COMPETITION SPREADS AND GROWS STRONGER

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The collective of the Bogdanovich Refractories Factory is working with excellent commitment in the fourth year of the Tenth Five-Year Plan, and is heading in the right direction.

The tasks for the 3 years of the current plan in terms of production volumes have been prematurely completed. During the first 3.5 years of the plan the factory has sold goods over and above the target worth 1,961,000 rubles, and produced 24,400 tons of refractories, 1100 tons of electrofused periclase, and about 1000 tons of fibrous refractory materials. Labor productivity has risen 25.6% over the 1975 level. During the 3.5 years the plant has obtained 3.7 million rubles income for improving product quality; turning out goods with the State Quality Label during the first half of 1979 equal to 15% of total output, which exceeded the 1977 levels by a factor of five.

In terms of the results of 14 quarters of the Tenth Five-Year Plan the collective has taken class awards 10 times in the All-Union Socialist Competitions, including eight awards of the leading red banners from the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy of the USSR and the Central Committee of the Trade Unions of Workers in the Metallurgical Industries.

All these achievements result from the constant managerial and political work of the plant's administration, the Party, trade-union and Komsomol'sk organizations of the Bogdanovich and Sukholozh producers.

The Factory is doing a lot of work on the reconstruction of the enterprise and modernization of existing equipment. This is markedly increasing production standards and creating favorable conditions for labor productivity and working without delays. Thus, the conversion of the heating units first to liquid fuel and then to gas unrecognizably transformed the work of the firing operatives and stokers. Work is now going ahead on reconstructing the siphon section and certain other operations.

The development of the creative activity of the workers, the introduction of the attainments of scientific-engineering progress and improvements in technology have made it possible to exceed the planned capacity of the main units and departments.

Serious difficulties face the factory in connection with reducing manual work. The problem of mechanization consists in producing more than 2000 standard products, and existing departments are overequipped with machinery, so the problem is being solved not by building complicated automatic machines for existing equipment, but through fundamental alterations in technology. Thus, the muffle technology for firing graphitic refractories is being replaced by glazing them, as a result of which we have eliminated the erection and demolition of the muffles which are done by hand; the laborious technique of plastic pressing of stopper and casting tubes is being replaced by dry pressing, etc.

The working activity of the collective finds clear expression in socialist competitions which are becoming a powerful factor these days in developing the economy.

The competition for communist attitudes to work involves 7 departments, 26 sections, and 99 brigades. The title "Collective of Communist Labor" has been awarded to collectives in the Central Factory and Heat-engineering Laboratories, 22 brigades, and two production divisions. The banner "Victor in Socialist Competitions" has been given to 665 production leaders.

Account is taken daily at the Factory of the results of the socialist competitions for the shops, shifts, sections, and brigades in the main production areas. This form of competition is gradually being improved and supplemented by new factors. Each day the general factory staff assesses the work of the collectives in the main production areas, and not only determines the winners for the day but takes the necessary measures to improve the work of the laggard collectives. The results are published on special stands and boards, and put out over the factory radio. The intrafactory competition is publicized by the factory's high circulation newspaper "For Refractory Workers."

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Of great value for improving the efficiency and publicity of competitions is the information that is daily put before the workers at the start of shifts by the foremen.

Throughout the competitions the honors given to leaders and innovators have become very popular. For example, the brigade making funnels (brigade chief G. A. Grabezhov) took the initiative to compete for the title "Brigade of Excellent Quality," guaranteeing high quality in its products. At the present time the collective carries its banner, and its products — the funnels — have been awarded the State Quality Label.

The firing section of the Bogdanovich Production Division of Sorters (foreman N. V. Naumov) and a brigade of setters (leader V. M. Lezhnev), supporting the initiative of the workers' collectives of Moscow and Leningrad, have come out with a banner called "Completing the Personal and Brigade Tasks for Three Years by the First Anniversary of the New Constitution of the USSR." This was backed up by all collectives in the subdivisions of the Factory. The 3-yr assignment for the five-year plan was completed by more than 1400 people.

The initiative of the Sverdlovsk builders and fitters has been widely supported by the Factory under the heading: "Five-Year Task with the Lowest Contingent." The first to join this movement was the collective of semidry pressers (headed by G. Ya. Bykov). The collective decided to reduce the number of workers in the team by two men without altering the plan or socialist undertakings.

Experience of workers in Rostov has also been taken up by workers at this Factory under the banner "Work without Lagging." The attention of the factory administration, Party and trade union organizations, the managers, and social organizations of the shops and divisions is being concentrated on the all-round creation and development of this movement, ensuring conditions for completing the socialist responsibilities and planned assignments for all workers, brigades, sections, and workshops.

According to the results for the 3.5 years of the plan not a single department, section, shift, or brigade failed to come to terms with the planned task. The concern has practically no workers who do not complete norms.

The 4-yr plan was completed in 3.5 years by more than 1500 workers; at present they are working on the following year's account. More than 200 people have completed the five-year plan in 3.5 years. Among them are chamotte crushers G. D. Sukhoguzova, S. E. Cherentaeva, crane driver G. N. Volkov, molders S. A. Bushnev, V. P. Mikushina, G. A. Grabezhov, setter V. I. Lezhnev, loader V. N. Kanonik, planner G. K. Galler, blacksmith L. G. Loskutnikov, turner V. K. Dudarov, setter L. S. Osintseva, K. K. Kokoryshkina, and others.

Publishing the results of the competitions on the eve of Metallurgists' Day, the factory committee of trade unions awarded prizes to the departments of grinding—firing workers whose collective completed the half-year plan by 102% and increased labor productivity by 2.6% over the plan. Among the collectives of the shifts the winners included the grinding—firing shift (foremen G. R. Demin, Yu. F. Shepelev) which completed the socialist undertakings by 102.2% and raised productivity 4.1% over the plan. Outstanding production factors were recorded by the collectives, headed by P. A. Chernyshov, L. M. Bubenschikova, V. K. Lopatina, V. I. Osintsev, V. I. Lezhnev, and V. I. Sukhanova.

The factory has now widely developed competitions for early completion of the tasks of the fourth year of the five-year plan as a whole. Some 93 people have entered the competition for the title "Best Worker in the Trade," which also involves being named on the Factory Board of Honor. Among these are G. F. Demina, L. P. Makhneva, A. T. Kamaev, S. G. Klochikhin, and G. A. Chertova.

In order to boost efficiency, we are developing socialist competitions for personal saving accounts. As a result during 1978 we saved 7,766,000 kwh of electricity, and 3880 tons of standard fuel. In the first half of 1979 we saved 3,497,000 kwh of electricity, 578 tons of standard fuel, and 35 tons of metal.

Personal saving accounts are operating in 8 grinding—firing sections, 2 press—molding sections, 3 firing sections, and 4 brigades of magnesite powder sections. In all there are 51 collective personal accounts and 66 personal savings accounts. The economies from the personal accounts in 1978 were 230,800 rubles and for the first half year of 1979 — 65,900 rubles.

There is much potential for increasing production efficiency and product quality in the widespread use of the continuously mounting working experience among leaders and innovators. During 1978 the factory organized 21 schools for exchanging the latest methods involving 402 people. The effectiveness of these schools was equivalent to 25,700 rubles. In the first half of 1979 we held nine schools involving 136 people. The savings amounted to 9900 rubles.