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INFORMATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SINKIANG PROVINCE

Two recent newspaper articles discuss the development of Sinkiang Province. Novaya Zhizn' describes an irrigation project undertaken in Sinkiang and a projected hydroelectric plant. It discusses agricultural gains, city and industrial development, and the increasing educational opportunities. Aussenhandels Nachrichten reports on irrigation plans, livestock figures, and agricultural data.

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SINKIANG -- Shanghai, Novaya Zhizn', 17 Feb 52

In Sinkiang, the following products are grown: wheat, maize, cotton, barley, rice, sorghum, kaoliang, sunflower seed, and hemp. Pastures are spread over the Tien Shan and the Kunlun Mountains.

Since the liberation, creative steps have been taken in the province. To make water available to grain-producing Sinkiang, the feudalists were deprived of the right to control water sources. Springs, wells, canals, and irrigation ditches were declared national property; all farmers received the right to use them.

After the expulsion of the KMT from Sinkiang, the People's Army, numbering tens of thousands of soldiers, armed with shovels, hoes, and picks, began to construct new, large-scale irrigation projects. The People's Army drew up a plan under which more than 3 million mou of land would be irrigated by the beginning of 1954, and pledged to construct 1,800 kilometers of large and small canals. The plan is being carried out successfully.

Hammers and picks clatter against the shores of Lake Ho-yen-ch'ih, which is to become the basis of a big water reservoir with a complete system of locks and canals. To augment the supply of water for the reservoir, it was decided to direct into the lake a river which runs 5 kilometers away. A 5-kilometer canal was dug through rocks and mountain ridges, and a powerful dam was erected across the old river bed, changing the river's course.

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The chief of the river and lake irrigation project, Lu Tsung-chang, gave the following explanation: "We built a dam and locks between two high spurs. The lake can now have a capacity of 50 million cubic meters of water. The river will now fill our basin from November to April. In the spring we shall begin to empty the water through the locks and let it flow through a canal for 35 kilometers, irrigating 130,000 mou of land. On the new river bed which leads to the lake, we shall build a hydroelectric plant which will provide electric power for the industrial enterprises under construction all around.

"The struggle for water has extended all over Sinkiang. The old irrigation system has already been overhauled. over 300 kilometers of new canals and ditches have been dug. But this is only the beginning."

At the time of the liberation, agriculture in Sinkiang was in bad shape. Of 104 million mou of arable land, less than 50 million mou were under cultivation.

Land reform in Sinkiang has not yet been carried through. Confiscation and division of the land will begin only after the next harvest. At present, the people's authorities are taking measures to limit the rent charged by landowners, and to return land mortgages.

Even these first agricultural reforms have already brought favorable results in the village. The area under grain cultivation increased by more than 3 million mou in the last 2 years, and the yield also increased. The peasants began to form mutual aid teams. Units of the People's Liberation Army organized 14 provincial horse-renting stations. Here, the farmer gets help with seeds, fertilizer, draft power, and modern farm machinery.

The new life is especially noticeable in the cities. The mayor of Urumchi, the administrative capital of the province, stated: "Urumchi has a population of 120,000 people. The whole adult population signed the World Peace Appeal. In the 2 years of the people's administration the city's appearance has changed. Everybody remembers how the river which flows through the city flooded 440 homes in spring 1944. This shall not be repeated. High stone dams have been erected which protect the houses and streets from the violent spring floods. During the four summer months of 1951, 5 kilometers of roadway were covered with asphalt and stone. The old inhabitants of the city say that such building would have taken about 50 years under the KMT. Bridges are being built throughout Sinkiang for the through highways.

"Industry and trading companies have developed with the increased activity in Urumchi. As compared to 1949, their number has almost doubled. Unemployment has been liquidated. The purchasing power of the population increased more than 1½ times. And so it is everywhere."

There are plants and factories under construction which will be finished in fall 1952. The large automobile repair plant was planned to be in operation by the end of the year, but the workers came up with a counterplan: double the labor effort and have the plant in operation for the anniversary of the People's Republic of China on 1 October 1952.

Five kilometers from Urumchi, on the extensive mountain plateau, a large textile combine is being built. This is the first local textile industry in Sinkiang. It will provide textiles not only for the province, but also for Tibet and Tsinghai.

There are 60 middle and high schools, teaching 15,000 people in Sinkiang. About 300,000 children are getting primary education. Courses for illiterates, set up in every city and village, were attended by 256,000 workers and peasants

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in 1950, and in fall 1951, by more than 400,000 people. A party leader training school, opened in Sinkiang, already has 1,372 graduates. During their studies, many of them have joined the Communist Party and the New Democracy Youth Movement.

ECONOMIC ADVANCE IN SINKIANG -- Berlin, Aussenhandels Nachrichten, 23 Feb 52

Approximately 770,000 square kilometers in Sinkiang can be irrigated for farming, and the remainder of the area can support at least four times the 16 million sheep, one million cattle, and 2 million horses which grazed there in 1940.

Extensive work has already been accomplished on the restoration of the irrigation system. A Five-Year Plan provides for the irrigation of 800,000 hectares of land by 1956.

In 1950 alone, 66,000 hectares of new farm land were brought under the plow. This increased the 1950 food production of Sinkiang Province by between 20 and 30 percent, a quantitative increase of 90,000 tons of food which would not otherwise have been produced. It was also possible to improve the quality of various crops.

In Sinkiang Province the People's Liberation Army has participated in exemplary fashion in building up the economy. The value of goods produced and services rendered by this organization amounted to one trillion yuan in 1951.

Last year, 65,000 additional hectares of land were cultivated, producing 54,000 tons of grain.

The livestock population was increased in 1951 by 400,000 animals. This represents an increase of 138 percent compared with 1950. Extensive reforestation projects were undertaken and more than 1,200,000 trees planted in 1950. In addition to numerous smaller irrigation projects, five large systems were completed and a number of levees repaired. As a result of this work it is now possible to irrigate 36,000 hectares.

This year's production plan calls for expansion of areas under cultivation and for an increase in crops. To meet the growing demands of the rapidly expanding textile industry, a considerable increase in cotton acreage is planned. To protect fields and orchards, extensive shelter-belt forests are being planted. New irrigation systems will make possible the irrigation of an additional 200,000 hectares in 1950 [sic].

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