

7/15/42

Among literary people, he is far and away the outstanding authority on the Don, the Don region and the Don people, who are perhaps the most colorful of Soviet peoples. A piece by him, on the subject of First-hand news: The information you wanted from the Treasury was mailed within a quarter of an hour of our phone conversation. Why you couldn't get it in N.Y. I can't understand, because the Treasury has turned it out as a pamphlet. All the available information, in fact, is supposed to be included in this pamphlet which you should have by the time you get this.

Now about the other things: I covered just about everything in the phone talk. When I hear re the Litvinoff piece I'll let you know right away, by letter unless you specify phone.

About the correspondent there: I told him exactly what you did, that until you were established it would be a luxury that you probably couldn't afford. However, I think it would be profitable afterwards. If you can see your way clear, because, to the best of my knowledge, no other picture magazine can offer this, and I think the reading public today is interested in such human interest stories as could be obtained. You may have noticed the tremendous increase in stories of this description that the press services are carrying. Last night's Star had 5 half columns on this. The correspondent would be a man with an established writing reputation, for a story a month, and to be paid on that basis. Who you could get I don't know, and no one here knows, until it is looked into, but it would be a first-rater.

Now about the Sholoyev article. He, as you know, is the author of the Don trilogy, and the winner of the New York Critic's prize for the year.

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88/31/7

Among literary people, he is far and away the outstanding authority on the Don, the Don region and the Don people, who are perhaps the most colorful of Soviet peoples. A piece by him, on the subject, it

seems to me, should have a big appeal to anyone who either knows the name, or whom there are many judging from the unusually heavy sale of his books in the US or is interested in our country. It includes most people who read. Of course, the piece would be an exclusive for which you'd pay at your regular rates, and I pointed out that at the present time they are low.

So far as the Don is concerned: At the moment the battle for the world is being fought there, and if we are unfortunate enough to lose, the battle will still be going on in the Don region, and above all will be fought by the Don people, of whom there are beautiful pictures available here. Timoshenko's brilliant cavalry, which passed a winter in successes against the Nazis, are Don people, chiefly Cossacks. Personally, I am quite interested in seeing such a piece because if well illustrated, it should be very interesting. Incidentally, the government

here is interesting itself in a remotely similar idea, and its statements, devoid of human interest, showing the statistical representation of the Don section.

However, understand I am not recommending this as a substitute for anything else you have in mind. If you get it, and agree, I'll be surprised if you do, you can use this the next issue.

If I haven't made anything clear, let me know. I have a headache and perhaps am not making this clear. In any event, let me hear from you

on this by some time next week, huh?
yours
Harold