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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

NORTHEAST SUFFERS MUCH FIRE DAMAGE;  
REPORTS ECONOMIC CONDITIONS GOOD

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Another cause of fires is sabotage. In one instance, enemy agents caused 300-million-yuan damage by fire.

DISCUSSES ECONOMIC CONDITION -- Hong Kong Ta Kung Pao, 27 May 50

Shanghai, 20 May -- Upon the request of the Press Office of the Shanghai People's government to describe the existing economic conditions in Northeast China, Shen Ts'e (1) [number refers to appended characters], who heads the Northeast General Labor Union Delegation to Comfort the Unemployed Shanghai Workers, gave the following account at the Press Association Building on 19 May:

Definite guidance by the people's governments, maximum effort contributed by the working class, and the completion of the land reforms, have all contributed toward surmounting many difficulties. As a result, unemployment has been eliminated, considerable advance has been made toward restoring and developing industries, and workers' wages have reached a new high.

Heavy-industry workers now receive an average of 150 kung-fen per month (each kung-fen equals 2.55 catties of millet, equivalent to one day's ration for one man). Compared to the wages earned in 1946, this wage shows a threefold increase. Light-industry workers receive about 120 kung-fen, which is more than 200 percent of the 1946 level.

Private and public enterprises have been restored quickly. For example, a 100-percent restoration of private and public factories occurred in Mukden during June - December 1949. Labor disputes have decreased, production has increased tremendously, and labor insurance has been universally taken out by workers. During 1950, 170,000 workers will be enrolled in anti-illiteracy classes. All industries in Northeast China will be restored in 3 or 4 years.

PLANS INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INCREASE -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao, 27 May 50

Mukden, 25 May (Hsin-hua) -- During 1950, 40 percent of the total budget allotted for the Northeast People's government will be used for industrial construction. Of that amount, 85 percent will go toward restoring existing industries and constructing new ones.

The output capacity of machinery in principal industries, as compared to capacity at the end of 1949, will be increased as follows: puddling furnaces, 205 percent; copper ore cupola furnaces, 250 percent; electrical machinery, 350 percent; machine tools, 143 percent; paper-making machinery, 197 percent; cotton-spinning spindles, 166 percent; and cloth-weaving machinery, 154 percent.

#### CHARACTERS

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