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HIGHER PRODUCTION THROUGH BETTER PAY SYSTEM AND SEED SELECTION

The Ch'en I-k'o mutual aid team in Kiangsi, consisting of 21 members, has, as a result of experience and discussion, evolved a system of accounting and classification of human and animal labor and the use of implements that makes it possible for each member to contribute to the common effort according to his ability and receive compensation accordingly.

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Central People's Government, recognizing that wheat is an increasingly important crop in China, has issued a directive urging all authorities in wheat-growing areas to promote better seed selection by conducting exhibitions and distributing rewards for high-production records. Organization of peasants is to be stressed. Increased use of fertilizer and improved cultivation are also urged.

The 1952 wheat harvest in Shantung reveals a 20-per cent increase over 1951 production. Yields run an average of .10 catties per mou (one catty equals one and one-third pounds and one mou equals one-sixth acre) with top yields of 600 to 800 catties per mou.

The Peiping government has declared four regional areas to be locust-peril areas. The opening of the Huang-yang irrigation lock in Suiyuan Province provides for immediate irrigation of 440,000 mou and great future expansion. Airplane patrols for fire detection have been established in the Haing-an Mountains of the Northeast.]

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EVOLUTION OF A KIANGSI MUTUAL AID TEAM -- Nan-ch'ang, Hsin-mung-ta'un Pao,
10 May 52

The MAT (mutual aid team) led by Ch'en I-k'o was organized in March 1951 in Kiangsi. From the beginning there was a simple system of accounting in use. One man's time was accounted as of the same value as that of a work animal. Agreements as to the use and the evaluation of the use of implements were made among the individual's concerned. The value of all pay was set after the harvest. No differentiation was made between half-time labor or weak and inefficient labor and the best labor. A day's work was called a man-day. In the busy season one tou of rice (one tou equals 10.35 liters) was allowed as wages for one day, and one-half tou in the slack season. No records were kept on parts of days. A man who plowed four mou and one who plowed only 2½ mou were paid the same. Hence, some people who considered themselves fast workers refused to join, saying they would lose by being in the group.

Ch'en called a meeting to discuss the pay system. There were 21 members in the MAT of whom three were half-time workers. After democratic discussion of various proposals, four classifications of work were decided upon and the wage for a day's work was set at from one tou of rice for first class to one-half tou for fourth class. No decision was made at this time on classification of animal labor and use of implements. Man-labor was all on a flat rate according to class. A later meeting before the harvest set pay scales for use of implements and decided value of labor within classes. Experience revealed that proper labor classification and evaluation and record keeping are very important to the stabilization of MAT. The Ch'en I-k'o MAT finally adopted a plan which allowed for differentiation of seasons, work ability, skills, and production. The plan is approximately as follows:

A spring-season, first-class worker must be able to plow deeply 3 or more mou and to harrow smoothly ½ mou per day; able to spread fertilizer evenly and to carry 120 chin at a time; assigned value, 100 points per day.

A spring-season, second-class worker must be able to plow 2 mou and harrow 4 and to carry 100 catties of fertilizer at a time; assigned value, 95 points per day.

Other classes were assigned wages in proportionate reduction as follows:

A summer season, first-class worker must be able to plant 3 mou and weed 3½ mou. Those doing less are classified according to output.

A harvest season, first-class worker must be able to harvest 5 piculs of rice per day.

A second-class worker must be able to harvest 4 piculs.

A third-class worker must be able to harvest 3 piculs.

Winter season: Grading according to skill and energy. A first-class worker digging ponds must be able to move 5 fang (one fang equals 100 cubic feet) of earth per day, carrying 120 catties at a time; a second-class worker must be able to move 4 fang. A first-class worker is paid one tou and a second-class worker, 0.95 tou. A sixth-class worker is paid 0.6 tou per day. (this is the only reference to a sixth class).

Some members are recognized as having different abilities in different seasons. One man might be assigned second-class status on spring work, third class on summer and harvest work, and first class on winter work. Another man, poor at all kinds of work, afraid of hard work, and able to carry only 30 or

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40 catties at a time was reckoned third class the year round. The difference in pay between first class and third class was set on one and a half sheng (one sheng equals one-tenth tou). This scale was recognized by the members as equitable and on this basis it was easy to employ labor.

Men with special skills received special treatment. A carpenter who worked in the fields was given a first-class rating. When he went outside the MAT to do carpenter work, he was allowed the same rate by the MAT. If he earned more outside, he turned the amount of his field rate to the MAT treasury and kept for himself whatever he had earned over that. When he did carpenter work for the MAT in repairing implements etc., he was paid the same amount he was paid for field work.

Animal labor and implement use were also eventually classified. A work cow, able to plow 3 mou or over, or to harrow 4 mou or more is reckoned first class. Those doing less are reckoned second class. Young stock and very old stock are reckoned third class. One hundred points are allowed for first class, 90 points for second, and 80 points for third-class animals. One sheng [One sheng equals 1.035 liters] of rice is reckoned for each ten points of labor credit.

Payment for implement use is scaled as follows:

Payment is reckoned by the year; an irrigation pump, one picul of rice; a plow, 4 tou; a harrow, 4 tou; a transplanting harrow, 2 tou. A small boat is reckoned at 50 points per day. Payment for all implements is made at the end of the year. While they are in use, implements are the responsibility of the MAT, and repair or payment for damage is made by the MAT. Funds for this purpose are taken from the income from supplementary activities.

The MAT accounting system has gradually, by review and discussion, been changed from an awkward one to one that is clear, simple, and satisfactory to the members. A daily record of work is kept; a summary accounting is made every 3 days. A democratic system of rewards and penalties promotes zeal in production. Ratings are given according to quality and amount of work done, and the decision on the rating is arrived at by democratic discussion by the membership. First-class workers showing outstanding accomplishments over a 10-day period may be given 50 extra points for the period. These procedures have resulted in general satisfaction and enthusiasm on the part of all members.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVE ON WHEAT PRODUCTION -- Pao-ting, Hsueh Jih-pao, 9 May 52

Peiping, 8 May (Hsin-hua) -- On 6 May, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Central People's Government issued a directive on the judging and selection of wheat seed in preparation for high production in 1953. Since wheat is recognized as an increasingly important crop in China, all available measures to increase production are mandatory. A proper system of awards for good production will be of great aid. The following activities should be carried out in wheat-producing areas:

1. Previous to the harvest season, publicize the wheat-production reward program to promote high patriotic enthusiasm for the seed-judging program. Set up norms for comparison of patriotism, skills, appearance of crops in the fields, and yields. Select patriotic production models. Select production key points and compile summary statistics for the key points selected. Publicize the experiences of model wheat-production workers to overcome the conservative complacency of the many peasants who believe the zenith in production possibilities has already been reached. Reports of investigation on key point production should be in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture by mid-July.

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In collating production reports, pay special attention to large-area records of agricultural production cooperatives and mutual aid teams. Stress the apparent advantages of organization in securing universal high production. Open training classes to train basic cadres for high production. Have them agree to train the masses and arouse enthusiasm for high production in 1953.

2. Encourage the peasants in seed selection. Have them select the best heads in the field before harvest, and lead them in judging the best seeds. Encourage exchange of good seed among the peasants in preparation for the autumn planting of winter wheat. In hsien where experience in seed selection has already been gained the people may be trusted to carry on the program satisfactorily. (In areas where rust is prevalent, rust-resistant, high-yield seeds should be selected. Set up hsien experimental stations based on the Hsien experimental farm for planned experimentation with high-yield seed. The hsien experimental farm, the agricultural production cooperatives, and the mutual aid teams should be associated in setting up experimental substations for joint effort in improvement of seed. Only if such plans are carried out can the success of the seed-improvement program be assured.

3. Arouse the masses to cut grass and weeds for green manure and urge them to gather and cure all sorts of manure in preparation for fall wheat planting. Increased use of fertilizer is the best way to promote increased yield per unit of area. Present use is decidedly insufficient. All local authorities should urge the supply cooperatives to accumulate stocks of commercial fertilizer to be ready to meet the demand during the wheat planting season.

4. Summer crops should be handled expeditiously to make way for the planting of winter wheat. Winter wheat fields should be plowed early to give the soil plenty of time to heat up in the sun and to store moisture from summer rains.

SHANTUNG WHEAT HARVEST EXCELLENT -- Tientsin Jih-pao, 1 Jun 52

The wheat harvest is over in Shantung, and the results reveal a general increase of 20 percent over 1951 production. The average yield for the province is approximately 110 catties per mou. Top yields ran as high as 600 to 800 catties per mou. Weather conditions were generally good during the season, and the farmers made better use of selected seeds, fertilizer, deep plowing, and intensive cultivation than heretofore. The anti-sphid measures taken were positive and extensive.

Shantung is one of the chief centers of wheat production in the country. The members of the 900,000 agricultural production cooperatives and mutual aid teams in the province, the workers on the 100 state operated farms, and the broad masses entered into keen competition in the harvest season with the result that the season was considerably shortened.

GOVERNMENT DECLARES AREAS LOCUST INFECTED -- Pao-ting, Hopoh Jih-pao, 9 May 52

The Ministry of Agriculture at Peiping has declared North China, East China, Central and South China, and the Northwest locust-peril areas. The authorities in all these areas have been instructed to lead the masses in all-out extermination campaigns. The infestation runs as high as 49 pockets of eggs and larvae to a square foot with 80 to 100 eggs to a pocket or a total of 4,000-5,000 potential locusts.

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SEA WALL BUILT IN ONE DAY -- Tsingtao Jih-pao, 6 Jun 52

A sea wall 1,200 feet long, 12 feet high, and 50 feet thick was erected in one day by 800 farmers in Teng-yung and Ta-ho-tung kaiangs in Shantung on 21 May 1952. Annual inundation will be thus averted on 800 mou of land.

Huang-Tang IRRIGATION LOCK OPENED -- Tsingtao Jih-pao, 15 Jun 52

The farmers of the area jubilantly celebrated the opening of the Huang-yang irrigation lock in Hi-tsang Hsien, Suiyuan, 20 May 1952. The present canal system will permit irrigation of 440,000 mou, with expansion to irrigate 2,800,000 mou possible. Such crops as paddy rice, wheat, and beans can be grown very readily in the area. The lock has seven mechanically controlled inlet gates and the same number of control gates as well as one boat lock.

PLANES PATROL FORESTS -- Tsingtao Jih-pao, 15 Jun 52

The Central Forestry Bureau of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and the Forestry Department of the Northeast People's Government have contracted with the Civil Aviation Bureau of the Central Military Affairs Commission of the Central People's Government for a daily flight of three planes over the Greater and Lesser Hsing-an Mountains to maintain a fire watch and to notify ranger stations in case any fire is sighted. This patrol service began 15 April 1952.

The forests of the Hsing-an ranges are very important to the timber resources of the nation. Under the destructive exploitation policies of the KMT and the puppet Manchukuo regimes there was untold damage to these forests. Under CCP leadership, forest protection committees and ranger stations have been set up everywhere. Since the area is very large, however, the addition of planes to the watch service is of great assistance and is another evidence of the progressiveness of New China.

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