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A DISCUSSION OF THE ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION OF SINKIANG SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE PEACE TERMS

Ti Feng

I. FACTORS CONDITIONING RECONSTRUCTION

After the provincial government was reorganized and its political principles published in July 1946, the government's immediate chief duty and the people's urgent demand was for the building of a new Sinkiang. In such building the repair of the economy was an important step toward improving the livelihood of each racial group and making Sinkiang a prosperous paradise—thus completing the government's commission and fulfilling the demands of the people's life. However, for such work to be effective, the following conditions must first be attained.

A. Peace

Chang Chih-chung, former Co-Chairman of the provincial government, has said: "The basic condition of reconstruction must be peace, must be security. If Sinkiang stays in a state of social unrest, and men's hearts feeling insecure, it will be impossible to maintain the status quo, let alone begin reconstruction." These practical words are right to the point. In the more than a year since the government was reorganized, political measures have not gotten under way, due to the peace terms not being fully implemented. It is undeniable that men's hearts are not at rest; so without going into details, peace has not been fully attained.

B. Personnel

Economic reconstruction demands a large supply of skilled technicians for its success. But Sinkiang, lacking high-grade schools to teach these technicians and large-scale factories to train them, must bring them from foreign countries or China Proper. But for many years this province has not been fully stable, so those who were called were unwilling to come, and

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those who were already in Sinkiang returned to China Proper. Moreover, since there are not enough skilled technicians, how can they meet the situation, and without them, how can we talk of reconstructing Sinkiang?

C. Machinery

The building of a modern economy depends upon new-type scientific machines, which must be brought in from foreign countries or China Proper. But because of recent political conditions, those which were already bought could not be transported. For instance, machines for foundries and for the Hsin-feng textile mill were stranded in Chiu-ch'uan or Lan-chou; and with freight costs unprovided, how could new machines be ordered? Thus, economic reconstruction is greatly affected!

D. Capital

In setting up enterprises, large capital must be provided or else they cannot succeed. After the provincial government was reorganized, a half of annual taxes was remitted. This was done out of consideration for the hardships in living conditions of various racial groups in Sinkiang. All funds for economic reconstruction projects had to come from the Central Government as grant-in-aid. But Central Government grants could not all be directed into economic reconstruction: expenses in other departments must be taken care of. Also, since the procedure of getting grants was very complicated, much time and expenditure for timely reconstruction was thereby required. Therefore, possible projects are not begun because reconstruction funds have not been received from the Central Government.

E. Plans

After the provincial government was reorganized, a study of the former five-year plan showed that while it was on a grand scale, (1) it was not adapted to the conditions in the province, (2) it had not been approved by the provincial government, and (3) its budget, because of a tidal wave in prices, had long been out of touch with reality. So the former so-called five-year plan had to be shelved. After the peace terms were signed, a new five-year economic project was planned, accurate in detail and well-adapted to the conditions in the province.

Until the above five basic conditions are satisfactorily settled, economic reconstruction in this province can only follow government orders, and outside of rearrangement of personnel and starting new plants, can only carry on in each department as usual. These are discussed below in detail.

II. AGRICULTURE AND SILK CULTURE

Agriculture and silk culture are the chief industries of Sinkiang Province. These two industries have shown considerable growth in recent years.

A. Agricultural Organization

Sinkiang Province already had seven experiment stations. These were at Ti-hua, T'u-lu-fan (Turfan), Ha-mi, T'a-ch'eng, A-shan, Yen-ch'i and Su-fu (Kashgar). These stations were very small, so they could not do much experimenting or extension work. Therefore, the plan for this year (1947) is to set up in Ti-hua a central experiment station for carrying out agricultural improvements throughout the province. However, the Yen-ch'i station, being situated where cattle are very numerous, was in 1946 combined with an animal

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husbandry station and operated as a joint station in the interest of farming and herding in that section.

In 1944, at Ho-t'ien, there was established a provincial silk experiment station for improving silk-culture throughout the province; ordinary silkworm stations were established at Ho-t'ien, Lo-p'u, Mo-yü, So-ch'e, and such places, to instruct the people on worm feeding and egg production.

B. Area Under Cultivation

In 1946 this province had the following amounts of land under cultivation (in mou): wheat, 7,970,883; rice, 700,234; Indian corn, 2,436,513; other grains, 1,077,850; crops yielding vegetable oils, 959,752; feed, 1,795,729; other food crops, 1,077,617; native cotton, 684,035; improved cotton, 238,120; total, 16,405,463 mou. Because of drought the last 2 or 3 years, causing a shortage of seed, the area of grain cultivated, as reported by each hsien, was merely maintained without expansion. But cotton acreage increased by 43,000 mou. If it can be exported, the acreage will increase still more and the economy of Southern Sinkiang will develop considerably.

C. Agricultural Products

In 1946 the annual production of the chief categories was as follows (in shih): wheat, 3,024,525; rice, 801,051; Indian corn, 1,528,449; other grains, 377,514; oil products, 500,349; feed, hay 2, peas, 99,537; beans, etc., 809,515; total, 7,227,185 shih. Because Ti-hua, Ha-mi, and other places suffered from locusts, investigation shows a loss of 61,000 shih in wheat as compared with the previous year. Other products, because of abundance of rain, showed a gain of 645,000 shih. Native cotton amounted to 15,769,041 catties; improved cotton, 7,143,600 catties. The total, 22,912,641 catties, is an increase over the previous year (1945) of 1,850,000 catties.

D. Antilocust Campaign

In July 1946 locusts appeared in Ha-mi county. Besides this scourge, which was abated at once by the Ha-mi experiment station, there were widespread locust plagues in Ti-hua, Chin-hua, Sui-lai, and other counties; the threat of crop destruction was overcome by three antilocust corps organized by the reconstruction office. These corps went to the affected places and destroyed the locusts in 35 days. In May of this year locusts again appeared in Ti-hua, Chin-hua, Chi-t'ai, Wu-su, O-min, T'a-ch'ang, and other counties. To destroy the locusts and protect the crops, the reconstruction office sent technicians; it also aroused the people to destroy the pests.

E. Statistics on Forestry

In 1946 an afforestation movement was begun, resulting in the planting of 6,120,000 willow, poplar, and other trees, 2,900,000 mulberry trees (including 165,937 grafted, transplanted, rerooted, slipped and otherwise improved), and 1,453,876 fruit trees. Trees planted totaled 10,473,876, an increase of 8,173,000 over the previous year (1945). Medicinal herbs amounted to more than 6,000 catties.

F. Silk Statistics

In 1946 egg-producing plants in Ho-t'ien, Lo-p'u, and Mo-yü produced 17,900 sheets of eggs. So-ch'e produced 31.2 oz. The Ho-t'ien, Lo-p'u, and Mo-yü plants and the people generally produced 21,411 sheets. They harvested

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366,398 cattles of cocoons.

G. 1947 Loans for Spring Flowing

Such loans for 1947 were planned for the whole province as one billion yuan, 880,000,000 more than last year.

III. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND VETERINARY SCIENCE

A. Herding

Herding is one of the principal economic pursuits of this province. The Mongols, Kazaks, and Kirghis are life-long herdsmen. Herd products are the chief source of exports, so the government pays much attention to these affairs. In order to increase the province's herd products it has already bought from abroad a large supply of breeding animals and has set up herding stations in many places to train a large technical staff. The government has already led the people to increase production.

Animal husbandry in Sinkiang Province shows the following reliable figure for 1944: horses, 1,078,196; cattle, 1,837,196; sheep, 11,387,989; goats, 2,862,237; camels, 97,459; donkeys, 756,697; hogs, 83,686; total, 18,104,172.

Although in every place the number of domestic animals has increased, yet, because in 1945 in hilly and dry places grass was not abundant, many animals perished; now, in order to lessen the damage, plans are being made to lead people to save the winter grass by placing it in covered piles.

Moreover, in order to multiply the stock, herding stations have been established in six places, Ti-hua, I-ning, Yen-ch'i, T'a-ch'ang, K'u-ch'e, and Kashgar. In these stations there are 1,670 horses, 629 cattle, 18,680 sheep, and 70 camels, mostly of improved strains. These are only last year's figures: they do not include this year's young.

Last year in order to improve the quality of herds, breeding stations, where government horses could be mated with those of the people, were established in the hills south of Ti-hua, Ho-ch'ing and other places. Every effort is now being made to improve the stock in this province; therefore, animal husbandry has bright hopes of development in this province.

B. Veterinary Activities

Hindering the development of herding in this province are the communicable and noncontagious diseases. Therefore, the government, in order to get rid of communicable diseases completely and increase the herds, has set up veterinary sanitation stations in several tens of places, one in each region. These stations are to be responsible for cure and prevention of diseases. Besides these there are 45 branch veterinary stations in the various hsien. Presently, because of various difficulties such as the preparing of drugs, lack of technicians, and poor treatment of employees, many technicians could not be used to their best, and stations lacked efficiency, so that many could not carry on their work. Despite these troubles, more than 160,000 horses, cattle, sheep, and camels were treated during the year. In serum plants a large amount of antidotes was prepared in order to stop the spread of disease. Now, fortunately, the health of domestic animals can be taken care of.

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This year serum plants in the province have made a large quantity of human and animal inoculation virus such as red fever virus, vaccine, virus and serum for nervous diseases, abdominal swelling, nose ulcers, and other ailments, and totaling 412 kg. Furthermore, the Reconstruction Bureau has bought medicines worth 4,500,000 yuan.

IV. INDUSTRY AND MINING.

In this province resources are extensive and minerals abundant; but, because of poor communications and lack of manpower, industry and mining are in an embryonic stage. Following is information on those already in existence or being started.

A. Industry

The iron works utilize the former metal smelter which was set up in the winter of 1945. The foundry is preparing to cast iron pieces such as farm tools, water pipe, etc. Just now the foundry is being set in order; an over-all plan and drawings are being made, so that as soon as plans are settled production can start on a modern, mechanical basis. The over-all plan involves an outlay of more than one billion yuan.

The provincial acid factory was established in January 1942. From July 1946 to the end of October the production was 12,690 kg of 62-percent sulphuric acid. Then, several months were necessary for repairs, and production was resumed in April of this year (1947). In January (1948) it produced 6,320 kg of acid. But because most of the tin vats which are necessary for making acid began to leak, (this province cannot manufacture this kind of tin plate) and because this province uses little of the acid and there is not much sale for it, production cannot be on a large scale.

The Hsin-feng textile mill began with a preparatory office in August 1943. The result of these preparations was that only a small part of the machinery reached Sinkiang, while the major portion was in Ch'ung-ching awaiting transport. Quite recently plans have been made for bringing this portion to Sinkiang; but because the project is complicated and costly, it is still in the planning stage.

1. Metal Smelter

This plant is situated at Shui-mo-kou in the eastern suburbs of Ti-Hua. Most of the construction was finished in 1944. But, because not all of the machinery could be brought into Sinkiang, it could not be completed. Twenty-nine tons of machinery have been brought in, while 150 tons have not been transported. Because the machinery was held up, the workshops cannot be used. In the last 3 years the buildings have been damaged by the weather. Recently, plans have been made for the repair of these buildings and arrangements have been made for the transport of the machinery which is now stranded in the interior.

2. Women's Industrial Plant

This plant was set up on 15 Sep 1942, and since last year it has made 2,488 cotton suits; besides, it has made cloth, stockings, towels, bedding, etc., in quantity. It is now expanding its activities in order to increase production.

The glass, pottery, and soap works have made no progress. They appear to be shut down.

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B. Mining

The Pa-tao-wan coal mine is an important fuel-producing unit in the province. From July 1946 to the end of March 1947 it produced 10,711,600 cattles of coal, but far below actual need. Now plans are being again made for increased production.

Iron reserves in the western mountains are very abundant. Iron foundries are making plans to work them on a large scale.

C. Geological Surveys

The geological office is making surveys throughout the province. More than 30,000 sq km have been thoroughly studied. In this area the important mineral resources are estimated as follows (in tons): anthracite coal, 38,000,000; bituminous coal, 2,038,430,000; iron, 46,010,000; lead, 94,230; tin, 9,000; copper, 2,000; and arsenic, 900. There are 1,050 sq km of oil fields. In addition, the soil-conservation exhibits, soil analysis, geological and mining museums, and ordinary government offices have made plans for a five-year investigation; and this year various practical measures, such as making maps for field surveys, arranging and cataloguing mineral specimens, etc., are being strictly carried out in accordance with provincial decrees.

The various items mentioned are insufficient because of obstacles such as failure to receive funds on time and shortage of technicians. Therefore, for some years the actual reconstruction of Sinkiang could not follow pre-arranged plans in all departments of activity and even maintaining the status quo was full of difficulties. The growth of these difficulties casts a shadow over the path of Sinkiang's economic reconstruction. In discussing other phases of that reconstruction, we must speak loudly of success, never of failure. But before success, we must attain the five basic conditions of (1) peace; (2) personnel; (3) machinery; (4) capital; and (5) planning.

When these five basic conditions are fully realized, then it will be easy to fulfill the demands of both present and future situations.

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