konstantinovna Zankovetska (1860-1934) gained prominence not merely in the history of the theatre of Ukraine but likewise in the hall of fame of world actresses, like Sara Bernhardt, Eleonora Duse and Jany Bellancioni.

Foreign critics honored her by putting her among the greatest names of women performers. The most eminent critic of the Imperial Theatre of St. Petersburg, while placing her name among the greatest actresses mentioned above, regretted that this Ukrainian star did not belong in the cast of this famous theatre. But she would serve her own people rather than gather laurels on a foreign stage.

Zankovetska played several scores of roles out of repertory of the Ukrainian theatre, yet her genius outgrew the frames of her native stage, and thus she was widely known abroad.

Catherine Rubchak (1880-1919) became her worthy heiress in the theatre of West Ukraine. She had been profoundly influenced by the artistry of Zankovetska during her artistic sojourn at Lviv. And it may be

truly said that Catherine Rubchak excelled her master in her creative diapason. She was on an equal level in drama, comedy, an opera, a musical comedy, or a farce. Her creative intuition and inborn intelligence led her through the most complicated psychological labyrinths of human soul, and she could always find the means to charm the public with the world of beauty — the dramatic and musical art.

Both these actresses proved that the world may be conquered even from the stage of their homeland to which they devoted their talents.

In recent time Olympia Dobrovolska is working for the Ukrainian Theatre. In 1920's she



Lubka Kolessa

grew in the theatre Berezil at Khar-kiv to be an actress of note who was one of the fosterers of new trends in art. After red Moscow suppressed Berezil, Dobrovolska was also one of the victims who were persecuted by bolsheviks.

At present she is engaged as stage-director of the Ukrainian Theatre in United States. She was staging the dramas of Lessya Ukrainka and Moliere's "Tartuffe."

In the theatres of Ukraine there are many talented actresses. The most prominent among them are Valya Chistyakova in Kharkiv and Natalie Uzhvey in Kiev.

In emigration there are several Ukrainian theatrical groups beside the Ukrainian Theatre of America mentioned here. The most outstanding actresses here are Nina Horlenko and Vera Levitska.



Olimpia Dobrovolska



Ukrainian Easter Eggs



Ukrainian girl in native costume



PROFESSIONAL LIFE



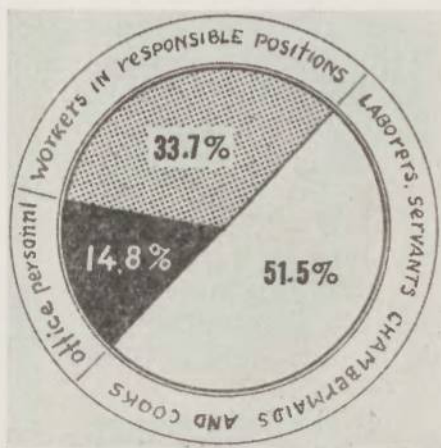
In her striving to acquire education the Ukrainian woman was quick to realize the importance of knowledge. It not only offered her economic independence but likewise lent her assistance in serving her people. While teaching in Sunday schools she had to know the rudiments of instruction, and in order to improve the state of hygiene, she was impelled to study the regulations of looking after sick persons. Hence the women have been making efforts for a length of time to secure the professions of teachers, nurses and hospital assistants. The schools were having large afflux of young women aiming at professional training. Higher courses for women opened at Kiev and Kharkiv in 1880, which had pedagogic and medical faculties, were attended by large numbers of students.

This professional training of girls was growing up to the World War I. True, the women made their way through in other spheres, too. In 1907-08 girls were permitted to enter universities as private students. Yet this permission was later canceled. Similarly other attempts were also frustrated.

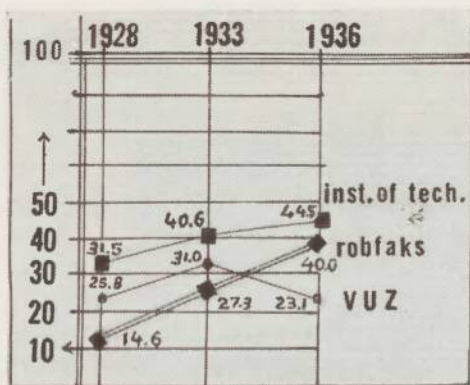
However, the profession of instructing and health care still disposed of large numbers of women workers. During the World War I there were proportionately more women physicians in the Russian army than in other armies.

WORLD WAR I

Even during World War I a great many women had been wage-earning workers. In 1914 there were 40,000 women employed in heavy industry in Ukraine, and 133,000 in 1917. When the war ended, this number decreased, but in 1920-ies it remained at the level of 12% to 15% (see table 1).



Tab. 1.



Tab. 2.

al life were for the most part employed as unskilled or less skilled workers. However, there were already possibilities after the war for educating and training of women as the bolshevik government formally equalized the men and women, and at the beginning had decreed free vocational education. Neither there were restrictions as far as the selection of profession was concerned. Thus young women availed themselves of this possibility to a great extent. The new fields of work which previously had been shut to women, likewise had their appeal. Of no less weight was the condition of Soviet economy which was forcing all women to become wage-earning workers.

What did this march of women to professional life look like, will show the following figures:

1—Girl student in VUZ-es (universities and colleges), institutes of technology and robfaks (worker's secondary schools, see table 2):

2—Women employed in the industry of Ukraine:

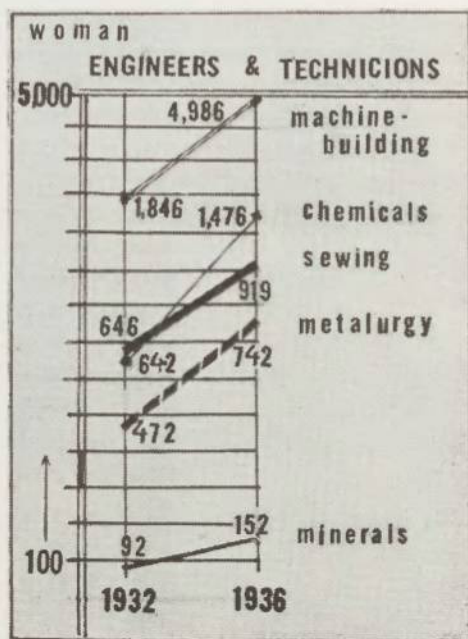
1930 — 809,000;

1937 — 1,940,000;

1949 — 2,910,000.

3—Women employed as engineers and technicians in the heavy industry of Ukraine (see table 3):

4—The Soviet press reports that as of March 8,



Tab. 3.

1953, there were in Soviet Ukraine 207,000 women teachers, 45,000 women physicians, 10,000 women agronomists and veterinarians, and 60,000 in sanitary personnel. In higher schools of learning there were at that time 249,000 girls students.

These latter data show that the educational and sanitary service in Soviet Ukraine is predominantly in the hands of women. This is corroborated by the statistics of the university of Kharkiv for 1940 where there were girl students in the faculties:

Medical 80-85%; chemistry 50%; biology 90%; pharmacy 90%; dentistry 80%.

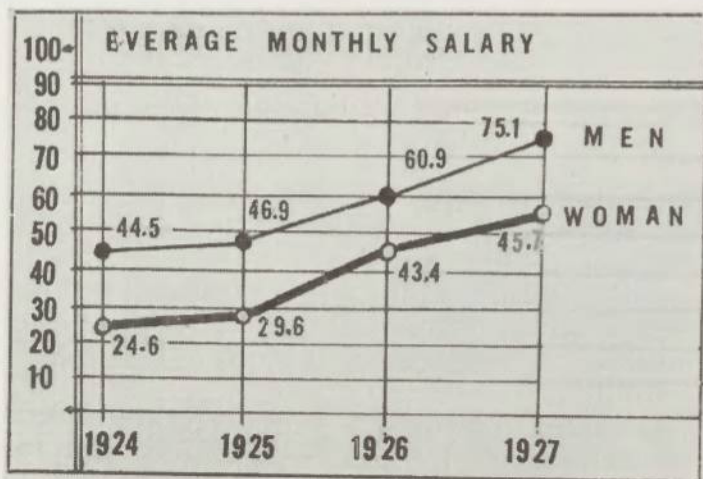
In pedagogical institutes (normal schools) women are in the majority. In intermediate schools, which are training doctors' assistants and druggist-assistants, the girls are predominant, too.

THE RELATION OF THE WOMAN'S EARNINGS WITH THAT OF THE MAN

Nominally the women in USSR possess equal rights with the men, yet the equalization of earnings is not standardized.

In 1924-25 the "Narkomfin" (people's commissariat of finance) regulated the salaries in the governmental departments, making no discrimination between men and women. However, the salaries had been as follows:

The average monthly salary of a worker (in rubles):



Tab. 4.

Since 1930 great changes took place. The first stage leading to this change was the transition to piece-work instead of the time worked. This

change encompassed not only the industry but also the agriculture, and began even to penetrate the government offices (e.g. the Soviet authorities began in 1939 to determine the earnings of a typist in accordance with the number of typewritten pages of paper).

This reform again proved oppressive to the woman worker. There is no formal difference in treatment of men and women in industry and agriculture, for they are "equal" in the hardest work. In order to increase the output, the "Stakhanovite" movement was introduced which tends to brace up the norms of production as much as possible.

This "reform" reacted heavily upon the women in the agriculture where Maria Demchenko was the initiator of increasing the norms of production. Her attainments were subsequently accepted as the basis for the norms. However, it was not possible to reach it within the 10-hour workday. E.g. the norm for harvesting corn requires 7 centners (700 lbs.) in one workday. But since 7 centners of corn may be produced from a half hectare (about 10,000 plants), she is supposed to walk in one workday 7 miles, to bend 20,000 times and to pile up all the ears of corn. Since this proved above the strength of any human being, the workers (kolkhozniks) had to work for several additional hours.

The norm in industry or in other fields is not unlike.

For want of protective laws in USSR the woman has to execute the hardest work. The wage-earning schedule requires the woman to put up more effort, if we consider the well-established fact that the toil exhausts the woman more than the man.

In professions where the basis of piece work is not applied, the pay of the man and the woman has been equalized in 1924-25.

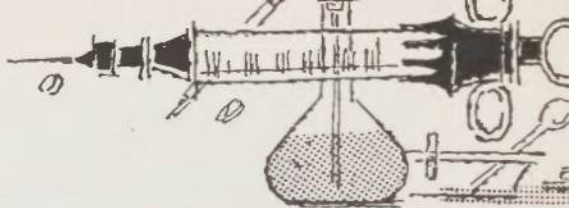
CONCLUSION

Thus the Ukrainian woman has widely entered the professional life. This process may, to some extent, help her in her defense against exploitation by the state capitalism.

An unskilled worker is suffering from high norms and low wages. Hence everyone is trying to better one's qualifications so as to gain better working conditions as well as to defend oneself and the family against physical exhaustion.

The professional work manifests another feature of the stamina of the woman. Being unable to express herself freely in public life, and finding no consideration for her biological and educational functions within the society, the Ukrainian woman is bringing about results as a skilled worker and a specialist. She is playing a big part in several spheres of life of the country.

IN SCIENCE



ADMISSION TO HIGHER LEARNING

Education, the first slogan of the feminist movement, found in Ukraine an unusual resonance. When in 1860 the women had been permitted to enter the universities in Russia, the onrush astounded the government and it soon withdrew the ruling. However, the women did not cease their efforts in struggling to attain their objective. Finally the Czarist government assented to the opening of Bestuzheff Courses for Women at St. Petersburg, with historical-philosophical faculty. Later on Courses for Women under professor Leshaft were started which included the faculties of natural sciences and pedagogy. Many Ukrainian girls had been studying in these colleges.

In Ukraine Higher Courses for Women were opened in 1880 at Kiev and Kharkiv. Then the women of Ukraine gained wide admission to college education. And the afflux to the courses in Russia proper and in Ukraine was tremendous. E.g. the Courses for Women under professor Guerrier at Moscow were attended by 10,000 students prior to World War I.

THE FIRST SCHOLARS

It was only natural that the training of such multitudes of young women tended toward emergence of talents among them. At that time the studies in Ukraine were under the influence of populist movement. Its principal trends were pointed toward the objective: to study the people, its language, folklore, and material culture. No wonder, then, that the talents from among women turned their interest to this beacon.

The first scholar among women of Ukraine in modern times — as it usually happens — was an exceptional phenomenon. Sophia Kovalevska, nee Corvin Krukovska (1850-91) could afford to go abroad to study and graduate from the University of Heidelberg, Germany, as doctor of mathematics. In 1884 she became professor at the University of Stockholm, Sweden.

Sophia Kovalevska tore herself away from her homeland, where already in 1870-ies a group of women scholars was active in the studies of Ukrainian history, folklore and literature. Not all of them were working

in favorable circumstances, as some of them did not even formally complete their college education. But through their hard work and tenacity they gained wide education and knowledge until they attained their dexterity in special branch of learning. They published their works, while some of them became college professors or members-correspondents of scientific institutions. They enriched the realm of sciences of Ukraine by their research studies which they executed with the enthusiasm of neophytes.

These were: *Pelahia Litvinova* (1833-1904), an ethnographer, author of many scientific studies. *Alexandra Efimenko* (1847-1919) an historian, professor at Higher Courses for Women, St. Petersburg, author of History of Ukraine. *Catherine Melnik Antonovich*, an archeologist, (1859-1942), an erudite librarian, author of many scientific works. *Sophia Russova* (1856-1940), a pedagog, professor at Froebel Institute in Kiev and at Drahomaniv Pedagogic Institute at Prague, author of many studies. *Sophia Shcherbina* (1865—), a geographer, professor at Higher Courses for Women in Kiev, professor in the University of Odessa. *Olga Kossach* (Olena Pchilka) (1867-1930), an ethnographer, member-correspondent of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences. *Maria Hrinchenko* (Maria Zahirnya) (1863-1928), a philologist, member philologic commission of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences.

THE GROWTH OF HIGHER SCHOOLS OF LEARNING

The first revolution in Russia of 1905 enhanced the possibilities of education of women. The Higher Courses for Women were taken over by the government, and in addition Medical Institutes for Women were founded in Kiev, Kharkiv and Odessa. Later on Commercial Courses and Princess Olga University for women were created which included philologic and physico-mathematic faculties as well as a law school.

In such circumstances the women scholars could freely achieve advancement in their work. While working at universities as assistants they were being awarded scholarships to enable them to elaborate their scientific works. In 1916 Dr. Natalie Vassilenko Polonska was the first woman to become an assistant professor in the University of Kiev.

IN THE UKRAINIAN STATE

The resurrection of Ukrainian nationhood inaugurated new and splendid period of learning and sciences in Ukraine. The founding of the All-



Maria Hrinchenko

Ukrainian Academy of Sciences at Kiev led to increased interest in sciences and to opening of wider channels of development and progress. The Ukrainian scientists were joining this flow of education and studies enthusiastically. True, the government of Ukraine escaped to foreign countries after their native land had been invaded by the neighboring enemies in 1919, and the Ukrainian People's Republic was no more in existence. Still the range of Ukrainian scientific work did not break down, quite the contrary, the Ukrainian scholars were



Dr. Natalia Vassilenko Polonska

and are continuing to serve the cause of their nation with their labor.

In 1920-ies we heard the voices of the new generation of women scholars that availed themselves of the advancement in education of women prior to World War I. A long list of names shows the universality of their interest and rich result of their scientific labor. These were:

Natalie Vassilenko Polonska, born in 1884, an historian, former professor in the University of Kiev, professor of Ukrainian Free University of Prague and Munich, author of many studies. *Catherine Lazarevska* (1880-1938), an historian, a scholarly secretary, archeographic commission of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences. *Valeria Kozlovska*, born in 1888, an archeologist, director of the Institute of Archeology at Kiev. *Valentina Radzimovska* (1886-1953), a physiologist, at the Medical Institute of Kiev. *Natalie Mirza Avakians* (1888-1937), an historian, professor at the Historico-Philological Institute of Poltava, and of the Institute of Popular Education (INO) in Kharkiv. *Varvara Adrianova Perets* (1886—), an historian of Ukrainian literature, a member-correspondent of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences. *Olena Kurillo* (1890—) a philologist, member-correspondent of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences. *Hanna Zakrevska*, born 1892, a geologist, professor in the university of Kiev. *Olga Tatarinova Bahaley* (1890-1942), an historian, member-correspondent of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences. *Catherine Hrushevska*, born 1900, an ethnologist, member-correspondent of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences.

We have chosen only ten most prominent scholars from a long line of erudite workers, authors of studies and scholarly books.

HEAVY BLOWS

The flourishing stage of development of sciences in Ukraine was short-lived. The scientific work has been more and more constricted so as to adjust it to "party line." Whenever the creative spirit of Ukrainian savants offered opposition to party dictation in sciences, the bolshevik government set its machine going and the offenders were persecuted and oppressed. The first punishments inflicted upon insubordinate scholars were the removal from the position of study and prohibition to print their works. Many workers in learned professions have been arrested and exiled and thus deprived of their possibility to work. Three of the above men-



Lubov Zofiovska

tioned scientific workers, Natalie Mirza Avakiants, Olena Kurillo and Catherine Hrushevskia, met such punishments as transgressors of the "party line."

Many of the scholars were reduced to silence after they had been debarred from all means and facilities of research studies. However, the scientific work has not been suppressed completely. There are appearing constantly in Ukraine new and young talented women eager to work scientifically.

THE YOUNG GENERATION

The place of the Ukrainian woman in the science is secure. The young talents, who have received academic diplomas in the time of bolshevik regime, have entered widely the sphere of scientific work. No



Natalie Osadcha

doubt, they are not permitted to work for good of their native country; they are rather evading the studying of Ukraine's past, her tradition and culture which are under stern restrictions. They often work outside the borders of Soviet Ukraine, for even in other Soviet republics they have more freedom in their professional work. They are making researches into education of children, biology, chemistry, are working as agronomists and medical students, as well as studying economy and statistics. According to recent data in the universities of Ukraine there are at present

36 women professors and 1,546 scientific workers. For obvious reasons we cannot record their names or their attainments. But they are trying hard to perform their duty as scholars, the labor that had been initiated in the 1870-ies by a small group of gifted women.

THE UKRAINIAN WOMEN SCHOLARS IN THE FREE WORLD

Not many Ukrainian learned workers managed to escape abroad and create a tool for erudite work. Among them we find the representatives of the preceding generation who developed their energies and abilities in 1920-ies. They are: Dr. Natalie Vassilenko Polonska and Hanna Zakrevska. There are likewise younger talents who easily made contacts with their branches of learning in the West, or are working now in Ukrainian scientific centres.

These are: *Lubov Zofiyovska*, born 1902, a botanist-cytologist, former assistant-professor at the university of Kiev. *Neonila Kordish*, born 1900, an archeologist, a member of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences. *Halina Selehen*, born 1900, a demographer, member of the Institute of Demography of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences. *Natalie Guerken Russova*, an authority on arts, assistant professor at the university in Montreal, Canada. *Dr. Stephanie Zhmurkevich*, a philologist, assistant professor, university at



Halina Selehen



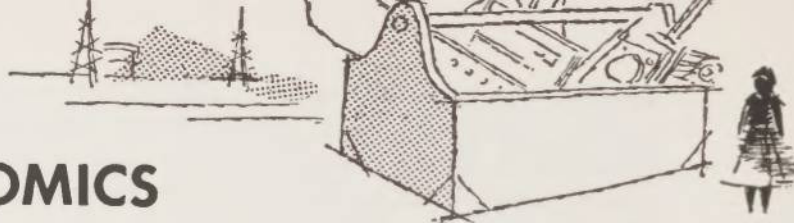
Natalie Roussova

Ottawa, Canada. *Natalie Osadcha*, a botanist, a member of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences, research worker in popular medicine. *Dr. Hanna Nakonechna*, a linguist, author of Ukrainian - German dictionary, assistant professor of the Ukrainian Free University in Munich.

In the Free World, where sciences can develop freely, they are able to continue their work. As scholars they serve well the countries of their resettlement. Some of them are extending their studies in history and literature of Ukraine which have the possibilities of growing and progressing only within the countries west of the Iron Curtain.

There are hundreds of Ukrainian women who are now studying at the universities of the Free World. Outstanding talents already appear among them who can now freely select spheres of their further studies.





ECONOMIC UPHEAVAL

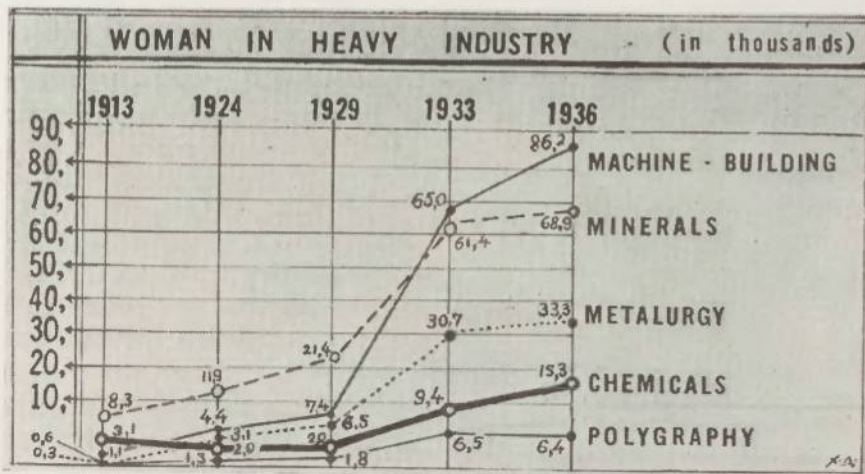
It should be recalled that at the beginning of this century Ukraine had been an agricultural country, since it had been denied by the Russian Czarist government the opportunity to develop industrially. Thus the agriculture had to satisfy partly its own needs by developing its own handicraft trade. It amounted to some 30% of the value of the entire industry of the land. Its main part, notably the textiles, was produced by the Ukrainian woman. As an example: 4,000,000 Ukrainian peasant households needed about 525,000,000 metres of fabrics annually which was being produced by the Ukrainian women on the loom.

In the 1920-ies the economy of Ukraine underwent an intensive overturn. An extensive industry has been developed in Ukraine (the metallurgical production, the output of anthracite perfect for good coke, as well as machine-building plants — in the Donets Coal Basin, known as Donbas, and Kriviy Rih).

In the light industry the share of women workers is much larger.

The food production is being conducted on a large industrial scale. The light industry has also been widely developed.

The main upheaval was effected, by violent force, through collecti-



Tab. 1.

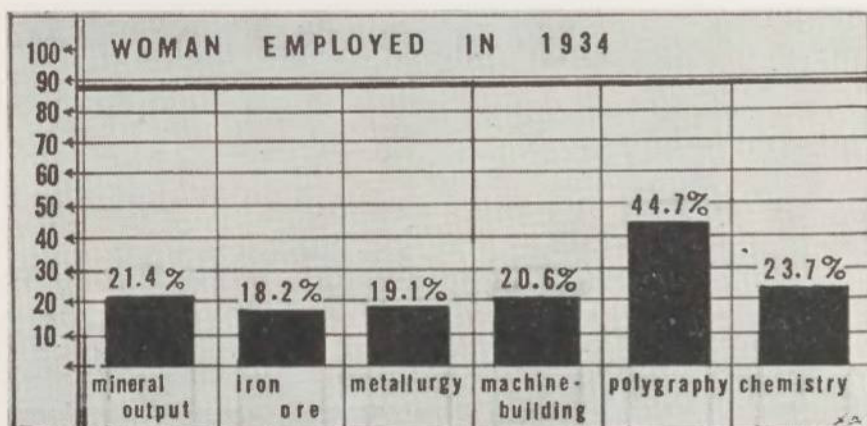
vization of the farms, carried out in 1930-31, to the scorching detriment of millions of individual farmers. In 1932-3 the Soviet government crushed the opposition of farmers to collectivization by the government-imposed fraudulent famine which cost the Ukrainian people 7,000,000 lives of peasant men, women and children.

ITS CONSEQUENCES

The growth and expansion of industry required many new workers. Through the destruction of individual farms great masses of well-to-do farmers were thrown out of the villages. A large number of them rushed to industry if they were able to escape being exiled to Siberia. And since the influx of men was insufficient, women were likewise brought in to work in the industry.

This process is best illustrated by the data of 1937 ("The Socialist Ukraine," Kiev).

Proportionately the woman in Ukraine was, according to data of 1934, gainfully employed in:



Tab. 2.

In all industry the part of the work of women added up to 26.4%.

We have stressed the branches of industry in which the women of the West either are not being employed or their number is insignificant.

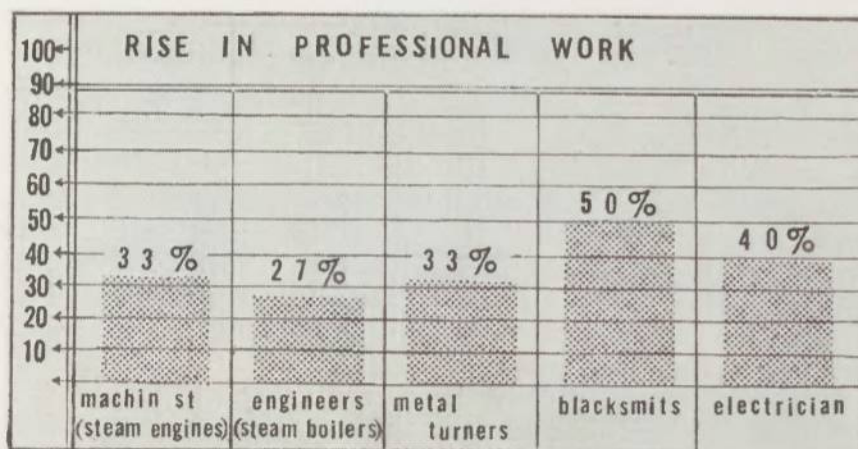
INDUSTRIAL CAMPAIGNS

The development of Soviet economy is characterized by the so called "economic campaigns." Whenever the Soviet government felt that its economy needed more production, it forced the working masses in

various fields to produce more and more, and made use of special slogans, like: "Fatherland calls," or "We shall give our country more coal," etc. All working men and women were then directed toward the goal set by the government, to labor even harder following the Stakhanovite system. Taking advantage of the "equalization" of men and women in their "rights," the Soviet government was driving the women through its agencies, to factories, mines and to road building. And since the workers in USSR are "legally" attached to their localities and their jobs, it goes without saying that they are not able to travel and secure other kinds of employment.

WORLD WAR II

The number of gainfully employed women rose during the World War II. The women were employed and gained proficiency in the following professions:



Tab. 3.

These calculations refer to 1942*), but the mobilization of men continued until 1945 and thus the women had to continue to replace them in industry until the war was over.

The war left Ukraine devastated and ruined. When it ended, a part of combatants was demobilized and a number of men returned to their jobs. Yet even this fact did not change the situation considerably. Many women were called as laborers during rebuilding of towns. The woman in USSR still continues to be employed, as in time of war, in men's professions which fact is attested to by many correspondents visiting USSR.

*) Н. Вознесенский: Военная экономия СССР, 1947.

Many of them are stressing in their accounts that various tasks of hard labor are assigned the women, not only in the industry but likewise as loaders and sweepers of the streets in the cities. .

THE AVERAGE WAGES

The wages of men and women workers, according to reports of March 1955, range from 300 to 600 rubles a month. An average office clerk's monthly pay is 650 to 800 rubles. Skilled workers receive 800 to 2,000 rubles monthly.

The official rate of valuation of the ruble is \$0.25. However, the purchasing power of one ruble is equal to 10c, at least as far as food is concerned, for clothing is more expensive. Thus a woman in Soviet Ukraine who earns 450 rubles a month, is actually receiving \$45, which is about \$10 a week, or 2c per hour, or even less when she is paying for clothes.

CONCLUSION

An economic upheaval always brings in its wake the shifting of labor. In such circumstances the unions stand up for the interests of workers and do not let the changes take place at their expense. Only where the unions do not express the will of their members but that of employers, an upheaval is being effected at the expense of employees. Besides, where there is no difference between the work assigned to men and women, the one who suffers most, is the woman. She is in a worse position of defenselessness than the man if her physical constitution and biological function is to be considered.

The fact that the employment of women in Soviet Ukraine is so numerous and multiple, proves that the economy of the country lacks man-power. It further shows that a workingman there is not able to support his family without his wife being gainfully employed, too. And then she has to take any job available. The continuous shortage of food, clothing and fuel drives her from her home to look for any job in any field.



IN POLITICS

AN HISTORICAL ASPECT

A turbulent course of history was destined for Ukraine for her territory unprotected by mountains or forests, was open to shifting of tribes from the East. At the same time Ukraine was a bulwark for the rest of Europe against continual invasions from Asia. Since the fall of Kievan Ukraine (Rus) in the 13th century the stormy state of affairs continued over the centuries until the present time. During this long period of time the Ukrainian people were struggling for freedom. The Ukrainian woman was likewise hardened in this strife. Her lot was unlike that of the woman of Western Europe where there has been more freedom and ease, as well as that of the woman of the East where she has been living in seclusion. The woman of Ukraine is characterized by independence and determination.

This is why the history of Ukraine brings to light a number of Ukrainian women who shared with men the responsible public service and struggle for freedom. The most prominent woman in the history of Ukraine was Princess Olga who was reigning at Kiev one thousand years back. Her administration of Ukraine (Rus) and reforms are recorded in history as purposeful and successful. She took the reign after her husband's death and continued to act as sovereign at Kiev during her sons' minority. Hanna, the wife of Prince Roman, through hard and prolonged efforts, retained the throne of Galician princes for her sons. Olena Zavisna, the wife of a Cossack captain, was directing the defense of the town Busha in 1654. When the fortress fell, she refused to surrender to the enemy, and kindled the explosives in the castle and perished in the ruins. Paliyikha, the wife of a Cossack colonel, who was administering the affairs of a province during her husband's exile, gained respect



Daria Shuckevich

among the Cossack officials. These few examples show that Ukrainian women were able administrators as well as defenders of their homeland when the need arose.

ON THE REVOLUTIONARY ROAD

The 19th century found Ukraine divided and under foreign occupation. These alien governments were autocratic and denied the inhabitants all civic rights. However, this century is also marked by liberal movements and slogans which appealed to youth and to educated classes, and made them realize the state of affairs in their countries. The impulse

to struggle for freedom was given and Europe started its thorny, often bloody, road to freedom.



Anna Pavlik

In Kiev there was initiated in 1846 a clandestine Brotherhood of St. Cyril and Methodius which set as its objective to strive for freedom of Ukraine as well as other Slavic peoples. The Czarist regime crushed the organization, but it gave the initiative to the Ukrainian policy of liberation which still continues. Taras Shevchenko, the famous bard of Ukraine, was the spiritual leader of the society.

The Ukrainian woman has always been in the first ranks of fighters for freedom of her homeland. She is not among the leaders nor does she elaborate political

programs. But through her genuine perception she is able to put a stronger resistance and to serve the ideal of liberation with more intentness. The women strengthened the revolutionary movement. Their labor for the cause, their courageous conduct at the trials, their attitude toward severe sentences inspired admiration and respect of the Ukrainian people.

At first the revolutionary movement failed to embrace national ideals in its programs since it aimed primarily at the overthrow of autocratic regime. This movement included the Ukrainian and Russian youth alike. The names of Marussya Vitrova, Vira Zazulich, Nastya Osinska and Vic-

toria Hukovska are best attestation to active part of Ukrainian woman in the revolutionary movement.

It was in the 1890-ies that the Ukrainian renaissance became formulated in the political parties. There were many young women in the Revolutionary Ukrainian Party (RUP) who rendered invaluable services.

THE GROWTH OF POLITICAL ENLIGHTENMENT

A liberal-democratic movement was started in Ukraine in 1880-ies, and in 1890-ies the leftist parties, based on socialist slogans, were called into being. The long tradition of revolutionary struggle was drawing the young Ukrainian women to it, for resounding extremist slogans appealed to them above all. There were many active women in these leftist parties. Daria Shukhevich, Catherine Holitsinska, Nastia Hrinchenko, Ole-na Korolowa were prominent among the social-democrats, while Anna Pavlik distinguished herself in the socialist-radical group. Maria Biletska was the most active in the national-democratic group.

Politically trained women devoted their abilities and energies to striving for civic rights of the womanhood. It was toward this goal that they were joining the forces of Polish and Jewish women (1910, in Lviv, West Ukraine). Nevertheless they were not forgetting their people's unceasing struggle for freedom, as was shown by the Union of Women for Equal Rights at Poltava which in 1906 put forward a demand for home rule for Ukraine.



Maria Biletska

WOMEN UNDER ARMS

Continuous alertness of the Ukrainian woman in the struggle for freedom of the people turned her attention to armed combat. On the eve of the World War I a special women's detachment was formed within Sich, a Ukrainian gymnastic society. However, after the war broke out and the Ukrainian Legion of Sharpshooters became organized, the idea of creating a special military women's detachment did not materialize for



Hanna Dmiterko

such a formation appeared then as something out of this world. Still some of the brave Ukrainian girls did manage to go through and endure the hardships of war in the ranks of the Ukrainian Legion, as well as to win the marks of distinction. These were Olena Stepanivna, Sophia Halechko, Hanna Dmiterko and others. They justified the reputation of the woman soldier. But the real combatant value of Ukrainian women was demonstrated in 1919-21 when the young Ukrainian republic had to wage a defensive war. In the

difficult struggle of partisan resistance groups Marussyia Sokolovska proved her valor as a combatant, and Vera Babenko and Marussyia Tarasenko as messengers. They died in the conflicts, sacrificing their lives for their country.

IN POLITICAL ACTION

The World War I directed the energy of Ukrainian women into another channel. When in 1917 the Ukrainian leaders originated action in re-establishing the nationhood of the Ukrainian people, the women joined heartily in this tremendous task. With great enthusiasm the Ukrainian women shared the toil in every field of public life. The young Ukrainian Republic granted equal rights to women, and there were 11 women in the first Ukrainian Parliament (Rada) at Kiev. There also were two women in the executive department of the government (Small Rada) — Ludmila Staritska Chernyakhivska and Zinaida Mirna.

The Ukrainian People's Republic fell under the pressure of overwhelming forces of the enemies. But the re-awakened political awareness of the Ukrainian woman did not die away. True, under bolshevik occupation she could not engage in free political life, but she continued taking part in underground struggle. A striking example of this was demonstrated at the display trial of the Union for Liberation of Ukraine in 1930 where Ludmila Staritska Chernyakhivska was among the most prominent defendants. She did not bow or recant, but faced the bolshevik occupants defiantly.

In addition to her many nameless women went the same way. They were those who



Blanca Baran Bachinska

resisted collectivization, those who stood against demolishing of churches, those who defended their right to rear their children. Thousands of them were marched to concentration camps of Siberia.

They will never be forgotten, even if their names will not be remembered.

In the western provinces of Ukraine which were under Poland, Rumania and Czechoslovakia, a legal contest unfolded to gain political freedom for the Ukrainian people. The women in these countries had, prior to World War II, the right to vote and to be elected. Many women were joining the ranks of Ukrainian political parties — the national-democratic, the socialist-radical and the socialist party. The political education of the masses was then in progress. The national-democratic party was forming women's sections in towns and villages and thus the women were drawn into mass actions, like school plebiscite or preparation for election of Ukrainian parliamentary candidates. Blanca Baran Bachinska was the leader of this movement. The socialist-radical party constituted in 1931 the Women's Community which was led by Ivanna Blazhkevich. This was the Ukrainian women's society with partisan political coloring.

In 1923 Olena Levchanivska, one of Ukrainian public workers in Volhynia, was elected senator (to the Polish senate at Warsaw). In 1928 Olena Kisilevska, the venerated Ukrainian patriot of Galicia, was also elected senator, and Milena Rudnitska, the President of Ukrainian Women's Alliance at Lviv, was elected member of the Polish diet.



Olena Levchanivska

UNDERGROUND STRUGGLE

The partition of Ukraine after World War I brought about profound disappointment and grave concern of Ukrainian people. In order to manifest their resistance to enslavement, the youth caused to start a secret organization known as Ukrainian Military Organization (UVO). The women were joining its ranks from the very beginning. The first prominent figure who grew against the background of this movement, was Olga Bassarab. She was one of the leading personages in UVO. During



Olga Bassarab

her imprisonment in Lviv she proved her valor when she remained relentlessly unyielding to tortures to which she finally succumbed in prison.

In 1930 UVO underwent a change and assumed the name of Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) which was widely active in West Ukraine, under Polish domination. The young women were joining OUN in great numbers and were performing important missions. Together with men they suffered persecutions and severe punishments at the hands of Polish occupants. During the Soviet occupation of West Ukraine in 1939-41 they underwent the same persecutions as under Nazi occupation, always offering stern re-

sistance. The bolshevik occupants of West Ukraine set up a trial of group of Ukrainian nationalists in 1940 at Lviv, sentencing some of them to death. Among the accused and those sentenced were boys and girls alike.

One of the most prominent members of OUN executed by the Nazis, was Olena Teliha, young Ukrainian poetess and publicist. She was killed in 1942 at Kiev when the capital of Ukraine was under Nazi occupation.

The UPA (Ukrainian Partisan Army, or Ukrainian Resistance Army) was organized in 1941 and was waging war of resistance ever since against both Nazi and bolsheviki, first during the years of war 1941-45, and later on, even to the present time, against the remaining occupant — Russian bolsheviki. The struggle still continues, although on a smaller scale, despite untold hardships and heavy losses. Members of several Ukrainian groups



Olena Teliha

were in the ranks of UPA. Also many young women joined the UPA. They were performing the important tasks as messengers, scouts and nurses, suffering and dying together with men.

The Ukrainian woman has never taken shelter in dire need of her country. On the contrary, she has always been earnestly devoting her efforts and sacrificing all she possessed, including her life, for the highest ideal of her people — the freedom and independence of Ukraine. It can be truly said that in this sacrifice she followed the passionate appeals of Lessya Ukrainka, the famous Ukrainian poetess, who lamented that

*Ukraine entire could sink
And in tears drown —
Enough have trickled down.*

And then she regretted that her words cannot become steely swords which would overpower the enemies of Ukraine.



CONTENTS

Some facts about Ukraine	3
Territory and population	3
The History of Ukraine	5
Some Landmarks of Progress	10
In Arts	21
In Professional Life	27
In Science	31
In Economics	37
In Politics	41

