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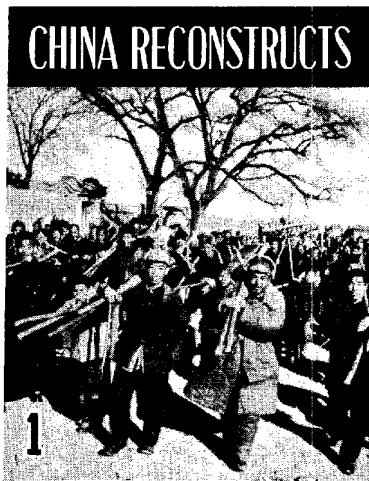


CHINA RECONSTRUCTS

A BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE PUBLISHED BY THE
CHINA WELFARE INSTITUTE

1

Jan.-Feb., 1952



FRONT COVER: Peasants who have received farm implements as well as land in the division of estates under China's great land reform return home happily with their new possessions. Up to the end of 1951, the land reform had benefitted 310 million of China's rural population.

BACK COVER: Rehabilitation of the Anshan Iron and Steel Works. (A woodcut by Ku Yuan.)

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INTRODUCING

“CHINA RECONSTRUCTS”

Wherever you live, we wish you and your country a happy and peaceful year in 1952.

*As our New Year gift, we send you the first issue of **CHINA RECONSTRUCTS**. The purpose of **CHINA RECONSTRUCTS** is to present the work and achievements of the Chinese people to people abroad who believe that all nations should cooperate for peace and mutual benefit.*

The magazine will appear every two months—six issues a year. As its name indicates, it will concentrate on reporting reconstruction and new construction in our country and the changes that have come into the lives of our citizens. It will give up-to-date information on what China is doing to solve social, economic and cultural problems—both old and new. It will describe the nature and work of our educational and welfare services—and our relief activities based on self-help, so long as the need for relief continues.

As practically everybody now knows and even the ill-disposed can no longer deny in the face of mounting facts, China has moved ahead tremendously in the two years since our People's Government was established.

Weak and divided for many decades, our country has become united from the borders of Siberia to the borders of Burma and Viet-Nam, from the Pacific shoreline to the middle of Asia.

Long racked by malignant inflation which brought ruin to agriculture and urban occupations alike, China now has a stable price level and a nationwide economy that serves all the people. Our factories, both publicly and privately owned, are busy supplying tools and consumer goods to the peasants, 80 per cent of our population. Our villages, in their turn, are sending ample food to the cities. For the first time in 73 years, we have a favourable balance of foreign trade.

Up to two years ago, China had to import food, yet many people were hungry. Now, with the land reform, with constantly increasing production, and improved communications speeding up distribution, our people are eating well. We have even been able to ship rice to fill the needs of our neighbour, India.

Moreover, events have proved that China is now a strong country. She is strong enough to defend what has already been done and to ensure further progress along the lines that have already yielded such fruits. She is strong enough to repel all attempts to turn back the clock.

***CHINA RECONSTRUCTS** will chronicle the life of the Chinese people in authoritative articles, vivid features, representative photographs, drawings and charts. It will relate how difficulties are overcome and problems are solved. It will report on our resurgent art, literature, music, drama and cinema—on works that embody our best national traditions and our new experiences.*

***CHINA RECONSTRUCTS** will introduce you to some of the people who are helping to build the nation, the rank-and-file men and women who are the makers and motive power of our progress. It will report how old and young, workers, peasants, scholars, scientists and professionals, industrialists and businessmen, people of various religious beliefs and no religion, of various political parties and of no party, are cooperating in tasks that benefit all.*

*In placing this first issue in your hands, we want you, the reader, to feel that **CHINA RECONSTRUCTS** exists to serve your needs. If you have questions, write us about them. If you have criticisms or suggestions, let us know. We welcome praise too—but most of all we want to know how we may help fill gaps in your knowledge of the fields we cover. That is the way we hope to bring closer the peoples of China and the countries where our readers reside.*

Once again, we wish you a year of advance toward peace.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

WELFARE WORK AND WORLD PEACE

SOONG CHING LING

There is a direct correlation between world peace and welfare work. They run parallel to one another, prosper under the same conditions and deteriorate from the same causes. Build peace and you enhance welfare. Destroy peace and you eliminate welfare. It follows, therefore, that the attitude of a government towards war and peace determines the welfare programme it plans and operates for its people.

The unprecedented progress of welfare work in the new China this past year reflects our ardent desire for peace. For example, labour insurance has become the law of our land for the first time. Its many benefits are gradually spreading, reaching millions of workers and their families. In other sectors of our national life, giant and fundamental solutions have been undertaken for age-old problems, such as the floods with which the Huai river has plagued our people for thirty cen-

turies. Child care, medical services, workers' housing and modern facilities for workers' districts, rural services of many varieties—all are growing and raising the living standards of the people right before our eyes. Such progress can only result from a policy which prizes peace and pursues the aim of peaceful relations among all nations.

We have such a policy. It arises directly from the needs of the Chinese people and the progress that it has brought is the result of their strength. The new welfare programme of our country emphasizes the use of the people's might to overcome all problems, a basic approach clearly formulated at last year's All-China People's Relief Conference by Vice-Premier Tung Pi-wu. In his detailed speech on that occasion, Vice-Premier Tung described how welfare work is now in the hands of the people, how it has become part of a tremendous overall re-

construction effort and how it is founded on the principle of self-reliance.

Such policies, principles and progress are possible only in nations that are truly independent—nations that allow no infractions of their own right of self-determination while at the same time seeking cooperation with all who respect that right. In fact, the effort a government puts into people's welfare is not only an accurate measure of its devotion to peace; it is also a reflection of its status among the nations of the world.

We know that in countries which are still in colonial or semi-colonial bondage, welfare work for the people is either nil or exists merely as a deceptive showcase, serving only a tiny percentage of those who need it. Vivid confirmation of this may be found even in the reports submitted by the colony-owning powers themselves to economic and trusteeship organs of the United Nations, although these obviously put the best possible face on a situation that is actually much worse than they admit.

History has shown too that when the rulers of any country seek to perpetuate colonial slavery or to dominate the entire world by force, their own people are among the first sufferers, as exploitation rises and welfare programmes disappear to make way for arms budgets. Published facts on "wage-freezes," skyrocketing prices, speeding up of workers, material shortages and falling educational and health expenditures in the United States, Britain

Four of the 106 youngsters from Shanghai workers' families who got a month's summer vacation from the China Welfare Institute as a reward for good school work.

CHINA RECONSTRUCTS



and western Europe, provide many illustrations of this axiom right now.

On the other hand, rising living standards and welfare provisions are evident in every country where the people rule, where state power serves the majority instead of small minorities, either domestic or foreign. Whether we look at China, or the Soviet Union, or central and eastern Europe, we find that the damage of war has been repaired, new industries are growing, wages have risen and prices fallen in the last few years. Welfare and educational facilities, both in terms of total budget outlays and in terms of tangible improvements in the lives of working people, are increasing steadily and very fast. At the same time, mutual aid among these countries helps each one to accelerate its gains. All these facts are not only recorded in their own reports but admitted in serious studies by persons and groups who are not at all well-disposed towards them. Here again the economic publications of the United Nations can be cited.

That China is on the side of peace, yet at the same time able both to defend herself and help her neighbours, is of special interest to the other peoples of Asia. They have seen how our peasants are now the masters of their own fields, how our workers have become masters in some of our factories and equal partners in others. They have seen how this has released the creative and productive forces of our people so that the output of material wealth in China grows both generally and in terms of each worker. They know that, in two years, we have not only solved our food problem but begun to export grain, something unheard-of in the past. They have witnessed how our welfare work has grown to be an integral part of the nation's life, developing in the healthy atmosphere of a country that controls its own destiny.

Such is the status of welfare work in the People's Republic of China, which is one of the staunchest bulwarks of world peace.



Soong Ching Ling (Mme. Sun Yat-sen) renowned fighter for peace and democracy in China and the world, is Chairman of the China Welfare Institute and the People's Relief Administration of China. She was awarded the Stalin International Peace Prize in 1951.

Our people have absolutely nothing to gain from war. Only peace is in our interest, so that we may further develop our services to the people and enlarge our contribution to the welfare of the world.

It should be clear too that the progress we have made is precious to us. Any aggressor will find that we will defend it with every ounce of our strength and courage. We will neither allow ourselves to be oppressed nor deny aid to others who suffer oppression. We stand for a peace among equals, with each people determining its own life.

We desire friendship and cooperation with all countries and peoples who are willing to live at peace and to trade for mutual benefit, regardless of what their form of government may be or what views they may hold.

This outlook, uniting a country of 475,000,000 people, helps as never before to guarantee that peace will conquer war all over the world. It menaces no other nation and no honest person anywhere. It helps all who are working and fighting to make mankind's dearest dreams of peace and well-being come true in our own day.



ENDING THE FLOOD MENACE

FU TSO-YI

The greatest water control effort in Chinese history is now underway in the valley of the Huai river, which contains over 50 million peasants and covers one seventh of all China's cultivated land.

The work was begun in November 1950. Eight and a half months later, in July 1951, its first phase had been successfully completed. This result was achieved thanks to the planning and leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and the Central People's Government. It was brought about by the organized energy of 2,200,000 peasants who did the excavation work, of thousands of Chinese workers and technicians whose labour and ingenuity supplied machinery and installations which previously always had to be imported, and of hundreds of conservancy engineers applying advanced but at the same time economical methods developed in the Soviet Union.

The primary aim of the project is to put an end to the constant flood menace in the Huai valley. Already, as a result of the first phase, the population is safer from floods than ever before. When the whole scheme is completed, within three to five years, floods will be banished altogether. Hundreds of miles of waterways will become navigable. Millions of acres of farmland will be secured against drought by irrigation. The waters of the Huai and its tributaries will begin to generate large amounts of electric power for the people.

The accomplishments to date include the creation of 1,120 miles of earth dykes, the dredging of 170 miles of river beds and the building of 56 concrete locks and other installations. Over 16 million cubic yards of earth have already been moved. Work has begun on 16 major reservoirs, several large dams and a great network of irrigation ditches, culverts and other drainage facilities throughout the area.

What has been done in these months testifies to the tremendous energies awakened by our revolution. Already it exceeds, in volume and effectiveness, all the work done in the Huai valley in hundreds of years of past history.

The Huai and Its History

The Huai is one of the big rivers of China. Rising in the Tung Po mountains, it runs for 683 miles through the three important provinces of Honan, Anhwei and Kiangsu. In the north the Huai valley connects with that of the uncontrolled Yellow River. In the south it connects with the Yangtze valley. In the east, the Huai river flows into the Yellow Sea.

Passing through Honan and northern Anhwei, the river is fed by ten large tributaries and many smaller ones. Some of them, flowing down steep mountains, are extremely rapid and turbulent. The Huai itself by contrast is wide and deep, calm and navigable for most of the year. But in the rainy months of July and August the inflow from the

tributaries frequently causes it to flood great areas. This tendency is aggravated by four "bottle-necks" along the river's course. When in flood, the "young maiden," as the Huai has been called in tribute to its usually serene disposition, has often turned into a bearer of death and destruction.

Another cause of floods on the Huai river, and much more serious ones than the almost annual inundations of the tributaries has been its northern neighbour, the great Yellow River. There are no mountain ridges to divide the Yellow River from the Huai. The plateau that separates them is 100 to 150 feet higher in the north than in the south. When the Yellow River overflows, its waters often come down the slope to try and usurp the bed of the Huai, filling it up with silt. This has often caused the Huai, in its turn, to burst south into the Yangtze.

For 661 years of Chinese history, between 1194 A.D. and 1855 A.D., the Yellow River emptied into the sea through the Huai and had no other outlet. During these centuries, it filled the Huai with sediment, raised the water-level in many of the lakes connected with it, and generally slowed its course. It also wrecked the whole lake system between the Huai and the Yangtze and created a constant threat of flood to 10 million *mow* (about 1.7 million acres) of rice fields along the Grand Canal.

In 1855, when the Yellow River abandoned its southern course and began to flow into the sea north



of the Shantung peninsula along its present bed, the Huai river also changed its habits completely. Its old mouth became completely blocked with silt. Instead of reaching the sea, the Huai began to flow into the Yangtze.

The situation remained more or less constant until the reactionary Kuomintang government, caring nothing for the people, broke the Yellow River dykes at Huayuan-kow in Honan for what it considered to be a temporary military advantage. As a result, tremendous areas were flooded. The Yellow River once more invaded the Huai, and flowed to the sea through the Huai for nine years, until 1947. The whole drainage system of the Huai valley was destroyed. The mouths of many of its tributaries were stopped with mud. Much of the network

of irrigation ditches in the Huai valley was completely obliterated. The bed of the Huai itself filled up considerably. The flow of the Huai river at Pengpu fell from 102,000 cubic feet per second in 1931 to 99,000 cubic feet per second in 1950. Nevertheless the water level rose by about three feet in the same period. The reduced capacity of the Huai resulted in a further increase in flood threats.

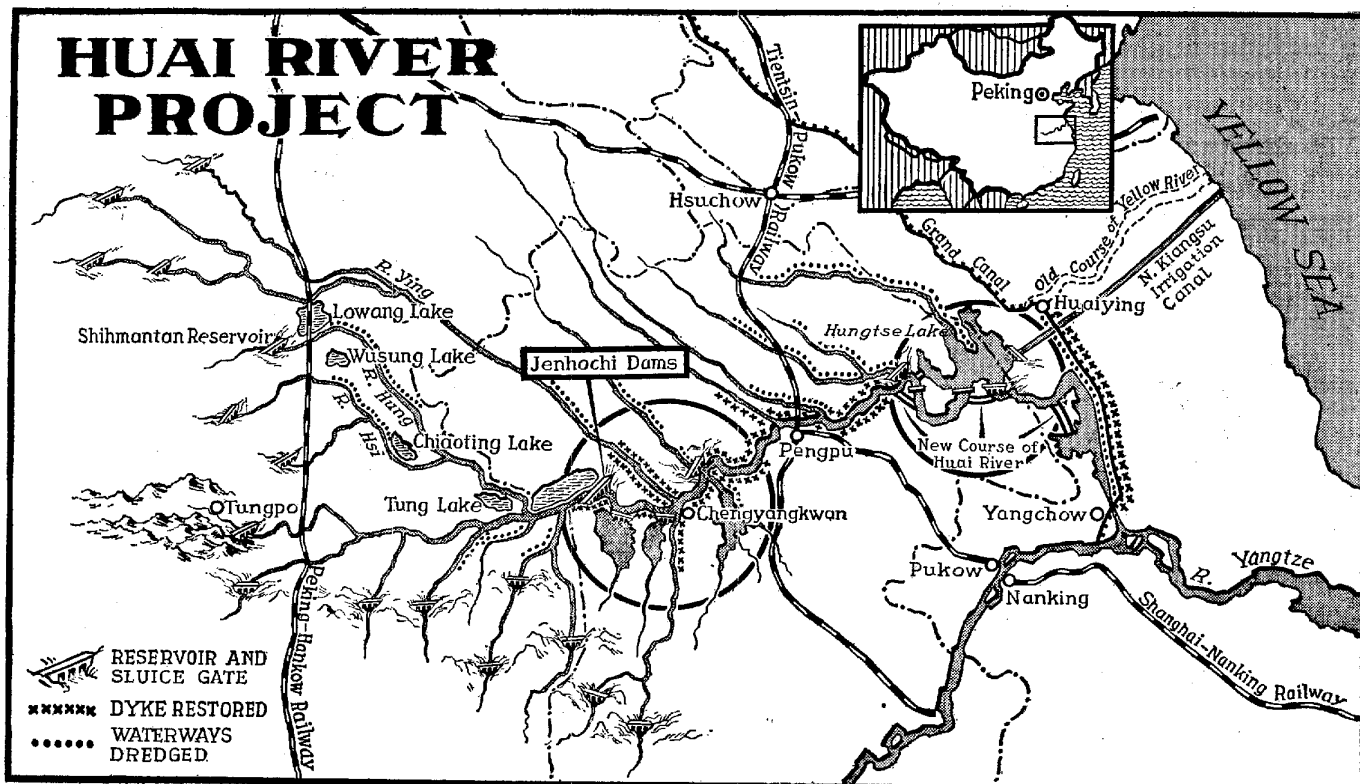
A Thousand Floods—And Nothing Done

What the Chinese people have suffered from failure to control the Huai river may be gathered from one figure. Our historical records count no less than 979 floods along its course between 246 B.C. and 1948 A.D. In other words, the Huai has produced a

flood every two years for some seventy generations!

There are three basic conditions making for floods along the Huai. They have always been the same and have been known for centuries. In the headwaters and along the tributaries of the Huai, there have not been enough installations to check and hold water. Its middle reaches have lacked storage reservoirs. In its lower valley, close to the sea and the Grand Canal, the outlets were too limited to hold the flow. It has been known for a long time that no single one of these conditions could be remedied independently. The river could be controlled only if all three types of work were undertaken at once.

Such an overall job of reclamation was precisely what old China,



Map by Mei Wen-huan.



Ch'ien Chen-yung directed the construction of the giant Jenhochi dams. She is assistant chief engineer for the entire Huai river project.

with its predatory special interests, clashes between regional groups of exploiters and ultimate semi-colonial subservience to imperialism had neither the motive nor the capacity to undertake. On the contrary, the feudal and dynastic conflicts of the old society, its long decay and the disintegration that attended its death-throes frequently destroyed even the local attempts at control in which the people themselves invested so much labour.

After the Yellow River rushed into the Huai in 1194, neither the rulers of the Sung dynasty nor those of the Yuan (Mongol)

dynasty which succeeded it undertook any measures at all.

The two subsequent dynasties, the Ming (1368—1644) and the Manchu Ching (1644—1911 A.D.) did allocate great sums of money for work on the Yellow and Huai rivers. These sums, wrung in taxes from the people, were quite sufficient to return the Yellow River to its old course and dredge and adjust the entire Huai. What happened, however, was that a part was misappropriated by officials and the rest was used in a greedy and short-sighted way.

With the capital established in Peking, the Ming and Ching emperors thought only of the Grand Canal which carried about 200,000 tons of tax rice to Peking annually for the needs of the court. Instead of getting at the root of the Huai floods, they piled up ever-higher dykes and embankments to keep them away from the canal. This kind of dyke building merely aggravated the floods in higher areas by damming them up. When the pressure of water proved too great and the canal dykes were breached, which happened frequently, the lower valley of the Huai, in north Kiangsu, also suffered disastrous inundations.

In 1855, when the Yellow River turned once more to its northern sea exit, the Manchu empire could think of nothing but to "let nature take its course." The warlord rulers of the early years of the Republic did no better. After

the calamitous floods of 1931, the Kuomintang regime, which had by then been in power for four years, began to speak loudly about conservancy work on the Huai. But the reactionary Chen Kuo-fu, then Chairman of the Kiangsu Provincial Government, insisted that work be done in his province alone. The interests of the inhabitants of the upper valley, and the correct method of controlling the Huai, were again ignored for the interests of local landlords. Money was squeezed from the people as usual, some construction work was begun, but the whole "plan" and its execution soon dissolved in the rackets and corruption typical of "politics" at the time.

By breaking the Yellow River dykes in 1938, and thus deliberately destroying the Huai river system no less effectively than the natural floods of 1194 and 1855 A.D., the Kuomintang reactionaries exposed their own complete bankruptcy and left the people a heritage of woe.

The Project's Origin and Goals

As a result of past abuses, another serious flood took place in the Huai valley in 1950, the year of its liberation. More than 40 million *mow* (6.6 million acres) of cultivated land were submerged. The distress that attended this flood, however, was much less than in comparable occurrences in the past. The People's Government undertook immediate remedial measures which saved lives and property. Flood-stricken people were rapidly organized for labour and hundreds of thousands of tons of rice were brought to feed them. Clothing was collected throughout the country and those who had lost their own effects were re-equipped. The people who had never experienced such care and aid from the government and the whole country before, worked with will and hope to mend dykes and otherwise limit the spread of the flood. There was no starvation.

The Huaiyin lock, on the lower reaches of the Huai, is one of 56 locks already completed in the first phase of the Huai river project in 1951.



The 1950 flood occurred in July. In August, the Administration Council of the Central People's Government, acting on a directive from Chairman Mao Tse-tung, met to consider how to harness the Huai. In September, it adopted a resolution to initiate the giant project now under way. Water conservancy experts from all parts of the country, summoned to Peking, drew up necessary plans in the short space of two months. By November, work was in progress on the actual sites.

Out of consideration for the people, the time-table for the first phase was so arranged as to rid the Huai valley of the threat of serious floods from 1950 on. Successful meeting of the July deadline has made this goal a reality. When the rainy season arrived last year, the Huai was protected not only by relatively advanced works of a permanent nature but also by temporary structures to take care of current emergencies. There was no flooding in 1951.

Longer-range river control plans, for the first time in history, were based not on regional claims but on the needs of the Huai valley as a whole, the upper reaches as well as the lower, the battle against droughts as well as the battle against floods. The irrigation systems that will arise will water from six to nine million *mow* (one to 1.7 million acres) of land in the upper reaches of the river and 35 million *mow* (6 million acres) each in the middle and lower valley. In navigation, the controlled river will carry transport where it is most needed, between points that play an important part in the interchange of commodities between city and country, producers and markets. Steamers plying the Grand Canal will be able to turn westward and proceed along the Huai to points in Honan beyond the Peking-Hankow railway. The Tientsin-Pukow and Peking-Hankow railways will be connected by a new water link.

As for electric power, there are no natural sites for its production in the broad, flat Huai valley.



Workers swinging 220-lb. stones to compact earthwork in the traditional Chinese way. Later there will be machines to do this.

But the new reservoir, dyke and sluice systems will provide opportunities to generate a sizable supply for the needs of both agriculture and industry in the region.

Work Done and to be Done

I would now like to outline in some detail how the Government Administration Council analyzed conditions on the Huai river and the remedial measures already taken and to be taken.

Generally speaking, it was found that the existing drainage system of the Huai was capable of holding only half its water load in cases of flood on the scale of 1931 or 1950. Since the rainfall in the Huai valley in July, August and September is out of all proportion greater than that in other parts of the year, the risk of comparable floods would be constant so long as this situation was not changed.

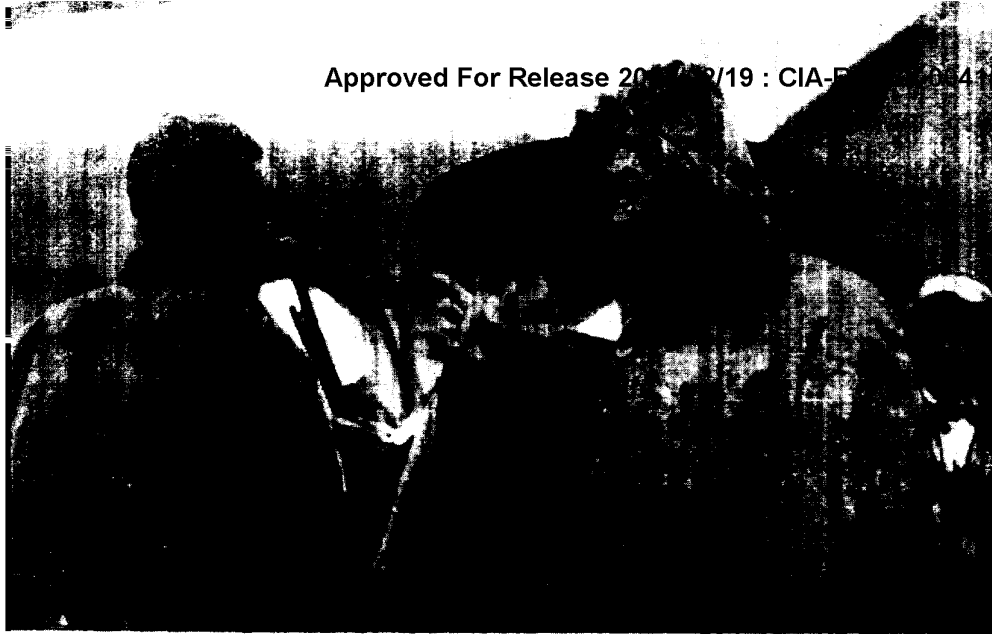
At the same time, due to the uneven distribution of rainfall, the valley generally suffered from droughts in the spring, when the

peasants were most in need of water for their fields. The problem with regard to the Huai was therefore not merely to speed up the flow to the sea, but to store the water where it would be required for irrigation purposes in the dry season.

To prevent the river from becoming unduly swollen by rains, it was decided to dredge the entire drainage system of the Huai of the Yellow River silt that blocks it. To store water where it is needed, dams and reservoirs were planned at suitable places.

In the mountainous upper reaches of the Huai, trees are being planted and small basins, tanks and dams constructed to slow the flow of water and prevent soil from being washed off the hills by torrential downpours. The sixteen big artificial reservoirs comprising the system, with a total capacity of 109 billion cubic feet, are to be installed along the upper tributaries—the Hung, Hsi, Kuan, Pu and Ying rivers. One, the Shihmantan reservoir at the headwaters of

Fu Tso-yl conversing with the local peasants while inspecting the work of the Huai river project.



the Hung, has already been completed. Two others will be in operation by the end of 1951. Drainage of excess water from the slopes is to be accomplished by local ditches dug by the organized effort of the people.

The new reservoirs are being supplemented by work on the Lowang, Chiaoting, Tung and Wusung lakes in Honan province. These "lakes" were formerly no more than low-lying marshes connected with the course of the river, too frequently flooded to serve as cropland yet not storing enough water at the right times. The job of converting them for storage purposes is to be finished in 1951. With their help, the total storage capacity in the upper reaches of the Huai will be brought to 60 billion cubic feet, helping greatly to secure the region against flood while the new reservoir system is still incomplete. Moreover, since water will be allowed to flow into them only when flood conditions require it, the lake beds will be cultivated to produce at least one crop a year. This will greatly benefit the entire area and its people.

Lower down, in north Anhwei province, there are other marshy lakes on either side of the Huai. Excluding the big Hungtse lake, they have an area of 741,320 acres. Their capacity will be brought to 254 billion cubic feet by the end of

1951. In this way the flow of the Huai in its middle reaches will be brought under effective control.

The main control installation in the middle reaches, located at Jenhochi in northern Anhwei province, has already been built. It consists of three parts. The first is a fixed deep channel 255 feet wide. The second is a long movable dam 984 feet wide, with eight sluice gates—five of 147 feet each, one of 69 feet and three of 48 feet—across the broadened river bed. The third is a 585-foot fixed dam at the entrance with two sluice gates of 147 feet each and two of 69 feet.

Work at Jenhochi was begun in April and finished in July 1951. To achieve it over 200,000 tons of industrial material, mainly cement and steel, were brought to the

site. The 1,300 tons of steel sluice gates and machinery, of a type China always imported in the past, were successfully made in Shanghai in the space of two months and installed by technicians and workers from that city who came to Jenhochi. Concrete mixers on the dam sites were also of Chinese manufacture. The fulfilment of this project was an impressive demonstration of the organizational and industrial capacities already present in our country but never previously used.

The Shihmantan reservoir, the Jenhochi installations and the dyke construction elsewhere have already considerably mitigated the danger of flood in the part of the Huai valley that lies in Honan province, secured northern Anhwei against dyke breaches and guaranteed the wheat crops in that area against flood damage.

The work in the lower reaches, directed mainly at strengthening dykes along the Grand Canal and renovating local waterways leading into the Huai, will do the same thing for north Kiangsu.

The removal of the perennial causes of floods along the Huai is thus already considerably advanced. With the completion of the entire project, the scourge of thousands of years will cease to exist.



This view of the tranquil Hual explains why it is known as the "Maiden River"—when it is not in flood.

How Our People Are Working

I myself travelled along the entire course of the Huai river earlier this year, inspecting the progress of the work over a distance of more than six hundred miles.

What impressed me most of all on this trip was the change in the outlook of our peasants following the land reform, which for the first time has given them land of their own, free of both rents and debt. This change is decisive for the harnessing of the Huai, because the peasants engaged on the project know they are toiling for themselves. They work with an enthusiasm inconceivable in the water conservancy undertakings of the past, when they were employed or driven by landlord interests which reaped the full benefit of any improvements achieved. It is their own land, their own crops that they are now protecting—and they know it.

Needless to say this proud consciousness has also improved the relations between the workers and the leading and technical personnel. With all ranks now working for the same goal instead of one exploiting the other, mutual confidence and appreciation have replaced the former hostility and compulsion. One has only to see these millions of people working in a harmonious and organized manner, in the full knowledge of what they are doing and why, to realize that our country has at last really risen to its feet. With the titanic force this has generated one feels there is nothing we cannot accomplish!

Another strong impression is the closeness of the people to the Communist party and the government—their party and their government. In giving the people land and power over their own destinies, the party and government sank deep roots in every village and hamlet. In the 1950

(Top)

Steelwork on a reinforced concrete dam.

(Middle)

To feed the workers, thousands of tons of rice were brought to Hual river building sites.

(Bottom)

Rails were laid for the transport of broken stone and other materials.





The beat of drums and clash of cymbals can be heard all along the Huai during rest periods and at night, as groups of workers relax with dancing and music.

flood, tens of thousands of party and government personnel moved into the afflicted areas, sharing the dangers and privations of the peasants, leading them in the fight for food, helping them in the autumn planting of devastated fields, organizing mutual aid groups and subsidiary occupations such as mat-weaving, hemp processing and fishing—in a word, saving their lives. This experience, unheard of in the old China, has created a unity and intimacy as strong and close as that of flesh and bone. Now the government has only to call and millions of peasants respond.

In responding to the mobilization to free their valley of floods altogether, the people of the Huai river have seen trains, steamships, motor-driven junks, wooden boats

and long lines of trucks come unendingly from all parts of the country bringing needed materials, administrators, technical men, doctors, nurses, teachers, and lecturers, actors and mobile moving picture teams. They have convinced themselves once more that they have only to work for their own interest to receive all the aid and comfort that all of China can give. They understand that they are no longer isolated, no longer ignored or oppressed but great, strong and self-reliant.

The viewpoint of the peasants themselves is no longer local. They know that it was Chairman Mao Tse-tung who decided to tame the Huai river and avert new calamities without delay, without being deterred by the other grave and urgent problems that face the

country. They know that the People's Government has cut through all the old regional selfishness to lay strong hands on the Huai and turn it from a tyrant into a servant of the people. They know that water conservancy, and the Huai river work in particular, has been assigned a high percentage of the national budget.

The unprecedented Huai river project both benefits our agriculture and helps prepare for great new steps in our industrialization. It is changing the face of a large section of the country. While howls for war are heard throughout the imperialist world, China is engaged in a gigantic peaceful effort that once more demonstrates not only the constructive ability of our people but their will and their strength for peace.

COTTON

for the

NATION



A peasant takes his cotton to market. China's 1951 cotton crop is the biggest in her history.

Villages in China's cotton-growing areas were festive during the sale season in 1951. The buyer was the People's Government. Prices were good. Carts and pack-mules loaded with huge bags of cotton were colourfully decorated with red and green flags reading, "Join the Sell-Cotton-to-the-Government Patriotic Contest." Peasants accompanied the carts and mule trains beating on drums and cymbals and dancing the popular *yangko* (harvest dance).

In each district, peasants competed to be the first to sell stocks to the government. Many growers also wrote letters to textile workers in Shanghai, Tientsin and Tsingtao, pledging to keep the mills supplied. Village challenged village to bring more cotton to market. Buyers sent by the National Cotton & Yarn Corporation stayed up late into the night working on their accounts.

Problem Last Year

At one period during the spring of 1951, textile mills in Chinese

cities found themselves in difficulties. Land reform and government assistance to cotton-growers had made 1950 a good year for the peasants. They had plenty of cash in their pockets after selling only a portion of the cotton crop in the fall, and were therefore not particularly interested in further sales in the spring. The peasants stored their cotton as city people save money. Some hoarded against a coming wedding. Others wanted to keep the cotton "for the women to spin." One peasant simply said: "It does my heart good to see it there, all white and puffy, when I come in from the fields. Besides, I don't need cash right away."

The Government Calls

On June 1, 1951 the People's Government published a directive, frankly describing the seriousness of the situation. It called upon the peasants to sell their cotton stocks at once. The price offered was a fair one. Peasants who did not wish to sell immediately were urged to deposit their cotton in

government warehouses, to be paid for at the current price any time they wished. "This will be considered a patriotic action, an important contribution from the peasants to the nation," the directive said.

In villages in every cotton-growing area, along the Yangtze and Yellow rivers, in the north-eastern provinces and the vast plains of the Northwest, peasants gathered to discuss the directive. None of them had realized up to then that it made much difference whether they sold their cotton or held it until they needed more money.

Discussion in the Villages

The assembled peasants recalled the past. They related how, before liberation, they used to sell all their cotton and still not have enough to pay rent and taxes. The crop had hardly been picked when the Kuomintang *paochia chang* (constable) would appear with de-

mands for money. Most families could not keep enough cotton to make padded winter garments, and had to shiver through the cold weather in thin rags. The spring often found them with no rice. Many was the year when whole villages lived on weeds and tree bark till the next harvest.

By contrast, the peasants could now point to all the new property that they had been able to buy after the People's Government relieved them of the load of supporting landlords and corrupt officials in luxury. The general sentiment was well expressed by peasant Shen Ping, who declared at one village meeting: "We mustn't forget past pain just because our wounds have healed. To protect our present good life, let's help the government which has helped us."

Husbands and Wives

As a result of similar meetings conducted by the Democratic

Women's Federations, the peasant women soon came to vie with their husbands in offering cotton for sale to the government.

Peasant Wang Tien-tai of Hoting had made a pledge to sell 1,100 lbs. to the cooperative in his village. He found a little trouble in explaining just why he had done it to his wife at home. To his surprise, when the women held their own meeting, his wife got up to speak, mentioned the amount of cotton in the house, and offered it herself "to make our good life last."

Another woman, Wang Ching-chih, stood up and said: "If the men can be patriotic, I don't see why we can't. I went through enough hell when the Japanese devils were here. I'm not going to go through the same thing with the Americans. I have some ginned cotton stored up, and I'm going to sell it to the government."

In a cotton village, in Chengan district, each family met separate-

ly to decide what to do. Peasant Liu Ching-kwei, for example, asked the women in his house: "Do you want to wear flower-print dresses?" When the women said they did, Liu clinched the argument: "Then we must sell our cotton to the government, which will send it to the mills to have fine cloth woven and printed for you." There were no further objections and Liu delivered 1,100 pounds.

Why Peasants Responded

Why did such simple discussions suffice to bring cotton to the sale stations? Because the People's Government had already won the loyalty and confidence of the growers, not by words but by real proofs of concern for their interests.

The government had been responsible for keeping the ratio of cotton to grain prices at a constantly fair rate, enabling producers to eat well at all times. It had protected them from loss due to their own actions. In the summer of 1950, when many had dumped stocks fearing that the Korean war would spread to Chinese cities and mills would no longer buy, the government had kept speculators from pushing prices down.

The government had also helped cotton growers to improve their work with technical advice, providing them with equipment and services. When cotton was being planted last April, it sent specialists to the countryside to help the cotton growers conquer drought. It extended loans to sink thousands of new wells, and dig irrigation ditches. It mobilized six million peasants in Hopei province to spray 1,480 tons of insecticide, which saved 2,000,000 acres of the cotton crop.

The government had sold soybean cake, a high-grade fertilizer, to growers at low prices and on easy credit terms. Finally it had helped cotton-growing villages in every problem of livelihood, seeing that they were supplied at all times with food, cloth, salt and other daily needs. It had also sold

Peasant seller talks grade and price with a buyer for the cooperatives.

CHINA RECONSTRUC



them cheap fuel for cooking and winter heating, a constant problem to Chinese cotton farmers who have no stubble and straw to burn like grain-growers.

Since liberation, large amounts of coal have been brought to the villages. In the past, only city people in China had coal to burn.

More Abundant Life

As a result of this varied aid, production increased and the livelihood of the farmers improved beyond recognition. In 1950, even though the growers did not sell their whole crop, their purchasing power outstripped the goods within reach.

An investigation in Hantan, Hopei province, showed that peasants were eating fine flour and polished rice instead of the coarse foods of the past. During January 1951, no less than 1,170,000 feet of cloth were sold in the district; a third more than in January 1950 when there was an inflationary buying spree. Peasant women had new flowered dresses and bedspreads. Children's clothes were fresh and gay.

Weddings increased, with consequent good business for the silk merchants in Kiangsu and Chekiang provinces. New houses had tile floors instead of oiled paper in the windows. Flashlights and bicycles were in big demand. In Weihsi village, after the 1950



Their cotton sold, peasants at this cooperative market collect their money.

harvest, every one of the 400 families bought a new electric torch and one out of every four families acquired a bicycle.

The peasants themselves can't stop talking about their new prosperity. They tell each other: "There used not to be a bicycle in the whole village; and now look!" Stockings, rubbers, sweaters, knitted underwear, thermos bottles are becoming necessities to people who used none of these things in their whole previous lives. Many

village girls now buy high-grade face towels, hair lotions and cold cream of Shanghai manufacture. A pedlar has only to push his cart into a cotton-growing village to find his needles, combs, hairpins and other goods disappear and himself the possessor of a thousand or so pounds of cotton.

The technical equipment of cotton farms is also growing rapidly. Hundreds of new carts, as well as used auto tires, to replace the previous iron wheel-rims, have been sold in Hantan district since the harvest. In Hunghsiang alone, hardware merchants sold 63½ tons of metal farm implements in one month. Not long ago, cotton growers of Hsiaohe village sent delegates to Peking to have a look at some tractors.

More and More Cotton

The area under cotton in 1951 was 30.2 per cent greater than in 1950. It was more than 17 per cent greater than the highest acreage recorded in pre-war years.

Owing to the working enthusiasm and improved technique of the peasants, the average yield per acre was also higher, by 33 per cent, than the best pre-war figure.

Textile mills, which used to import cotton, now get ample domestic supplies.



Health For All The People

LI TEH-CHUAN

Anyone familiar with the so-called medical services and medical work in old China would be extremely surprised to see what great strides in public health have been made in the two brief years since the formation of the People's Republic of China. Even a superficial survey, or merely a quick trip through some part of the country, would reveal intensive health work going on in the cities and countryside, in mills, mines and factories, on trains and in village schools. Today hardly any corner of our vast country has been left untouched by the broadly conceived and efficiently executed public health programme, which draws in all medical workers and is directed toward the whole population.

On all the main railways, as for example the Peking-Hankow line, special cars are reserved for mothers and children. A medical attendant is available at all times on the train. In the course of any long journey several organized talks are given to the mothers on child and maternal health care—covering such subjects as child feeding, children's infectious diseases and their prevention, child clothing, what to do in various emergencies, what to do during a pregnancy and so on. Over the general loudspeaker system, providing music, entertainment and news for the passengers, there are additional talks on health topics such as diet, prevention of intestinal diseases like diarrhoea and typhoid, or prevention of respiratory diseases. Other health talks relate to regional endemic diseases and their prevention (such as malaria in the south or typhus in the north).



Li Teh-chuan, Chairman of the Chinese Red Cross.

Personal hygiene and the exposure of old superstitious practices are also favourite themes. The trains themselves are clean and regularly disinfected.

If you went into a local primary school and visited the "Health Room" between 8 and 9 a.m. you would ordinarily find either a doctor making routine physical examinations of the pupils or a local public health nurse or school nurse (in larger schools) giving eye treatments for trachoma and conjunctivitis, dressing some small finger or treating some skin disease. Looking into a classroom you would see that a great majority of the children now seem well-nourished and healthy. Supplementary feeding with soy-bean milk at the schools is partly responsible for this, coupled with the general improvement of food conditions.

Almost every factory having over a hundred workers possesses a busy medical clinic. First aid stations and kits are set up in the shops. Prominently placed posters advise how to prevent accidents. Many varieties of safety devices and machine-guards are in use—often suggested and built by the workers themselves with the aid of the factory management. Our Labour Insurance Act, already in operation, includes, among many other things, health protection and medical treatment, free of charge, for both the worker and his dependents. No deduction for this is made from the worker's wage. Insurance funds are handled and controlled by his labour union. The average factory may not have a hospital of its own, but it has a part share in the local Workers Hospital set up jointly with a number of other factories in that district.

Cleaning Up the Cities

Urban sanitation has been improved by enlisting large numbers of people in the work. If you happened to live in Peking and you were visited on the 15th or 30th of the month by a delegation of four old men with venerable beards and long gowns whom in the past you might have associated with carrying a favourite bird in a cage, or spending the morning feeding their gold fish, you would be surprised to learn that they are now the local street health committee. And if you had been a little lax in cleaning out your garbage, or if your share of the street or alley or yard was not swept regularly, you would receive a very firm and detailed lecture on

sanitation and a request for improvement before their next regular visit.

Incidentally, Peking at the time of liberation had 201,638 tons of garbage and refuse piled up in the city, which took the efforts of 73,537 volunteers and sanitary workers, using 35,407 carts and over 800 trucks, to clean up. At Tangshan, in Hopei province, exposed garbage and refuse dating from twenty years back has been successfully removed. Well-functioning garbage disposal systems now operate in these two cities and scores of others which never had them before.

In nearly all the major cities of China sewers are being cleaned out and repaired. Water pipes are being laid to bring fresh, clean piped water to workers homes and districts.

In Peking, for example, the infamous "Dragon Beard Ditch" once wound its filthy way for several miles behind the famous Temple of Heaven, through a quarter where only working people lived. It was a public health menace of the first order. Dating back 300 years, it was stagnant, filled with garbage, rotting matter, dead dogs, dead cats and worms. In summer it was a breeding place for flies and mosquitoes and was responsible, in large measure, for many of the epidemics that raged among the 400,000 people that it "serviced." Under the old regime nothing was done about this. The People's Government, in five months from May to September 1950, eliminated the ditch and laid five miles of concrete conduits instead. Piped water was brought into the area for the first time. An old man living on the bank of the ditch said afterwards: "I have been here for 72 years but this is the first year I have lived in a clean place, with no flies, mosquitoes or worms to bother me."

Other Urban Services

The tremendous amount of public health work going on in our cities cannot even be outlined in a short article. There is now a vast network of creches and nurseries caring for more children, and



Housewives turn out to clean a Peking street. Dirt and garbage have disappeared from public thoroughfares since householders were organized for regular clean-ups of this kind.

caring for them better, than ever before. Countless mothers are active in the peace campaign as the most concrete expression of child protection; because both mothers and medical workers realize that no matter how healthy a child is, or anyone else for that matter, there can be no safety of life or limb unless war is prevented.

Other health changes in the cities include physical culture activities on an unprecedented mass scale; special measures for the protection of women in industry; the increase and expansion of hospitals, clinics and dispensaries; institution of isolation hospitals and public health laboratories; establishment of chemical and medical equipment factories and a greater number of medical universities and colleges. These vast developments cannot even be treated in the present article.

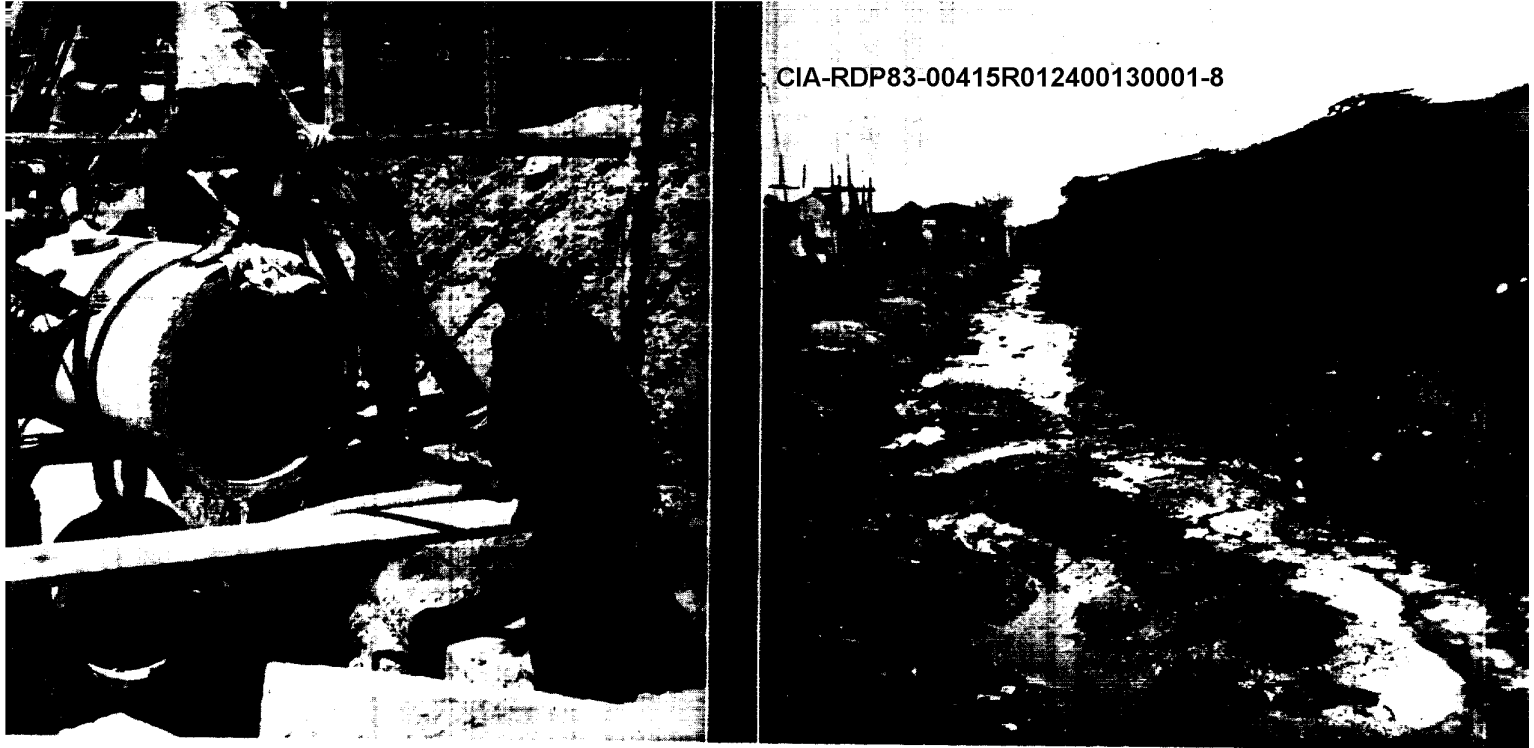
Fighting Rural Epidemics

But 80 per cent of China's population is rural. What about the countryside? What public health and medical work is going on in the *hsien* (counties) and farm villages?

Let us visit a *hsien* in what was previously a plague epidemic region in northeast China. In the county-seat there is the county

public health department with three major sections under it—epidemic prevention and sanitation, protection of mother and child health, and medical administration. In this particular *hsien*, in addition to sanitation, public clinics and permanent work along preventive lines against smallpox and measles, the main task is the prevention of plague. Throughout the county there are plague prevention stations where a constant watch is kept for any signs of infection in humans, rats or fleas. Posters, lectures and plays for the population in this area center on plague. Around each village there is a newly-dug circular ditch with sharp, steep-cut sides. Patrolling the ditch are members of the Young Pioneers organization with red kerchiefs and long red-tasseled spears. They are on the lookout for rats in the ditch, which serves to prevent rats from coming into the village or escaping from it. Often one may see the children spearing a rat.

Although in the past 3,000 cases of plague might occur in a single year, there were only a few sporadic cases and no epidemics from 1950 on. The mobilized people in the endemic regions caught and killed 20,916,389 rats in 1950 alone, by an actual count of rat tails turned in to stations in



New culverts and sewer pipes (left) are replacing filthy open ditches (right) in the workers' districts of Chinese cities.

northeast China. In addition to rat eradication and house-to-house sanitation, 5,933,700 inoculations against plague were given in 1950.

In Shantung province in East China, county health services are organized along the same lines, but here the main task is centered around the kala-azar eradication campaign. Shantung now has many kala-azar treatment stations and several mobile teams with doctors, laboratory equipment and trained injectors. In heavily infested regions prevention teams work on control of the sand-fly. Treatment is free of charge and, according to incomplete statistics, more than 60,000 cases of kala-azar were treated in 1950. Even so, the battle against this disease is only beginning.

Further south, in Kiangsu and Chekiang provinces, district health departments fight against schistosomiasis, which has the snail as its intermediary host and reservoir of infection. Methods are being worked out to control and eradicate these snails, which unfortunately are not as susceptible to copper sulfate as is the Egyptian variety, which transmits schistosomiasis in that country. Control of faeces (a source of infection) is being carried on with cooperation from the mobilized peasantry.

The peasantry, after having had explained to them the danger

from raw human faeces being used as fertilizer and in this way transmitting the disease, have organized a "three tank system" for treating them. Only faeces that have been stored for a month or more (and thus made harmless from the point of view of schistosomiasis transmission) are used in the fields. The peasants and the whole population are now well aware of the danger from snails and there are constant snail-picking campaigns during the winter slack season. In winter the snails climb up on the banks of the streams and rivers. They are picked up with bamboo forceps. A recent champion snail picker collected 400 in a single hour. Eradication of snails would wipe out the disease. Suggested new methods to do this in a quicker and less laborious manner are now under study.

Along the Kiangsu-Chekiang provincial border in 1950, more than 30,000 cases were treated involving more than a half-million intravenous injections and 444,459 stool examinations. All medicines used in the treatment are now manufactured in China whereas previously there was complete dependence on imported drugs, even for the few cases treated. The cost was prohibitive, and those most in need of treatment could least afford it. Now all treatment is free of charge.

Health on National Construction Projects

In some *hsien*, health protection of the peasants working on water conservancy is the main concern. This is true along the Huai river, the middle course of the Yangtze and Han rivers, the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River, the Pearl River and waterways in North China. In the spring and early summer of 1951, nearly 5,000,000 peasants were at work on water conservancy and flood control projects. The health protection of these workers is of prime importance for the completion of the urgent tasks of raising production and preventing floods. The Ministry of Health and other Area and Provincial Health departments have organized Epidemic Prevention Corps to supplement the efforts of the *hsien* health departments in this respect. There are 88 such corps throughout the country and a large number are assigned to this work.

What has already been accomplished by these epidemic prevention corps? The following are some sample answers.

A detachment of the Third Epidemic Prevention Corps provided health protection for 340,000 peasants of 10 *hsien* working on flood control. A total of 169,440

smallpox vaccinations were administered. Complete delousing was carried out and 1,236 cases of relapsing fever were treated, with the result that the spread of this disease was stopped. Latrines and faeces-disposal were organized. Water purification by chemicals was carried out on all work sites. Regular talks on hygiene were given to the workers.

When the flood control job was completed ahead of time, the team divided into two sections—one for kala-azar work, one for mother and child health training. The kala-azar section operating in nine *hsien* of the Huaiyin region treated 9,669 cases, trained 464 injectors locally, mobilized local medical personnel and, together with the county medical department, set up a permanent apparatus to clean out kala-azar from the region. The mother and child health section organized a three-months course in midwifery and child care for women cadres from the *hsien* women's organizations and other women workers, training 243 persons. In addition 69 old-style midwives were re-trained. Since the area in which both sections were operating was also a typhoid endemic region, hygienic measures were instituted and special areas for using river water to wash vegetables and clothes organized. The teams gave typhoid-cholera inoculations to 58,807 people, cleaned and purified wells and built new sanitary privies.

Nurseries were organized in the rural areas of central Hopei province in the busy June-July agricultural season. In Tali village, for example, a seasonal temporary nursery was set up on the basis of mutual exchange of labour. Four women, one of whom is a public health worker, are in charge of 51 children, in exchange for which their farm work is done by the women whose children they are minding. The mothers also prepare midday meals for the nursery-workers' husbands. The nursery is housed in the Yuehwang Temple which also houses the primary

school. This method of seasonal nurseries was adopted from the Soviet Union and is proving a great success.

Rural Medical Cooperatives

Many rural areas now have self-supporting medical cooperatives. This is an extremely important development. I would like to describe a typical and successful example which serves Hsuwu and Taiwang, in Pingyuan province in North China.

When this area was liberated in 1948, medical attention was confined to the well-to-do and drugs were available only at two old-style Chinese pharmacies, which sold them at prohibitively high prices. In February 1949, the local People's Government and its medical department called a meeting, attended by fourteen doctors, to consider how to improve the situation. The proposal to form a medical cooperative was made and, after thorough discussion, adopted. Sixty shares were issued and distributed among a total of 31 doctors, both Chinese-style and modern, who paid for them in services, millet, equipment or medicines. A modern-trained doctor was named to head the medical staff of six and two clerks were hired. The co-op clinic began

work in premises donated free of charge by the local government.

Peasants began to flock to the cooperative at once. They were given medicines and treatment on credit (it is the local custom to pay all bills after the harvest.) As a result, both supplies and funds were quickly exhausted. A crisis meeting was urgently called, and decided to issue more shares to be sold to peasants as well as doctors. These shares were quickly bought up by the eleven surrounding villages. Treatment was still available to everyone, but member-patients received a 10 per cent discount. There were no profits the first year but, as a result of the co-op's operations, the local price of medicines dropped 50 per cent.

The co-op has since expanded greatly. In addition to giving ambulatory treatment and dispensing medicines, it now buys up locally grown medicinal herbs and sells them to other regions. This provides additional earnings for many peasants as well as for the cooperative itself. With the extra income, new services have been started: free treatment for families of People's Liberation Army soldiers, free smallpox vaccinations, health education and anti-epidemic campaigns undertaken jointly with the county health department.



Vaccination against smallpox in the rural areas.

The cooperative is now a going concern and the pride of the Tai-wang and Hsuwu peasantry, who regard it as their own.

Rural health cooperatives are spreading. Numbers of them already exist even in such formerly backward provinces as Jehol.

Citizens' Voluntary Health Work

In addition to the work of county health departments, epidemic prevention corps and medical cooperatives, great masses of people participate in public health activity through the Chinese Red Cross, the local Joint Medical Associations, labour unions, women's, youth and peasant associations and educational circles. A few instances will be enough to show the nature and scope of such voluntary action, the change in the people themselves and the great reserves of popular energy available in our new China.

In Linhsien, Pingyuan province, the county Joint Medical Association is now headed by Ko Hsu-hsien, an old-style Chinese doctor 62 years of age. Dr. Ko is a fervent advocate of preventive medicine and has been able to pass on his enthusiasm to others. He has mobilized over eighty doctors in his area into six groups which supplement the work of the County Health Department in no less than 52 villages. These volunteer medical men have in turn

organized 1,074 village block health committees (each covering an area inhabited by ten families). The committees are active in public health propaganda, sanitary inspection, getting people to be vaccinated, reporting the occurrence of disease and registering births and deaths. Not a single one of these services existed in the countryside under the old regime, or indeed at any time in China's past history. Nor could they have begun now if we did not have a government based on the people.

In Linhsien, too, Dr. Ko organized, on his own initiative, what is known as the "Three Clean Movement": 1. Clean homes, streets and yards; 2. Clean food, water and cooking utensils; 3. Clean beds, bedding and clothes. The "Three Clean" movement has now become a regular feature of county health work. Dr. Ko has also brought local doctors together for common study and exchange of experience, mobilized primary school teachers to teach hygiene and led in forming three emergency epidemic-prevention corps which have been successful in halting outbreaks of diphtheria, measles and diarrhoea.

When the smallpox vaccination campaign in Linhsien county threatened to bog down owing to the conservatism of the peasants, Dr. Ko called a meeting in his own village. After explaining the reasons and benefits of vaccination,

he brought his own children and grandchildren on the platform and vaccinated them in full view of the people. After this the campaign met with no further difficulties.

The result of leadership given by this energetic and public-spirited practitioner, who had no modern medical training or ideas in the past, may be seen from Linhsien's health statistics. In the year before the Joint Medical Association was formed, the county reported over 6,700 cases of disease and 296 deaths. After the Association had been active for a year, and with a more thorough reporting system, there were 3,599 cases of illness and only 144 deaths.

The example set by Dr. Ko is being publicized and imitated throughout our country.

Schoolteachers and Health

Schoolteachers are among those most responsible for changing the entire public health picture in our country.

In Chiahsiang county, Pingyuan province, the people elected Miss Mi Pao-yin "Model Health Worker for 1951." Miss Mi with no previous medical education has done more for the people's health than many a doctor. At the County Primary School Teachers' Conference she led in mobilizing teachers to fight smallpox. When she returned to her own school, she not only taught the children why vaccination was necessary but organized them to agitate for it among their families. Later, with her pupils, she went from house to house, vaccinating the people.

Difficulties did not deter Miss Mi. She used every possible avenue of popular education, including a play she wrote and staged herself, with the children as actors. In a month's time she had personally vaccinated the entire school (226 pupils) and 3,202 peasants. By the time she had completed work in her own country town, the school yard was filled each day with people from



Anti-epidemic team exterminating fleas in Chapel, Shanghai.



The number of nurses in China is increasing. No less than 85,000 middle-grade medical workers, including nurses, are to be trained in the next five years.

nearby villages, who came and lined up to await their turn.

Subsequently, when the County Health Department sent its own teams to carry out inoculations for typhoid, they found the ground already prepared. Again with Miss Mi's active help, they inoculated 5,222 people. In the course of one year, Miss Mi, who teaches music, composed 34 songs on health topics. The songs exposed harmful local superstitions, described the symptoms and dangers of various common diseases in easily remembered terms, pointed out the evils of old-style midwifery and so on.

In all China in 1950, the number of persons vaccinated for smallpox reached the unprecedented figure of 57,325,417. Typhoid and cholera inoculations exceeded 13 million. These results would never have been achieved without the energy and devotion of thousands of leaders like Dr. Ko and Miss Mi.

Saving the Newborn

No one can count the hundreds of millions of babies and

mothers who perished in old China due to the insanitary practices of the traditional-style midwife. Now these women are re-training themselves and becoming fighters for public health instead of a danger to it.

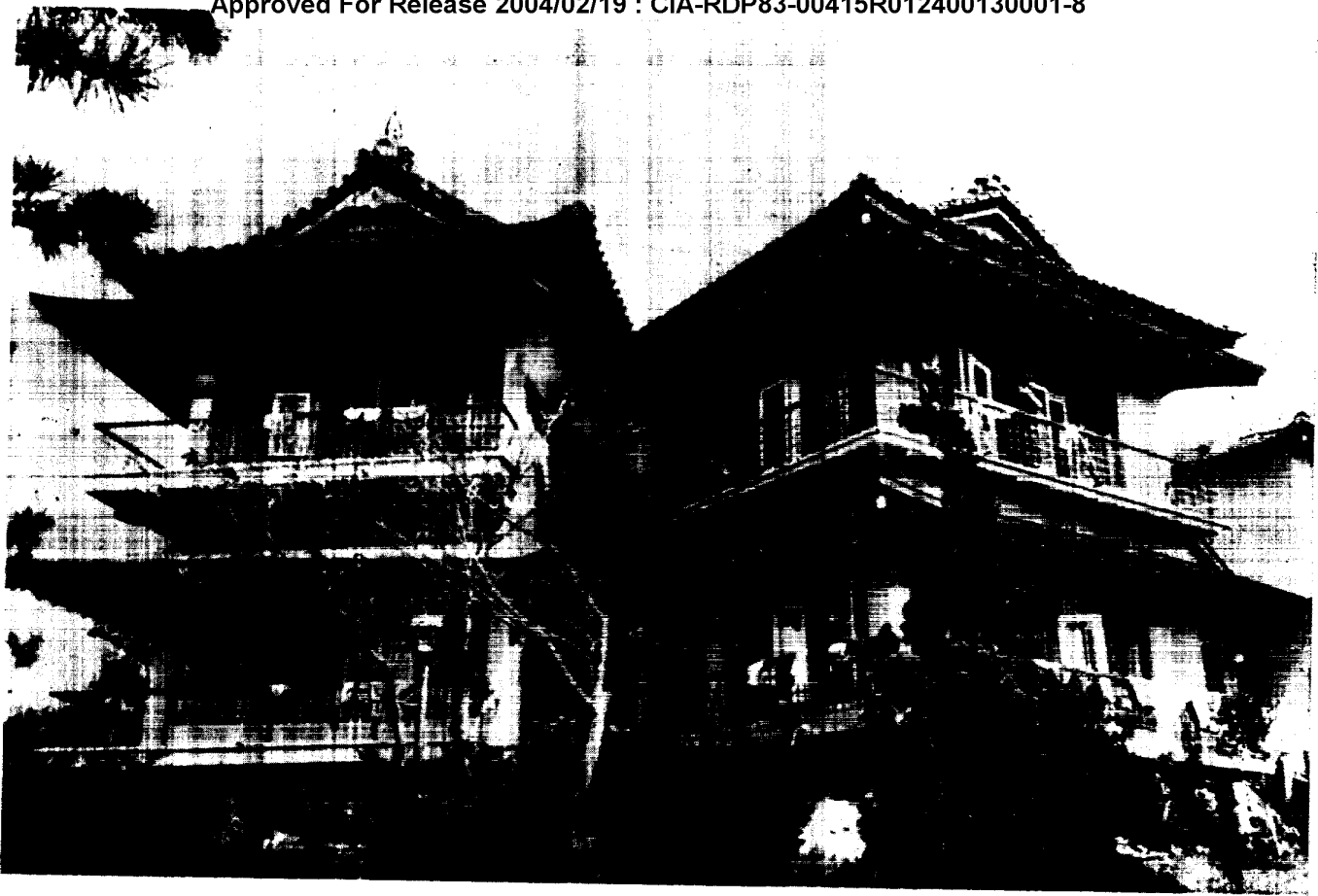
Midwife Wang Chi-ying of Linhsien, Pingyuan province, is a tall, thin woman of 43 who still has bound feet. She is the daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter of midwives and has practised her profession for two decades. Up to a couple of years ago she regularly lost more than half her deliveries from "convulsions" (tetanus). This proportion was regarded as "inevitable."

When the local People's Government began a course to re-train old midwives, Wang Chi-ying joined with hesitation. But soon she became one of the best students and asked regularly in the classes: "Why did no one tell us these things before." A kind and conscientious woman, she often exclaimed with deep feeling: "How

many children have died from my ignorance!"

Since she completed the course, Wang Chi-ying has delivered 43 babies, including seven difficult cases, without losing a single one. She has taught the new way personally to three other old midwives in her village and organized a Midwives' Association covering several villages. Many midwives, stimulated by her example, have gone to training schools. She is recognized as a local health leader, inspects the work of other midwives and is called as a consultant in difficult deliveries. Wang Chi-ying is now attending a night school for adults, to learn to read and write.

In 1950, alone, more than 46,371 old-style midwives throughout the country were re-educated with special emphasis on sterilization and asepsis, of which many of them had never heard before. As a result, sample figures from many counties already show a half to two-thirds decrease of infant deaths from tetanus. Every one of the 1,491 rural County Health



This workers' sanatorium close to the sea in Dairen is an example of how the best buildings are now being used for the health of the people.

Departments already fully established in China is charged with re-training these women, on whom the majority of Chinese mothers must necessarily depend until huge numbers of new personnel are graduated.

Medical Education

The effort being put into training new personnel may be gathered from one figure. Graduates from medical schools in the year 1950 exceeded by six times the highest number in any year under the reactionary Kuomintang regime.

In 1951, the chief emphasis was on the training of middle-grade medical and public health workers, a classification that did not exist in old China at all. Twenty institutions to train such personnel have already been set up. A number of special schools where old-style Chinese doctors can receive supplementary training have also been started in different parts of the country. Many research

centres now study the value of the traditional Chinese drugs.

All health and medical personnel, old and new, have been imbued with the spirit of serving the people. The result of their selfless efforts may now be seen in China's rapidly improving public health. The emphasis on preventive medicine, born of the government's concern for the people is already producing results. The absence of epidemics formerly considered "normal" helps to increase both agricultural and industrial production, and improve standards of living.

Medical workers are responsible citizens and are therefore prominent in every nationwide effort and campaign. They are volunteering in thousands to take part in the movement to resist U.S. imperialist aggression and to aid Korea, at present a major feature of our national life. Surgical, medical and epidemic prevention teams from different areas of China are now working on the Korean front where medical teams of the

Chinese Red Cross are also active among both troops and people.

Achievements in 1951

In the meantime, the programme for 1951 has been carried out. Not all the figures are as yet available, but those announced for the first ten months of the year are most impressive

Two hundred million people were vaccinated against smallpox as compared to 57 million in 1950.

By November 1951, health departments had been established in 1,865 counties—85 per cent of all the counties in China.

Several national conferences had been held on various aspects of public health and medicine to undertake further planning and organization.

China's medical workers are confident that, with the aid of the mobilized people and the leadership of the People's Government, our new China will be healthy as well as happy and free.

New Rise Of Industry

CHEN HAN-SENG

China has a mixed and composite economy. It includes no less than five types of enterprises.

The most widespread form is still individual small-scale economy, which includes family farms and all handicrafts.

The second type is private capitalist enterprise which still forms more than 80 per cent of the trade capital in China.

The third is state capitalist enterprise, representing at present a combination of state and private capital.

Cooperative enterprise, which is of a semi-socialist character, is the fourth type. China now has more than 46,000 cooperatives of various categories, with a total of over 30,000,000 members.

Fifth, and most important of all, there are the new nationalized enterprises, socialist in nature, which now account for half of China's modern industrial production. In heavy industry, the nationalized sector is about 80 per cent of the whole. In light industry it is over 30 per cent.

The nationalized enterprises, operated by the state, represent the leading force in the new Chinese economy. They are advancing rapidly, but not at the expense of productive activity by the other forms listed. On the contrary, the strengthening of state industry in the present period ensures better tools, supplies and markets for the individual small producer. It stimulates private capital to engage in production necessary to the country and people by providing it with secure conditions and profitable orders. It curbs speculation, and, by purchasing raw materials and guaranteeing an even flow of necessary goods to the countryside, enlarges the scope of cooperative as well as private trade.

Task of Coordination

To manage and coordinate all these types of productive enter-

prise is obviously the first step toward industrialization. For this purpose the People's Government has set up four ministries in Peking: Heavy Industry, Fuel Industry, Textile Industry, and Light Industry (including the food industry). In the past two years numerous national conferences, attended by delegates from all over the country, had been held to discuss administrative and technical problems.

There have been conferences for the iron, steel, electrical, mechanical, chemical and non-ferrous metallurgical industries. There have also been coal mining, electric power, petroleum, and hydraulic engineering conferences, as well as conferences dealing with the manufacture of paper, matches, medicine, rubber and leather. These conferences have tackled problems of raw material supply, production costs, transport, and marketing, standardization of products, factory budgets and administration. They have also been instrumental in adjusting the relations between private and state capital in the various categories.

The guiding principle in this coordinating activity has been to organize the advance of all industry under the leadership of the state-operated enterprises. Private industry has been directed toward activity useful to the people and helped to avoid unplanned production and competition resulting from overcrowding of individual fields.

Problems Encountered

There is no doubt that the industrial world in China faces many problems, some of which are unprecedented.

First and foremost is the general impoverishment of the country, intensified by the 22-year rule of Chiang Kai-shek (1927-1949) and of his imperialist supporters.

During the eight years of war against Japanese aggression, be-

tween 1937 and 1945, China lost about 10 million people and sustained property losses amounting to no less than 62½ billion American dollars. Wild inflation during the three and half years of civil war (1946-1949) greatly accelerated the decline in trade and industry.

Former Pattern of Industry

As a result of imperialist domination of the country, modern industry in China was scarcely developed at all. Even in 1937, on the eve of the war with Japan, the total number of working lathes in the whole country was about 90,000.

Iron and steel production was about 700,000 tons.

Total electric power output was less than 2,000,000 kilowatts.

In the textile industry, spindles numbered not more than 5,000,000.

In a word China was predominantly a nation of handicraft industry. Her modern industry was extremely modest. Her heavy industry was feeblest of all.

As is typical for semi-colonial economics, whatever modern industry was developed in China was more or less dependent on foreign capital.

There was a time when the import of American motor vehicles into China totalled 10,000 a year. For the repair of these, no less than 100 fairly large machine shops were maintained, but their 3,000 workers laboured mainly for the benefit of Henry Ford and other American manufacturers.

In the chemical industry, the manufacture of cosmetics flourished. But manufacture of soda and sulphuric acid was very minor.

Even in the light industry, manufacture catered almost exclusively to the urban market and not for rural inhabitants who comprise 80 per cent of the Chinese people.

Successes in Reconstruction

When the Central People's Government was inaugurated in 1949 it faced a two-fold industrial problem: to restore industrial production and at the same time to correct all the defects derived from China's past status, so as to launch a new path for industrialization. This was by no means an easy task.

The iron and steel industry, for instance, was 90 per cent destroyed between 1937 and 1949. Electric power capacity was 50 per cent destroyed during the same period. Moreover, the Japanese surrender practically denuded China's Northeast—where most of industry is located—of technicians. This was because it had been the policy of the Japanese, who occupied the area from 1931 to 1945, to confine such work to their own nationals. As a result, when the industrial plants in the Northeast were restored by the Regional People's Government, many technicians and skilled workers had to be recruited from east and south China.

Nevertheless the task was successfully carried out. In the past two years the Northeast has achieved speedy industrial recovery, and factories in other administrative regions have also been resuscitated.

The cement factories at Lanchow in the Northwest, and in Chungking in the Southwest; the

iron mines in south Chahar and in the Northeast; the paper factories in Szechuan and Kwangtung; the manufacture of steel rails in an important steel works in the Southwest: these are all examples of successful restoration.

As early as October 1950, 82.4 per cent of all textile spindles and 84.2 per cent of all power looms in the country had been put to work.

Basically the restoration of modern industrial production in China has been guaranteed by the advance of political democracy for the people. It has been achieved by the united efforts of workers, peasants, the middle class, and the patriotic industrialists, led by the People's Government.

Modernization and industrialization have been the common aim, as modernization and industrialization are the basis for improving people's livelihood. It has been a constant aim of our economic policy to guarantee that the progress of industry and the improvement of the workers' livelihood go hand in hand.

Better Life for Labour

Statistics from the Northeast show that average wages in that region increased by 27 per cent in 1949, by 12.5 per cent in 1950, and by an estimated 10 per cent in 1951. There has been a more or less similar rise in other administrative regions.

The People's Government in 1950 promulgated a safety and health law for factories and installed a system of factory inspection. As a result, sickness and deaths in textile factories in Tientsin, for instance, decreased by 62 per cent in 1950.

The Labour Insurance Law was published in 1951. Since last May, all factories employing 100 or more workers have taken out labour insurance. In other words, some 2,300,000 industrial workers and staff people, or about 10,000,000 people if the families are included, are protected by this law. In the nationalized textile mills, workers' insurance is equivalent to 12 to 15 per cent of the total wage.

Many sanatoria and homes have been set up for disabled, old and retired workers. More than 1,700 factories have organized workers' clubs. Workers' living quarters have already been greatly improved in many places.

Workers have made great advances in their culture. An estimated 1,300,000 have joined study classes of one kind or another.

The Chinese worker is no longer a slave of the machine. He now feels a new zest for life. He knows that he is a master of the country. In the factory, he has practical experience of the fact that every step in increasing production is a step forward in his earnings and general welfare. Instead of being docile and passive, he now exhibits initiative.

The productive enthusiasm of labour, its support of the policy of rapid restoration and industrialization, is the main moving force in the new rise of Chinese economy. This enthusiasm and this support find organized form—through the trade unions—in two great movements, the rationalization movement and production emulation (work competitions).

Workers Raise Productivity

In textile and other factories, during 1950 alone, no less than

Chinese textile industry is more productive, and its workers are better paid, than at any time in the past.



24,000 proposals for administrative and technical improvements were made by the workers and adopted by management. Competition groups have been organized and involve over 2,220,000 workers in all.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of labour, backed by improved planning and administration, factories in many different industries, especially in iron and steel, produce from four to eight new records during one month. In the large Ta Chang silk filature in Wusih, the 1951 production was the highest in fourteen years in both quantity and quality. In 1950 all textile factories in the country taken together exceeded their highest production records of the past. Total yarn production in 1950 was 0.28 per cent higher than in 1930, the previous all-time high. In cloth production it was 7.8 per cent higher than 1936, the previous peak in this branch.

Private Industry Aided

This situation applies to both state and private industry. Under the leadership and with the support of the former, the latter is enjoying prosperity.

In 1950 the Ministry of Heavy Industry placed orders with many private factories. Two-thirds of the orders for steel manufacturers and one-third of those for electric appliances went to privately owned plants. State textile mills also passed on semi-finished goods to private mills for further processing.

Compared with 1949, yarn production increased 39.39 per cent in 1950; while power loom production increased 59.11 per cent in the same year. Printing and dyeing in private factories increased 33 per cent. Privately-controlled gunny-sack production increased by 76.08 per cent in the same year.

Private industry has been greatly benefitted by the new flood control projects. In 1951, more than 200 private workshops, including some 70 steel and machine shops in Shanghai, filled orders for implements and material used on the great Huai river project.



Girls, who never did this kind of work before, repair machines damaged by the Japanese and Kuomintang.

These factories employ a total of 30,000 workers.

In both private and state factories, remarkable progress has taken place. Waste of materials has been greatly reduced in the gunny-sack mills in Tientsin. In Canton, certain steel processes which used to require forty days now take only twenty-eight. In another steel plant, in the Southwest, 94 per cent of the products are up to standard, as compared to only 70 per cent formerly.

Base for New Progress

The average daily coal production per miner in the Northeast was 0.33 tons per day in 1946. It is now nearly double this figure. In 1949 the value of industrial products in the Northeast represented only 35 per cent of the total industrial and agricultural production. By 1950 it had risen to 43 per cent, and the 1951 target was to increase it to 47 per cent.

Statistics for the entire country show that coal production increased nearly one and a half times between 1949 and 1950, production of machinery three times, cement nearly four times, steel more than seven times, and pig iron eleven and a half times. The textile plan for 1951 was to increase the number of spindles by 162,000; and to manufacture 2,000 machine looms.

This is the outline of the new rise of industry in China. To the casual observer it may appear to be merely "restoration." But a true understanding of the nature of the present democratic transformation of China, and of the actual industrial progress made so far, reveals, that during this process of restoration, many of the former defects have been corrected. It shows that China is already well on the way towards a genuine process of industrialization that will pave the way for prosperous livelihood for her people and contribute to world peace.



Ma Heng-chang and his team discuss production plan. The banners behind them were won in nationwide work competitions.

How Workers Move Industry Forward

One of the prime factors in the speedy restoration of Chinese economy from the effects of long years of war is the initiative and inventiveness of the workers. An illustration of this is the significant rise in national industrial output started by the 47-year-old lathe operator Ma Heng-chang and nine of his shop mates at the government-owned Fifth Machine Building Plant in Mukden, Northeast China.

What did Ma Heng-chang and his friends do? Inspired by the new situation in which Chinese workers work for themselves and the only limit on their prosperity is the undeveloped state of national industry, they discussed for ten months how to improve their work. They kept trying out every likely answer on the job until they finally came up with the real one.

How did this small event become a great one and affect the

whole of China's heavy industry? The answer is simple. Since the People's Government, the people's press and the whole body of Chinese labour are eager to increase and improve production, the experience of Ma Heng-chang's little group was publicized in detail throughout China. Today more than 6,000 production teams are applying and developing the example they set.

Ma Heng-chang had been a worker for 27 years. His past had been like that of millions of other Chinese workers. "Under the warlords, the Japanese and the Kuomintang, I did not have enough to eat or wear," he wrote recently in a Peking trade union newspaper. "If there was anything wrong with our work we were either beaten up or sacked. Once when a Japanese supervisor told me to pick up a ruler and I didn't catch what he meant, he came up and smashed my face."

The impact of liberation on Ma Heng-chang was also typical. He has written about this too, in a frank, open worker's way. "After liberation our new factory director told us, 'We rely on the workers.' To tell you the truth, we didn't believe him at first. All the factory directors we'd ever known had been rotten. Why should the Communists be different? Then I called on the director just to see how he lived. I found that his wife and children dressed and ate just like us. What was more, he accepted any reasonable suggestions we made." Thus Ma Heng-chang's cautious skepticism gradually faded away.

As a result, Ma began to stir up everyone in his shop to work better. During lunch periods, he and his mates would sit around over a blueprint of the job on hand and think how to use their lathes to greater effect. Soon Ma Hung-ju, a milling machine operator, came up with a way of completing in 15 minutes a part that had formerly taken two hours to machine. The whole group devised a new method of dividing up another job so as to finish it in half their previous time.

All agreed to make full preparations before starting their machines, to care for them better than they had in the past, to wipe and oil them and put away all tools and parts before leaving. They also undertook to explain all unfinished work fully to the next shift. Without "speed-up" or additional physical strain, simply as a result of more rational organization, the team's output went up and up. So did the wages of its members.

Ma and his friends concerned themselves not only with quantity but also with quality. Each week they held a careful review of the reasons why any job had been rejected by the inspectors. When the cause was discovered, they set out to remedy it and to warn other workers against similar mistakes.

In addition older workers began patiently to explain to each apprentice the nature of the machine to which he was assigned, sometimes staying after working

hours to do it. In this way, apprentices could begin to work independently after three months instead of after several years as formerly. In contrast to the past, the apprentices were encouraged to ask any questions that came to their minds. The age-old system under which worker-teachers purposely slowed down the training of apprentices in order to put off the day when they would become masters was abandoned. So was the feudal abuse of making the apprentices sweat while the older men smoked, chatted or walked around. These things could only take place, of course, in an atmosphere in which no one feared for his job or his old age.

After ten months, eight of the workers in Ma Heng-chang's team had achieved a record of no rejected work whatsoever. Seven of them broke production records. The team as a whole improved 18 tools on which its members were working. In a work competition that took place during this period, it accomplished two months' work in 28 days.

Advancing constantly in skill and cooperation, Ma Heng-chang's team began to issue emulation challenges to others, first in its own plant, then throughout the country. Last May Day it announced that it had saved 22 days and seven hours on a four-month job during which 33 individual records were broken and the quality rating of the whole team's output was 99.81 per cent.

In July 1951, the Ma Heng-chang team achieved the high targets it had set itself one day ahead of schedule. Its products were 99.3 per cent up to standard. Four new records were established, raising productivity from two to 6½ times.

In August the brigade was challenged to increase its production by a value equivalent to 44 tons of grain by the end of the year. On October 25 it announced that it had already over-fulfilled this target by 47 per cent, having

produced an extra value equal to 65 tons of grain.

These advances in productivity were a result of the team's study and mastery of high-speed metal-cutting techniques developed in the USSR and of the Kovalev method, in which workers showing high efficiency in various phases of an operation are studied and a procedure combining the best achievements of each becomes the general standard. During the month, the team did a day's extra voluntary work for the campaign to aid Chinese volunteers in Korea, donating its earnings for the purchase of arms.

Ma Heng-chang and his work-team could not have existed in the old China but only in the new. To give birth to such people and such work, certain conditions are

necessary. There must be no conflict but a community of interest between the authorities and the workers. The workers must know for a fact that they benefit personally from every productive advance. The government must so respect ordinary working people and their experience that it looks to them, not only to books and learned engineers, for solutions to economic problems.

Fear of unemployment and depression must be so effectively wiped out that neither individual workers nor individual factories hang on to "trade secrets," but on the contrary share them willingly, without fear of loss to themselves.

These conditions now exist in China. That is why Ma Heng-chang's story is there to tell.



One reason for the successes of Ma Heng-chang's team is the attention it pays to training apprentices.

AIR FORCE



Flowers from peasant children to air force pilots taking part in the war against locusts in Hopei province.

Locusts have long been one of the great plagues of the Chinese countryside. Many was the year when a fine crop ripened, heavy-eared after ample rainfall and sunlight—only to be eaten by these insects. The locusts swept down on the fields in dark clouds, leaving whole regions stripped of grain and foliage, dooming hundreds of thousands of people to hunger. They chewed the window-paper out of the houses and even bit the faces and noses of farmers' children. The peasants fought them, by hand and with flails, but often failed to control them.

Last July, locusts were again spotted in nine provinces in China: along the coast, among the reeds round the lakes in the central part of the country and in the grass plains of the Northwest. The threat in Hopei, Shantung and northern Anhwei provinces was the worst in a generation. But in contrast to other years, the swarms did not get the crop. Something new and unprecedented happened. The people triumphed over the locusts.

The victory, which ushers in a new period in Chinese farm history, was won with the help of the air force. Hearing of the danger to crops in three provinces, the government equipped planes with sprayers and sent them to the areas of greatest concentration of the locusts—Hwanghua and Ssuhung counties. The planes made 214 flights in two weeks and succeeded in destroying the swarms. What the planes did not finish off the peasants on the ground did, with hand-sprayers and insecticides that kept pouring in from Peking and Tientsin by trucks which traveled day and night.



As the planes spray insecticide, peasants beat locusts into the middle of a ring and kill them.

5. LOCUSTS

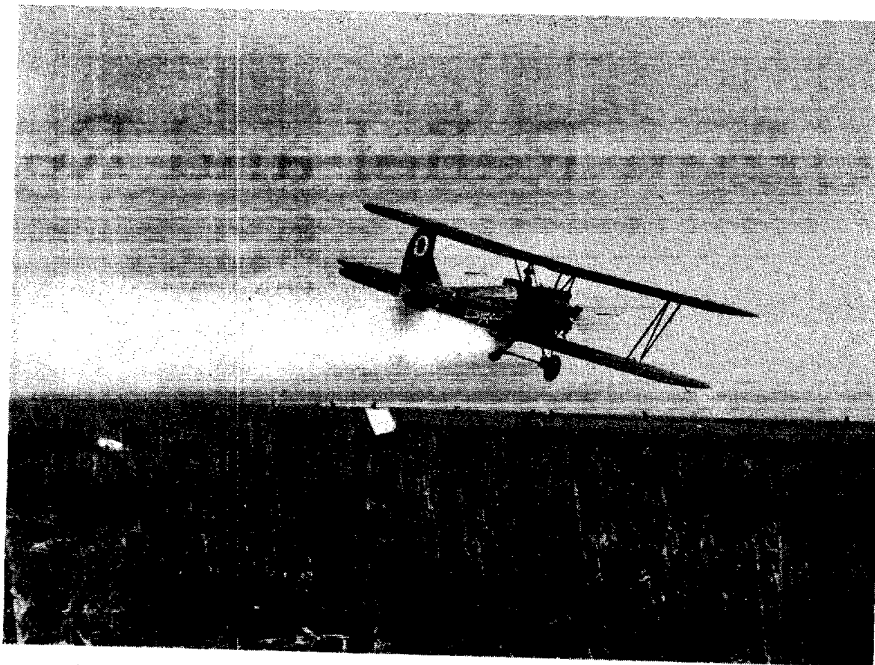
Some time later, when another locust swarm threatened some 10,000 acres of ripe crops in Tienmen and Hanchwan counties, Hupeh province, the air force set out again. The aid of planes was especially necessary in this area because the locusts were breeding in soggy marshland, difficult to reach by other means.

The appearance of the air force created great excitement among the peasants. They could not stop talking about how a few planes had killed more locusts than 10,000 men could destroy in three days. They made up many sayings about how the People's Air Force fights all aggressors against the Chinese people, be they humans or insects. Toilworn farmers jumped with joy when they saw the planes shuttling over the affected areas. When the planes landed, they ran to the pilots and presented them with delicacies: eggs, salt fish and almonds.

At a welcoming celebration in Hwanghua county, peasant Ni Peng-shan made a speech in which he said: "We used to have four enemies. The People's Government has already wiped out three: bandits, tyrannical landlords and floods. Now Chairman Mao has sent planes to wipe out our last enemy—the locusts."

To the farmers of the affected districts, "Chairman Mao's Anti-Locust Air Force" is added evidence that the government has no interests apart from those of the people.

The government issues sprayers and "666" to peasants for use where grass and reeds are too thick for aerial spraying to be effective.



Planes make it possible to clear 150 acres of locusts in a single hour.



The trench method. Locusts which fall into these ditches are killed with "666," the Chinese-made equivalent of DDT.



Urban Relief and Rehabilitation

CHAO PU-CHU

One great change is obvious to every eye in the cities of China today, two years after liberation.

The victims of the old society are no longer to be seen. The homeless children and old people, the destitute families starving under the open sky that used to meet one at every step—all these heart-breaking scenes have disappeared.

Our city streets have also been entirely freed from the scum of the old society—the loafers, pick-pockets and professional beggars that infested them for centuries. No longer do predatory rascals and gangsters of all kinds sidle up to likely “prospects,” or pick quarrels with passers-by to gain some profit by swindling or intimidation. These things too have sunk into the past.

Such is the unmistakable evidence that we now have a government of the people and that a new society is already in the making in China. Behind it is the even more striking fact that the formerly starving urban poor have

been provided with food, shelter, work and in many cases land; and that former city riff-raff are being reformed through useful labour.

China Helps Herself

These developments provide positive proof that the Chinese people, under their own People's Government, can both take care of the victims of the old order and remove the cancers that it bred. They have kicked the last props from under the moth-eaten slander that China has not the resources, the will or the skill to move ahead without imperialist “advice” or “philanthropy.”

Not even the enemies of China can now deny that two years of liberation have produced results which could not even be dreamed of after the previous hundred or so years of vaunted “model” municipal administration under imperialist rule in such cities as Shanghai. No one can overlook the fact that in this brief period we have done more in relief work

than was achieved by the outside relief activities of a hundred years. There can be no better demonstration that full freedom from exploitation and control by foreign profit-seekers, not investments that aim to dominate and the Point Four type of poisoned “gifts,” are what every nation in Asia needs in order to make similar progress in as short a time.

Why Relief After Liberation?

Generally speaking, the complete change in the aspect of our cities is one fruit of the emergence of China from a semi-colonial and semi-feudal condition. It could not otherwise have occurred at all.

Specifically, however, this change was due to the effectiveness of the new type of urban relief and rehabilitation work. Even after our liberation, this relief activity was called upon to overcome difficulties of an extremely grave and unprecedentedly widespread character.

Why did we then, and why do we still need relief work, since our revolution has already destroyed the root cause of the worst social evils of the past? The answer to this question lies in the conditions which we inherited.

As a general legacy from long years of misrule and merciless exploitation under previous governments, of which the Kuomintang regime was the last and worst, widespread poverty and depression permeated our whole society.

In addition, the relentless civil war, waged by the reactionaries

Unemployed in Shanghai get work on road repair jobs.



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against the People's Liberation Army, afflicted the people with calamities even worse than those of the Japanese invasion which had preceded it. Not only did the people lose their sons through conscription and their livelihood through taxes and requisitions. They were often unable, as a result of the war, to continue normal agricultural activity and such work as the repair of dykes. The crop-failures and floods that resulted cost the lives of millions and turned other millions into homeless refugees. Besides the refugees, the cities swarmed with hundreds of thousands of disbanded Kuomintang army men, many of them completely demoralized.

Following liberation, finally, our coastal cities were subjected to naval blockade and wanton air-raids by the brigand Chiang Kai-shek and his U.S. backers. This resulted in more loss of life, destruction of houses and temporary dislocation of trade and industry.

As a consequence, our cities were full of unemployed, whose number was constantly augmented by refugees from the countryside. Every morning produced thousands of castaway infants, whom their parents had abandoned in desperation. Old people and cripples wandered, hungry and without aim, waiting only for death. Prostitution assumed monstrous proportions. Tuberculosis, venereal infections and various epidemic diseases reached unheard-of heights.

In Shanghai alone, over 800,000 persons were without any means of support and were classified as completely destitute.

The Evil Heritage

Cities like Shanghai had been strongholds of imperialist, feudal and bureaucratic-capitalist rule. They had developed as centres of commerce and ruling-class consumption rather than of healthy national industry. Their existing industries were largely geared to export markets most of which had become unavailable, and to the cheap-labour processing of imported raw materials which had stopped coming in. Even at their most "prosperous," they had



An unemployed worker is deeply touched as he gets a sack of grain collected by workers in the factories.

been factors in the exploitation of the country instead of its healthy development. The problem in such cities, therefore, was not merely to get the wheels of industry turning but to reorient their whole economy.

Deep-rooted conditions of this kind clearly call for relief. Just as clearly, they cannot be solved by relief alone. They can only be successfully tackled by relief, rehabilitation and basic economic reconstruction bound into one indissoluble whole under a common plan.

The First Steps

Self-help and mutual aid in the cities themselves, and mutual aid between the afflicted cities and all other parts of the country, were the key to the relief effort after liberation.

In the first period, rural areas were called upon to help the city. On a rough estimate, more than 1,000,000 unemployed and immediately unemployable persons in eight main cities—Shanghai, Peking, Tientsin, Nanking, Wuchang-Hankow, Canton, Sian and Tsingtao—were dispersed among the villages and accommodated in agricultural production. From Nanking alone, 280,000 out of a total of 400,000 unemployed were decentralized in this way. They in turn helped the villages to in-

crease productivity with their energies and skills.

Persons re-settled from the cities were received with warm kindness and assistance by the village people. On the other hand, people remaining in the cities raised large sums of money to help rural refugees from famine-stricken areas, who were gradually re-equipped and repatriated. Winter clothing campaigns to help flood and drought victims in Anhwei, Kiangsu, Hopei and Honan provinces, regions devastated by flood, brought in 6,800,000 warm garments from the cities.

Kuomintang army men stranded in the cities were also successfully resettled. In the Central South Region alone, 699,418 were shifted to the country in the short space of six months, at a cost of more than 9 billion yuan.

The cities were made safe and social order restored through the removal of thieves, professional pan-handlers and loafers, who were put to work on various projects. A "New Man Village" for 10,000 such persons from Shanghai was set up in the nearby Kwanyuan reclamation area, in north Kiangsu province, where these former parasites are now both helping the country and laying the material basis for a secure, productive, and prosperous life for themselves.

Donations to the great winter clothing relief drive for flood refugees are packed for transport.

these measures of relief and rehabilitation.

It must be remarked here that unemployment in our country is a product of the past and will soon be a thing of the past. This is already the case in Northeast China. Cities like Dairen and Harbin, which were liberated before the rest of the country, have been thoroughly rehabilitated and are rapidly acquiring new industries. In these places, there is no unemployment whatsoever. On the contrary, there is a sharp shortage of both industrial and intellectual workers, despite the fact that many persons from other parts of the country have already taken jobs there.

Improving Health and Welfare

While the problem of food has been solved and that of work is on its way to solution in all our cities, positive measures are already being taken on a wide scale to improve health, welfare and education.

Health centres and creches are appearing in all working-class areas, to give free medical assistance and care for the children of women workers and office employees. Hospital and maternity care is now available, free or for a nominal charge, to a much greater section of the city people than could ever hope for it in the past.

In Shanghai and Tsingtao, "youth villages" and special primary schools have been set up for children who a short time ago were homeless. As financial and economic conditions improve, other cities are acquiring similar institutions.

In Harbin there are public wedding halls and funeral parlours which can be used entirely free of charge.

China is no longer a country that depends on relief from the outside. On the contrary, we have already begun to help others.

Vice-Premier Tung Pi-wu of the Central People's Government

set this as a definite policy, in a speech at the All-China People's Relief Conference in Peking. He said that relief and welfare work in our cities is no longer to be limited to "saving ourselves" but must henceforth also include "helping others."

This injunction is being carried out. Funds and supplies have been collected in large amounts for the relief of war sufferers in Korea and of Chinese refugees who have returned home from that country. In response to the call of the Chinese Red Cross Society, great numbers of doctors and nurses in many cities have formed volunteer medical teams and gone to the Korean front.

Chinese relief organizations in all big cities are aiding overseas Chinese refugees who have been compelled to leave their establishments, residences and other property in Malaya, Siam and the Philippines as a result of political and national persecution. Returning to China they have been warmly received by the people wherever they have settled, and have received financial assistance, shelter and care.

Eliminating Imperialist Influence

Obviously, none of the new tasks of relief work in China could be carried out by organizations based on the old ruling-class concept of "charity", or by those operated or influenced by imperialism.

A necessary preliminary, therefore, was the ridding of welfare organizations in our cities of all traces of imperialist control and attitudes, particularly those of the ruling groups of the United States who have so amply proved their enmity to the Chinese revolution both before and since its victory.

The fruits of imperialism in the relief field have been fully exposed.

In the worst cases, it produced mass extermination of Chinese children. This was proved by the death pits found in a number of "orphanages" and by their own statistics, revealing a death-rate of 90%. Such institutions, needless to say, have been reformed, while the criminals responsible for

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their abuses have been punished or deported from China.

In even the "best" cases, however, the minds of beneficiaries of imperialist relief were bent into subservience to the very forces whose exploitation of China was responsible for their widespread poverty. In practically all cases relief was misused for improper interference in Chinese political life. In many, it served as a cover for foreign intelligence activities, frequently including recruiting of agents and military espionage. All such patterns of "relief" are being effectively uprooted at the present time.

Great changes have also come about in relief and welfare institutions run by Chinese nationals but largely or wholly dependent on subsidies from the United States. These were formerly under the indirect influence of imperialism. Now they have been re-oriented to a new base of support in the Chinese government and society. Freed of dependence and divided loyalties, they now have a single aim—service to the people.

Such basic policy changes have been immediately reflected in the rapid development of self-respect among the beneficiaries of relief. They see themselves in a new light. They learn that, acting collectively, they have the strength to overcome their difficulties. Daily they see indications that their future is secure, that the new China which is being constructed will assure their welfare and will not long tolerate the conditions that make relief necessary.

Former paupers now recognize their own responsibility toward their people and their country. A concrete example can be found in the orphanages and other child welfare institutions of Shanghai. After these organizations were taken over and completely renovated, a new life began for the children. This filled them with the desire to do something in return for the fortunate turn of events in their lives. This past summer, 502 of the teen-agers volunteered for special medical training schools and pledged their future to serving the people. This is but one example. It has been duplicated many times over.



These youngsters lived in the streets and had no hope till they went to "New Man Village."

Relief work in China today is integrated with our entire programme of peaceful national reconstruction. Such coordination is guaranteed by basic relief policies laid down by the Central People's Government and the main goals it lays down from time to time. In deciding the actual programme to be carried out in any given place, local conditions and requirements are carefully studied. There is no undifferentiated, blanket approach.

Principles and Procedures

Relief is not conducted independently in each locality. It is recognized that urban and rural relief are inseparable. Refugees cannot be resettled from cities to the land without the aid of the villages. The villages cannot lessen the burden on the cities unless they themselves receive aid which the cities can give, in tools and supplies.

Close and friendly contact is maintained with government organs. No large-scale medical work can be done, for example, without cooperation with Public Health Bureaux. Big groups of people cannot be moved without help from transportation authorities. Loafers and underworld characters cannot be turned to production without assistance from the Public Security Bureaux. Resettlement cannot have satisfactory results if responsibilities are not assumed by the trade, indus-

trial and publicity departments of local and regional administrations.

Relief and welfare activities can only be on a puny scale if they do not involve the masses; they can accomplish important tasks only when they themselves are a form of mass action. In the new China, labour unions, peasant, youth and women's associations, the cooperatives with their millions of members, as well as other public organizations, have been drawn into the work. Their great pooled strength provides a sure base for a wide and many-sided attack on every social evil. It was in this way that the drive for relief funds for unemployed workers and winter clothes for the village poor was successfully carried out all over the country.

The solid accomplishments of the past two years prove that the Chinese people can perfectly well put their own house in order, overcoming all difficulties. Mainly benefitting the working population, our relief work not only heals the deep social wounds of past oppression, but contributes to the advances in production and culture which are building a new, prosperous China.

In brief, the objectives marked by Vice-Premier Tung are being put into practice. Within a very short space of time, the Chinese people have not only "saved themselves" but begun to "help others" as well.

HOLIDAY IN PEKING

Sunday in Feking is a day for sports and excursions, particularly in the summer months, when these photographs were taken.



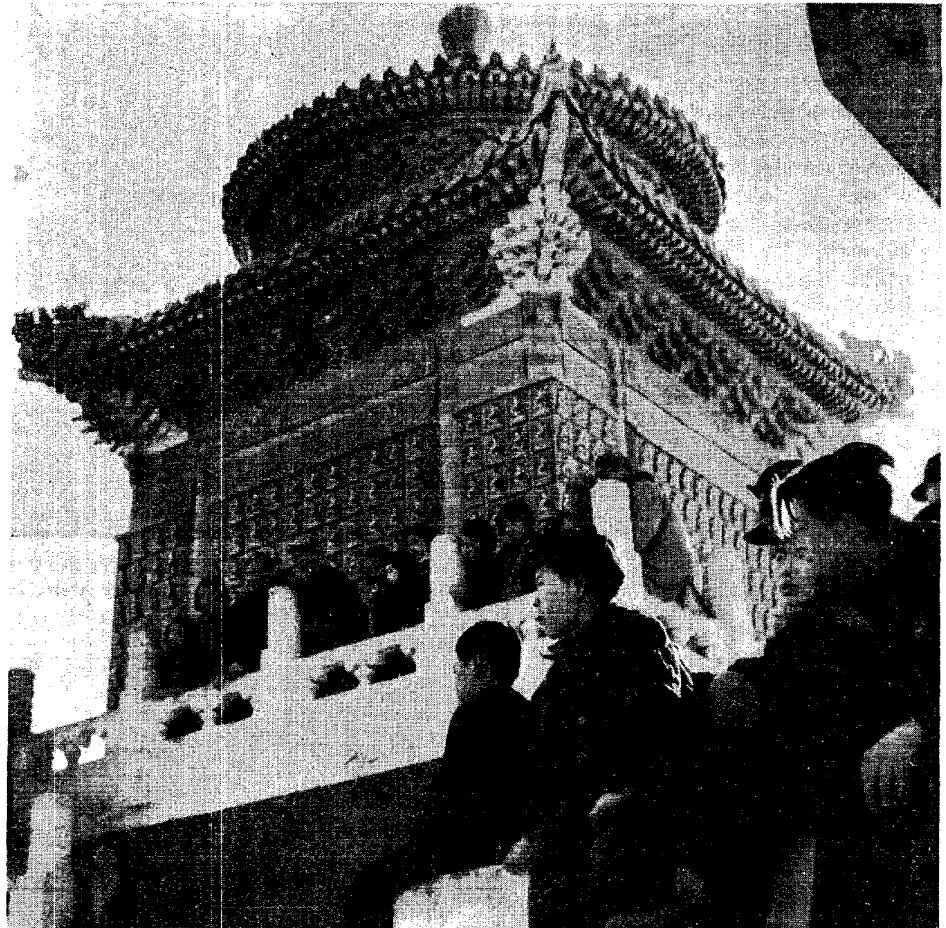
After a week of hard work, some people visit the famous historic spots of the capital. (Left page, right.)



Others dance in the spacious parks and squares. (Left page, below.)



Still others picnic informally or swim in the many fresh, clean lakes. (Right page.)





WOMEN DRIVE TRAMS IN PEKING

An elderly passenger sitting next to me on the tram remarked as he glanced admiringly at the young woman driver. "Women are doing everything nowadays. We already have labour and combat heroines, women government leaders and workers, scientists, tractor drivers and railway engineers. And now women tram drivers in Peking."

The girl in charge of our tram was 20-year-old Li Yun-hua. She is one of the first six women to do such a job south of the Great Wall. The story of her personal life shows the possibilities now opened to hundreds of millions of Chinese women who have shaken off their feudal shackles and are living as free citizens for the first time in history.

Poverty and starvation in her family drove Li Yun-hua as a child to work in a clothing factory. Her wages for a 12-hour day of sweated labour were 54 lbs. of rice per month, hardly enough to keep alive. Because she was a woman, the labour bosses treated her even worse than they did the men. "Whenever I thought of the future, I felt a pain in my heart," says Li Yun-hua.

Then Peking was liberated. Li Yun-hua was still only eighteen. She learned from the films that in the Soviet Union women were doing men's jobs, that a girl in Northeast China named Tien Kwei-ying was driving a train and that several girls had already become skilled tram drivers in Dairen. "If they can do it, so can I," she said to herself.

When Li Yun-hua answered the tramway company advertisement for women conductors she added the remark, "I hope to become a tram driver one day. Why should not Peking, too, have women tram drivers as well as Dairen?"



Sharp-eyed, alert—one of Peking's girl tram-drivers.

Accepted, Li Yun-hua began ten months' work as a conductor. These ten months were happier than any previous period of her life. She worked an eight-hour day and her wages were five times what she earned before liberation. Her family began to eat three meals a day of good, nourishing food. She attended the company's spare-time school.

Soon she was elected a brigade leader, then a model worker of the whole tramway system and finally one of the 21 delegates to the People's Representative Conference of the city of Peking. "I never thought it possible for a

woman worker to discuss and supervise the government's work," she said.

Li Yun-hua's dream began to come true in May when she was chosen as one of six women to be trained as drivers. The evening she was told the news, she was writing an essay for her night school class. She chose as her subject: "The same woman—trash of the old days, but talent of the new society."

The training was intensive. An experienced, skilled worker was assigned to each student. The girls had to learn electrical theory and how to do minor repairs.

When Li Yun-hua went to the driver's platform for her first test run, the people on the streets shouted, "Hey look! A woman driver!"

Peking was surprised and pleased when women began to pilot its trams. Photographs of Li Yun-hua and the other girls were frontpaged in the newspapers. Many women wrote congratulating them on their success. Their parents were proud of them. "Parents in the old days were often disappointed when they had girl babies," Li Yun-hua recalled. "We and many other women in China are now destroying this prejudice by showing there is nothing that we can't do."

Li Yun-hua's test period ended in August. Then she was given one of the new light blue "People's Specials" to drive all by herself. The conductors on her tram are women too. Together, they are working out plans for maximum punctuality and good service to the passengers. Soon they hope to win the red banner for the best tram crew in Peking.

THE CHILDREN'S OWN THEATRE

JEN TEH-YAO

Applause and cheers filled the Lyceum Theatre in Shanghai. The curtain had rung down on the last act of the play "Little Snowflake," presented by the Children's Theatre of the China Welfare Institute. Long after the lights went up, the clapping continued, accompanied by the excited chatter of the aroused audience. Many of the children crowded toward the dressing rooms, shouting threats to the villain and wanting to shake hands with the hero. Backstage a grey-haired stagehand stood looking and listening, shaking his head from side to side. He nudged the younger stagehand beside him and said: "Since the opening of this theatre twenty years ago, I have never seen an audience respond like this."

"Little Snowflake" was but one of the many similar successes of the Children's Theatre since it started in the spring of 1947. Today, as a result of liberation, the young audiences of Shanghai have more than ever come to claim this troupe of youngsters as their own.

Early Steps

This project was organized by the Institute to create a theatre run for and by China's children. Prior to the liberation, it was compelled to function under the oppressive rule of the Kuomintang. Its history at that time consisted of overcoming one obstacle after another. The Kuomintang not only stifled the existing cultural activities for children, but also attempted to prevent new ones from developing. The streets of Shanghai were filled with tens of thousands of young folk. There were not enough schools, and many were too poor to attend those that

existed. Thousands had no homes at all. The original members of the Children's Theatre were recruited from among the children of the streets, the homeless and the poverty-stricken. Its faculty set itself to moulding these youngsters who had known oppression from their earliest days, who were born of the masses and had the inner strength to hate and resist the causes of China's misery.

During those early days the Children's Theatre also had to overcome another obstacle. Many mothers and fathers, steeped in feudal ideas, regarded theatre work as no better than prostitution. The Kuomintang had encouraged this outlook. It had gone so far as to attempt to make all Shanghai actors and actresses register in the same category as prostitutes. Of course, the theatre workers bitterly resisted this, but many parents were influenced and withdrew their youngsters. They did this even when the theatre provided the only possible opportunity for their sons and daughters to get an education.

Nonetheless, the Children's Theatre was able to maintain a nucleus of members. After pre-

liminary training, these boys and girls began their important job of bringing the truth, through music, dance and drama, to the youth of Shanghai. During the pre-liberation period, they produced innumerable short pieces, all closely linked with the main worries and demands of the people. When malignant inflation threatened most citizens with starvation, they staged a dance called "Who Causes High Prices?" When the Kuomintang began to force masses of young people into its tottering armies, the theatre put on its "Resist Conscription."

Two major dramas were also produced at this time. One, "The Watch," was adapted from a Soviet children's play contrasting old and new ways of education. The other, "The Little Circus," was written by the director of the Children's Theatre. It portrayed the exploitation of children and showed how, through unity, the children themselves could struggle against oppression.

Vitality Proved

In spite of persecution and under the very eyes of the Kuomintang's "cultural policemen," the children were able to take their talents, plays and dances into every corner of Shanghai. Acting as "little teachers," they performed the dances and songs of new China long before the liberation.

At times when reactionary control of the city became too strict, they would transfer their activi-



A group of the CWI Children's Theatre kids on the stage.



Violinist and accompanist of the music section of the CWI Children's Theatre.



"Little Snowflake"—a play of solidarity with the Negro people of the U.S.

ties to the rural areas. In August 1943, for example, they visited the "Boys' Town" farm, a collecting and educational centre for Shanghai's delinquent and beggar children. A cultural troupe was organized among the youngsters, opening their eyes to the fact that, in a people's society, their lives could be filled with hope and happiness. This was a new application of the theatre's experience during the previous summer vacation, when its members had trained over 100 children so that they could organize dramatic activities in their own schools when the holiday was over.

The "Boys' Town" work brought new threats from the Kuomintang, so the Children's Theatre moved back into Shanghai. More plays were developed, and performances in a great number of schools were lined up. However, at the last minute, many teachers cancelled the scheduled shows under Kuomintang pressure. The theatre countered by establishing close contact with the progressive Teachers' Union and putting on plays with "no preparation and no publicity." Under this system, courageous teachers guaranteed that audiences could be present, mobilizing their pupils quietly. Both the Children's Theatre and the audience would show up un-

announced at a prearranged time and place, and the show would go on. Many schools and thousands of young people continued to be served in such ways.

In the last days of reactionary rule, marked by frantic Kuomintang arrests and executions, the Children's Theatre split into groups which were dispersed to various parts of Shanghai. These remained in hiding, rehearsing their plays until the People's Liberation Army arrived. Then the Children's Theatre reappeared in the streets as a publicity team, performing on corners and in the lanes and terraces, explaining to the people what the liberation meant for them.

These efforts endeared the Theatre to the whole population, both children and grown-ups.

Under New Conditions

Since the liberation, the Children's Theatre has settled down to become one of the main cultural influences among the children of Shanghai and the whole nation. It is now entrusted with leadership in lifting the level of children's dramatics throughout China. Bearing this responsibility, the young members and faculty are working seriously and making long-range plans. They are

struggling to lift their own technique, to deepen their own understanding of the strength of the new China. In keeping with the basic policy of the China Welfare Institute, they have begun to conduct their theatre as an experiment, as a model for the rest of the country.

The present members of the theatre are boys and girls who have been especially selected for talent. As was the case with the original members, many of whom have since grown up and entered the general stream of national cultural advance, they live and study collectively. Their training is based on the principle of linking study with practical work. They are divided into four sections: drama, dancing, music and art. In addition to receiving specialized technical training, each child also studies regular school subjects.

On the technical side, the children in the dramatic section are taught how to analyze a play and to take various parts. They are encouraged to write their own plays and have revealed great creativeness. The youngsters come mainly from working families and have themselves known both poverty and hard struggle for a better life. This brings their



"The Watch," another play presented by the CWI Children's Theatre.

writing especially close to the actual experience of the vast majority of our people, both the bitterness of the past and the great energies released now that the people know they can change all things by their own efforts.

Children in the art section are responsible for lighting, scenery, properties and costumes. Those in the music section have their own Chinese orchestra and another orchestra with European instruments. The dance section performs Chinese classical dances, ballets and modern dance. The music and dance sections try both to preserve the old national forms of China and to make them blend satisfactorily with forms originating elsewhere.

People of a New Kind

The relationship among the youngsters of the Children's Theatre is healthy and comradely. Their whole education is aimed toward developing self-government, mutual help and cooperation. Together, they summarize and draw conclusions from their work. They are taught to be open and frank at meetings, to bring up suggestions and debate hotly until they find a solution for the problems discussed. They have their own blackboard newspapers and wall bulletins,

filled both with praise and criticism. Most of the theatre's youngsters have either become members of the Young Pioneers or the New Democratic Youth League, or are preparing to enter these organizations. One of the girl actors was among those selected to spend the summer in a Bulgarian Young Pioneers camp.

In brief, the members of the CWI Children's Theatre are good examples of the new type of Chinese youth, honest in mind and healthy in body, willing to receive and ready to give constructive criticism. Their qualities are the very ones on which the building of our new society is based, the qualities China prizes most highly in her citizens.

Character development of this kind helps the children in their chosen profession. Its results appear whenever the Children's Theatre performs. One can see them most vividly every June 1, on International Children's Day, the high point of each year's activity.

It was on June 1, 1950, that the Theatre first presented "Little Snowflake." The play describes the persecution of the Negro people in the United States and shows how the struggle against this persecution is organized. "Little Snowflake" went into more than

thirty performances. Its young audiences followed it with unusual concentration. They loudly sympathized with the Negro hero, and demanded punishment for the bigoted villain.

On International Children's Day in 1951, the theatre presented a dance pantomime, "Always Be Prepared." The title itself is the motto of China's Young Pioneers, and the pantomime portrayed the history and present activities of the organization. Beginning with scenes of children's life in the old liberated areas it brought the story to the Mao Tse-tung era throughout the nation. Through the medium of dance, it showed why Chinese children should study hard, play hard, and develop every faculty so as to be ready at all times for the construction and defence of their country. "Always Be Prepared" played to full houses and enthusiastic audiences for three weeks.

No less than 95,000 people witnessed Children's Theatre performances in the first half of 1951.

At present, the members and faculty of the Children's Theatre continue to train and prepare. Their objective is the rapid extension and development of children's theatres as part of the tide of cultural growth in China today.

Town and Country Trade

"Interflow" is a word you will hear often in China today. It is the term applied to the exchange of goods between town and village, farm and factory, workers and peasants on a nationwide basis. The reopening of old and disused channels for such exchange and the pioneering of new ones is now a major concern of China's state trading enterprises, which are also leading and assisting private business to participate.

The internal commerce of China declined catastrophically after 1937. During the years of foreign and civil war, all major avenues of communication were destroyed or blocked, causing some provinces to lose every economic link they had previously had with one another. Moreover, the peasants, 80 per cent of the Chinese people, became terribly impoverished through war and oppression. Their production fell and they ceased to buy even the few manufactured goods they had used before. In many places, the people even stopped using matches, reverting to flint and steel.

Now the situation has changed altogether. The country is unified and at peace. Barely two years after the end of the destructive

civil war on the mainland, rail-ways have been fully restored and are carrying more freight than in any prewar year. The peasants, masters of their own soil since the land reform, are producing with great enthusiasm because their output belongs to them and not to landlords. Foreign export firms and their collaborators no longer dominate the market for rural by-products such as skins, bristles, walnuts, eggs, etc.—whose prices they used to force down, leaving the producers in wretchedness. Conditions have been created not only for the restoration of "interflow" trade but for its manifold increase over the past. To the extent that the villages find an outlet for their own products, they can become a limitless market for industry.

Home Market Expands

City industry, in its turn, now looks to the villages not only for markets but also for raw material. The unhealthy situation in which Chinese textile mills, for example, used to process imported cotton and export their products, has come to an end. The growth of "interflow" has become not only the most important way to foil imperialist blockade attempts but

also a prerequisite to the rapid industrialization of the country.

The economic administration organs of China have made the promotion of healthy internal commerce one of their most important jobs. They have already succeeded in driving speculators and hoarders from the field and organizing the home market on a healthy basis. State trading companies purchased 130 per cent more agricultural goods and 154 per cent more industrial goods in 1951 than in 1950. Their success has stimulated legitimate private trade to serve the national economy in the same way.

As a result, producers all over the country now find a ready market. This is one of the major reasons why the purchasing power of the population as a whole has risen by 30 per cent in the past two years. Region by region, the increase in purchasing power has been even more spectacular, amounting to 60 per cent in Southwest China and 100 per cent in the Huai river area. The demand for industrial goods and raw materials, as well as consumers' goods, constantly runs in excess of supply. "Slack seasons" in business and industry have become a thing of the past. But, again through the steadying effect of state trade, neither the level of prices nor the balance of benefits to town and country have been disturbed.

A Merchant's Story

The way the state directs private interests toward fruitful "interflow" trade may be illustrated by the following example.

Li Nien-tung is a merchant of Tsining, Shantung province.

Straw matting, woven by peasants, piled up at a cooperative ready for shipment to town.



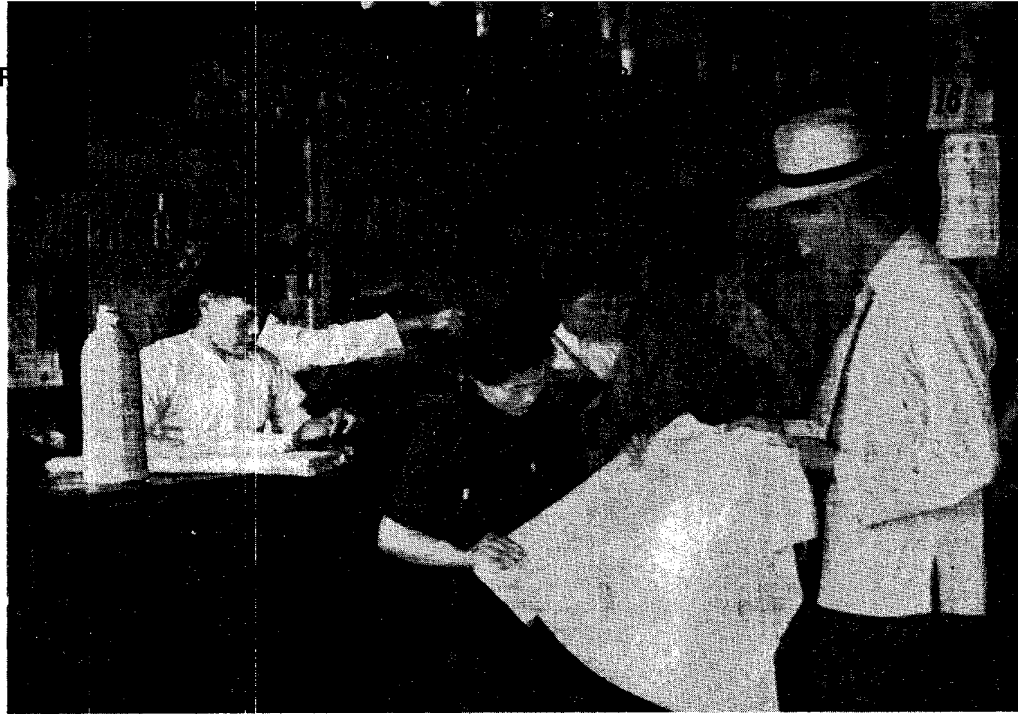
Starting with a capital of ¥30,000,-000 People's Currency (US\$1,500 or £535), he did ¥2 billion (US \$100,000 or £35,700) worth of "interflow" business in ten months.

A man of 22 years' commercial experience, Li had engaged in inter-provincial trade once before. The anti-Japanese and civil wars, however, changed him into a retail shopkeeper. After the liberation, he was encouraged to put his old knowledge to use once more by repeated urgings from the authorities and by the credits offered by government banks and transport concerns.

Li began by resuming his business connections with other cities and setting up new ones. When visiting Tsinan, capital of Shantung, he met a merchant from Tientsin and learned that Tientsin people loved to eat black melon seeds from the Shantung countryside. In Tientsin, he found people lining up for diesel oil of which there happened to be considerable stocks in Canton. In Hunan, he found plenty of tung oil which was badly needed by Shantung fishermen for their boats. In Wusih he found vegetable oil factories short of soybeans, which were a drug on the market in his home town, each October.

Within a few months, Li Nien-tung's trade network spread over 12 cities in all parts of the country. He kept up a large correspondence and sent salesmen out with samples. Last spring he organized a combine of 15 firms dealing in sea food. His success brought him not only profit but also honour. The Bureau of Industry and Commerce in his native town of Tsining cited him as an example of the kind of man "who can bring benefit both to himself and to the Chinese people."

That Li Nien-tung and hundreds like him have done well in internal trade is of course no accident. With the carrying out of the land reform in most parts of China, the peasants have been working hard and busily—because they are working for themselves. An estimate made by the Committee on Financial and Economic Affairs of the Central People's Government shows that the by-



A peasant woman buys cloth at a well-stocked local co-op.

products our peasants produce for sale each year, over and above their main crops, amount to over ¥40 trillion (US \$2 billion) a year. Government trading companies, cooperatives and private businessmen are all coming into the market for these, and are bringing industrial products from the cities to encourage the peasants to turn them into cash. Peasant purchasing power is zooming. In some parts of the country, such as the Northeast, it went up fivefold in a single year.

Rediscovering China's Wealth

To promote the interflow of goods between town and village, Native Products Exhibitions have been held in key cities all over the country. Peasant producers from hundreds of miles away were able to send their goods there through their new co-operative marketing groups. Visitors came in millions, and enormous transactions were closed.

Nomads were helped by the government to come all the way from Sinkiang to see the exhibition in Shanghai and to order tea, silk and manufactured goods.

Businessmen who had lived along the coast all their lives were stimulated by things they heard and saw to travel thousands of miles into the interior, where they ordered furs, leather, sheepskins,

herbs, tung oil, chemicals and raw materials for industry.

The results are already evident in the appearance of southern bamboo manufactures as household articles in North China, and of tropical fruits in large quantities on the markets of Peking, Tientsin and the cities of the Northeast.

Merchants and industrialists, especially, found that they had had no idea previously of the riches of their own country. Living in the coastal ports which imperialism had tied to its own economy, they had formed the mental habit of relying on imported goods for existence, and had really come to believe that China was poor in natural resources. One former importer exclaimed after returning to the north from an exhibition in Shanghai: "I had the shock of my life. Here I'd been importing expensive cork from abroad when we have tons of it, good and cheap, in our Shensi province."

This businessman is typical of many who used to consider the wide oceans no barrier while they had no idea of what materials could be found a few hundred miles inland. Now these men will start looking inside China for what they need. And they will find it, because the resources of our country are limitless.

Freedom to Marry

"The People's Republic of China shall abolish the feudal system which holds women in bondage. Women shall enjoy equal rights with men in political, economic, cultural, educational and social life. Freedom of marriage for men and women shall be put into effect."

(Article 6 of the Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference).

In spring of 1950, when the willows were turning green, Chairman Mao Tse-tung ordered the promulgation of the Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China. When the news reached Chaoyang village near Hulan county, Sungkiang province, it created quite a commotion.

The old people felt it was an outrage to modesty. Some said, "The idea! Discarding all the old laws handed down by our ancestors." Others commented, "Everything this government thinks up is good, but this marriage law..." and they shook their heads disapprovingly.

But all the young men and women were overjoyed. Among them was a pair of lovers—a young man named Lai Hsing-ya and a girl named Chao Shu-cheng—who were happy from the bottom of their hearts. They thought secretly, "At last our road is open."

The two of them lived in the same yard. Lai Hsing-ya had a father and mother and two younger brothers. Chao Shu-cheng was the only daughter of an old widower. Both families had been poor and oppressed but had "gotten up from their knees" since liberation.

Lai Hsing-ya with his strong arms was one of the outstanding young peasants of the village. The only reason he was still single at 23 was that he had been too poor to marry. This worried his 60-year-old mother more than anything. Day and night, she dreamed of holding a grandchild in her arms.

The girl, 18-year-old Chao Shu-cheng was also "a good worker."

She was quick and skilful at every job, both inside and outside the house. Her mother had died when she was very young, and her father treasured her as the apple of his eye. Many men came to ask for her hand, but her father refused every time. He wanted a son-in-law who would come and live with him and take care of him for the remainder of his life. He also dreamed of someone rich who would give him a lot of money so he would be able to buy a few things and get himself a new wife for his old age.

When the peasants worked in mutual aid teams in the fields, Hsing-ya often helped Shu-cheng and her father. Feeling that she should give something in return, Shu-cheng would go over to sew for the Lai family. When old Mrs. Lai saw Shu-cheng's fine needlework, she took the girl to her heart and began to love her as her own daughter. Shu-cheng, on her part, felt that the old woman was kind and sweet. As for Shu-cheng's father, who was greatly respected, he would often say of the diligent Hsing-ya, "That boy has something to him."

When they talked together, which was often, Hsing-ya who was a member of the Democratic Youth League would tell Shu-cheng about many new things. Shu-cheng who had been to school for a couple of years would teach the illiterate Hsing-ya how to read and write. As time went on, they fell in love.

During the slack season, the peasants began to rehearse a play. When it was presented, the whole village turned out to see it. Squeezed in the crowd were Hsing-ya and Shu-cheng.

The play was called "Yang Hsiao-lin." It was about a peasant boy who loved a peasant girl named Yang Hsiao-lin, and how they overcame all sorts of feudal obstacles in their fight for freedom of choice in marriage. As the play went on, Hsing-ya and Shu-cheng got more and more excited. Hsing-ya felt that "Yang Hsiao-lin" in the play was just like Chao Shu-cheng. As for Shu-cheng, she saw a strong resemblance between the hero of the play and the sweetheart of her choice. On their way home, Hsing-ya plucked up courage and stammered to Shu-cheng, "Let's be like 'Yang Hsiao-lin'." Blushing furiously, Shu-cheng nodded assent.

It did not take long for the whole village to see through Hsing-ya and Shu-cheng's "secret." Tongues began to wag. All the young people said enviously, "They are making a free choice." Admiringly they commented, "They are opening the road for us, good for them!"

But people who were less open-minded said, "How shocking! It seems that people will do anything, so long as the law allows." Some even said, "It's because Shu-cheng had no mother to teach her manners."

When the talk was carried to the ears of Shu-cheng's father, he was simply furious. He felt that his daughter had brought shame on his house. Although he had known that Shu-cheng and Hsing-ya saw each other very often, he had thought to himself, "They're only working together. There's no harm in that." Also he had been afraid of saying anything lest he offend Hsing-ya, in which case there would be nobody to help with the heavy work.

Old Chao first wanted to give his daughter a good scolding, but on second thought he changed his mind. He reasoned: "The child has not had the care of a mother. She has worked like a boy, and hasn't had a chance to enjoy herself." So he ended by trying to dissuade Shu-cheng gently with: "Hsing-ya is a good boy. But his family is too poor. You will have a hard time if you marry him."



"He is a fine boy, but he is too poor."

To his surprise, his daughter didn't take kindly to his well-meant advice. She actually dared retort: "Hsing-ya may be poor now, but he's not going to be poor all his life. I like him because he's hard working, and I am ready to share any hardships with him. Besides the government believes that men and women should be allowed to choose their own life-long partners. Parents should not interfere."

Old Chao's eyes nearly popped out of his head. He ordered his daughter never to enter his house again. But Shu-cheng remained firm in her decision.

At Hsing-ya and Shu-cheng's request, the village leaders went to have a talk with old man Chao. They pointed out how many traditional buy-and-sell marriages had ended tragically. They quoted paragraphs from the marriage law. Finally they said, "Freedom of choice in marriage is our national law. No one is allowed to go against it." The old man still dissented in his heart but had nothing more to say.

The bumper harvest of 1950 was something that had not been seen in over a dozen years. Every family in the village rejoiced, especially the Lai family, which had a wedding to celebrate as well. But they banged no drums and cymbals, and killed no pigs or sheep, as was the custom. All that happened was this. At sunset, Shu-cheng and Hsing-ya put on new clothes, and came back from the marriage registration office, smiles all over their faces. Afterward, there was a simple wedding ceremony. As was the old custom, the village leaders and young people went into the newlyweds' bedroom, teased them

and made them tell the story of their love. The sound of their laughter greatly irritated old man Chao who lived next door. Sighing and snorting, he drank one glass of wine after another.

All eyes in the village were glued on the Lai family after this "strange" wedding ceremony. What everybody saw was that the very next day after the wedding, the bride and bridegroom went out to work on the harvest. The young couple showed even more zest than before in work and study. The Lais lived in harmony. The news spread to the villages around. Other young people followed Shu-cheng and Hsing-ya's example, choosing their own partners.

The old people were astonished. For her wedding, Shu-cheng had not conformed to any of the old superstitions. She had not stopped to consider whether the day was lucky for weddings. The young couple had not bowed to heaven and earth for blessings. Still their married life seemed perfect. Said old Mrs. Lai, "This 'freedom of choice' is really a good thing. The ceremony is simple and economical, and we old folks don't have to fuss over anything."

Old man Chao stayed angry for some time. But he was gradually brought around by the behaviour of the Lai family. None of its members turned a cold shoulder on him for having tried to stop the marriage. On the contrary, they treated him even more kindly, and the young couple often came to see him and tell him the news. Besides, there was no more sarcastic gossip around the village. Instead, some of the former gossips were heard to say: "Those young people did the right thing."



Giving him a reading lesson.

East China Fisheries Revive

Like every other phase of national production, China's fisheries are undergoing reconstruction and expansion.

When the Kuomintang forces were driven off the east coast and out of the Chousan archipelago 17 months ago, they left the fishing fleets depleted through neglect, extortion and deliberate sabotage.

In 1934, East China had 68,807 sea-going junks, 288 steam vessels and several tens of thousands of fresh water fishing boats. The average annual catch was 700,000 tons of marine products. At the time of liberation, only 31,509 sea-going fishing junks and 125 steam vessels were left. Most of these were damaged and unfit for service. The fishing industry of the Chousan archipelago, in particular, had been almost completely put out of commission.

Restoration Begins

Since the People's Government was founded, it has extended every type of aid to the fishing people. Administrative organs at various levels were set up and fishermen's producer cooperatives were organized on a democratic basis. Government loans to the cooperatives amounted to ¥199 billion People's Currency (US \$9,950,000 or £3,553,500) in cash and 837 tons of salt to preserve their catch.

Today, 58,404 fishing boats, 56,080 sea-going junks and 131 motor vessels are engaged in fishing along the East China coast. They are equipped with 337,786 nets of various kinds. The number of fishing boats which put out to sea from January to June last year showed an increase of 71 per cent compared with the corresponding period of 1950. More



One of East China's fishing fleets ready to sail.

boats are being launched as dockyards are put back into commission.

The 1951 target was a catch of 500,000 tons. Preliminary figures showed that it was being met and might be considerably surpassed.

The East China Marine Products Conference held last summer set a 1952 target of 700,000 tons—nearly double the catch of 1950. It also drew up plans to strengthen the fishermen's own organizations to enlist their enthusiasm and raise production.

Cooperatives and Markets

In the past, East China's fishermen were feudally exploited by so-called fishing companies and "sales agencies" which collected arbitrary fees and were really little more than "protection rackets." These parasitic and gangster practices are now only a bad memory. Fish markets have been set up in Shanghai, Tsingtao, Chefoo, Ningpo, Wenchow, Chousan and Wusih. More than 300 cooperatives are functioning in different fishing ports to help solve problems of production, marketing and supply, and to supervise the carrying out of reforms in the industry.

The government has set up state-operated Marine Products Corporations in Shanghai and Shantung, and state-operated Marine Products Marketing Corporations in Shantung, north Anhwei and Chekiang to unite and guide private merchants in the development of the fish industry.

Large loans have been granted to private merchants to enable them to resume curing fish for storage and shipment elsewhere.

Prices Stabilized; Business Expanded

As a result of the Shanghai Native Products Exhibition and the East China Native Products Conference, contracts for large quantities of marine products have been concluded with North, Northwest and Southwest China, reviving long lost trade relations with these areas. During the season last year, the railway administration lowered freight charges for fish, facilitating transport and the proper fulfilment of these contracts.

As a result of stability in currency and prices, and of steps taken by the government, the price of fish was maintained on an even level instead of fluctuating wildly as before. The surplus catch was put into cold storage or absorbed from the market by processing and curing establishments.

The volume of business in Shanghai last year ran at double the rate of 1950. The daily arrival of fish was often over 1,000 tons, greatly exceeding the customary past record. Yet there were no lulls in the fish market and no stocks were left to rot as "over-supply." Last year, the wholesale price averaged ¥2,000 (about 10 cents U.S. currency or 8½d.) per lb., equalling the domestic price of 1.8 lbs. of rice.

Aid by Government

The People's Government has helped the fishermen who operate individually and constitute 90 per cent of the total. To aid them in increasing production, they have been given cash loans totalling ¥79 billion (US \$3,950,000 or £1,415,000) to buy boats, fishing equipment, food, and fish salt. Salt has been made available to them in large quantities at low cost.

The people's armed forces have rid the seacoast of pirates, so that fishermen can put out to sea and go about their work without fear or worry. As a result, the number of fishing vessels active off the Chekiang coast in 1951 doubled, and that off the Shantung coast trebled as compared with 1950.

It is natural that under these circumstances the livelihood of the fishermen has improved tremendously. At the port of Kiaochow in Shantung, many have earned enough to begin keeping mules for transport and fattening pigs for the market.

Conservation

The East China Military and Administrative Committee on Marine Production has set up a special organ to compile data and do research into the fishing industry.

The people's governments of various maritime municipalities and counties will enforce government laws and decrees regarding the demarcation of prohibited areas and registration of fishing rights. The ownership and utilization of fresh water fishing areas is being defined in accordance with the stipulations in the Agrarian Reform Law.

Whenever necessary and possible, fishing port facilities, light-houses and observation points are to be rehabilitated for the safety of the fishing fleet.

Fishing grounds are now protected by a ban on the use of explosives and other destructive activities. It is forbidden either

There is plenty of fresh fish on sale in all Chinese cities. This stall is in Peking.

to use or to manufacture nets below standard mesh.

Wiping Out the Past

This picture is entirely in contrast to the situation before liberation. The three state-operated marine products enterprises taken over from the Kuomintang were all notorious for their corruption and waste. The Americans too had set up a "Fisheries Rehabilitation Administration" to exploit and enslave our fisheries. American and Kuomintang secret service personnel used to occupy responsible positions in the industry. Functionaries appointed by the Americans were retired navy men posing as experts in fishery.

American trawler captains drew salaries of US \$900 per month, plus a bonus of US \$0.0275 per pound of fish caught. Sometimes a boat load of fish was sold for barely enough to cover the bonus of the foreign captain, especially when the catch consisted of species that did not bring a good price on the market.

The "Fisheries Rehabilitation Administration" maintained 130 fishing boats, whose monthly overhead expenses amounted to ¥5.6

billion if reckoned in present currency. All the boats together caught 10,000 tons of fish in four years, which sold for only about one ninth of the expenditure claimed. Enormous sums supposedly collected for improvements went into private pockets leaving no trace in the account books. This was what the Americans called a project for relief and rehabilitation, to revive the fisheries by "scientific methods."

The "China Marine Products Company" and the "Yellow Sea Marine Products Company," which were merely paper organizations when taken over, have now been reorganized into the Shanghai Marine Products Company and the Shantung Marine Products Company. By the united efforts of their workers, they were purged of reactionary and corrupt elements and put into proper order.

The People's Government is making big investments in ship-building and processing plants for the fisheries. Trawlers are busy at sea. Eight ice and cold storage plants, two dockyards, two net factories, two cod liver oil refineries and one cannery are now serving the fishing grounds of the East China coast.



Prosperity in Private Enterprise

After a succession of meetings between labour and management in the second half of July 1951, the Tientsin Hengyuan Textile Mill, a prosperous enterprise financed by private capital, announced new production goals for the month of August. By the end of the month these goals had been exceeded. Profits were also 23 per cent higher than had been anticipated.

The experiences of the Hengyuan mill, which has existed for 31 years but never did well in the past, are typical of the whole private textile industry of China. So is the good business, and its confidence in its prospects at the present time.

When the Hengyuan Mill was founded a generation ago, its shareholders were mostly northern warlords who quickly turned its management into a sink of corruption and bureaucracy. Every factory official, big or small, made money for himself on the side. For instance, one man who was responsible for checking the weight of coal had a monthly

salary of only 10 Yuan (about US \$5.00 at the time), yet he bought himself twelve houses in Tientsin at the end of a few years. No wonder Pien Shih-ching, the white-haired bespectacled old director of the mill, says when he recalls the past: "Hengyuan used to be riddled with a thousand holes and covered with a hundred sores."

In 1928, when Hengyuan went bankrupt and closed down, no one was surprised. A year later, new bank loans were negotiated and an effort was made to reopen. Inefficiency and the competition of large amounts of Japanese yarn then being smuggled into Tientsin quickly caused its doors to shut again.

In 1936, Hengyuan was reorganized by a banking group which rid it of its feudal features and tried to run it along modern lines. Business was beginning to look up when Tientsin was occupied by the Japanese.

The Japanese were soon trying to get control of the Hengyuan

mill, offering to "cooperate" with its owners. When this failed, they attempted to buy up all the shares. Failing again, they simply broke into the mill and robbed it of one-third of its machinery. Moreover, through a system of cotton rationing, they starved it of raw material. By 1942, only 800 of the 30,700 spindles were operating.

Victory over Japan did not help Hengyuan either. The new manager who took over under the Kuomintang gave key positions to incapable relatives and friends, whom the workers secretly called by such names as "The Thirteen Tyrants" and "The Four Bullies." These parasites cared nothing for the mill but took advantage of the Kuomintang inflation to make money on the black market while the enterprise itself rapidly heaped up debts.

A New Situation

In January 1949, Tientsin was liberated by the People's Army. A new economic policy was laid down to ensure that both labour and capital would benefit from a joint effort to increase production. But although the worst elements in its ranks no longer ruled the roost, Hengyuan's management did not at first understand the policy. Nor did the workers.

The leaders of the labour union were afraid that if they worked to increase production they would appear to be toadying to the capitalists and would therefore lose the confidence of the members who looked to them for better living conditions above all else.

Director Pien Shih-ching of the Hengyuan Textile Mill confers with trade union delegates on production.



Workers meet to consider how best to carry out their pledges at the production conference.



On the other hand, the capitalists were filled with apprehension. They were not sure that they could make money under the new conditions. They were timid about making a real effort to promote production. They did not consult the labour union on their problems, because they thought it was out for higher wages only, and had no other concerns. To show that they were "progressive" they gave the union anything that it asked for, but they did it grudgingly.

In May, Liu Shao-chi, vice-chairman of the government and a senior leader of China's Communist Party, came to Tientsin and gave his famous talk on "benefits for both capital and labour." This greatly clarified the situation. The mill-workers came to understand that to produce more was the only way to improve their standard of living. Industrial output rose almost at once.

Labour-Capital Conferences

Regular conferences between labour and the mill-owners to discuss how to increase production, began in February, 1950.

At first, the management representatives were very dubious and uneasy about such conferences. On the one hand they had seen how workers in state-owned factories organized themselves to push production forward and thought the Hengyuan mill might derive similar benefits. On the other hand, they were afraid the discussions might get "out of hand." What if a worker got up at a public meeting and asked embarrassing questions about deadwood administrative personnel who might be holding jobs not because of any ability but as a result of ties of friendship or family with the owners?

To put it briefly, the management first thought only of how it

might use the union rather than cooperate with it for the common good. It was this outlook which caused it to make the suggestion that, instead of joint meetings, two union delegates might be allowed to attend meetings of the administration.

The union turned down this offer, because it felt that it would reduce the role of its representatives from joint leadership in production to merely answering questions. To ease the fears of the owners, the union repeated once more that the only purpose of the production conferences would be to raise output, and that no decisions would be taken on which both sides did not agree. If either management or labour disagreed on a problem, no decision would be made. The owners fully accepted this formula and the conferences began on a regular basis.

Why Production Rose

Workers' delegates to the talks reported regularly to the rank-and-file, raising their sense of participation and consequently their enthusiasm. As a result, many knotty problems were solved. Here are some examples.

One of the spinning shops successfully increased its yarn output, but the winding shop, which was next in the production line, could not keep up with it. As a result, the unwound yarn piled up in great quantities. Management had tried to solve this problem by getting the winders to work overtime. This had only

resulted in fatigue and illness among the workers without improving the situation.

When the question was submitted to the conference, the union undertook to seek the workers' advice on how to remove the bottleneck by improving work-methods and granting bonuses, instead of overtime or speed-up. The management was skeptical saying, "Let's see if you can convince them?" The results fully justified the union suggestion, and the lag was successfully eliminated.

In the weaving department, the owners had tried long and unsuccessfully to get each worker to mind eight looms instead of four or six. The union pointed out that the trouble lay not in technique but in the wage system. When the workers themselves were enlisted in working out an equitable wage scale, the previously "insoluble" question turned out to be quite simple.

Hengyuan Becomes a Model

Another spectacular improvement took place in the elimination of waste. The union mobilized the workers to devise ways of cutting it down. As a result, the average daily waste was reduced from 500 lbs. to 270 lbs. It was then that director Pien declared: "I've been running factories for scores of years, but I could never imagine anything like this before."

Last spring, after a year of experience, the Conference of

Labour and Capital had acquired enough confidence to launch a three-month work competition. This led to the breaking of all previous production records at the Hengyuan mill. The mill was subsequently elected a model industrial enterprise of Tientsin.

In July 1951, a further step was taken. The Hengyuan mill, for the first time in its history, drew up a comprehensive production plan. This plan was thoroughly discussed at production conferences in each shop. It not only set output targets but also a system for checking up on quality.

Work competitions are now a regular feature of Hengyuan's life. Every one of those already completed has corrected some technical or organizational fault hitherto characteristic of private factories in China. More scientific

procedures have resulted from each.

Better Work: Better Life

Wage standards have been re-adjusted. All workers, technicians and management personnel are now paid according to actual function and ability on the job—not according to custom or connections.

Personnel-shifts have been made in accordance with the needs of productive efficiency.

The mill owners have come to modify their idea that low wages are the only source of prosperity. They have learned from facts the importance of satisfying the workers' demands for a better life. Appropriations from profits have been used to improve the mill hospital and to build spare-time schools for the workers and

creches for their children. The workers now eat meat and polished rice instead of rough grains as before.

The business of the Hengyuan cotton mill is better than it has ever been. Profits by the end of 1949 were already sufficient to pay off all its accumulated debts, with plenty to spare. Since then a substantial surplus has been built up.

No longer menaced by the causes which made life for Chinese factories so precarious in the old days of bureaucratic extortion and unfair imperialist competition, the owners of the Hengyuan cotton mill are now buying new machinery and planning to set up a mill in west China. They have also sent out salesmen all over the country to collect orders for Hengyuan's constantly growing output.



THE WORKERS' CULTURAL PALACE

Woodcut By Ku Yuan

The People's Relief Administration of China

The natural calamities which afflicted the people of China for centuries were really largely man-made. They drew such heavy toll only because the people had lost all power to avert disasters and limit their effects. The cause of this situation was the long-standing robbery of the country by imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucratic monopoly. As a result, the working people of China lived under the constant threat of hunger and death.

Today the Chinese people have risen from their knees. They are rapidly rebuilding their economic life, social relationships and national defence. Relief and social welfare work in both town and country have ceased to be isolated and become a part of the general peaceful reconstruction of the country.

How It was Organized

The People's Relief Administration of China (PRAC) has the task of achieving this integration throughout China. It was set up after the All-China People's Relief Conference held in Peking in April 1950. The conference was called by the Chinese Liberated Areas Relief Administration (CLARA) which had previously operated in the old liberated areas of China. It was attended by representatives of the All-China Federation of Labour, the All-China Federation of Democratic Youth, the All-China Student Federation and the All-China Federation of Literature and Arts, relief and welfare organizations, the Chinese Red Cross and medical associations, Chinese returned from abroad, peasants, national minorities, industrialists and businessmen, religious workers, refugees and local and central government departments concerned with relief. At this meeting, the People's Relief Administration of China came into being.

In a sense, PRAC is the successor of CLARA. The older or-

ganization had collected material on Japanese atrocities and sent it abroad as proof of its accusations against the Japanese invaders. It had also reported, in its Chinese and English language publications, on the widespread relief work it was doing in the liberated areas. This brought in large contributions of cash and relief goods from peace-loving and progressive people in other parts of China and in many other countries: CLARA had distributed these contributions, which came chiefly through Soong Ching Ling (Mme. Sun Yat-sen), to refugees from flood and drought in the liberated areas and to the International Peace Hospitals. It had also negotiated with UNRRA for relief goods.

A People's Organization

The People's Relief Administration of China is not a government department. It is a people's organization. Its chairman is Soong Ching Ling, who had previously

contributed so much to the welfare of the people of the liberated areas. She is concurrently chairman of the China Welfare Institute. The vice-chairmen of PRAC are Tung Pi-wu, former chairman of CLARA; Hsieh Chueh-tsai, a welfare worker with decades of experience; Li Teh-chuan, (Mme. Feng Yu-hsiang) vice-chairman of the All-China Federation of Democratic Women and chairman of the Chinese Red Cross; and Wu Yao-tsung, a man long prominent in religious work and an outstanding leader of the Chinese YMCA. Led by this distinguished group, PRAC has been carrying on large scale relief and welfare work by mobilizing society to help care for those in distress and by assisting refugees and destitute people to earn a livelihood through production.

Productive employment has become the principal method of administering relief to the needy in both urban and rural areas of our country. All over China, institutions have been set up where refugees and city poor may learn a craft, enabling them to maintain themselves. In these places, former beggars, pickpockets, and prostitutes are also re-educated for production.



PRAC executive committee members sign papers governing the take-over of U.S.-subsidized welfare institutions after serious abuses had been discovered in them.

In 1949, there were floods in China, but we succeeded in overcoming them successfully. The People's Government sent supplies and money for the victims while people all over the country donated winter clothing and other necessities. Distribution of relief goods in the affected areas was entrusted to PRAC. The government, through PRAC and local authorities, helped the flood sufferers to organize and maintain themselves by fishing, chopping wood, weaving straw mats, preparing saltpetre, making vegetable oil, embroidering, spinning and weaving, so that everybody in the countryside was busy and earning something.

The same method was applied in administering relief to unemployed city workers. In the year May 1950 to May 1951, the number of unemployed workers in China decreased by two-thirds.

China is a country of 475,000,000 people with tremendous manpower, natural and financial resources. Our great potential, even at the present level of economy, may be illustrated by one example. In the autumn of 1950, PRAC began a campaign for winter clothes for flood refugees in north Anhwei. In three short months, over 6,800,000 winter outfits had been contributed by sympathetic people all over China, more than enough to clothe all the refugees warmly. This spirit of helping others in distress is a part of the Chinese character. Today it has full opportunity to develop.

China has many private welfare and relief organizations. Some are international, some are national, some are nation-wide and some are local. Some of these organizations exist only in name, and are no longer effective. But a number of private welfare and relief institutions have real capacity for useful work. Since it was set up in 1950, PRAC has been helping them improve their activities and apply them in an effective way.

Helping Others

The work of the People's Relief Administration of China now extends to sufferers from disasters



PRAC workers teach public health through dances.

and oppression outside our own borders. For example, British colonial authorities have been persecuting Chinese living in Malaya, deporting many to China after the loss of all their property. To meet this situation, PRAC and the Association of Returned Chinese from Overseas have jointly organized the Chinese People's Relief Committee for Refugees from Malaya. This committee is now very active.

Since the beginning of the war in Korea, tens of thousands of Koreans have lost home and livelihood. PRAC is carrying on a donation campaign to help them which has already produced large quantities of foodstuffs, blankets, cloth, clothing, cotton, shoes, stockings, medicine and such household necessities as needles and thread.

Taking Over U.S. "Charities"

Another job of PRAC has been to take over charities formerly subsidized by funds from the United States. To attain its own purposes, American imperialism directly or indirectly carried on various "charities" in China. Later, again for its own political purposes, it suddenly stopped all subsidies to these charities. Obviously, the aim of such manoeuvres was not really to further the welfare of the Chinese people,

but rather to smooth the road to U.S. domination over China.

Following liberation, it was discovered that Chinese children had been subjected to mental and physical torture in imperialist-run orphanages. It was proved conclusively by material evidence that tens of thousands of children had died in these institutions, some of which showed a death rate of from 70 to over 90 per cent in their own registration books. Children who were so fortunate as to survive were also found to be in shocking condition.

Faced with such a situation, the Government Administration Council directed that U.S.-subsidized charities be taken over. A meeting was called in Peking to discuss procedures, which were then successfully applied in many cities. In place of the funds which stopped coming from America, PRAC has financed those institutions which have continued to operate, as well as guided them in the improvement of their work.

PRAC now has offices in all the big cities of China. PRAC believes that, with China's increasing prosperity, the number of people in need of relief will gradually decrease year by year. With this in mind, PRAC aims to turn gradually from relief to welfare work.

The China Welfare Institute

The China Welfare Institute has a history of 13 years. It was founded and is still headed by Soong Ching Ling (Mme. Sun Yat-sen), one of the greatest personalities in China's struggle for freedom from oppression and poverty. Since its inception in 1938, it has worked to serve the best interests of the Chinese people.

The organization began its work during the Sino-Japanese war as the China Defence League, a name that became known to friends of democracy everywhere. Throughout the war years it served as a focal point for the distribution of funds and supplies sent by friends of China from all parts of the world to aid the fighters against Japanese invasion. It helped set up and support the renowned International Peace Hospitals, founded nurseries and orphanages for the child victims of the war and gave impetus to the formation of industrial cooperatives to bolster the war-torn economy and provide employment, free of exploitation, for large numbers of refugees. CDL projects were located where the fighting was heaviest and had taken the greatest toll. Many of them were behind the Japanese lines, in the guerilla areas.

Battle Against Obstacles

After V-J Day, the CDL changed its name and the forms of its work to fit the new circumstances. As the China Welfare Fund, it expanded its original projects in the interior regions. At the same time, it contributed to the overall rehabilitation of the country by instituting new projects.

The First International Peace Hospital, housed in caves in Yen-an during the war with Japan.

The last years of the Kuomintang regime threatened to drown all ideas of reviving China in inflation, corruption and outright official suppression of everything new. But despite the obstacles, and because of the inspired leadership of Chairman Soong, the China Welfare Fund continued its work. During the Liberation War, the Fund led the nationwide demand that UNRRA and other international relief and welfare aid be allocated fairly where the people needed it most, whether the Kuomintang controlled the areas or not. It not only demanded such distribution but set an example of it in its own activity. Within Kuomintang territory it demanded that aid go to the famine areas of South China and shouldered the task of keeping starving children off the streets and roads. It demanded that help be given to the city poor, and demonstrated what could be done by establishing, in the slums of Shanghai, children's centres which provided literacy training, medical care and dis-

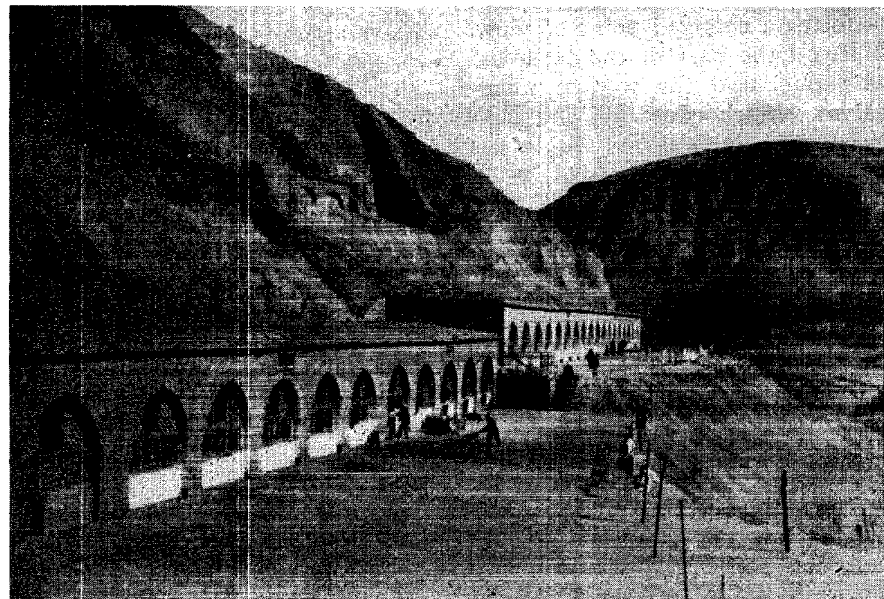
tribution of food and clothing on a mass scale. It also created the Children's Theatre both to entertain and educate thousands of workers' children.

The third phase of the organization's history began with the liberation of the Chinese mainland and the convening of the All-China People's Relief Conference in April 1950. It changed its name once more, becoming the China Welfare Institute. Then it embarked on the new development for which the people's victory now provided unparalleled opportunities.

Present Work

The present task of the CWI is to set up model projects for nationwide welfare and cultural work for the wives and children of workers, farmers and soldiers. Since liberation, its staff has grown tenfold to the present total of over three hundred. Its field units have increased from four to eleven. Instead of the makeshift and crowded rented quarters of the past, it is now housed in a handsome office building of its own in Shanghai.

Current CWI projects range from nurseries to the publication of a children's magazine, from maternity and child health centres to a Children's Theatre. It has



established the first Children's Cultural Palace in China, opened formally in October 1951, and created a network of free public libraries for the children of Shanghai.

All of these projects are either new to the CWI, and indeed to China, or represent the present form of old programmes which have had to be totally revamped to meet the long-neglected needs of the people.

An example of totally new work is the Children's Cultural Palace. A beautiful spacious building has been erected to house this work. The project aims to stimulate national interest in youth cultural activities and to pioneer similar palaces throughout the country. Youth organizers from far and wide are to be brought to this institution to see how it works. They will observe how appreciation for music, science and other subjects is stimulated, and what teaching methods and materials are used. They will carry the results of their observations back to their own communities.

An example of old work which has been reorganized is the CWI network of maternity and child health centres and stations. Such programmes are not new to China, but the objectives they now pursue are. Their present aim is not to serve a few "cases" but the largest numbers of workers. This requires a changed point of view, both on the part of the technical personnel and the women themselves. Much education and publicity is being carried on to reorient technicians toward work for the greater number of people, and to convince the people to accept modern methods in childbirth and sanitation. The responsibility that has fallen on the CWI is great, since the results it obtains will be critically studied and used throughout the land.

Facing the Future

Thus the China Welfare Institute now occupies one of the foremost positions in welfare work in China. Its representatives sit



Mothers bring their babies to the CWI centres for regular check-ups.

on the executive committee of the People's Relief Administration of China, which is the leading organization for all relief and welfare nationally. On the operational level, CWI delegates participate in working committees and attend national and local conferences on welfare, culture and education. The head of its maternity and child health section, for instance, is a delegate to the National Health Conference held annually in Peking. Regionally, CWI cultural workers took part in the East China Conference which determined the cultural programme for an area with a population of 140 million people. The CWI has also been represented

internationally. One of its staff members was a delegate to the Second World Peace Congress held in Warsaw.

The advances and accomplishments of the China Welfare Institute are a manifestation of the general improvement that has come about in the lives of the Chinese people since the founding of the People's Republic of China. As the country's economic position gradually gains strength, more funds and facilities will be made available for welfare work. The CWI looks forward to the future. It is preparing itself to assume new and heavier duties in the service of our people.

NEWS of CWI



CWI Children's Cultural Palace.

CHILDREN'S CULTURAL PALACE

In the past Shanghai was well known for the appallingly crowded and insanitary conditions in which thousands of workers lived, ate, slept and died. Few children went to school. They never dreamed that they might have cultural facilities. Their playgrounds were the dusty, crowded lanes and streets. But these conditions are being rapidly changed.

One step toward the change was made when the CWI officially opened its Children's Cultural Palace last July in the Yulin factory district, where there are 40,000 youngsters. The Palace will supplement the education the children get in schools. It will work to raise the cultural level of the most promising children through a variety of activities including music, dancing, acting, study of natural history and other subjects. A library with an initial 4,000 books has been installed and will be built up further.

CWI IN SHANGHAI WOMAN AND CHILD HEALTH COMMITTEE

CWI health workers have accepted a leading role in the newly-organized Shanghai Woman and Child Health Com-

mittee. The Committee is composed of representatives of 17 organizations including the Shanghai Trade Union Council, the Health Bureau, the Democratic Women's Association, and the CWI. Its functions will include planning and coordinating of all activities in the field; preparation of plans for woman and child health work; coordination of work by private and public health workers; intensification of health education and publicity, and training of cadres; investigation and improvement of techniques and efficiency.

NEW WAYS TO MODERN MEDICINE

One-act playlets portraying childbirth under old and modern conditions respectively were performed continuously before audiences totalling 16,000 people during a seven-day Mother and Child Health Exhibition organized by the China Welfare Institute and the District People's Government of Kiangning, Shanghai in July 1951. In the month following this experiment, the number of delivery calls to the CWI clinic in the district doubled by actual count. This was a very important achievement, because one of the main problems in reducing the infant mortality rate in China is to convince women that modern medical care in the

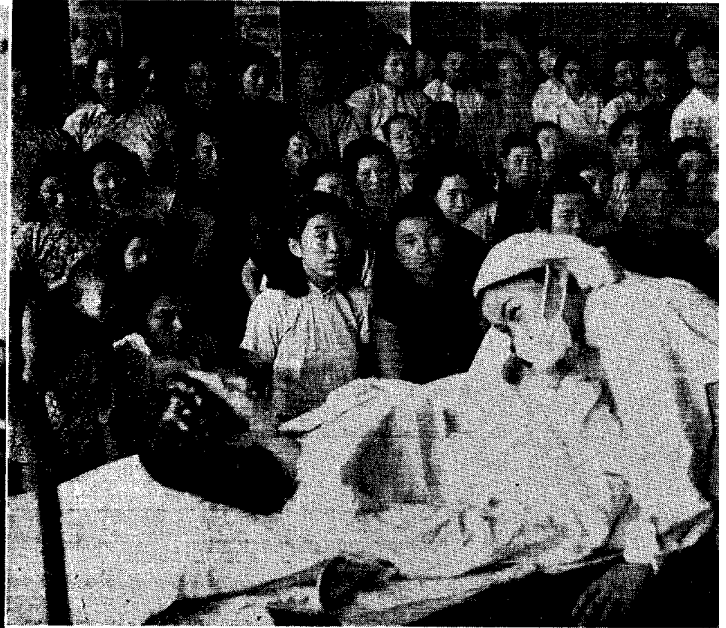
delivery of babies is more reliable than that of an old-fashioned midwife.

Realism was the secret of the exhibition's success. To see the childbirth scenes, the audience filed through two rooms. In the first, the mother (a dummy) was propped up in the traditional sitting position in extreme discomfort, with no arrangements for sterilization anywhere in sight and only a superstitious midwife to assist. When it became apparent the woman was having difficulty the midwife had no way to "help" except by lighting candles and praying loudly.

In the second room the woman was lying comfortably in bed, a number of shiny instruments were being sterilized and a doctor in clean overalls and rubber gloves was helping with the delivery. Raconteurs described exactly what was happening in both tableaux. They explained why one way was bad and the



Model aeroplanes are a favourite hobby at the Children's Cultural Palace, where a special construction room, with materials and teachers, is provided.



Modern childbirth methods were demonstrated at an exhibition, with large dolls as "patients."

other good, and what consequences might be expected from each.

Other sections of the exhibition showed how to provide cheap, nutritious meals for children and how best to clothe and care for them so that they might be healthy and strong.

In a room devoted to diet, the comparative food values of easily obtained foods such as cabbage, beans and soybean milk, were explained and demonstrated. The whole approach was different from that too often adopted in previous "show window" exhibits which blandly advised people to eat plenty of oranges, vitamin pills and other things that they could not possibly afford.

Also included in the exhibition were a nursery and a hospital room. The nursery emphasized cleanliness and the importance of frequent changes of clothes for children. It also showed the best types of toys and illustrated model everyday diets for children from two to five years old.

A one-act play in the hospital room showed a father bringing in his sick child, a diagnosis of diphtheria, the treatment given the child when left in the hospital, and its final return home after recovery. The play aimed at breaking down people's fears of hospitalizing their children.

The impression created by the exhibition was reflected in the following comments in the visitors' book.

"After seeing the exhibition, we changed our minds about having our

babies delivered by old-fashioned midwives."

Two pregnant workers of China Sun Dyeing Factory

"After seeing the exhibition, I feel that women workers urgently need this kind of practical education. It greatly increases the knowledge of woman and child health. I also feel that it demonstrates that the People's Government is truly thinking of the benefit of the people and the happiness of the next generation."

—Hsu Ching, Wing On Textile Mill No. 3.

SOVIET EXPERT VISITS NURSERY

The CWI Nursery in Shanghai, which cares for 190 children from two to five years old, received a visit from an experienced Soviet woman and child health worker, Dr. Tzibulskaya on May 30, 1951. After examining the children, buildings and equipment, the doctor asked many questions concerning the diet, daily schedule and general operation.

In a discussion with staff members afterwards, Dr. Tzibulskaya expressed her approval of what was being done and gave some practical advice. She recommended that every possible use should be made of sunshine and fresh air to build up the resistance of the children and make them grow healthy and strong. She thought it was a mistake to let them rest in rooms with curtained windows but that they should be accustomed to "rest" in broad daylight. Generally, she emphasized that they should not be coddled.



Geography Class.

Dr. Tzibulskaya also suggested that different schedules be worked out for the varying age groups, and that all laundry be both boiled and ironed for full sterilization.

SUMMER COURSE

One hundred and six boys and girls aged from 11 to 15, members of the Pioneer organizations of schools in the Yulin factory district of Shanghai, attended a one-month summer vacation course organized by the CWI Children's Cultural Palace and the Yulin Young Pioneers. The aim of the course was to raise the cultural level of the most promising school children in the workers' area and to develop their sense of responsibility and leadership.

The boys and girls were housed in one of the Yulin primary schools. They were given the run of the newly-opened Children's Cultural Palace for their studies and activities which included art, music, dancing, literature, geography and model airplane construction. A nearby textile factory gave them the use of its swimming pool. Much time was spent on physical culture and sports and no child gained less than two pounds in weight during the month.

The biggest event for the children most of whom had never been outside Shanghai, was a two-day excursion to the sea-coast where they visited the navy, had a long discussion with a famous model woman agricultural worker, and insisted on getting up at three in the morning to see the sun rise over the sea.

In drawings, art work and discussions the children expressed the new happiness that had come into their lives since the formation of the People's Government and the sure hopes they had for the future.

ORGANIZATIONS TAKEN OVER

In Shanghai, the Chapei and Hongkew Child Welfare Centres and a day nursery formerly subsidized by the U.S. Church World Service were taken over by the China Welfare Institute last August.

The two welfare centres, housed in quonset huts, are being reorganized as children's libraries and reading rooms. The nursery, which has been caring for forty infants from two to five years old, will be continued for the time being with the same staff as before.



Kiddies in a CWI nursery.

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Our Contributors

SOONG CHING LING, chairman of the China Welfare Institute and the People's Relief Administration of China, has devoted her life to the progress and welfare of the Chinese people and to the cause of peace and democracy throughout the world. She was the wife and secretary of the late Dr. Sun Yat-sen. In the darkest period of reaction in China she headed the China Civil Rights League, and during the Anti-Japanese War, the China Defence League (now the China Welfare Institute). She has been one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China since its establishment in 1949.

FU TSO-YI is Minister of Water Conservancy in the Central People's Government and a member of the National Council of the People's Political Consultative Conference and the People's Revolutionary Military Council.

LI TEH-CHUAN daughter of a preacher, comes of a family that has been Christian for three generations. In her youth, she worked as a teacher and as secretary of the Young Women's Christian Association in Peking. At 29, she married the late General Feng Yu-hsiang, widely known as "the Christian General."

During the Sino-Japanese war, Li Teh-chuan was a leader of the women's movement in Chungking. After V-J day she spent much of her time in child welfare work and organized the Child Welfare Association of China.

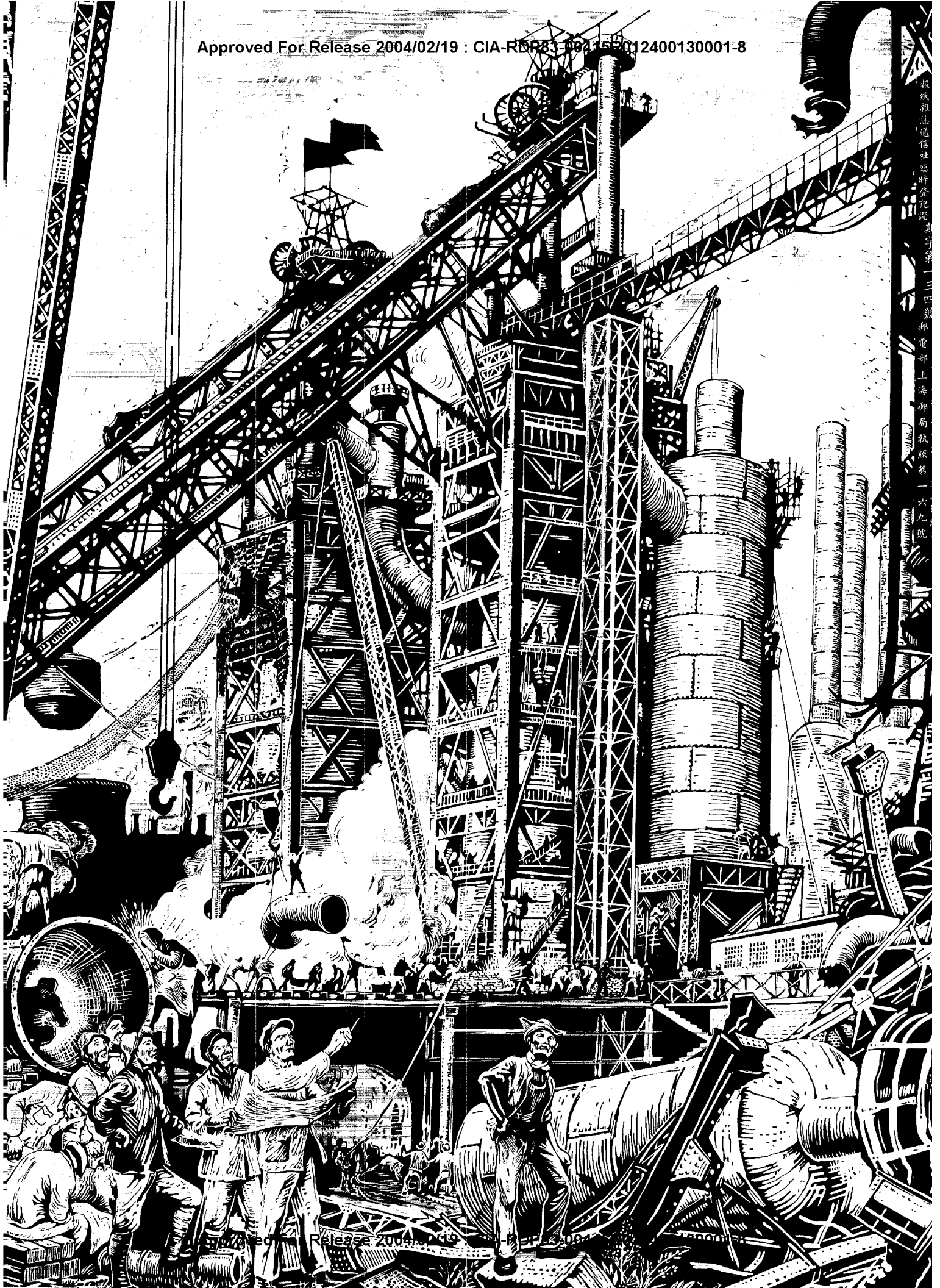
She is now Minister of Health in the Central People's Government, chairman of the Chinese Red Cross, vice-chairman of the People's Relief Administration of China and the All-China Federation of Democratic Women.

CHEN HAN-SENG is a member of the World Peace Council. Formerly he was professor of History at the National University of Peking and more recently Walker-Ames Professor at the University of Washington, Seattle, U.S.A. From 1939 to 1942 he was Secretary of the International Committee for the Advancement of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives. He is now Deputy Chairman of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs.

CHAO PU-CHU is a noted relief and welfare worker, a member of the Executive Committee of the People's Relief Administration of China and Vice-Chairman of its Shanghai branch.

He was active in mobilizing material resources and manpower for the people's forces in the Anti-Japanese and National Liberation wars and was a religious group (Buddhist) delegate to the People's Political Consultative Conference in 1949, where he was elected a member of the National Committee.

JEN TEH-YAO dramatist, graduated from the National College of Drama in 1939. He is now director of the Children's Theatre, China Welfare Institute, with which he has been connected since 1947, and for which he composed the well-received children's opera "Always Be Prepared." In 1951, he went to Warsaw as a member of the Chinese delegation to the World Peace Congress.

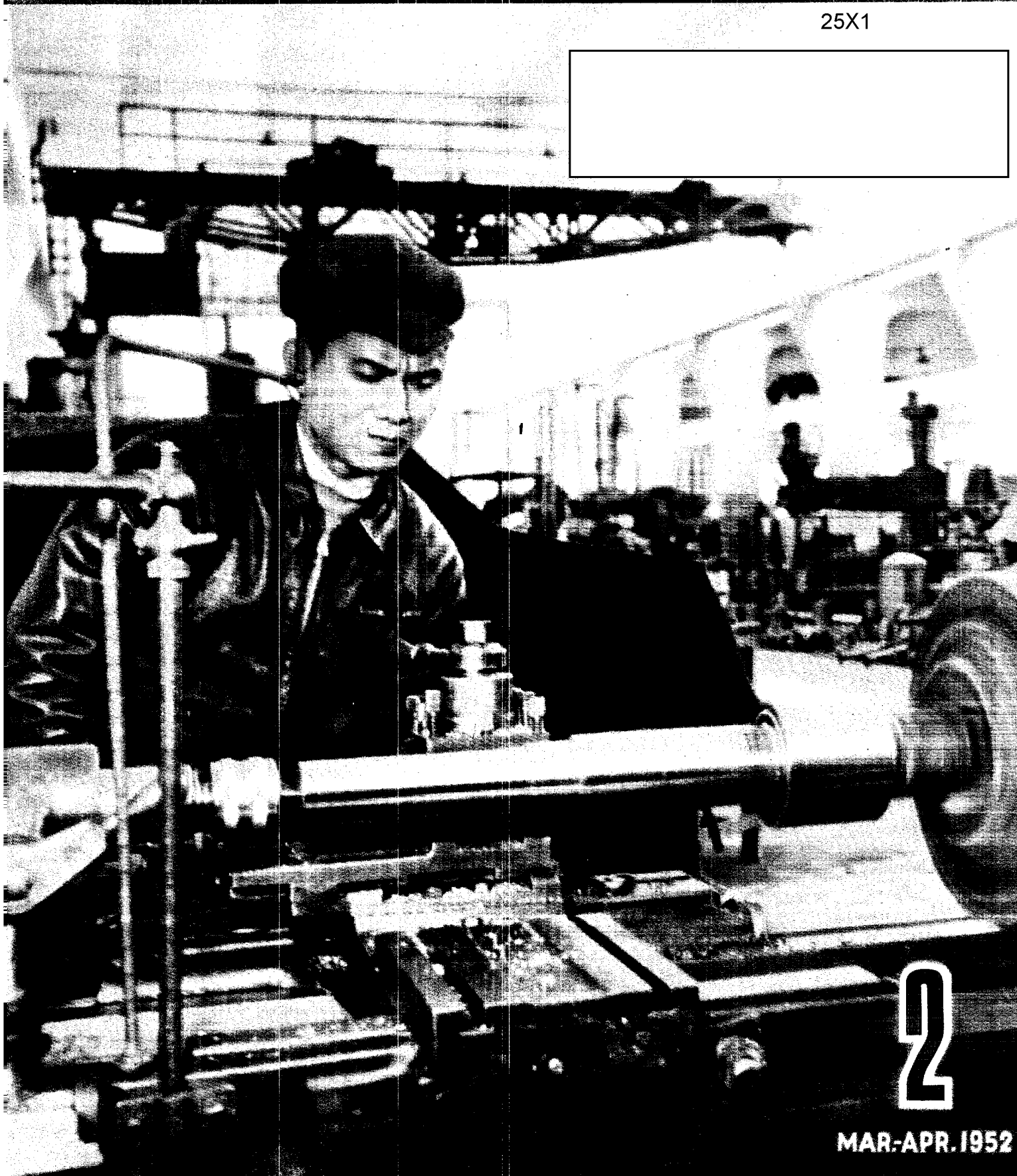


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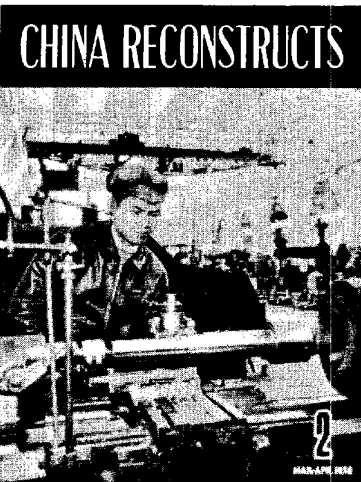


CHINA RECONSTRUCTS

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FRONT COVER: A worker in the Tung Yung Machine Works in Shanghai applying the advanced Soviet high speed cutting method which greatly speeds up production and improves the quality of products.

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Protect The Children!

SOONG CHING LING



Mao Tse-tung, leader of the Chinese people, is especially concerned for the children of our country and is frequently seen in their company. Here he is receiving representatives of the Pioneers in Peking.

PROTECT the children! Protect them from every possible harm! Give them every advantage in life!

These are the demands of any decent person. For nothing is dearer to man than his children.

But today, the children are under direct threat. Already war is a devastating fact in several corners of the world. Already mothers are standing amidst torn fields and rubble streets, shedding bitter tears for their young ones. This has alerted mankind. It is a warning that we must act now to prevent such misery and distress from sweeping over all children. We can see that protecting the children is first and foremost a problem of peace.

The world's ordinary men and women want one thing above all else. They want to live out their lives, to raise their youngsters and to do their work in peace. They are solidly behind the idea that humanity must be spared the horror, the wounds, the waste, the deforming of children which has twice marked this century. They

may differ in religion; they may differ on political questions; they may be workers, writers, mechanics or farmhands; but they all hold one thing in common—that we must strive with might and main to prevent war, to protect the children.

The broad and all-inclusive delegations now streaming into Vienna are a concrete expression of the intensity of this feeling. Answering the call of the Women's International Democratic Federation, they are gathering for a historic conference which will meet from April 12-16 to mobilize all those who seek to protect the children. They come as representatives of hundreds of millions of people who think that peace and the well-being of children are inextricably woven together; that war, far from being inevitable, can most certainly be stopped in its tracks.

This meeting in Vienna is extremely important. It is the first time in man's history that an international movement has been formed to protect the children, that an organized attempt is being

made to break through to a solution of the gnawing anxiety which has torn at women's hearts for thousands of years—the fear of what war does to their children.

THE SOLUTION starts with the mother in every home taking her stand that there shall be no war. It gathers momentum as each mother realizes that in the neighbourhood, in the district, in the villages and towns and in the entire nation, there are other mothers who feel equally strongly about this question. Then it reaches a crescendo of strength as mothers act in unison all over the world, not only to prevent war, but also to stop the preparations for war. Such unity of action is entirely possible. We are living in an age of expanding science, when war effects everyone, everywhere, and the desire to avert such disaster is universal. The meeting in Vienna is a demonstration of this immense will for peace. It will be a major step in effecting the solution.

There will certainly be those who will dare to resist and even

attempt to thwart this inextinguishable urge to protect the children. They will try every manner and means of deceit. But at each turn they will betray themselves. For our demands are simple and logical. One is either for peace or against it. Thus, it is easy to determine who is friend and who is foe, with whom we should unite and against whom we should struggle.

THIS DISTINCTION is important. Even those who now prepare for war must take into account the people's longing for peace. They turn their whole economy to war production; they whip their people into a frenzy of fear and confusion and besiege the minds of children with terror of the atom bomb—all in the name of peace. In international organizations, the representatives of some governments concoct programmes which, they claim, seek peace. But the ink is hardly dry before they rush off to side conferences to plan war openly, or dispatch their troops and equipment to ring upon ring of newly-built war bases. With these people, there is no relation between word and deed. But to be sincerely for peace, words and deeds must match.

Such people will expose themselves. They are bound to isolate themselves from the multitudes who want no part of their dirty plots, and who will oppose in every available way their schemes of death for men, women and children.

There will also be those who will insist that organized action by the world's mothers is of no use. They will say that there is really nothing we can do about war since it is inevitable, since it is man in his "natural state."

These people are the gullible victims of those who profit by war, of the breeders of misunderstanding and the splitters trained to vitiate any move the people make for peace. We will seek to convince them with facts. We will show them, by the united outcry of our hundreds of millions, that man can reject war once and for all. We will demonstrate that man not only hates war, but is



Learning to draw in one of China's ever-increasing number of day-nurseries for the children of working mothers.

most creative and most satisfied only when he is at peace and co-operating with his neighbours.

THERE WILL BE still another category of opposition to the movement for the protection of children. It will adopt a "learned" or "philosophical" approach. Its exponents have dragged Malthus from his grave and are attempting to resurrect his theories. "War is to the benefit of the human race," they say in effect. "It reduces the 'excess' population, allows more breathing space, solves the problem of the world's food shortage," and so forth.

This is thinking which has the smell of death. Yet we must reply to it, since it does receive credence in many western countries. Many recently published books put forward this line of thought. Highly "recommended" scholars spout it all too frequently in university halls, on lecture platforms, in the press and over the radio.

To these people, and to those who listen to them, we say: Look around you, sirs. How can you not see what man has done with his two hands and brain? See how man, in his love of life and peace, has worked the most momentous developments in the earth's history! See how he has

conquered, subdued, bent to his will the forces of nature! See the new gigantic strides he is taking at this very moment! You must be blind not to see that man has accepted challenges, solved every problem, and is on top, just because of his eagerness for life; that today we have knowledge with which to build a full and cultured life for every man, woman and child.

WE KNOW for a fact that man has but scratched the surface in providing for himself on this earth. The earth does not need to be depopulated. Rather, there is an actual need for more people. There is no "fate" or "inevitability" that requires our children to be slaughtered in war. Rather, we need to protect and nurture them so as to have more hands and brains to further develop civilization.

These are the solid facts. In China, in the past two years alone, we have demonstrated them beyond question. Many of the former "China experts" made their reputations by citing "overpopulation" as the cause of China's ills, thus diverting attention from the heavy burden of feudalism and imperialism with which the Chinese people were weighed down. The "chronic food shortage" in China was their favourite

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illustration. But since the founding of our People's Republic, we have deprived them of this example. We already produce enough food to satisfy the needs of our own population and provide an excess for export as well. Yet we are still far from mechanized farming and large sections of our land remain to be reclaimed! So the facts prove not only that we can feed and clothe our present population, but that we can industrialize and support many more people.

What better demonstration can there be of the real causes and remedies for the "insoluble" problems of the so-called experts? Our own experience, in which we were anticipated by others and which holds true for all nations, shows that where a system can "function" only by condemning people to poverty and death, the people answer by condemning that system to death—and themselves go on living!

So much for the philosophers of decay and war who ask mothers not to weep for their children because they are "expendable." No children are expendable. No nation is expendable. All races and peoples have their own significant accomplishments which have advanced or are advancing mankind. And now, at long last, the peoples are beginning to act together for the rights of each. Is there any reason for despair? There is more reason than ever for optimism. The difficulty does not exist which man cannot overcome!

Wherein does the main threat to our children lie? Today the key struggle is against the destructive intent of a mere handful of men, those who own the plants, banks, corporations, mines and mills that profit from war. These few persons also own the media of communications in their countries, which they use for their own narrow interests. They have industrial resources and a host of mechanical voices to speak for them. But their power is more apparent than real. Their enter-

prises could not work, their administrations rule, their armies fight—if the people united in their own interest. They are formidable only while they can deceive—and the deceit is wearing thin. They are not the irresistible stream which no obstacle can oppose. On the contrary, the people are the mighty river, they the puny obstacle!

THE WISHES and demands of the vast majority of mankind cannot be swept away. They can be rendered ineffective only if each person stands alone, not if the people unite. That is why our crusade for peace, for the lives of the children, is the most potent force on earth. It can rip gun and bomb from the hands of those who poison them for war. It can turn the energy of the atom to the task of which scientists originally dreamed, to help man live, not to destroy him.

"In unity there is strength." Everyone knows this old saying and it applies now more than ever. This is the point we must grasp, understand and use as a guide, all of us who want peace and security for the children. We must act together.

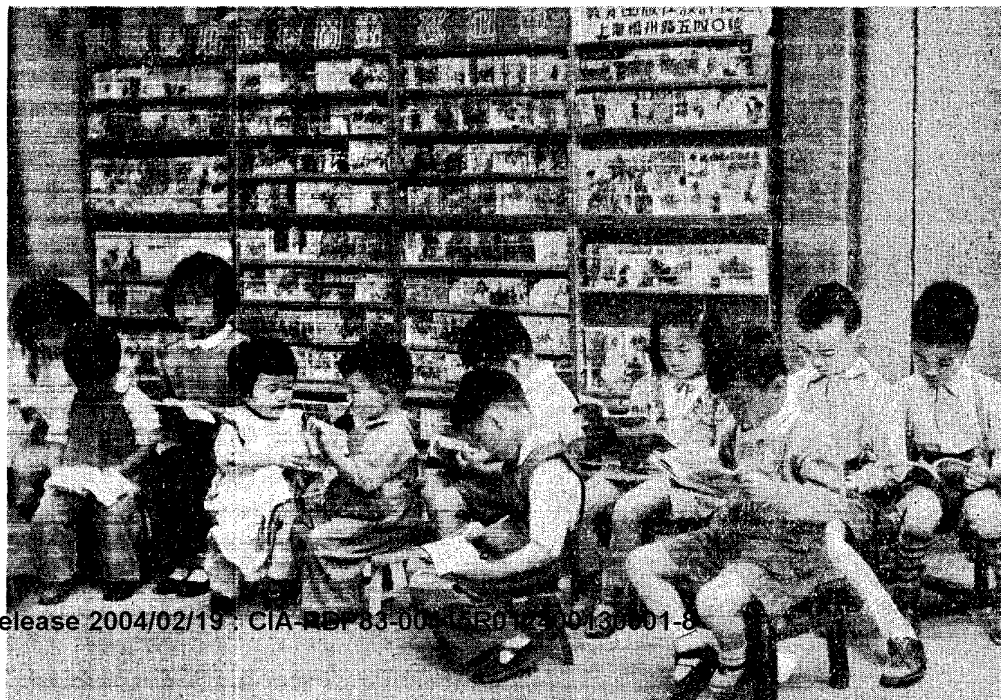
Today, the Women's International Democratic Federation offers every peaceful person and nation an excellent opportunity for united action. The Vienna meeting will result in making the world conscious of the urgent

need of protecting our children, and the way to do it. It is the duty of all to participate in and advance this movement. It should be the cause they hold most dear.

THE CHINESE PEOPLE send their warm greetings, with their delegation, to Vienna. It is our hope that the Women's International Democratic Federation, in rendering mankind this great service, will achieve lofty success. We believe that children everywhere should receive all the blessings that nature provides, all the benefits the energies of man can mould. We want all children to grow up well-proportioned physically, their minds enriched by man's most valued creations. We want them to be full of confidence, fearing no state, no man, no aspect of the future. We want to free them from the threat of economic crisis and all other calamities, natural or man made.

It is to the children that we hand on the banner of life, to carry along yet another stretch of man's long road of progress. We believe with all our hearts that, given a start, they will build an advanced society and culture in which every person will have the fullest life, the greatest joy, at the expense of no other. We want with all our hearts to give that opportunity to every child. We are striving for this, and believe all peoples will strive with us. That is why the Chinese people want and defend peace.

Mobile libraries serve children in the streets and alleys of Shanghai.





INNER MONGOLIA TODAY

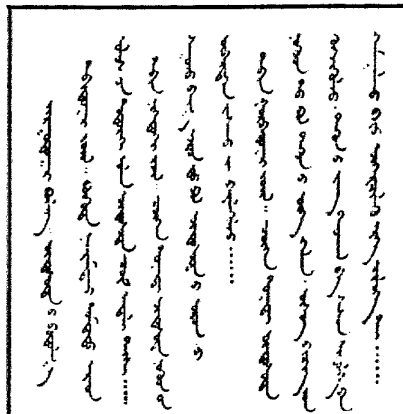
LIN CHUNG

AFTER the time of Genghis Khan, the Mongolian national hero, the Mongolian people suffered under the exploitation of their feudal princes, later supplemented by that of Chinese merchants and officials. From the eighteenth century on, all the territories they inhabited were administered as Chinese colonies. Then, a little over thirty years ago, what was formerly called Outer Mongolia became an independent national state, now the Mongolian People's Republic. The area commonly known as Inner Mongolia, which remains within the national boundaries of China, was organized as an autonomous region in 1947, after it had been freed by the People's Liberation Army. In 1949, when the People's Republic of China was established, its self-governing status was officially confirmed.

The Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region of China was formed from lands that were formerly part of Heilungkiang, Liaohsi, Jehol and Chahar provinces. Its total area is 231,600 square miles. Its population is 2,400,000, and consists not only of Mongolians but also of a large number of Hans (the majority nationality in China).

Since the liberation of Inner Mongolia the vast expanses of its

pastures, fields, forests, lakes and rivers, and all the great natural wealth of the region, are no longer bait for imperialistic greed or feudalistic exploitation. This wealth is now being developed by the Mongolians themselves for their own benefit.



CHAPTER VI. POLICY TOWARD NATIONALITIES

Article 50: All nationalities within the boundaries of the People's Republic of China are equal . . .

Article 51: Regional autonomy shall be exercised in areas where national minorities are concentrated . . .

Article 53: All national minorities shall have the freedom to develop their dialects and languages, to preserve or reform their traditions, customs and religious beliefs . . .

The above excerpts, given in Mongolian and English, are quoted from the Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, which now serves as the fundamental law of the People's Republic of China.

Autonomous Inner Mongolia was the earliest example of the application of the nationality policy of the new Chinese democracy. Now the Uighurs in Sinkiang (once known as Chinese Turkestan), the Tibetans in Tibet and Sikang and many less numerous nationalities also enjoy or are establishing autonomous status. By the second anniversary of the People's Republic of China, 113 autonomous national districts, large and small, had been set up, as well as 165 united local governments of various nationalities living together in the same area.

Before Liberation

The liberation of Inner Mongolia, which came shortly after the defeat of Japan, literally saved its people from extinction. When it occurred, the Inner Mongolians were starving, sick and almost naked. The average man or woman was dressed only in a

ragged fur jacket, worn fur-side-in during the winter and the other way round in summer. Many did not even possess such a "garment" but wrapped themselves as best they could in raw sheepskins, full of holes. The population was going down, herds had been catastrophically reduced and famine stalked the land.

This condition, inherited from the centuries-old oppression of Inner Mongolia, was aggravated by the Japanese yoke which was imposed upon much of the area in 1931, and almost the whole of it after 1937. The Japanese invaders stirred up trouble between Mongolian and Han, the better to exploit both. They ordered that all pastoral and mountain products be sold only to the "Manchukuo Commercial Company," which paid extremely low prices in kind and invariably procrastinated in bringing in even the commodities it promised. Over those years, the Japanese shipped in vast amounts of opium and liquor, with which they systematically debauched the inhabitants. Their rule was entirely lawless; they could and did kill or rob anyone at will.

Liberation and Self-Rule

The Anti-Japanese War, however, also advanced the liberation struggle in Inner Mongolia. The Chinese Communist Party, and the People's Liberation Army which began to operate in a section of it after 1938, brought mighty reinforcements and a reliable rallying-point to the people's fight against oppression. Thus, immediately after the Japanese surrendered, the first steps to self-government could be made.

The Inner Mongolian Autonomy Movement was consolidated in Kalgan, Chahar province, in 1945. In 1946, a conference held at Chengteh, Jehol province, united the regional autonomy movements of eastern and western Inner Mongolia. In 1947, the Inner Mongolian People's Representative Conference was held at Ulanhot (formerly Wangyehmiao, Liaoning province) and on May 1 of the same year, the People's Government of the Inner Mongolian Au-

tonomous Region was set up, with Ulanfu as its Chairman.

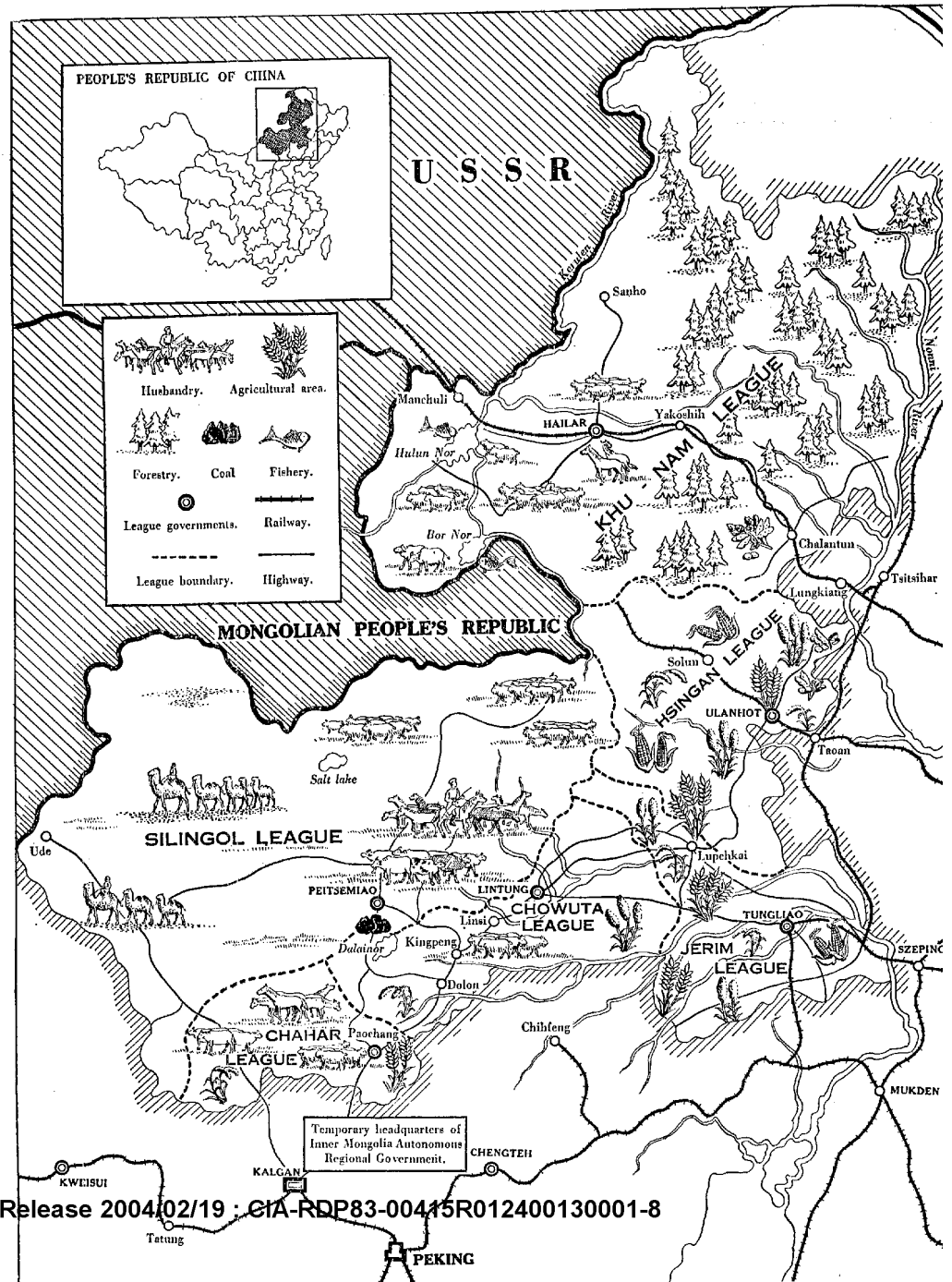
Under this people's government there are six *meng* or Leagues, comprising 32 *ch'i* or Banners (these are the traditional administrative divisions among the Mongolians). There are also three municipalities under the Leagues and seven *hsien* (counties) outside them in places with mixed Han and Mongolian populations.

Since 1950, every one of these territorial divisions has held three or four local People's Representative Conferences, while democratic

elections have been held in nearly 2,000 *kacha* or village administrative units. Delegates to the People's Representative Conference of different grades come from all walks of life—they include Mongolians and Hans, men and women, workers, peasants, shepherds and herdsmen, manufacturers, merchants, intellectuals, lamas (Buddhist priests) and princes.

All organs of government in Inner Mongolia, from the highest to the lowest, have been set up as a result of such gatherings in which representatives of the most varied groups contributed to the

THE INNER MONGOLIAN AUTONOMOUS REGION





A primary school of the Shingol League. Six out of every ten children in Inner Mongolia are now in school.

Government trading companies, dealing with the cooperatives and individual producers, bought grain from the peasants and animal products from herders and hunters, supplying them with large quantities of goods of daily use in return. Private business has also been developing. In the main towns of the four eastern Leagues, capital invested in private industry tripled between 1948 and 1950.

As a result of the increased turnover of goods, price ratios have changed in favour of the peasants and herdsmen. In 1947, in the territory of the four eastern Leagues, the Inner Mongolian peasant could buy only three-quarters of a bolt of cloth for the price he received for one ton of his rough grain (*kaoliang* or Chinese sorghum). Since 1949, he has been able to get 2.3 bolts, or thrice as much, for the same amount. The herdsman, who in 1947 could get 1½ bolts for the price of a 500 lb. cow, could buy four bolts by 1950. This explains the constantly growing eagerness of the people to produce and the consequent phenomenal growth of their average purchasing power, which increased by 460 per cent between 1948 and 1950.

The rising standard of living has also raised standards of education. By 1950, in the four eastern Leagues, no less than 61.7 per cent of school-age children were in primary schools. In Inner Mongolia as a whole, 80 per cent of children finishing primary school were going on to middle school instead of breaking off their studies.

In health, the most striking event has been the virtual elimination of the dread bubonic plague, once a threat to every life. In 1947, the death toll from plague was more than 13,000. In 1950, as a result of government leadership in all-out mobilization against the disease, there were only 23 cases and 17 deaths. In 1951, no cases of plague were reported.

The fight against syphilis, historically deep-rooted in the region,

common task. At every level, the People's Government of Inner Mongolia has faithfully observed the nationality policy of the People's Republic of China. This has led to a new relationship between the nationalities themselves, based on equality, friendship and cooperation.

In military affairs, Inner Mongolia has organized strong cavalry groups which are part of the Chinese People's Liberation Army and fought with it to drive out the reactionary Kuomintang. Together with the Inner Mongolian Public Security Force, the cavalry has destroyed numerous gangs of armed bandits that used to ravage the countryside, thus safeguarding the people's lives and property.

All-Sided Improvement

Since her liberation, Inner Mongolia has advanced in economy, culture and health, setting her feet firmly on a road of improvement to which there are now no limits.

The land reform, carried out in this region in 1947-48, has led to great increases in agricultural

production. At the call of the government, which helps them with loans and in technical ways, the Inner Mongolian peasants are organizing mutual aid teams, using more fertilizer, adopting new farm tools and methods and working on large-scale installations to prevent both drought and flood.

In animal husbandry, so important in Inner Mongolia, the new policy of free grazing, along with veterinary and breeding assistance by the authorities, has rapidly increased the quantity and improved the quality of livestock.

Timber resources are being preserved and rehabilitated by active fire-prevention work and the conservation policy of reasonable felling, both supervised by a newly created Forestry Administration.

Trade, so long a weapon for the exploitation of the people, has been turned into a means of serving them. By April 1951, no less than 640,000 persons, or over a quarter of the total population of Inner Mongolia, were members of cooperatives of different kinds.

has also begun on a large scale. Of special significance are measures to improve mother and child health. An example of what can be done in this respect has already been given by the Mongolian People's Republic, where syphilis and child mortality due to it have been virtually wiped out.

Wealth for the People

Over half of Inner Mongolia's 231,600 square miles consist of rich grassland. The natural pastures of Silingol and Hulunbuir are world famous, offering opportunities for a tremendous increase in the present number of cattle and sheep. The government's "free grazing" policy, and its aid to animal husbandry, are calculated to achieve this increase in the shortest possible time.

Aid to herdsmen and shepherds assumes the most varied forms. It includes preventative veterinary medicine, organized campaigns to kill wolves, mobilization of the people to cut and store grass for winter feeding, digging of wells where surface water is scarce and building of cattle-pens and sheep-folds for shelter against snow-storms and wild beasts.

As a result of all these measures, Inner Mongolia's livestock are already more than twice as numerous as in 1945. In some districts they have increased three to four times. In the New Barga Right Banner each shepherd and cowherd has an average of 70 animals. The pastures are alive with new prosperity.

Inner Mongolia is very rich in salt, nitre and alkalis, which will someday form the source of a great chemical industry. The famous Ujumuchin Salt Flat, an unparalleled treasure, is seven miles long and two to three miles wide. Its large-grained salt, of unusually high sodium-chloride content, needs no special processing before use. Fifty years

ago, according to Manchu dynasty records, 200,000 cartloads of salt, of 600 lbs. each, were taken from Ujumuchin each year. Present annual output is on a high level, and the deposit shows no sign whatsoever of exhaustion. Pure salt here is really "common as mud." As recently as 1947, 2,000 cartloads were used to build a defense wall against bandits, which is still there to see. The Silingol League has 60 large and small salt flats besides the one at Ujumuchin, which the local people call "The Mother" because of its seemingly endless abundance.

Dalai Lake (Dalainor), in the Hulunbuir grasslands, is full of fish. It is about 43 miles long and 14 miles wide. The people say: "There are so many fish in Dalainor, their spines stick out of the water. They swim layer under layer from the surface clear to the bottom. If you stick a pole in the water, it doesn't topple over." One old fisherman told me

that, in 1929, a single net set in the winter, when the ice had to be broken, caught 104 tons of fish, enough to fill five train carriages. Last year, one net brought in 40 tons. The lake is now being fished to the extent of 4,000 to 6,000 tons a year.

Only nine miles north of Dalai Lake is the Chalainor coal mine which has been worked for some forty years. It has seams close to 30 feet thick and reserves of many billions of tons. There is also a great deal of coal in the Silingol and Chowuta Leagues. Among minerals, preliminary surveys show an abundance of iron, copper, silver, gold, mica and quartz.

On the great Khingon mountain range, there are vast tracts of virgin forest. Tall larches, growing thick as corn in a field, cover an area 270 miles long and 130 miles wide between the south bank of the Argun river and the north bank of the upper Nonni river.



Women delegates register at the People's Representative Conference of Inner Mongolia.

The larches here stand 100 feet high; many go to 120 feet or even more. In all, Inner Mongolia has some 35,000 square miles of forest land, three times the area of Belgium. These mountains and forests are incomparable hunting grounds. They abound in wild fowl and valuable fur-bearing animals.

Prosperity on the Way

While the prairies and ranges of Inner Mongolia are well known, many do not realize its agricultural potentialities. In fact, the eastern part of the region has considerable expanses of rich, productive black soil. The conception of Inner Mongolia as a semi-desert is false. The idea that its population is backward and destitute is out of date. The rich resources and brave, hardworking people of Inner Mongolia, once held down under the weight of reactionary rule are now coming into their own.

The grassland is no longer desolate. Millions of cattle graze on it and soon there will be tens of millions. Inner Mongolia is developing into a great source of meat and other pastoral products, of draught animals, of raw materials for industry for the whole of China. On steppe and farmland, her people are joyously producing and improving their own lives day by day. Her underground riches are being mined. New cities, where mighty factories will rise, are already being built.



A happy herdsman shows off her new calf. With government aid, the number of livestock in Inner Mongolia has been raised to double the 1945 figure. (top)

In addition to regular schools, literacy classes are held right near the herdsmen's homes. (centre)

A scene on the Ujumuchin Flat—its 21 square miles of pure salt form one of Inner Mongolia's treasures. (bottom)



Chinese Post Office Spreads Knowledge

CHU HSUEH-FAN

OUR Chinese People's Post Office is an organization quite different from the post offices of capitalist and colonial countries and from the post office of old China. It does not confine itself to the handling of mail, remittances and other customary routine but, like all other branches of the People's Government, serves the most varied needs of the population and national construction. In particular, it has become one of the greatest and most active disseminators of education and culture throughout the country, especially in the vast rural areas where 80 per cent of our people live and work.

In China, such work was first undertaken by the postal service of the old liberated areas, which was organized in 1938 and pursued its heroic career through the Anti-Japanese War and the War of Liberation. The couriers of this service braved every hardship and often sacrificed their lives, to carry not only the correspondence of the People's Liberation Army but also newspapers and other literature. They helped to inform the people, give them the orientation necessary for confidence in victory, and popularize the best achievements in production and defence.

With the liberation of the entire Chinese mainland, the postal service of the Kuomintang regime, which had been bent to the needs of foreign imperialism and the old reactionary ruling class, also passed into the hands of the people and was reorganized to serve them. By contrast with the old post office, which had been used by only a portion of the city population and hardly served the



Chu Hsueh-fan, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications.

countryside at all, the new People's Post Office has doubled both its length of routes and its number of offices and agencies, mainly in the rural areas. The chief emphasis in the tremendous growth of the past two years has been on service to the peasantry. By July 1951, rural postal routes had been extended by 328,309 miles and 41,901 new village post offices had been set up.

Cooperation with the Press

The combined resources of the former liberated areas postal system and that taken over from the Kuomintang, together with the vast extensions since liberation, are thus available for cultural and educational activity, as well as ordinary postal work. The main concentration is now on

increasing circulation of newspapers, periodicals and books. Promotion of the press is particularly important because daily, weekly and monthly publications in China today not only carry reports on home and international affairs, but also spread knowledge of the principles on which our country is being built up and acquaint every locality with new methods of work and organization. Propagating science, improved tools for industry and agriculture and the best achievements of our literature, they have become indispensable, as an aid in everyday tasks, to peasants, workers, government functionaries, educators and members of the professions.

Close cooperation between the People's Post Office and the press was initiated in December 1949, during the First National Postal Conference and the National Convention of Newspaper Managers, both held in Peking. The decisions then worked out have since been put into effect. One after the other, the post office has taken over the circulation of many big newspapers and magazines. The method followed has been to transfer trained staff members from the circulation departments of the papers themselves to the postal service. In the meantime, private sales agencies handling the papers also continue to operate, with post office aid and guidance.

Millions of New Readers

While newspapers have long existed in Chinese cities, hundreds of Chinese villages never saw them in the past. The first aim of the new system has therefore been to make sure that at least

Postal workers fold and address newspapers for distribution to subscribers.

groups enter collective subscriptions and, by gathering regularly for reading and discussion, keep their members abreast of the times. In Shensi province, for example, there are over 23,000 reading groups with 320,000 peasant members. Around Changsha, Hunan province, a single postman organized 1,294 rural reading groups while another set up 1,149 groups in fifty villages within 25 days. Rural postmen often themselves read and explain newspaper articles to the people at regular intervals, becoming recognized cultural leaders in the villages as a result.

Reading groups also have their important place in urban surroundings. One branch post-office in Kweilin, Kwangsi province, organized 1,008 during the month of May 1951. Shanghai has 904 reading groups, over 600 of them in factories. In Peking, almost every block and alley has its own group, in which people collect every other evening to hear and discuss what is in the papers.

Help to Circulation Agents

The postal service with its nationwide network, and the individual postmen and postwomen

one newspaper is delivered regularly to every village and hamlet in the land. The results already reached in this campaign are remarkable.

Newspaper circulation in China as a whole shot up nearly five times between the beginning of 1950 and the end of 1951. The *People's Daily* of Peking, leading paper in the country, increased its distribution 3½ times in eighteen months.

An even more striking jump took place in the distribution of papers published especially for the rural areas. The *Peasant Masses*, printed in Chekiang province, reported a 19-fold increase in readership in a single year. *North Szechuan Peasants* had to augment its printing facilities several times to cope with reader demand. Today, peasants constitute 60 per cent of all newspaper readers in China, a situation no one would have conceived possible a few years ago.

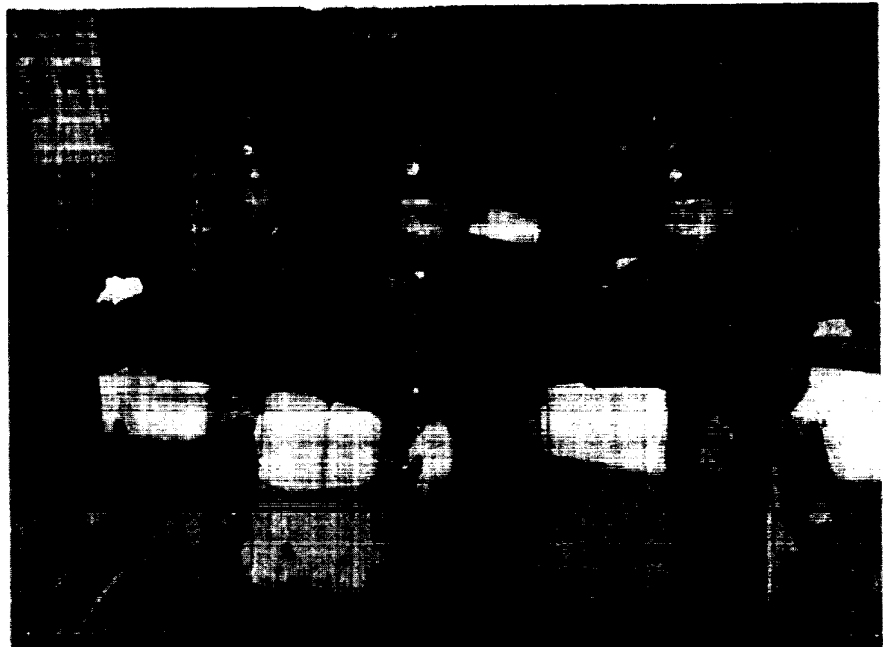
Growth of Reading Groups

Let us take a closer look at how the post office operates in the cultural field.

In the first place, our postal workers are inspired with the conviction that circulating news-

papers, magazines and books is not merely a technical job, but that the task of satisfying the people's thirst for knowledge is both honourable and patriotic.

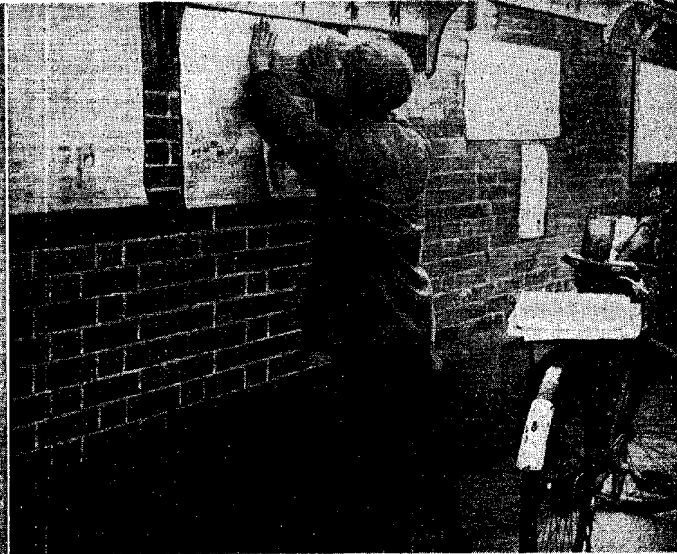
With this attitude, postmen in the cities make every effort to deliver newspapers and periodicals on time, collect subscriptions and secure renewals. In the countryside, they penetrate into the remotest places, to bring the press and all kinds of popular pamphlets to the peasants. Wherever they go, they persuade the less literate to organize into groups centering around some more literate person. These



Soon after dawn, Shanghai postmen start on their newspaper delivery routes.



Before the subscriber is awake his morning paper is waiting for him.



Postal workers put up the day's paper on the walls, for all to read.

with their intimate local contacts and knowledge, have evident advantages in undertaking a job of this kind and scope. But our post office does not seek to monopolize the work. On the contrary, it promotes, supplements and assists many other types of effort. Postal workers give active help to the elected circulation agents for various publications in factories, schools, peasant associations, rural mutual-aid groups and cooperatives. These circulation agents in their turn, lead reading groups and clubs and frequently organize public meetings on current events, national production plans and other themes broached in the press. They also frequently act as correspondents on local affairs, collecting the suggestions and opinions of readers and forwarding them to the papers for publication or action.

Cooperation between the post office and people's organizations of different kinds is growing with

NEWS FOR RURAL AREAS

Blackboard newspapers have become a popular feature in Chinese village life. In East China alone there are now more than 100,000 such news boards which carry dispatches relayed by Peking Radio at dictation speed.

This form of news dissemination is bringing millions of formerly isolated readers into close touch with the affairs of the nation and the world.

especial rapidity in the villages. Land reform, which has freed the peasants from landlord exploitation and made them feel that they are masters of their own soil and country, has stimulated the desire for technical and political knowledge to a degree undreamed of in the past. Land reform workers and local government officials are enthusiastic supporters of the "cultural stations" set up by rural postal agencies, from which they pick up bundles of papers to distribute wherever they go.

Mobilizing for Peace

Through its work in the educational and cultural fields, the Chinese People's Post Office has contributed its share to making the 475 million people of China both informed and active in the affairs of their own country and the world. It is largely through increased circulation of newspapers that the workers and peasants have consciously come to link their efforts to the major issues of our time, fight actively for increased production, contribute to repel imperialist aggression in Korea and participate in the great international campaign for peace. A majority of our adult population has signed the Stockholm Appeal for the abolition of atomic weapons, the World Peace Council Appeal for a Five-Power Peace Pact and the nation-

al protest against the rearmament of Japan.

Proud of the results already achieved, the post office is constantly striving to extend and perfect its press work. Postal workers are being educated in the political significance of circulation and promotion. The shift system of postmen has been readjusted so that all newspapers and periodicals may be delivered promptly. Total courier lines are being reorganized. Coordination with other circulating agencies, both public and private, is improving constantly.

Our country and population are huge, presenting many hard problems to be overcome. But the beginning already made proves that no difficulties exist which cannot be conquered. With the experience gained, the Chinese People's Post Office will continue and expand its effort to bring knowledge to all the people.



A Village Teacher Fights Illiteracy

EDUCATORS of Lushan county, in the province of Honan, in eastern central China, met recently to elect a model school-teacher. They chose Sung Shou-ching, a woman teacher from Shenkou village.

Shenkou is a mountain hamlet of less than sixty families. Up to now only very few of the people were literate. Sung Shou-ching went to live in Shenkou soon after she was married. She was the daughter of a primary school-teacher and had had a few years of primary school herself. Having learned to read and write, she was regarded by the people of Shenkou as a "person of learning."

That winter the People's Government appealed to villagers to teach adults during the agricultural slack season. Village leaders in Shenkou came to Sung Shou-ching and asked her to take over the Women's Reading Class.

The class started off very well with twenty girls attending every afternoon. But the older women in the village did not like their daughters and daughters-in-law going to school. They started making sarcastic remarks about

"school-going women." Soon the girls began to skip their classes until finally no one turned up at all.

When Miss Sung realized what was happening and why her classroom was empty, she quickly called a meeting of the objecting old women and explained the advantages of literacy. She also visited them individually. One evening she heard the mother of one of her delinquent pupils grumbling: "The merchant is a scoundrel. I mistook a thousand yuan banknote for five hundred yuan. But when I gave it to him he didn't bat an eyelid." Miss Sung immediately said: "That's because you don't know how to read. If you did, you wouldn't have been cheated."

Old Mrs. Chang had to agree. After this discussion she said she would never again stop her daughter from going to school. She even asked to be taught herself. In a few days she could read the words on banknotes, and tell the difference between 1,000 and 500 yuan bills.

News that old Mrs. Chang was learning to read spread very quickly. When the Women's

Reading Class was resumed, attendance grew larger. Of the fifty-six young and middle-aged women in the village, thirty-seven attended regularly. Women who had too many children to look after to attend classes regularly would often drop in to see the teacher. They would ask her to help them to write on tiles, which they used as slates.

Every morning Miss Sung went from house to house helping her students to review the lessons of the day before. Over and over again she explained the meaning of new words. She held their inexperienced hands, and guided them while they wrote. Very much moved, the women would say: "I'll never be able to look Teacher Sung in the face if I don't study hard."

On moonlight nights small groups of women sat outdoors seeing who could write the greatest number of characters. Before long they were able to memorize six characters a day instead of three as at the beginning. By the time the Spring Festival was over the eight best students could write three hundred characters without looking at any text, and could



A MODEL TEACHER

Many new teachers in China have been elected models by the people they serve. This picture shows Yu Yen-ping, a model teacher of Yaohua Villas, a suburb of Shanghai, with some of her pupils. Soon after liberation Miss Yu set up a people's winter school where she taught many peasants to read and write. She also trained a great number of new teachers. When in 1951 the Shanghai People's Government called for winter schooling for 100,000 peasants, Miss Yu organized 14 classes which were attended by 400 out of the 600 peasants in her district. It was for this that she was elected a "model teacher."



This old peasant is so happy to be able to read, he can still hardly believe it. As a result of the great literacy drive since liberation, there are now many, many like him.

read simple notices posted by the village government without any difficulty.

During the Spring Festival the students of the Women's Reading Class could often be seen swinging to the joyful music of the *yangko* dance. They even began to make speeches on current political and military topics. This again shocked the old women. One day when Chiao Kwei-yung was returning from a *yangko* dance her mother-in-law, pretending to address a dog that was passing by, called angrily: "Wriggling like that! Don't you have any sense of shame?"

Upset by these remarks, Chiao Kwei-yung did not go to the reading class that afternoon. When Miss Sung called in the evening to find out what was wrong, the mother-in-law said: "My daughter-in-law spends all her time after school playing. She doesn't do any work at all. I'm not letting her go out any more."

Miss Sung pacified her, saying: "Kwei-yung already knows 100 characters. You would be making a mistake not to let her go to school. But she is wrong not to do any housework. Please let me talk to her."

Miss Sung advised Kwei-yung to avoid a quarrel with her mother-in-law and to do more around

the house so that the old lady would gradually be brought round. The advice proved to be good. A few days later the mother-in-law visited the teacher and said: "My daughter-in-law is working very hard now. She cooks, carries water, and has really changed for the better. I used to think: 'What do young people do when they get together except play around?' That's why I didn't want her to attend school. I see now that I was wrong."

From then on Miss Sung impressed on her students the necessity of doing housework. She presided over meetings at which the girls criticized those who showed signs of laziness. This brought peace to families where there had formerly been a lot of quarrelling. At the end of the Spring Festival many of them took hoes and went to work in the wheat fields. They organized mutual-aid teams and helped each other to learn more new characters as they worked. Now they are all making plans to enroll at a regular school.

Teacher Sung Shou-ching earned the respect of all the villagers because she not only instructed the women in reading and writing but also taught them to improve their work while they studied.

TRANSLATIONS IN CHINA

SINCE the liberation, the people of China have had far greater access to the treasures of world culture than ever before. Translators are busier. Larger numbers of worthwhile foreign books are appearing in Chinese editions. They are sold at prices more accessible to readers than ever before, through a much larger network of bookshops.

The most active demand has been for translations of Soviet literature and that of the People's Democracies. This is natural. Under the Kuomintang dictatorship, such books could hardly be obtained. The people of China, who have accomplished their own revolution and are engaged in the basic reconstruction of their country, are avidly interested in all aspects of similar experiences abroad.

At the same time, however, classical literature and modern progressive works from many other countries are available in unprecedented abundance.

Among novels on the shelves of the big bookshops, one finds new editions of Cervantes, Balzac, Tolstoy, George Eliot, Dickens, Flaubert, Victor Hugo, Mark Twain, Jack London, Romain Rolland, Theodore Dreiser, and Howard Fast.

In drama and poetry, one can buy Dante, Shakespeare, Goethe, Schiller, Pushkin, Heine, Walt Whitman, Anton Chekhov, George Bernard Shaw.

In literary criticism and research, one can pick up Georg Brandes, Ralph Fox, George Thompson.

In philosophy, apart from Marxist philosophy, various works by Francis Bacon, Hegel, Dietzgen and others have been republished, while more recent translations include American authors such as John Somerville.

In scientific literature, there are new translations from Albert Einstein, J. D. Bernal, and others. The popular scientific books of H. G. Wells continue to find readers. The autobiography of Charles Darwin is on one of the new lists of works translated.

Plans are now under way for a great many more translations. These will continue to bring to Chinese readers the best writing and thought of every land.



A typical tea garden in southeast China.

CHINESE TEA

And Those Who Grow It

WU CHAO-NONG

AS everyone knows, tea is a special product of China. When people talk of tea, they are naturally reminded of the country where it was first cultivated and used as a beverage. Reliable documents show that the Chinese people have been drinking tea for more than two thousand years.

By the eighth century, the land of scores of counties, spreading over several provinces, was covered with tea shrubs. These areas ranged from the Huai and Yangtze river valleys of Central China to the Min river valley in Fukien on the southeast coast and the Pearl river region of China's southernmost province—Kwang-tung. Tea was already being widely drunk throughout North China as well. Even at this early period, it had become an article of large-scale internal trade.

Somewhat later, tea was introduced into Tibet, Sinkiang, Inner and Outer Mongolia and Japan. To serve these markets, it was planted in more than five hundred counties in seventeen provinces. The number of peasants engaged in tea-growing grew to over ten million.

After China's sea communication with Europe began, the tremendous output and high quality of her tea became known

all over the world. Since the eighteenth century, the trade has been international. At its peak the export of Chinese black tea reached 180,000,000 lbs. a year; that of green tea over 21,000,000 lbs. a year.

How Tea Exports Declined

Attracted by the profits to be made out of an article of such universal consumption, foreign capitalist interests began to open plantations in India, Ceylon, Java and Japan. All these enterprises began by importing tea seeds and tea-shrubs from China. They sent students to China to learn how to cultivate and process tea or invited Chinese experts to train their own personnel. Thus Chinese teas were ousted from the markets of colony-owning powers.

By the end of the nineteenth century, when the reactionary Chinese government broke off relations with the Soviet Union after the October Revolution of 1917, the vast Russian market was also temporarily cut off. So it came about that Chinese tea was largely displaced from the markets of the world.

The Japanese war against China that began in 1937 finished the job by cutting off sea-borne trade completely. It also seriously disrupted production. On the eve of

liberation, the export of tea from China had fallen to a pitiable low.

At all times in the past, the international trade in Chinese tea was controlled by the imperialists. They collaborated with Chinese compradores, brokers and usurers, whose interests were those of the feudal landlord class, to pay miserable prices to the actual producers. Even when China's trade in tea was at its highest, the tea peasants were robbed by super-exploitation and lived in misery.

The continuous decline in tea exports deprived these peasants of the last crumbs of benefit from the trade, plunging them ever-deeper into the abyss of poverty. It was in total disregard of their interests, as well as those of the national economy, that the Kuo-mintang pursued its policy of alienating the Soviet Union, slamming the door in the face of the biggest customer for Chinese black and green tea.

Agony of the Growers

The peasants of the tea regions were as exploited and oppressed as other peasants in China—in some ways more so. The reactionary regime piled heavy taxes and levies of all kinds on top of the extortions imposed by the landlords. There were times when the peasants' own income

from the tea they grew was pushed down to half their cost of production. In addition, the peasants were swindled through short weight. A saying grew among them: "It's better to sell a load of fire-wood than a load of tea."

The Japanese invasion completed the ruin of the previous decades. It not only wiped out sea-borne international trade but paralyzed the internal market as well. Destruction and deterioration of inland communications made it impossible to get tea to the national minorities within China. The Japanese invaders struck a direct economic blow at the Chinese product by dumping Japanese and Taiwan teas in the northern and north-eastern provinces which they occupied. Tea manufactories closed down, throwing tens of thousands of workers out of employment. Tea-growing peasants began to chop down their shrubs to make room for grain crops. Production fell catastrophically.

There was no significant recovery in the years immediately following the victory over Japan, when Kuomintang oppression and corruption reached their height and the people all over China fought to free themselves in the War of Liberation.

Liberation Saves the Tea Trade

The birth of the People's Republic of China brought hope and new life to every part of the country. With the victory over imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic monopoly, the tea growers too stepped firmly on the road to recovery and real prosperity. Because of the importance of the tea trade to the national economy, and its bearing on the livelihood of millions of people, the Central People's Government took prompt and energetic steps to rehabilitate it.

In December 1949, the government established the China National Tea Corporation to direct the planting, processing and marketing of tea on a national scale. Relying on the organized

effort of the people, the corporation has since worked systematically and effectively to revive the tea trade, harmonizing the activities of state and private enterprises toward the common goal. The expanding cooperative movement has been one of the greatest factors in transforming the whole aspect of the tea areas. A considerable part of China's tea crop is now sold through co-ops, under clear-cut procedures and for fair prices.

China's friendly diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies now guarantee a constantly increasing foreign trade. Chinese tea growers have thus been freed of their century-old dependence on imperialist buyers and are no longer vulnerable to imperialist competition or blockade. The policy of independence and equality pursued by the People's Government has brought independence and equality to the tea producers and the entire trade.

Internal markets too are being rapidly restored. Better livelihood for all the people of China, including the national minorities, has led to a sharp upturn in home demand. Government promotion of interflow trade between town and country and between different parts of China has opened up long-clogged channels of trade. The stagnation of the tea industry has at last come to an end.

New Growth Begins

The problems that face the tea areas today are problems of

growth. It is necessary to raise productivity, improve quality and increase the income of the peasants. Working toward these goals, the China National Tea Corporation is promoting the production of black tea through gradual mechanization. It also calls on all tea peasants to gather tea leaves when they are most tender and maintain high standards by careful sorting.

The achievements of the China National Tea Corporation are summed up by the fact that its turnover in 1950 (including domestic sales) was equal to 250 per cent of the entire value of black and green tea exports by both state agencies and private companies in the year 1949. In 1951, its operations were running at a rate 28.6 per cent above those of 1950.

The remarkable development of the production and sale of Chinese tea during the last two years provides concrete evidence of the improvements that have taken place in the national economy and in the techniques and administration of the tea industry. It demonstrates the faith the people have in the government and the ample reasons they have for such faith.

New Life for Tea Peasants

A major part in the recovery of the tea trade has been played by government loans, offered to tea peasants to overcome difficulties and increase production. Very large sums have been made available to each of the chief tea

From this factory in Tunki, Anhwei province, tea is transported by raft down the river.





Rotary machines have replaced the old clay ovens for baking tea.

In order to change this situation, the tea peasants are rapidly being organized to work together through voluntary cooperatives. Such cooperatives are already numerous in the main tea districts. Apart from joint labour, there has also been an increase in joint purchasing and marketing—saving much time and energy for production. It is a common sight nowadays to see women tea pickers going to the gardens in cooperative groups early in the morning and singing merrily together over their work. The contrast with the past is evident even to the most superficial observers.

More Black Tea for Export

Abroad, black tea is almost universally preferred to green. The present production of black tea in China is not sufficient to meet the demands of foreign trade. Many districts producing green tea of ordinary quality would be much better off if they switched to black. The government has already assisted several to make the change, with the result that the livelihood of the peasants has improved greatly. The greatest success has been achieved in the tea district of Pingshui, Chekiang province, where the tea peasants grow no other crop.

"If it sells, tea is gold; if it doesn't, it's trash," the Pingshui people used to say from bitter experience. Now the processing of black tea has assured them a market at all times. The government is carrying on an educational campaign in numerous places, explaining to the peasants how black tea can increase their earnings. Administrative and technical personnel have been sent out into the countryside to organize workshops for the primary processing of black tea, to introduce hand roller machines and to promote the collective methods in processing.

The shift to black tea in Pingshui county has brought the

growing districts of the country. Going hand-in-hand with big government purchases of tea, these loans rapidly solved the financial problems of the peasants and enabled them to invest in fertilizer and new tools.

A striking example is provided by a village in Pinkiang county, Hunan province, where 394 families of tea cultivators bought 390 new implements, 2.7 tons of gypsum, about half a ton of sulphur and 10 tons of lime in 1950, the first year of liberation. Such purchases are unprecedented in the history of the Chinese tea industry. The tea gardens of this particular village had been neglected since time immemorial, only with grass and manure.

Loans applied to productive use have already resulted in widespread betterment of crops. One Hunan tea peasant, Chen Kwang-nan, has described the situation in these words: "In the past we were always at our wits' end about where to borrow money and ran our legs off in efforts to find it. Now all we have to do is stay home and the money comes without our asking. What a government!"

Timely government buying of tea is also a source of happiness in the growers. As one expressed it at a meeting: "We peasants

have got up from our knees and our tea has a better time too. In the old days no one wanted to buy it and the price was low. Now the People's Government comes for it and, what's more, never cheats us. Hurrah!"

Dawn of Cooperation

The productive enthusiasm of the peasants has been further enhanced by collective labour. Chinese agriculture used to be characterized not only by extremely small holdings but also by scattered and minute cultivation. Tea production in particular was a sideline subsidiary to some main crop, carried on piece-meal and regarded as trivial.

TEA PRODUCTION COSTS REDUCED

Savings amounting to ¥9,000 million (about US\$400,000 or about £143,000) have been made by the East China branch of the China National Tea Corporation during the past year through the combined efforts of the workers in patriotic emulation drives.

Most of the savings were made by applying new methods of automatic tea processing. Other substantial economies were made by changing the methods and materials used for packing. Experiments are now being made for using wax-coated cardboard to replace the aluminum lining of tea cases. If this is successful, further large savings will be effected.

peasants an average profit equivalent to the value of five hundred-weights of rice for each hundred-weight of tea, in many cases higher. It is now commonly said among the peasants that while the land reform enabled them to get up from their knees politically, black tea has done so economically. "Since the People's Government came, we haven't worried about our everyday life," remarked one old man who works at processing black tea. "In all my sixty years the highest price I remember is five hundred-weights of rice for a hundred-weight of tea. This year it was eight or nine. I'll be able to get some new clothes for the first time in five years."

Income Rises; Life Improves

In Chekiang province it used to take three pounds of tea to buy a pound of silk, now the prices are equal. In Hoshan, northern Anhwei province, profits of tea growers in 1951 were six or seven times greater than in 1946.

Once subject to cold and hunger, most tea peasants now have plenty of vegetables, salt and fats to go with their rice. They eat fish and meat on occasion. They are wearing better clothes and sleep under new quilts.

The general economic enlivening of the tea areas can be seen at the regular town and country fairs. Anhua district, Hunan province, sold only 2.6 million pounds of tea in 1949. In 1950 the marketed output had risen fivefold to 13 million pounds.

The number of primary tea processing workshops increased from ten in 1946 to 33 in 1951. People unemployed before liberation are now busy as tea sorters and skilled workers.

Here is one eloquent fact. During the Spring Festival in 1949, Anhua butchers slaughtered five pigs and were unable to sell all the meat. For the Mid-Autumn Festival in 1950, they killed 40 pigs and had to turn some buyers away.

A cargo of tea is loaded for export.



Expert sorting ensures high grade tea for the market.

Soochow peasants who grow jasmine and other fragrant blossoms used in tea flavouring have seen a new demand spring up for their product. In 1950, many built new houses for themselves. Last year they built modern hothouses for all-weather cultivation. The same thing is happening among flower growers in Nanking.

The economic progress of the tea peasants has awakened them politically. They believe in the future, and are organizing collective production groups. They have set up workshops to make

machines for themselves, machines they could not afford when working alone.

Our country has become a good mother to these people who have produced so much wealth and enjoyed so little of it in the past. They know that their present new life and hope could never have come without the leadership of the Communist party. With joy and confidence, they are improving their productive efficiency and rallying, with the rest of the nation, to the development and defence of the People's Republic of China.



CHINA IS RICH IN OIL

CHINA has often been described as an "oil-poor nation." This assertion is false. It was made most frequently in the literature of countries whose companies had to flood our market with their own oil products—at a fat profit. In fact, China has great resources in both petroleum and oil-bearing minerals. Since liberation, we have had a rapidly-growing extracting and refining industry as well.

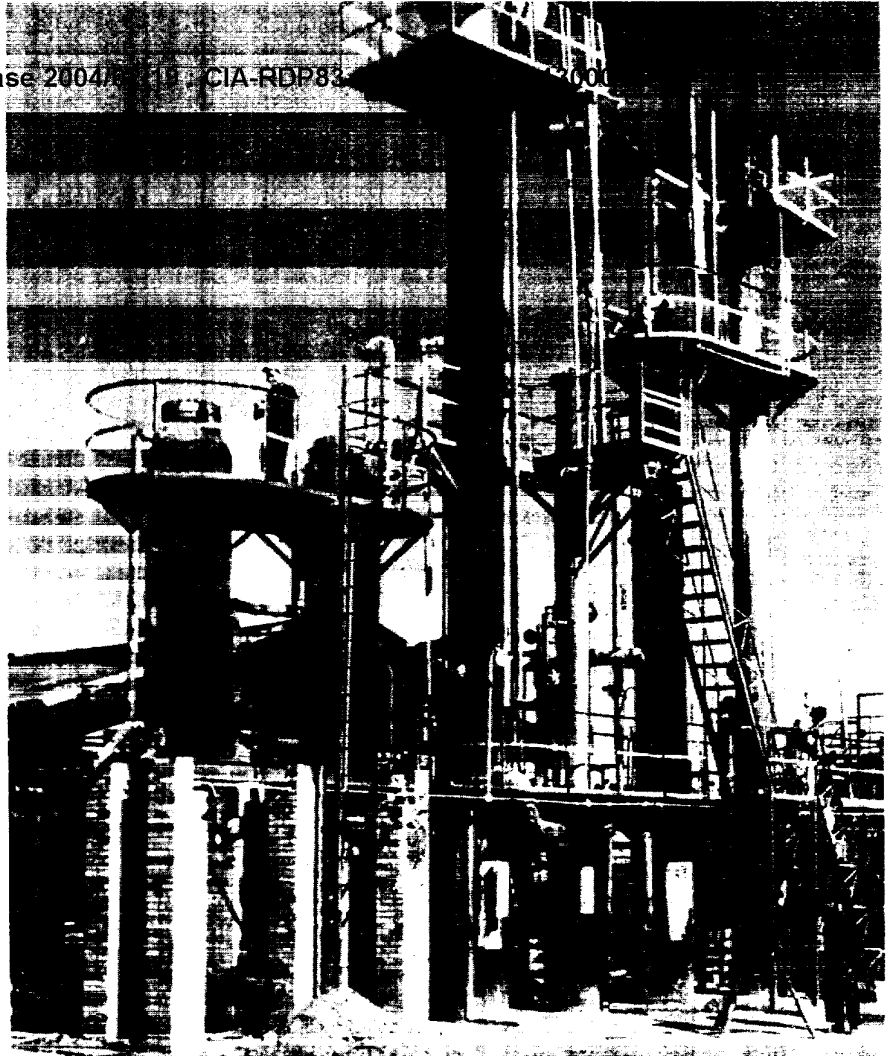
For many Chinese had themselves been deceived by decades of propaganda that only American and British imports could satisfy our needs, the National Petroleum exhibition, held in Peking in December 1951, was a real eye opener. An illuminated chart around which thousands gathered every day showed that deposits of oil are found throughout our country, particularly in its northwestern, southwestern and northeastern regions. Details were given of how known deposits are being developed and how others are being discovered.

Facts and Figures

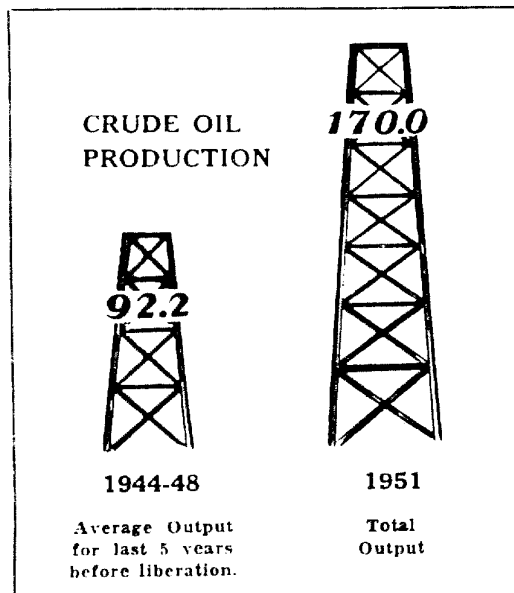
People who attended the exhibition or read the many articles that appeared in the press were glad to learn the following facts:

In the first two years of the People's Republic of China, the number of geological survey teams in the field has increased to three times the pre-liberation peak. By contrast with the reactionary Kuomintang regime, whose budgets showed no appropriations for test-drillings, the Central People's Government has devoted 76 per cent of its total investment in the oil industry to this activity. Rich finds have resulted.

The output of crude oil in China in 1951 was 79 per cent above the average of the last five years of the Kuomintang regime. The



Petroleum development is initiating the industrialization of northwest China. This polymerization plant produces high-quality gasoline.



Year-by-year output of crude oil (1949 = 100)

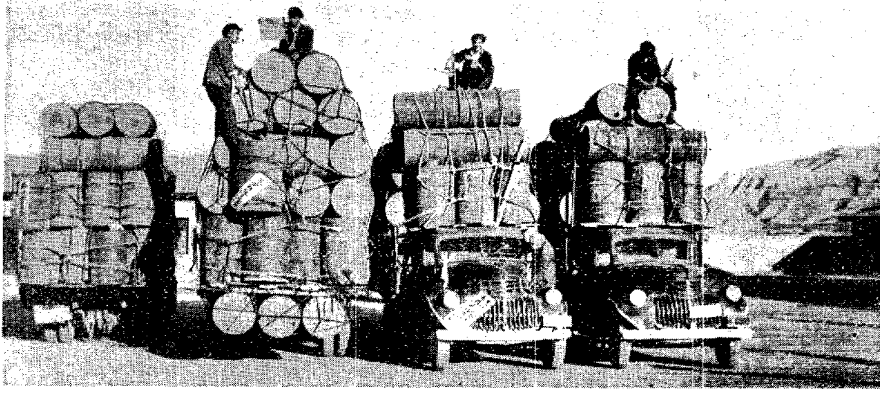
1944	95
1945	94
1946	98
1947	75
1948	108
1949	100
1950	135
1951	170

process of growth can be seen from the above diagram.

Manufacture of oil products is also at its highest point in Chinese history. Gasoline production was

50 per cent higher in 1951 than in 1949. Kerosene production was 49 per cent higher.

Storage capacity has been increased tremendously. The tank



This model lorry brigade devised a record-breaking way of increasing oil-drum loadings.

capacity of the government-operated China National Petroleum Corporation is 150 per cent over its pre-liberation peak. The capacity of its oil warehouses has likewise grown by 90 per cent.

Rapidly Growing Facilities

Substantial forward steps have been made in oil processing, notably in the synthetic oil industry. In the Northeast, high-octane gasoline used by our aviation is being produced from coal. The Japanese, during their long occupation, made little headway in this direction.

The Northeast also abounds in oil-bearing shales. Oil distilled from this source now exceeds by 30 per cent the level of production under Japanese rule. Moreover, the quality of the product is improved.

These advances have been achieved through the rehabilitation of old processing units and the construction of new ones. The plant at Fushun, which was almost totally destroyed by the Japanese and the Kuomintang, has been fully rebuilt. Installations erected since the liberation of the region include the synthetic gasoline plant described above, a thermal cracking plant to process oil-bearing minerals, a polymerization plant which produces high-quality gasoline from gas released in the cracking plant, and a high-pressure hydrogenation plant.

Refining facilities in northwest China with its five oil regions (northern Shensi, western Kansu, central Kansu, the Hohsi corridor and Sinkiang) have also been substantially extended. Petroleum development is one of the factors that will soon turn the once poor

and desolate expanses of the northwest into a major industrial area.

As in other phases of the construction of new China, the benefits of increased production in the oil industry have been passed on to the people. By an order of the Ministry of Trade issued December 13, 1951, prices of petroleum products to consumers throughout the country were reduced by 10 per cent. There could be no better proof of how much progress we have made in developing our oil resources and foiling the imperialist embargo which, among its other objectives, has aimed to starve us of oil.

Roots of Success

In the short period since the liberation, China's oil industry has progressed more than in the previous half century. This is because the political and social freeing of the Chinese people has also unchained the productive forces of our country.

The first drillings in Yenchang oil field in north Shensi province, for example, were made some 60 years ago. But practically nothing happened afterwards because of the influx of foreign oil. It was only when the People's Army made the region its base that the field began producing regularly—despite the Kuomintang blockade which made it impossible to restore or supplement the antiquated equipment.

During the Anti-Japanese War, the Kuomintang spent large sums to equip the China National Petroleum Corporation's field in Kansu. But after V-J day its masters, the

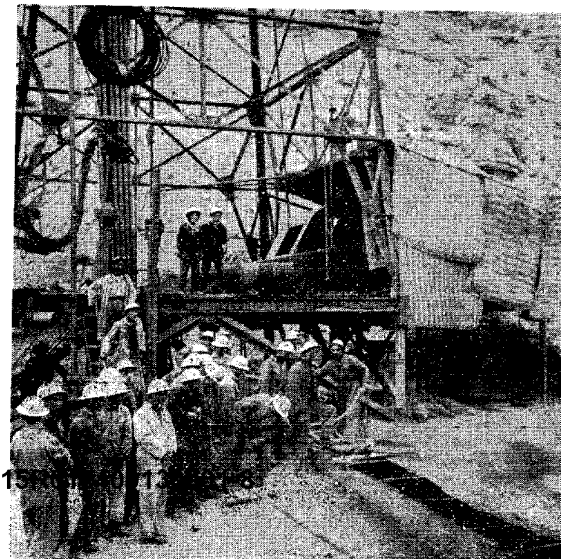
"Oil flows!"—a new well begins to produce.

American monopolies, inhibited the growth that might otherwise have taken place. Clearly, China could never develop her oil industry, or any other, while her position remained semi-colonial.

Today, by contrast, China has become truly independent and enjoys truly friendly, truly equal relations with the U.S.S.R. and People's Democracies, which are interested in helping us develop, not in holding us back, for anyone's private profit. From these sources, we have obtained all materials that cannot yet be produced at home. Soviet specialists have put their experiences freely at the disposal of Chinese oil technicians and workers, whose labour enthusiasm is high because they are working for themselves and the whole people. The result is a degree of initiative and a tempo of construction never seen in our country before.

The thermal cracking plant in the Northeast was built in only four months. The synthetic gasoline plant was completed in half a year. Drilling and electrical apparatus for the oil fields and practically all machinery needed for refineries are now made in China. Efficiency has increased in every department of oil production, processing, storage and transportation.

In brief, the long stagnation of China's oil development has come to an end. Oil will not form a "gap" in our industrialization as the imperialists predicted. On the contrary, we are already building a petroleum industry worthy of our great country.





Young Pioneers of the Shih Chia Hutung primary school in Peking present their most honoured emblem, the red necktie, to Kuo Chun-ching, famed heroine of the People's Liberation Army.

CHINESE WOMEN AND CHILDREN

TZE KANG

WHAT ideas do people abroad have about Chinese women? For many, still think of us in terms of bound feet, subjection to a home of endless, unrelieved toil for the poor, and a general attitude of laziness for the rich. Such stereotypes have been spread far and wide by writers who had an interest in presenting them as stereotypes that China's China needed population by foreigners. They had some basis in the old, extinct society of China when our country was oppressed by feudalism and exploited by imperialism. Now these facts, and stereotypes, have disappeared. They must be swept from the minds of people abroad because the Chinese people have swept them from contemporary reality.

Today, every honest visitor to new China is surprised to see the changes that have taken place. Chinese women are now

entering every field of work, recognized as equals in all spheres of life by law and in fact, universally eager for knowledge, happy in work and study because they know the future is one of unlimited improvement.

The same transformation has come about in the lives of Chinese children. What was the fate of Chinese children in the past? Most babies were delivered by old-fashioned midwives, with the result that a horrifying number of women and newborn infants died. Small children begged in the streets beside their impoverished mothers or had to go barefoot for a pittance. Thousands starved in famines resulting from feudal exactions, or perished in epidemics, because public health medicine hardly existed and preventive medicine did not exist at all. Woman and child workers coined wealth for foreign and

Chinese owners in factories where, as the cheapest raw material, they were worked mercilessly with no provision for either health or safety.

State Protects Mother and Child

Today the health, welfare and education of all Chinese children have become a major concern of our society and state. The Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the basic policy laid down for the People's Republic of China when it was established on October 1, 1949, states in Article 43 that "public health work and medical work shall be promoted and attention shall be paid to the health of mothers, infants and children."

The new Marriage Law promulgated by the People's Government in 1950 provides protection to both mother and child.

The Labour Insurance Regulations introduced on May 1, 1951 give women workers 56-days' maternity leave with full pay, make it illegal to dismiss pregnant workers and require all factories with over 500 workers to set up their own medical service.

These laws have not remained on paper as was the case with many in the past. The People's Government is implementing them actively and has allocated large budgets for the purpose. Women and minors in industry are assured equal pay for equal work. Many thousands of day nurseries take care of the children of working mothers in town and country. Mother and child health departments have been set up in the national Ministry of Health and in regional and provincial health bureaus. In district health centres, separate sections or specially assigned personnel take charge of the work. Such direct government responsibility for mother and child care has no precedent in Chinese history.

Striking Figures

An idea of the scope of this activity may be gained from the fact that 744 woman and child health stations and 9,464 maternity service stations have been set up

in towns, industrial suburbs, rural districts, sub-districts and villages. China now has 156 children's hospitals. There are many special gynecological and obstetrical hospitals, child health sanatoria and mother and child health institutes. The All-China Federation of Democratic Women and the cooperative movement have set up numerous health stations of their own in this field.

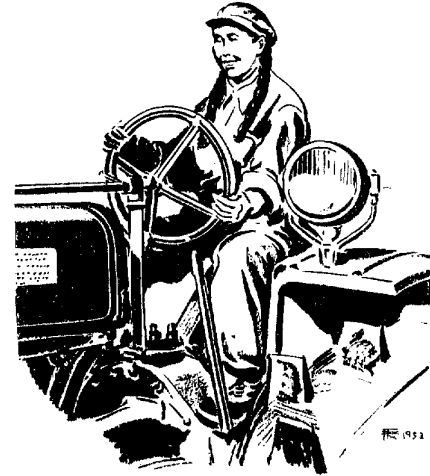
In the past two years, China has trained 4,340 nursery workers, 3,743 woman and child care workers (not including Southwest China and Inner Mongolia), 458 gynecologists and many other categories of personnel. A Woman and Child Health Experimental College with training facilities has been set up by the Ministry of Health. The Peking University Medical College has organized a department for mother and child health studies. An entirely new Woman and Child Health College has been opened in Mukden. In all medical schools, the number of students specializing in gynecology, obstetrics and pediatrics has increased. Local stations are re-training old-fashioned midwives on a large scale. Manuals on pre-natal hygiene and child care, written for both mothers and practitioners, have been issued in hundreds of thousands of copies—and

posters in millions. Millions of people have also seen filmstrips and attended illustrated talks on the subject. As a result of these widespread and varied activities, mother and child mortality has fallen greatly. In Hoche district, Pingyuan province, the death rate from infant tetanus has fallen from 42 per cent to 1 per cent.

In the sphere of preventive medicine, no less than 119,137,715 children have been vaccinated against smallpox in the past two years. Nearly a million children have been inoculated with BCG serum against tuberculosis, as well as against diphtheria and whooping cough. On Children's Day, June 1, 1951, free medical examinations were given to children under seven years old in all cities of China.

Effects of Land Reform

The most striking change in the life of the Chinese people has been the land reform, already completed in an area containing over 300 million rural inhabitants. Landlord estates were divided among individual peasants regardless of sex or age. This gave reality to the new status of women. They are now equal citizens, instead of pieces of property to be transferred from the father's homestead to the hus-

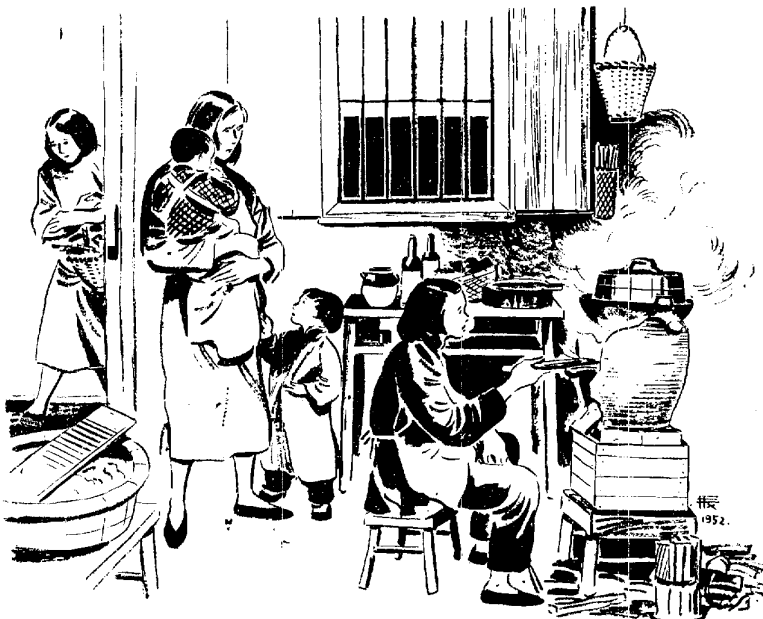


In China today women drive combines on state-owned farms.

band's or prey to the lusts of the all-powerful landlord.

An idea of what chains have been struck off our women by the land reform may be gained from the motion picture "The White-haired Girl." Many people outside our country have already seen this film, which, with the opera of the same name, is based on a true incident of our War of Liberation. It exposes not only the material greed of the landlords but also their constant sexual aggression against the wives and daughters of the peasants who were totally dependent on their mercies and dared not resist.

Sitting among people viewing "The White-haired Girl" in China, one often hears the angry exclamations of women in the audience when these past humiliations, about which the old ruling classes maintained absolute silence, are stripped bare on stage and screen. Along with the land reform, the new Marriage Law of China is cleaning the whole country of slave-trade in women, of servitude of girls before marriage, of the keeping of handmaids and of the former unlimited masculine dictatorship in matters of marriage and divorce. Our women today are independent persons, active in every field. All elements of discrimination against women workers, whether in wages or in eligibility for promotion, are being eliminated from Chinese life.



Before liberation life for women was endless toil.

Girls in both city and country are free to choose their own partners in marriage. Industriousness and ability have become the qualities most sought after by husbands and wives, since labour is now the main criterion of worth and respect. The popular minstrel's ballads of our countryside once concerned with the love affairs of the ancient great and the frustrations of ordinary young men and women under the oppression of the old society, are giving place to optimistic recitals

Rural children are getting their first chance at a proper education. Formerly only the landlords and the top layer of rich peasants found it possible to educate their children—for other peasants the effort required tremendous sacrifices or was altogether impossible. Land reform has led to an immense increase in village schools. Almost the very first thing that peasants do with the deposits the landlords must now refund to them is to contribute a portion towards setting up village schools.

How better to spend it than for a school?"

In rural schools in China, the enrolment of poor peasant and farm labourers' children has risen immensely. The educational policy of the People's Government works actively to increase the proportion. Country children who in the past could look forward only to the killing toil and prospectless existence which made old men and women of their parents by the time they reached their forties are now full of ambitions to which only their own ability can set a limit. They dream of becoming tractor drivers, engineers, scientists, poets, aviators—of heroic deeds in defence of our new democratic China which has opened such prospects to all. They hate the past and its dark memories and are a force for progress that cannot be underestimated.

The Young Pioneers organization of children between the ages of nine and fourteen was founded only two years ago. It already has a membership of 2,400,000. No one can pass by these youngsters, with their white blouses and red scarves, without admiring the clear-eyed future masters of the nation. In the Pioneer organization and out of it, boys and girls strive eagerly to be strong in body and to know everything—yet their striving has nothing to do with thoughts of personal wealth or of dominating others. The dreams in their heads are of transforming our country and serving our people, of living in friendly comradeship with the common people of all lands. Wherever one goes, one hears their fresh voices raised in song.

The extent of the educational effort of the People's Government for China's children can be judged from the fact that in 1951, which was only the second year of its foundation, 110 million copies of new textbooks were printed. The number of elementary schools is already 66 per cent above that of 1946.

Women Workers and Leaders

China's liberation has given her independence and has made it possible to advance to large-scale



Women are keen students of engineering.

of the new life. In the songs sung today, true lovers succeed in overcoming all obstacles to their union but are loath to be idle even during their honeymoons. Labour is a joy when it is labour for one's own welfare and future.

Education for All

Old China was a country of illiterates. The illiteracy among women, outside a few big cities, was practically total. Now, in both city and village, women flock to literacy classes and courses in many other subjects. Determined to make up for the ignorance once forced upon them by conditions and tradition, even grandmothers of sixty or seventy are learning to read and write.

The material improvement in our country has already eliminated the once-common spectacle of the starving child. Children no longer beg in our cities—they go to school instead. Great effort has been put into a multitude of new activities, institutions and publications for children.

All over the country, peasants are busy building schoolhouses, making classroom furniture and besieging county governments with requests for teachers.

In northern Szechuan, the number of primary schools doubled in the spring of 1951 as compared to the previous term. This area alone now has 15,622 primary schools, over 13,900 of which have been set up by the peasants themselves. In eastern Szechuan, 2,000 village schools were set up between February and April last year. Ho Ken, a former poor peasant who donated 2,000 cattles of grain for a school said feelingly, "When I was a child, I starved and froze. Where could I get money to go to school? My three children also don't know how to read yet. Now, Chairman Mao has given us back what the landlord used to take away, I don't have to worry about food and clothes any more. I have bought a cow and a plough, and I still have some money left over...."

construction. The liberation of Chinese women has enabled them to take their proper place in this great effort of the whole people. Our industries now have 650,000 women workers. Thousands are participating in the great Huai river control project, which is ending the threat of floods in an area containing one-seventh of our agricultural land. A woman engineer, Ch'ien Chen-ying, is assistant construction chief of this mighty undertaking.

The whole country knows the names of Ho Chien-hsiu and Chang Shu-yun, two outstanding women workers who invented and introduced new methods in textile production, thus contributing immensely to the national wealth. Chao Kuei-lan, a girl worker in a Dairen plant who lost an arm while courageously averting an explosion that threatened the whole factory, has become a national example of readiness to sacrifice for the common good. Regarded as a model by all Chinese womanhood, she is now studying in a party school. In old China, only a few years ago, Chao Kuei-lan was a very poor girl to whom nobody paid any attention.

Chinese women are appearing in many fields in which they were never seen before. We now have women railway builders, women



They work on the trains.

locomotive engineers, postwomen and women drivers in city transport. Many young women have joined our people's army, navy and air force, to help defend the peace we need to build our new life. Others are attending officers' training schools. Even women parachutists are no longer a novelty.

Leading the work of rebuilding our society and our country are the members of the Chinese Communist Party, among whom are 600,000 women. There are 150,000 women among our new-type government functionaries at

various levels of national and local administration.

The whole nation is proud that Soong Ching Ling (Mme. Sun Yat-sen), a great woman of China, was awarded the Stalin prize for the promotion of international peace in 1951. All the Chinese people, and Chinese women particularly, are inspired by this high and meaningful honour. Our country builds for peace. The emancipation of Chinese women, and the improvement of the health and education of Chinese children, will enable them to live fully and richly in the peaceful world the peoples can and will achieve.

Drawings in this article by Tsai Cheng-hua



In the government and defence forces they help their country to build for peace.

HEALTH MILESTONES

No major epidemics have occurred anywhere in China during the past two years thanks to nation-wide epidemic prevention work.

During this whole period, not a single case of smallpox has been reported from Peking, Port Arthur, Dairen, Yingkow, Chingwangtao, Chefoo, Amoy or Canton.

In 82 cities including Peking, Shanghai, Mukden, Nanking and Sian, 850,000 children were inoculated against tuberculosis with BCG serum.

New Spirit In Peking Handicrafts



A worker applies colour to cloisonné in a Peking workshop.

EXCITING things are happening in Peking's world-famous handicrafts. For the first time in hundreds of years, new designs are appearing in cloisonné and porcelain, in jade and ivory carvings, in fine carpets and needlework. Master craftsmen are making vigorous ivory figurines of China's present-day men and women instead of Buddhist saints and Taoist hermits. Cloisonné trays and painted silk lanterns have come alive with boys and girls swinging in the buoyant *yangko* dance. Peace doves fly on powder boxes and plates. Vases are painted with colourful patterns adapted from the best, not the decadent, periods of China's art.

All these things represent a developing revolution in craft design, which had remained stereotyped since the eighteenth century. Who has not seen the everlasting dragon against a background of minute ringlets, the clusters of stylized flowers, the human figures painted on porce-

The making of cloisonné ware was introduced to China from Turkey during the fourteenth century. Designs are outlined with bent wire fillets secured to a brass base. The spaces between the wires are then filled with enamel. Chinese craftsmen have developed this technique to a very high pitch, producing very intricate and beautiful designs.

lain in costumes and moods belonging to a long-buried past? Under the patronage of the later Manchu court, these designs had lost all movement in a maze of ornamentation. Later they were turned out automatically for foreign taste in "*chinoiseries*." The Chinese themselves became heartily tired of most of them. When people made presents to each other, they preferred to give fruits, sweetmeats or other things.

How the Change Began

It was only after liberation that Peking's handicrafts began to awaken from this long lethargy. The people's authorities gave new encouragement to a group of Tsinghua university professors who had been engaged for some time in drawing designs based on ancient Chinese bronzes and porcelains, and had asked forward-looking master craftsmen to adapt them in cloisonné. In June 1950, the government set up the state-owned Peking Handicraft Company. It engaged these professors and a group of artists to produce designs blending the vigorous best of ancient Chinese art with the atmosphere of present day China.

At first, the venture met with many difficulties. Exporters refused to handle the new products,

maintaining that their customers in America, Britain and other capitalist countries would only buy the designs they associated with China, such as dragons and frail languishing women. The handicraft workers had been mechanically producing the old ornate things for generations; to change meant loss of time, and besides they were not convinced that it would work out.

To break through these obstacles, the company arranged talks for the craftsmen at which the tradition of Chinese art and reasons for their degeneration were discussed. The craftsmen were urged to turn back to original sources and develop them in a more healthy direction. Ample loans were made available to the workshops. The handicraft company itself placed large orders for articles of new design. It agreed to pay for all losses incurred in changing over and experimentation.

In the spring of 1951 the American embargo sent the handicraft business looking for new markets. The first efforts were focussed on stimulating the internal market. To get the Chinese consumer to buy its goods, the company discovered, it was necessary to produce articles in tune with popular sentiment since liberation. The

same thing applies to China's new international contacts. Both the government and the people's organizations were sending representatives to friendly countries. These needed gifts to take with them which would give people abroad some idea of the new spirit in China.

Peking craftsmen began to carve statuettes of China's new heroes and heroines who had laid down their lives for their country. Their products became more alive and their own enthusiasm mounted. They kept the artists busy by asking for more and more designs.

Motifs from Tunhuang

Then in the spring of 1951, a new stimulus appeared. More than a thousand hand-painted reproductions of ancient murals from the Tunhuang caves in Kansu province were shown for the first time in Peking. The exhibition caused a sensation. Everybody talked about it. Lectures were given on the origin and history of the works shown. Day after day, artists went with their easels and paints to copy the pictures. This exhibition had a tremendous influence on handicrafts too.

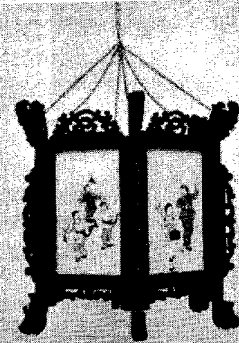
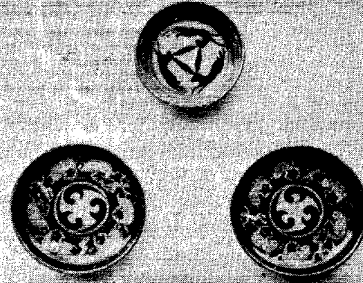
Tunhuang is a small town on the edge of the Gobi desert. Once an important stage on the post road linking China with Iran, India, Greece and Rome, it possesses great cultural monuments in the shape of 469 caves decorated with Buddhist religious paintings and frescoes commissioned by devout passersby who prayed for good fortune in their business and their travels.

The oldest of these paintings dates back to 366 A.D., while a few were added as late as the eighteenth century. The best of them range from primitive directness in the early period to rich colour and composition in the T'ang Dynasty (618-906 A.D.). While the main themes are religious, the murals also show the people of each period farming, fighting, hunting and enjoying themselves. The cornices, friezes, columns and high ceilings of each cave are filled with wonderfully decorative geometric designs.

Most of the Chinese public had little previous knowledge of this treasurehouse of art belonging to their own country. When the Peking Handicraft Company took the local craftsmen to see the exhibition they were filled with amazement by the perfection of the geometric designs and the brilliance of the chromatic schemes. They visited the exhibit again and again. They eagerly attended a lecture specially arranged for them and asked the artists who had done the reproductions to provide them with designs. These designs have now appeared on trays, vases, lamps, powder boxes, tea containers and rugs. The secretary of the Peking Handicraft Company says, "Our workers are like people who have been on the same tiresome diet for years and suddenly find new, delicious food."

To raise the level of handicrafts in other parts of China, the new Peking products have been sent to big trade exhibitions held in many large cities. Abroad, they have been shown in the Soviet Union, in Switzerland, Sweden, Poland, Denmark and Norway. Everywhere they have been admired for the originality of their design and excellence of their workmanship. Combining old skills with living designs, they are bound to become known throughout the world.

For the first time in hundreds of years, new designs are appearing in Peking's handicrafts. The peace dove is one of the most popular themes.

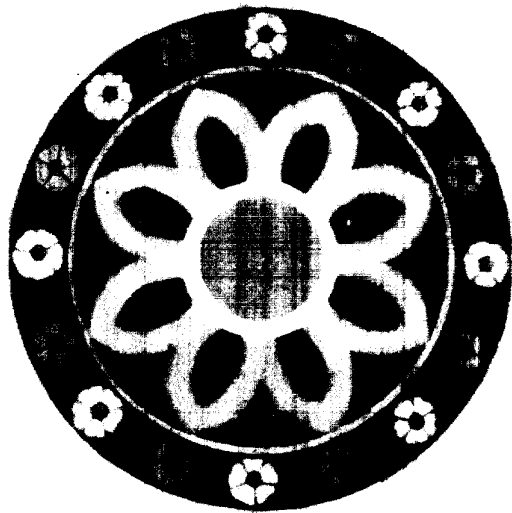




A BUDDHA T'ANG DYNASTY (618-906 A.D.)



MUSICIANS



HALOS T'ANG DYNASTY (691-757 A.D.)

TUNHUANG MURALS

Major treasures of China's ancient art, long seen as lost to the country where they are located, were revealed to the world in 1900. Exhibition featured reproductions of the magnificent and ancient murals of Kansu province. It captured the imagination of handicraft designers. simple and stately Tunhuang designs in cloisonné (a kind of enamel work) pieces, as well as examples of the new designs that draw on pages 24 and 25).



8



MODERN PEKING CLOISSONNE WARE WITH

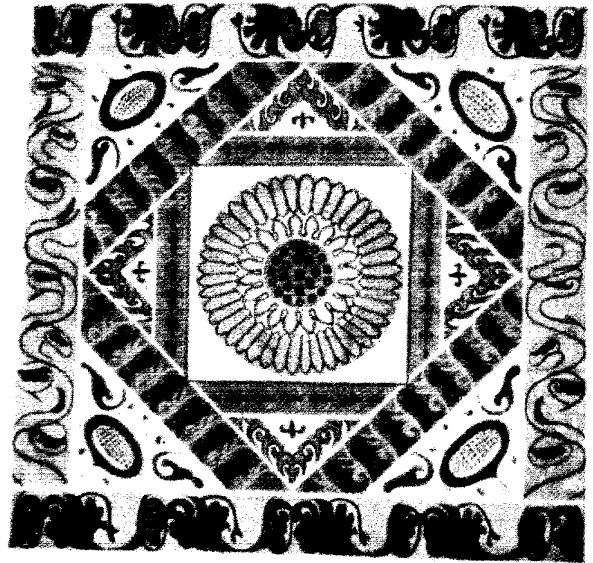


SUI DYNASTY (581-617 A.D.)



GANDHARVAS (Top)

CEILING DESIGN (Below)

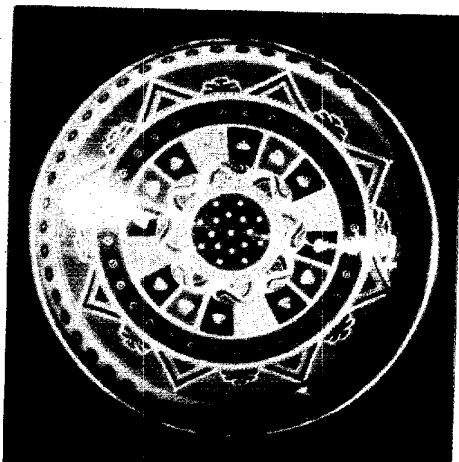


T'ANG DYNASTY (618-906 A.D.)

WEI DYNASTY (366-580 A.D.)

INSPIRE NEW DESIGNS

by travelers who managed to reach the remote part
ple of Peking at an exhibition held last year. The ex-
sive murals that fill 469 caves at Tunhuang, in western
rkers in China's capital, who have since adapted the
amel-work). Some details of the Tunhuang master-
ration from them, are shown on this page (see article



TOP OF SHRINE

WEI DYNASTY (366-580 A.D.)

The North China Trade Exhibition



AUTOMOBILES AND TRACTORS: HOME PRODUCED

AT the great North China Trade Exhibition in Tientsin, late in 1951, people crowded around the first automobile and tractor made entirely in China.

The car was one of several already manufactured in Tientsin. Tractors are being produced by workers in Taiyuan, Shansi province. The appearance of both was epoch-making, a herald of the future in Chinese national industry, transport and agriculture.

Among the thousands of industrial products and great numbers of machines displayed in the exhibition were over a hundred items of major importance which China was never able to make before liberation. They included coal-cutting machinery for our mines, automatic universal precision lathes and a variety of other modern machine tools. Among regional "firsts" on display were 100-h.p. diesel engines to provide power wherever needed in town and country, electric trolley buses and other items.

The instruments of production and transport exhibited in Tientsin had all been made during the period of rehabilitation of Chinese economy. Large-scale industrialization of the country has still to begin. Yet what has already been achieved proved to every patriotic visitor and foreign well-wisher that China can make anything

that she requires. It was also testimony that the American-inspired embargo on machine exports to China, designed to cripple our industry, has on the contrary stimulated it. In successfully solving problems posed by the embargo, Chinese industry has made a faster leap forward in its range of output than might otherwise have been the case.

Raw Material Wealth

As with productive equipment, so with raw materials. The variety of North China's natural resources, and of the uses to which they are already being put, came through vividly at the exhibition. To cite a few examples, there were specimens of coal from Shansi, Hopei, Suiyuan, Pingyuan, and Chahar; iron ore from Chahar, Hopei, Suiyuan, Pingyuan and Shansi; sulphur from every province in the region; gold from Hopei, Shansi, Suiyuan and Inner Mongolia. North China supplies gypsum to the whole country and its asbestos, with fibres up to 2½ inches long, is of very good quality.

Plants whose possibilities were hitherto ignored are now being put to industrial use. Paper manufactured from "chih chi tsao," a kind of wild grass that grows along the Yellow river and was previously used only to make brooms, is more resistant to fold-

ing and crushing than American banknote paper. Strong gunny sacks are being made of another domestic fibre that was burned for firewood in the past. Last spring, the rubber-producing grass, *kok-sagyz*, was experimentally planted in Suiyuan province, with initially favourable results.

While it has long been known that North China has rich resources, many of the raw materials shown were an eye-opener to the visitors. Peasants, workers, government economic personnel and private businessmen all learned a great deal from the Tientsin exhibition.

More than 20,000 white-kerchiefed peasants from the north China countryside, chosen by their fellow-villagers to attend the exhibition, stayed for days and sometimes weeks in the homes of Tientsin residents. The peasants had all experienced tremendous improvement in their own lives as a result of liberation and land reform, but this was the first time they were able to see how the whole nation is moving forward. They saw their own future as they crowded avidly around the generators for village power and light stations (some of them had never even seen an electric light before), the tractors and combines and the improved animal-drawn agricultural implements, already available in quantity, that raise

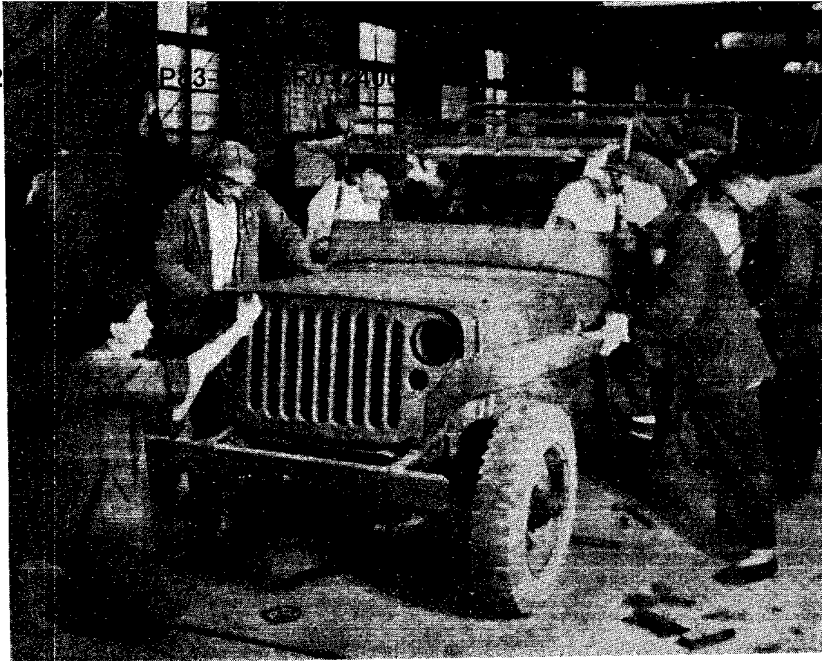
the productivity of farm labour several times. They realized their own part in the country's progress as they viewed various industrial products made out of the crops of their own fields. In the models of hydraulic schemes which will soon solve major flood, drought and irrigation problems, they saw that even the "unconquerable" forces of nature can be bent to the control of man.

Industry Meets Agriculture

The benefits of industry are already available to peasants on a scale immeasurably greater than ever before in Chinese history. Fertilizers are cheap. So are many agricultural machines. That something new is happening in China is plain from the remark of one peasant who lingered around a mechanical oil press: "It does the work of the four mules we use for the job in our village—and it costs a lot less."

Peasants, particularly those organized in mutual-aid teams and able to make group-purchases, placed many orders for new equipment at the exhibition. By invitation, they visited agricultural implement factories in Tientsin and gave their suggestions to engineers and workers as to what

Finishing the first jeep made in Tientsin. These workers are now producing a station-wagon model as well.



needed to be made, and what could be done better.

At other factories which they inspected, the peasants watched spellbound as great looms turned out cloth like magic—unlike the laborious treadle looms of the villages. They made many worker friends and constantly sought explanations from them of all they had seen.

Confessed one peasant representative: "We used to ask, 'why is the working class supposed to be the leader?' We peasants thought we could make everything

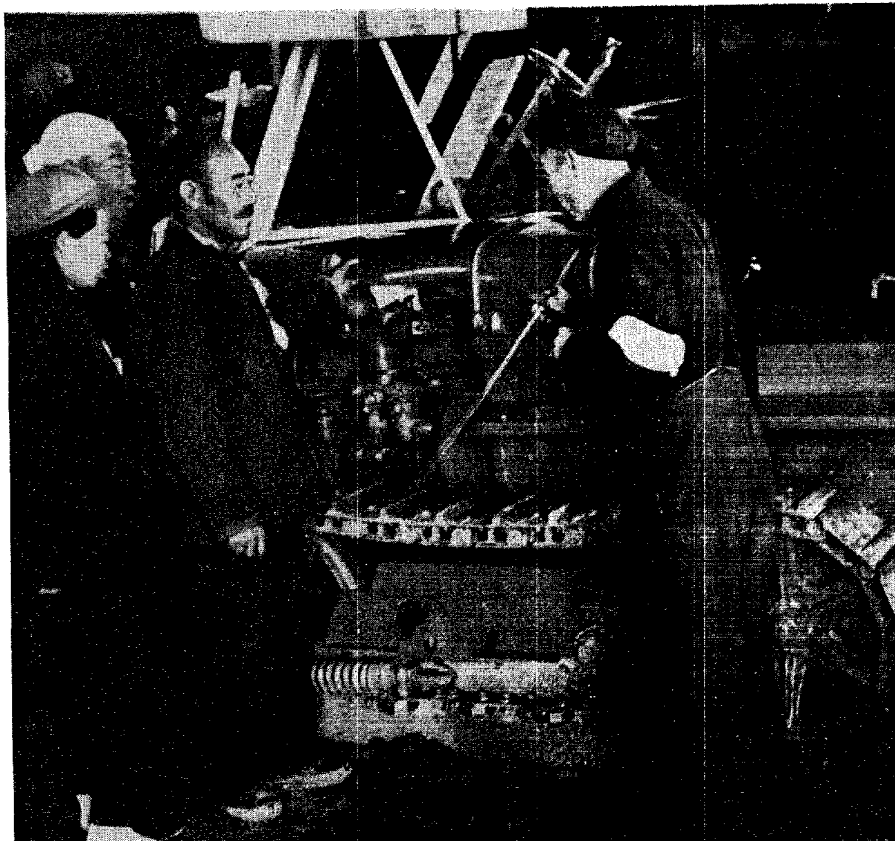
we were likely to need except salt. We grew our own food, spun and wove our own cotton, produced our own vegetable oil for cooking and lamps. But now we see a much better future ahead of us and we can't get there behind a wooden plough and an ox. However hard we try, we can't grow telephones and electric lights."

What Workers Have Achieved

The exhibition showed clearly that the advance of new China, now that ancient oppressions have been removed, takes place through the combination of science, collective effort and a forward-looking outlook.

In the pavilion devoted to industrial improvements, many photographs and charts recorded the changes the New Democracy has brought about in the workers' lives. All the humiliating practices which symbolized the total absence of workers' rights in the old society, such as the searching of workers by factory guards before they went home, have now been abolished. Workers in government-owned enterprises elect their own representatives to

China's first tractor made in Taiyuan, Shansi province, was a centre of attraction for peasant and other visitors to the exhibition.



Management Councils, which are in charge of administration, production and wages. In private factories, their delegates sit on Labour-Capital Consultative Conferences which discuss improved production and find solutions for disputes.

How workers' suggestions and inventions are encouraged, and how industrial development benefits from this, was graphically illustrated. A very old Chinese proverb says that "three shoemakers make a sage." The workers of China, discarding craft "secrets" and democratically combining their rich experience to improve production and rationalize management, have devised many new methods that no sage ever thought of.

When the Tientsin Automobile Assembly Plant decided to make its first car, instead of just putting cars together, it was found that many tools were lacking. The workers talked this over, and improvised what was needed out of

old machines and spare parts. Engine castings presented a particularly difficult problem, but after initial failures this too was solved. Altogether, in Tientsin, no less than 8,455 workers' suggestions were made in the first seven months of 1951. A large part of them were adopted with benefits to their initiators in the form of special payments, and to the nation through increased output.

New Ways in Farming

In agriculture too, science and democratic joint effort are working remarkable transformations.

Chinese peasants used to say: "You don't need skill in farming; all you need is sweat."

The agricultural improvement pavilion at the North China Trade Exhibition refuted such ideas. It was not sweat but science that produced the enormous melons and cabbages, the heavy-headed, large-grained wheat, the 900-lb. pigs that were displayed there.

Having witnessed these results, achieved sometimes on state farms, sometimes by the most forward-looking rural mutual-aid groups and individual owner-cultivators, the peasants flocked with new interest to see the demonstrations of ploughs that could cut deeper into the soil, seed selection procedures, new fertilizers and sprayers to destroy various pests.

Devoting its utmost effort to the increase of agricultural yield per acre, the government has publicized the example of the 49-year old peasant Chu Yao-li, who reached a cotton yield of 7,296 lbs. an acre, or 222 lbs. more than his last year's record. Chu Yao-li came to the exhibition himself, was received as an honoured guest, and gave explanations of his methods. If the average cotton productivity in North China could be raised to even one-fifth of Chu's yield, the total present harvest would be more than doubled. No wonder Chu has become a national figure.

The basis for more widespread application of science and better tools in farming has been laid by organizing the peasants for joint work. Mutual-aid teams have already played a tremendous part in rehabilitating North China's agriculture from the ruins of war, in bringing cereal crops back to the pre-war level and cotton output to 55 per cent above pre-war. They have also facilitated repair of dykes and irrigation ditches and the battle against locusts.

Benefits of Cooperation

Experience, as tabulated in figures at the exhibition, indicates that mutual-aid teams generally get the best harvests; buy more animals, build better barns, use better tools, solve puzzling problems more easily through common discussion. Moreover, they keep in closer touch with new methods, new events and new markets through reading-groups which regularly peruse newspapers and pamphlets. About 55 per cent of all North China peasants are already members of mutual-aid teams, and in some counties as many as 90 per cent have joined.



Peasant delegates carefully examine one of the new agricultural implements Chinese industry is supplying, in large numbers, to the villages.

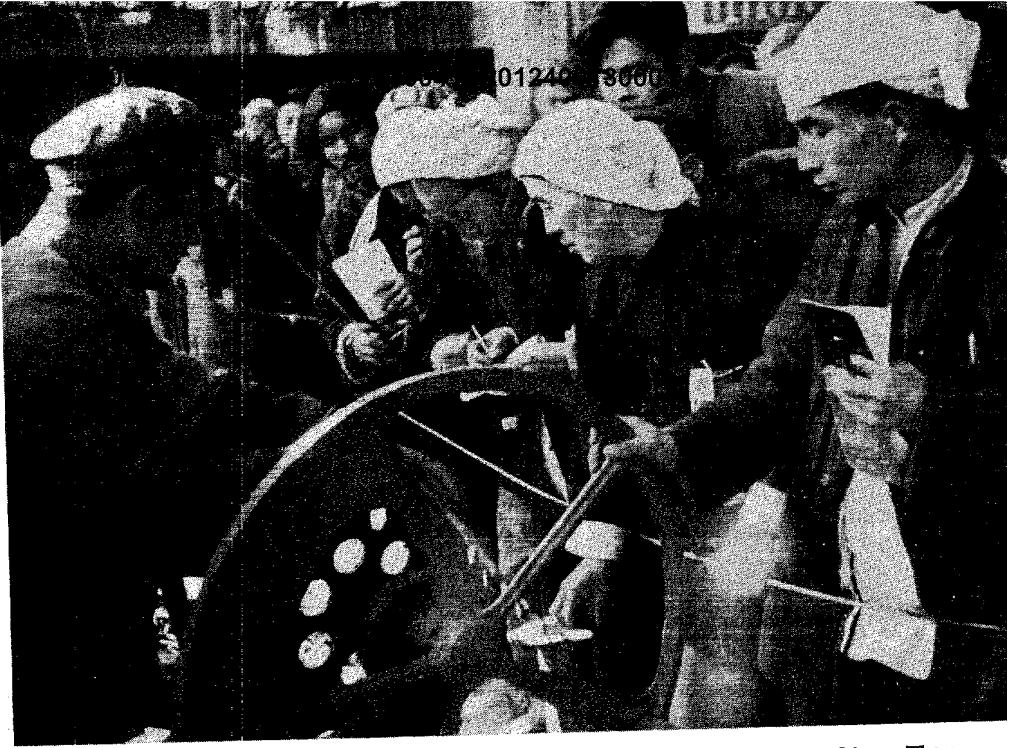
The mutual-aid team is a seasonal or more lasting, cooperative for the purpose of work only; the land, buildings and most tools remain individually owned. Now, however, a new form of organization, the Agricultural Production Cooperative, has begun to appear. In this higher form, land as well as labour is pooled.

In the old days, China's peasants were nameless. The new democracy has produced tens of thousands of peasant leaders whose fame has spread far and wide. Li Shun-ta of Shansi province, who attended the Tientsin exhibition, became a national hero by organizing a model mutual-aid group which issues challenges to others all over our vast country. Chia Lan-hu of Hopei province enlisted his village in a cooperative afforestation effort, planting 450,000 trees on waste land and protecting the fields of the people from sandstorms. Bewhiskered 56-year-old Ma Yi-chien organized another cooperative which irrigated and flushed out large tracts of alkaline farmland, increasing its yield tremendously.

Not only is China's countryside producing more, but the cultivators are much better off. Price relationships are becoming more favourable to the peasants. Before liberation, it took the price of $3\frac{1}{2}$ *tou* (a *tou* is 13.3 lbs.) of wheat to buy an ordinary iron ploughshare. Now one can buy three ploughshares for the price of one *tou* of wheat.

Life-Giving Trade

All underestimation of trade (on the ground that "it does not create new values") is opposed by the People's Government, which does everything possible to promote internal commerce. With both industry and agriculture producing more, and the liberated peasants entering the market as customers for all sorts of goods, the growth of exchange between town and country becomes more important daily. The Tientsin exhibition was organized to increase such trade. In the first and largest of its 17 pavilions, one could see how every form of transport, from trains to camel caravans, is utilized to knit the



Peasants take notes while a demonstrator lectures on a new machine. They will use these notes for reports to their own villages.

country into an economic unit; how land and water routes have been improved and coordinated one with the other; how marketing procedures have been reformed, products standardized and credit facilities expanded to help both seller and buyer.

The North China Trade Exhibition was itself a mighty stimulus to commerce, both within North China and between North China and other regions. It was attended by representatives of government and trading organizations, of North China's 10,000 cooperatives which now have over ten million members, and of thousands of private firms. Orders actually placed at the exhibition amounted to ¥1,560,000,000 People's Currency (about US\$70,000,000 or over £24,700,000). The trade turnover resulting from it indirectly will of course be much greater.

The Tientsin exhibition is only one of many held in various parts of China during the past year and a half. Some, as for instance the Northeast Trade Exhibition at Mukden, showed an even larger trading turnover. Taken together, these exhibitions have helped considerably to strengthen the national economy and to lay the basis for large-scale industrialization.

CORRECTION

We regret that, due to errors in conversion to English units and other oversights that occurred in the editorial office, certain figures in the article "Ending the Flood Menace" (CHINA RECONSTRUCTS, No. 1) were printed wrongly in some of the distributed copies. The attention of readers who may have received such copies is called to the following corrections.

Page	Col.	Line	Printed	Should Read
4	2	4	170 miles	480 miles
4	2	6	Over 16 million cu. yds.	Approximately 158 million cubic feet
5	2	6	102,000 cu. ft. per second	307,000
5	2	7	99,000 cu. ft. per second	297,000
8	2	14	eight sluice gates	nine sluice gates
8	2	18	fixed dam	movable dam
8	2	20	two of 69 feet	four of 69 feet

The caption accompanying the picture at the bottom of page 6 was also inaccurate. It should read:

"In the first phase of the work, reinforced cement structures were built in 56 places along the Huai and its tributaries."

First Trains In Szechuan

ARROGANT young officials who moved to Chungking and other places in Szechuan province with the Kuomintang regime during the war with Japan used to jeer at the people there, "You've never seen the sea; you've never seen a train." This would always make the Szechuanese angry. They had been waiting a long time for a railway to help the development of their great and productive area which is as large, as populous and as rich in agricultural and industrial resources as the whole of Germany.

Ever since 1906, when the Manchu dynasty still ruled, there had been talk of a railway from Chungking to Chengtu. Surveys were made, part of the roadbed laid out, station buildings erected at different times and contracts drawn up with all kinds of foreign concerns. Indeed, the collapse of the Manchu empire in 1911 was precipitated by a revolt of the Szechuan people against its attempt to turn over the projected line to American bankers (in the famous Hukuang loan scandals). But whether the Manchus, the so-called Republic, the provincial militarists or the Kuomintang

Excited children brought bouquets for the railway workers when the first train ran from Chungking to Neikiang.



grafters were in power, it was all the same. There were plenty of promises, the people were taxed to within an inch of their lives with each "revival" of the projects, corrupt officials dickered with imperialist monopolies over the unhatched chickens of railway profits, but no rails were laid and no trains ran. So it went on for over forty years.

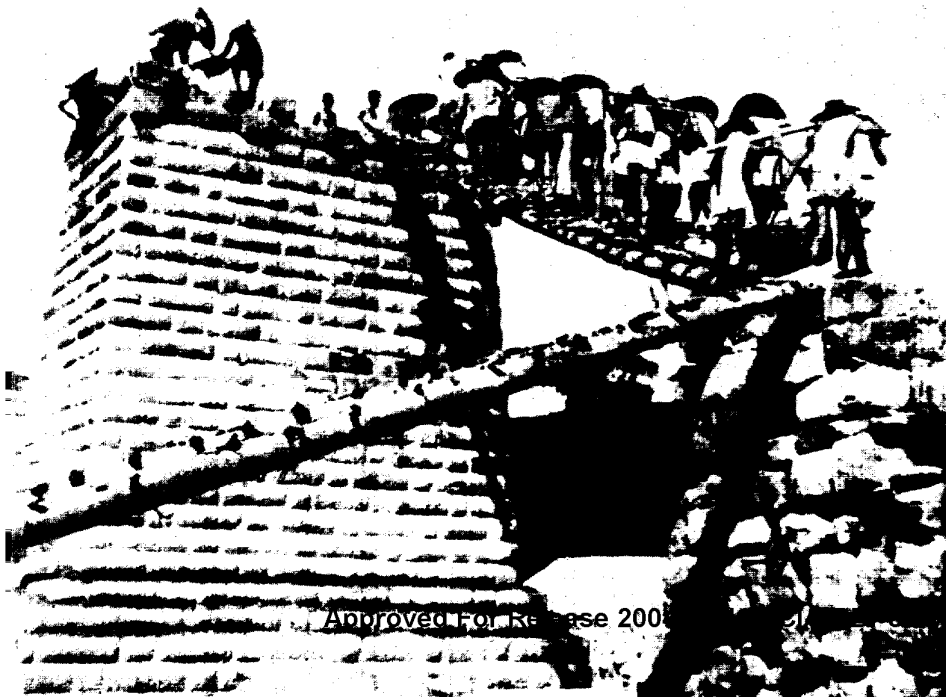
Today the people of Szechuan (now divided into four administrative areas) are riding and hauling their goods in trains. The Central People's Government did in a few months what previous governments had prated about for decades. It took no more than half a year after the liberation of Szechuan for railway-building to begin in earnest. On June 15, 1950, the first spike was driven on the 329-mile stretch of railway running west from Chungking,

Szechuan's commercial and industrial port on the Yangtze river, to Chengtu, centre of its richest agriculture. On July 1, 1951, regular train service started on the 102-mile section from Chungking to Yungchuan. By the end of 1951, trains were puffing into Neikiang, 175 miles from Chungking.

Soldiers and People

The People's Liberation Army, which freed Szechuan from the long night of feudalism and imperialism, was also the force that changed the Chungking-Chengtu railway from dream to reality. Its officers and men did not confine themselves to military tasks, or sit around in garrisons and eat off the people. No sooner had they cleared out the main forces of reaction than they got to work building.

Having no previous experience in railway construction, the army men asked engineers to teach them. As they worked, they held on-the-job classes and forums, studying the experience of the Soviet Union in building railways in the face of all kinds of hardships. Now they have mastered the required techniques to such an extent that the foundation laid for the line is the firmest of that of any railway in China. They have also broken national records of construction, and their methods have been adopted in the building of the Tien-shui-Lanchow line in the Northwest, another new and



Building one of the 970 bridges of the Chungking-Chengtu line.



New housing goes up to relieve Shanghai overcrowding.

TRANSFORMING OUR CITIES

CHINESE cities are being rebuilt on new foundations. Roads, bridges, water supply and sewage disposal are being extended and improved. City life grows easier, healthier and cleaner. Peking, Shanghai, and Tientsin today manage to keep their streets freer of garbage and litter than does New York, despite all the mechanical equipment at its disposal. This may be hard to believe for anyone who knew only the old China. But it is true.

Before liberation, whatever improvements were made in city services were for the benefit of the rich alone. Any convenience they may have afforded the working people was purely incidental. This was obvious to every eye. Running water, electricity and even pavements often ended abruptly in the middle of some city block, because that was where the last "person who mat-

tered" lived—and everything beyond was considered unimportant. The difference between services available in well-to-do residential areas and workers' districts of the same cities was shocking. The one had everything the twentieth century can provide. In the other, people were forced to live as though none of the inventions of the past 300 years had been heard of.

Present improvements are being concentrated precisely in these workers' quarters. The following is a review of some of the things done in the past two years, city by city.

Water and Sanitation

In Peking today, 1,200,000 people are using running water free of *bacillus coli*. Miles of new water mains have been installed. Before liberation, there was no piped water at all outside the city

walls. Now pipes have been extended to serve miners' settlements in the western suburbs.

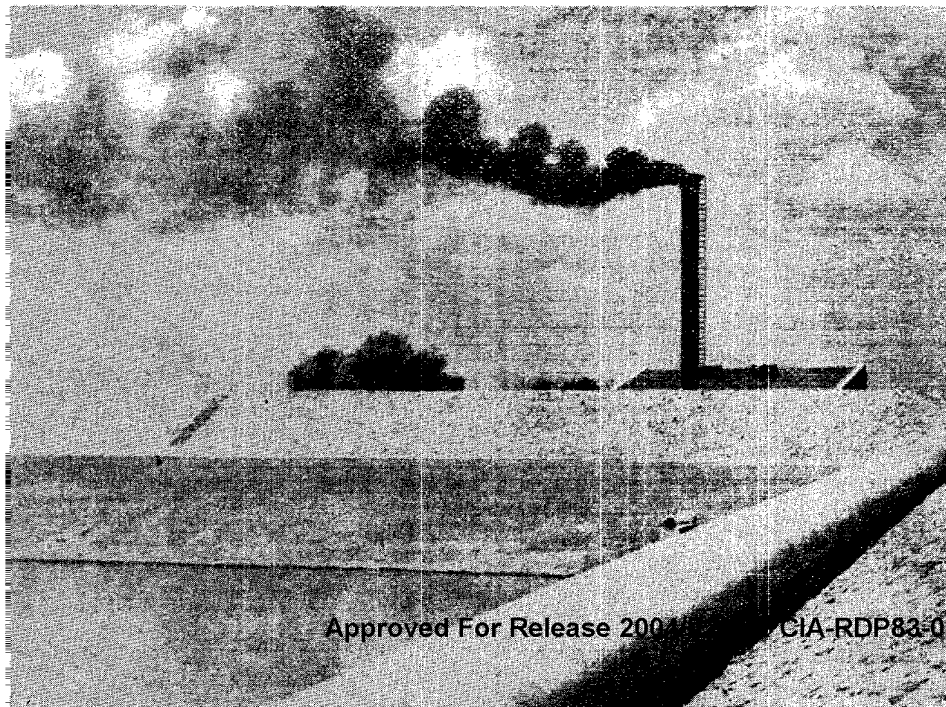
Drainage and sewage disposal in the capital have improved beyond recognition. Heavy rains no longer turn any of its streets into deep canals where the water stagnates for weeks at a time. Open drains are being replaced by culverts. Newly paved smooth street surfaces also help drainage. Half-an-hour or 40 minutes after even the most torrential downpours, there is no longer any water in the streets of the working-class districts. This is true even of the lowest-lying areas, around Dragon Beard Ditch, where rain always used to interrupt communications, and sometimes caused houses to collapse.

The centuries-old underground sewage system of Peking, not used for years because it was neglected and blocked, has been cleared of all obstacles and made fully serviceable. Almost a hundred miles of its culverts have been cleaned and repaired.

More Bridges; Better Roads

Shanghai is concentrating on the repair of bridges and roads, which deteriorated badly through the years of Japanese and Kuomintang occupation. The 44-year-old steel Garden Bridge, which was in poor condition when the city was liberated, has been structurally restored and thoroughly rust-proofed after four months' work. The Huang Peng

A corner of the 80-million gallon precipitation tank of Tientsin's new waterworks.



bridge has been rebuilt in reinforced concrete, involving the use of the longest steel cables ever employed in local bridge construction. Many other bridges have been renovated and reopened to traffic after long disuse.

Many streets in former slum areas of Shanghai were torn up for sewer-laying, then re-surfaced, in a work project that also relieved the temporary unemployment in the city in 1950.

Water hydrants have been installed in many places, including the banks of Soochow creek, to serve the inhabitants of boats and barges who formerly had to use the filthy creek water to drink.

Areas which have been without street lights for years, or never had them, are now illuminated at night.

Progress in Tientsin

In Tientsin, the emphasis has been on an ample, safe supply of water to serve both the city's inhabitants and its industries. This city, the largest port of North China, has just increased its water supply by 65 per cent. Construction was based on a plan made 15 years ago but shelved by the British interests which then controlled the waterworks—because the well-to-do minority of the population already had "enough" water, and to give poorer people more would be "uneconomical." Now Tientsin has a giant new precipitation tank for river water with a capacity of 90 million gallons. By using natural differences in water levels, the engineers have arranged for a steady flow to the purifying plant without expensive pumping ma-

chinery. The width of culverts has been doubled.

Tientsin's water is now safe to drink from the tap, which was not the case before liberation. Preparations are being made to soften all city water while still in the storage tanks, thus saving huge quantities of soap.

Tientsin's communications have also been bettered. New locally-made trolley buses run in the city. The main highway leading to Peking, long in a terrible state, has been fully repaired. People used to joke about this road, "A person riding into Tientsin is so banged around that he arrives with a bump on his head, hating the city before he has even seen it." Now the road is a subject of compliments, not jeers.

Labour Heroism at Nanking

Nanking has re-surfaced 864,000 square yards of city streets. The historic Chang Kan bridge, destroyed by the Japanese invaders was rebuilt in half a year. Seventy feet wide, and made wholly of concrete, it carries traffic to southern Kiangsu province.

Many labour heroes emerged on the Chang Kan bridge job, on which 700 men were engaged. Aware of the importance of restoring this major communications link, they worked on the buttresses in icy water during the winter months and through the turbulent spring thaw. City residents assisted by providing comforts and helping equip their dormitories, and by themselves doing volunteer work to complete a culvert, construction of which had been discontinued under the reactionary Kuomintang.

A new 20-mile long sewer has been laid to serve 200,000 people living in the southern part of Nanking. Sewers in other sections of the city have been cleaned, repaired and extended.

Despite the fact that the Kuomintang made Nanking its "capital" for so many years,

Open drains are being replaced by culverts. The picture shows work on the notorious Dragon Beard Ditch in Peking.





Large public swimming pools give relief from summer heat. This is the shallow pool at Shih Cha Hai, Peking, which also has others for more expert swimmers and divers.

367,000 of the inhabitants lacked water service of any kind, and had to drink impure water from old wells and stagnant pools. One of the first things done after the liberation of the city was to install 365 conveniently-placed hydrants to bring piped water to these areas.

Housing, Parks and Hospitals

Wuhan (the triple city of Wuchang, Hankow and Hanyang) is the industrial hub of central China. Reconstruction here has been concentrated on buildings and roads. The pace has been such as to cause temporary shortages of bricks and other materials. Wuhan has a new workers' hospital, a new theatre and a movie-house built specially for railway workers, new government buildings and over 500 units of new housing. The old municipal hospital has been repaired. About 300,000 square yards of trees and flowers have been planted and road surfaces have been paved. Wuhan's Central Park has been renovated and a new People's

Square, with a capacity of 220,000 persons, is planned for the city.

Hangchow, capital of Chekiang province, has repaired 254 old-style streets with an overall length of 30 miles, and provided them with proper drainage and sewers. By contrast with the "modern" thoroughfares along which Kuomintang officials rode around in their cars and big merchants and bankers did their business, such streets were never taken care of in the past.

Soldiers Build a City

Not only are old cities in China being made over, but altogether new ones are being built.

In faraway Sinkiang, men of the People's Liberation Army are working on a new garden city which will be completed in five years. They have already built over 20 miles of paved roads and many houses. The city will begin with an area of 5½ square miles, with 350 acres devoted to three parks. Trees and flowering shrubs will line all streets and squares.

The city will have industrial, administrative, commercial and residential zones. It will serve as a focal point for several large mechanized farms in the surrounding countryside.

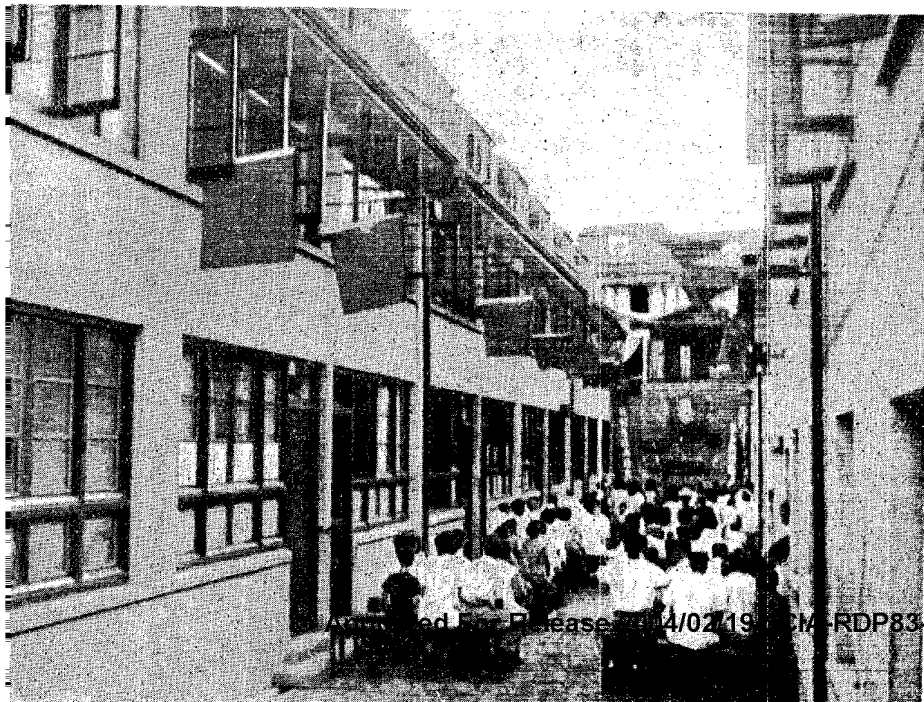
Construction on the Sinkiang site began under the most difficult conditions. In winter, the ground froze hard, and had to be hewn like rock when foundations were laid. Beams for the houses were horse-hauled to the site from 60 miles away (there is still no railway). The People's Liberation Army men, soldiers who serve the people in peace as well as defend them, are determined to finish the job ahead of schedule. They have volunteered to work on Sundays as well as weekdays.

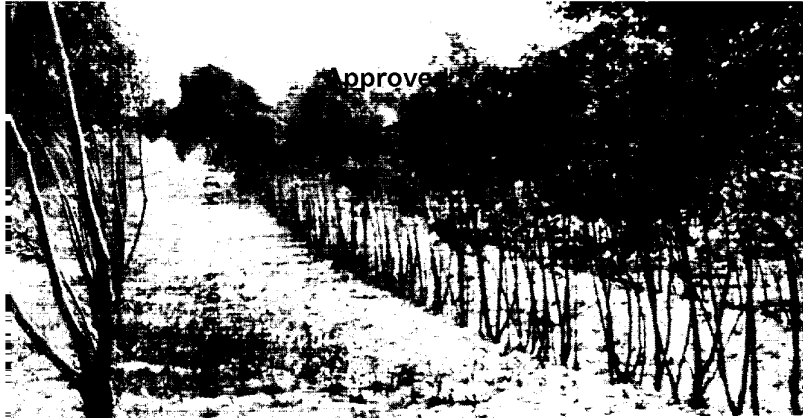
The People Volunteer

Labour enthusiasm is the foundation of all reconstruction and new building in China's cities. It is the weapon with which technical difficulties are overcome, old methods improved, new ways boldly tried out, and time-tables revised downward. In all cases, regular workers are supplemented by volunteers. Thus Nanking stevedores repaired several miles of streets in their spare time, saving the city the cost of labour. In Wuhan, students, government functionaries—even priests and nuns—undertook to work several hours a week to put their city in order. Among the Wuhan volunteers were an old woman of 80 and a schoolgirl of twelve.

The people are building in this spirit because the cities, the country, the government are now theirs.

Workers held a block meeting when they moved into Pinghuang Villas, Shanghai, one of the developments replacing the old airless slums.





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Tree planting on a huge scale has begun throughout China. This young timber was planted by peasants in Sulu county, Hopei province.

To fight plant diseases, which our peasants in the past accepted as an infliction from heaven, the People's Government has concentrated chiefly on prevention and mass education in science. Success has been achieved in checking grain smuts and other blights.

Planting Forests

Forests are important for water conservancy, drought prevention and soil protection, as well as timber. The reactionary Kuomintang regime, with its corrupt officials and marauding troops, reduced the already depleted forests of China to a bare 5 per cent of the national territory. Floods, dust storms and droughts increased as a result.

The People's Government protects all forests. In addition, in the first year of liberation alone, it planted 300 million saplings. In the spring of 1951, the second year, 500,000 acres of land were afforested. This was more than the Kuomintang did in all its 22 years of misrule.

China has 675 million acres (over a million square miles) of sub-marginal land on which trees can be grown. The government plans to turn all this land into forest within thirty years. When this has been done, forests will cover 20 per cent of the entire area of China instead of 5 per cent as at present. The appearance of the country, as well as conditions of agriculture, will change. Denuded hills around Chinese villages will be clothed in green. Watersheds will be guarded by stands of timber. Vast shelter belts will transform now arid sections of northwestern China and Inner Mongolia.

Chinese peasants once believed that man's fate depended on the "will of heaven." Such superstitious ideas are being replaced by a conviction, already well-founded in experience, that man must and can conquer nature. Common effort under the New Democracy is what the people rely on today in fighting calamities and building their new life. The days of submission to "fate" are gone forever.

Man Wins Over "Fate"

IN 1950, during the spring thaw, a great ice-jam piled up at various points along the big bend of the Yellow River, threatening the whole area with disastrous floods. Try as they might, the peasants could not get the ice floating again by their usual methods. Local artillery units of the People's Liberation Army came to their aid and tried to smash the blocks with gunfire, but they were too solid even for this. Then, on Chairman Mao Tse-tung's own orders, the People's Air Force worked day and night to destroy ice-jams at 30 different points with heavy bombs—and there was no flood either that year or next.

Throughout the ages, the Yellow River used to inundate the Honan plain whenever its rate of flow at Shenchow, in that province, exceeded 353,000 cubic feet per second. As soon as the People's Government was established, it mobilized the peasants to increase the height of the surrounding dykes and build a large detention basin. The result was that floods were avoided although the river's flow rose to 600,000 cubic feet per second in 1950 and to 812,000 cubic feet per second in 1951.

In the near future, the Yellow River, source of a hundred evils, will be made to irrigate tens of thousands of square miles of cultivable land that now lacks only water to make it produce. It will be opened to navigation over great stretches that were useless for transport in the past.

Conquering Drought

As with floods, so with drought. People said of north China, before liberation, that it suffered "nine droughts every ten years." In 1951, for the first time, a threatened drought was averted by organized human effort.

Under the personal leadership of large numbers of government functionaries headed by the chairmen of Hopei and Pingyuan provinces, ten million peasants dug 38,955 new wells and over 4,000 irrigation channels equipped with 66,603 waterwheels. The parched land was watered and became green again.

In the "drought year" of 1951, peasants in Hopei province managed to plant and save more than two million acres of cotton, helping the country to achieve the biggest crop in its history.

Battling Crop Pests

The People's Government is also waging war on various crop pests that used to make deep inroads on agricultural production. Last year, 34,000 government personnel of different grades led over six million peasants in campaigns against the grain-devouring locust and that deadly enemy of the cotton plant, the boll weevil. Over 8,000 tons of insecticide were sprayed by planes of the People's Air Force, supplemented by 96,623 liquid sprayers and 4,451 powder sprayers on the ground. No less than 86 per cent of the 7,000,000 acres of land afflicted by these parasites were cleared of them.

Miners Produce More, Live Better

Equipped with new tools and work clothes, and better paid than ever before, miners in China's state-owned collieries have raised their output 23 per cent.



NOT long ago, Yuan Tze-ming, an ordinary miner at the Pinghsiang colliery in Kiangsi province, wrote in his diary: "There was a time when I often had no wages coming in, and did not know what it was to be warm and well-fed. But this year everybody in my family has bought new clothes, new blankets, new mosquito nets and soft pillows. This year, I bought presents for my friends, yet I still have ¥415,000 saved up. Also, we have a pig."

This is typical of the swift changes taking place in the lives of Chinese coal miners, both on the job and in their homes. Shower baths have been installed at pit-heads. Miners have moved out of the dirty, leaking hovels in which they used to live into new well-built dormitories. Their children go to school at the expense of the administration. Old miners can retire to special homes. A whole new network of hospitals, sanatoria, libraries, spare-time schools, theatres and social halls serves China's mining communities.

Miners used to have a hard time getting married. Now good wages and the respect in which workers are held have changed this. Parents no longer put up a fight when their daughter wants to marry a miner. In the Northeast, during the last two years, housing built by coal mine administrations for married couples totalled over 2,253,000 square yards of floor space.

Safety Measures

Every precaution is being taken to make the work of the miner safe. This is a startling change from the old days when deaths among miners were often counted by hundreds in a single accident and when the mine administrations, with the utmost callousness, worked on the principle: "We are interested in coal, not in lives." In 1950, the Central People's Government ordered that all coal mines be thoroughly inspected and ventilation equipment installed.

Safety training classes were set up and until miners had a

thorough knowledge of the new regulations they were required to devote at least two hours a week to their study. Wide publicity was given to all safety measures and special committees were organized to see that they were carried out.

One convincing proof of the need for such vigorous action came from Northeast China. An inspection of a machine shop at the Fushun coal field early last year brought to light no less than 3,000 work hazards. These were all eliminated, the majority on suggestions from the workers themselves. The results were immediate and in the following period the number of fatal accidents decreased by 78.8 per cent.

Safety work has now become a job for everyone. Last June, for example, a miner in the Chenghsi colliery injured his foot while at work. The administration immediately called all workers and staff to a meeting at which the reasons for the accident were explored. Afterwards, led by their



During rest periods in the pits, literate miners teach those with less education.

trade union, the miners were divided into panels which investigated the matter in greater detail and recommended necessary changes. This procedure is typical.

When the trade union of a colliery in Northeast China started a mine safety campaign, the wives of the miners also joined in. They pledged: "When our husbands get out of bed, we will examine their pockets to see that they carry nothing inflammable to the pits." Miners' families also undertook to see that they got enough sleep. To ensure this, older women now get the children of night-shift workers together and tell them stories so that they don't make any noise while their fathers rest. Even the pedlars in mine towns now do their business at designated spots and do not cry their wares so loudly as before.

The result of all these varied measures is that the death rate in Chinese coal mines decreased by 75 per cent while injuries dropped 65 per cent, in the first half of 1951 as compared to 1950. Not a single mine explosion took place in 1951.

Power Tools Appear

Mining techniques are changing very fast. The old honeycombing methods are going out and the "long wall" method of timbering is coming in, increasing both

safety and production. Pneumatic picks and drills are replacing manual ones. When these were first brought to the Fengfeng Coal Mine, some miners were enthusiastic but others, more conservative, were fearful. They argued that the new tools were too heavy, that they were so noisy that one could not hear if the ceiling cracked, and therefore dangerous.

Coal-hauling and man-trips in the Hualnan mines are now electrified—an example of the way the miner's life and work have changed since liberation.



As a result of discussion, Pit No. 506 undertook to make a trial. Seventeen miners were elected to operate the pneumatic tools. The pit was divided into competing teams. Members of each team signed a compact to cooperate closely with each other. To the surprise of the older men, a new record was made the very first day. Pneumatic driller Li Kwang-cheng and his team cut 37.18 tons in four and a half hours. Other pits joined the competition. In two weeks, one set a man-day record of 254 tons!

Today, the miner rejoices in the machinery which produces on such a large scale, calls for less strength and, in combination with safety measures, reduces the hazards of work. According to recent estimates, all collieries in China are overfulfilling their plans. The national average productivity, among miners, has risen by 23 per cent.

This year, the People's Government will continue to rebuild and re-equip existing mines, and to prepare for the opening of new ones. Mining bureaus all over the country will also pay special attention to helping privately-owned collieries to achieve higher output.

The Huainan Miners

A TYPICAL example of the improvement in the life of miners since liberation is provided by the Huainan colliery in north Anhwei province.

Knowing that their own welfare is dependent on production, the miners have raised working records beyond all estimates. In 1951 the coal output target was surpassed by 11.7 per cent and topped that of 1950 by over 100 per cent. During the year 175 miners earned the title of "model worker," and 74 miners' brigades were named "advance teams," for efficiency in working methods.

Following the increase in production, came the overall improvement in the miners' welfare. Compared with 1950, average wages in 1951 increased 7.82 per cent and were scheduled to be raised another 19.5 per cent this spring. In addition large monetary awards were given to all model workers.

Economically better off and politically awakened, the Huainan miners became eager to raise their cultural level. Over 7,600 went to sparetime schools during 1951 and are now all able to read simple texts. Among their family members, 2,359 women enrolled for study and 5,285 children entered middle, primary or vocational schools.

With a welfare fund contributed by the government, the miners were able to set up a hospital, a recreation centre, a model workers' home, a sanatorium and a spare-time school. They have also formed 56 different kinds of clubs.

Most of the miners have already moved into good housing. In 1951 the mine administration built 3,025 dwellings and repaired 4,817. It also opened many nurseries.

For the first time in their lives great hope and happiness has come to the miners of Huainan.

An "advance team" on its way to work. (top)

Dancing is popular at all times. (centre)

Huainan miners built this new, modern hospital. (bottom)



IN PRAISE OF OUR MOTHERLAND

Moderato Grandioso

Music and Words by WANG HSIN

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "See the five - star Red Flag wav - ing high. Loud-ly rings our song of vic-to - ry, Praising our be - lov - ed Mo - ther - land, Grow-ing rich - er and stronger ev-ery day. Praising our be - lov - ed Mo - ther-land, Grow-ing rich - er and stronger ev-ery day. stronger ev-ery day." The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *f*, *mp*, *ff*, and *rit.*, and concludes with a *Fine* marking.

Through the mount - ains, through the val - leys, Flow the Hwang Ho —
 We love la - bour, we are val - iant, In - de - pend - ence and
 East - ern skies are lit with sun - shine, Our own Peo - ple's Re -

and the Yangtze - kiang, Great and spac - ious and beau - ti - ful
 free - dom our i - deals. Ev - ery hardship we have con - quered,
 pub - lic here we build, With our lead - er Mao Tse - tung

f Is our — be - lov - ed Moth - er - land. He - ro - ic peo - ple have
 That's how — we won our lib - er - ty. We dear - ly love — peace, we
 Point - ing — to us the way a - head. Our lives are grow - ing bett - er

stood up brave and free, Firm - ly u - nit - ed with the strength of steel. See the
 love our Moth - er - land, Who - dares in - vade us is look - ing for his grave.
 ev - ery sing - le day, The light of our fu - ture fills us all with joy.

Translated by CHEN YANG-LI

Yu Chang the Wolf Hunter

NOT LONG AGO, in the Huaian district of Chahar, near Inner Mongolia, a little girl was snatched by a wolf. The people ran after the beast, but in vain. Suddenly a rifle cracked and the wolf fell dead, releasing the child who was terrified but not seriously injured. When the girl's parents effusively thanked the old peasant who had fired with such accuracy and effect, he replied briefly: "My own daughter was killed by a wolf. When I shot the beast, I felt I was rescuing her. I hunt wolves because I want to protect our children."

Shortly afterwards, the same old man, his gun slung over his shoulder, was seen on the platform at many village meetings called to aid Korea and defend our own country from the threat of invasion. At fairs and gatherings, he hung the carcasses of wolves he had killed in front of the public. "The imperialists are as ruthless and cunning as wolves," he would say, again and again. "If we don't keep them away we will never have peace."

There are those who need endless hammering at a point before it penetrates their heads, but to the people of Huaian these words were convincing. Moreover, the man who spoke them was not just anybody. He was Yu Chang, their own countryman, now famous throughout new China as the "wolf-hunting hero."

WHO is more familiar with the wolf-nature than the inhabitants of Huaian? Wolves breed in White Dragon mountain and Wolf Tooth mountain, both situated in the district. On occasion, the beasts have become so bold as to invade the villages in packs, carrying away sheep, pigs and children,



Wolves menace both people and livestock in Chahar province and in Inner Mongolia, where wolf hunting is a serious business.

attacking anyone they came across. When the Kuomintang, which gave such matters little thought, was still in power, wolves killed 200 people in Huaian in a single year. The terrified peasants did not dare go into their fields, no one ventured out of doors at night, and travellers did not move except in large groups.

Of all the Huaian people, no one can speak with more authority about wolves than Yu Chang. Fond of hunting from childhood, he started with rabbits and jackals and, after a few years, went on to wolves. To hunt the wolf with a muzzle-loader of village manufacture calls for great skill and courage. One must approach him at close quarters and kill with the first shot. A wounded wolf will leap at your throat before you have time to reload. Moreover, to kill a wolf with a native gun is a much harder proposition than doing it with a rifle.

As Yu Chang says, one must hit a wolf "square in the nose if he is coming at you; right under his tail if he is running away; smack on his shoulder-joint if you flank him from the front and behind the ear if you flank him from the rear." All these are difficult shots, but if you can't manage them you had better not fire at all, because you won't even stop the animal.

THROUGH MANY YEARS, Yu Chang learned to shoot unerringly. He also took to trapping, which requires strategy because wolves are wary creatures whose every habit must be studied if they are to be outwitted. But at one time all these painfully acquired skills threatened to go for nothing. Suddenly, during the Kuomintang period, Yu Chang's war on the wolves came to a dead stop. The Kuomintang officials began to consider him a "dangerous fellow" because he was independent,

popular, active in reconnoitering the countryside and good with weapons. Yu Chang, the seasoned hunter who had never flinched before a wolf's fangs, was frightened by the wolf-men in authority,—against whom, as a plain peasant, he had no appeal. Shocked and discouraged, he put aside his gun and traps.

LATER the Japanese invaders succeeded the Kuomintang. Under their rule, in the summer of 1941, packs of wolves once again ranged up and down Huaian. It was in that year that a well-known and much feared lone wolf slunk into Yu Chang's own yard, where his wife and five-year-old daughter were enjoying the cool evening, pounced on the child and dragged her off. When the hunter came home, he grabbed his long-unused gun and set out in pursuit. Failing to find the wolf in the dark, he came across the beast's tracks only at daybreak. The tracks led him to the half-eaten body of his little girl.

After this, the grief-stricken Yu Chang left all other matters and devoted himself once more to trap and gun. He forgot his fear of the officials. He brushed off the superstitious old men in the village, beaten down by long slavery, who muttered that his daughter's death was "heavenly punishment" for many offences against the "supernatural" wolves. Neither men nor gods could prevent the father from having his revenge—and after many sleepless nights on the trail the chance came. The cunning lone wolf finally approached Yu Chang's trap, sniffing at the bait suspiciously. Yu Chang, who was watching, fired once and did not miss.

The father's vengeance only brought him more trouble. Once more the human wolves, Japanese quislings this time, smelled prey and got to work. When news of Yu Chang's resumed hunting

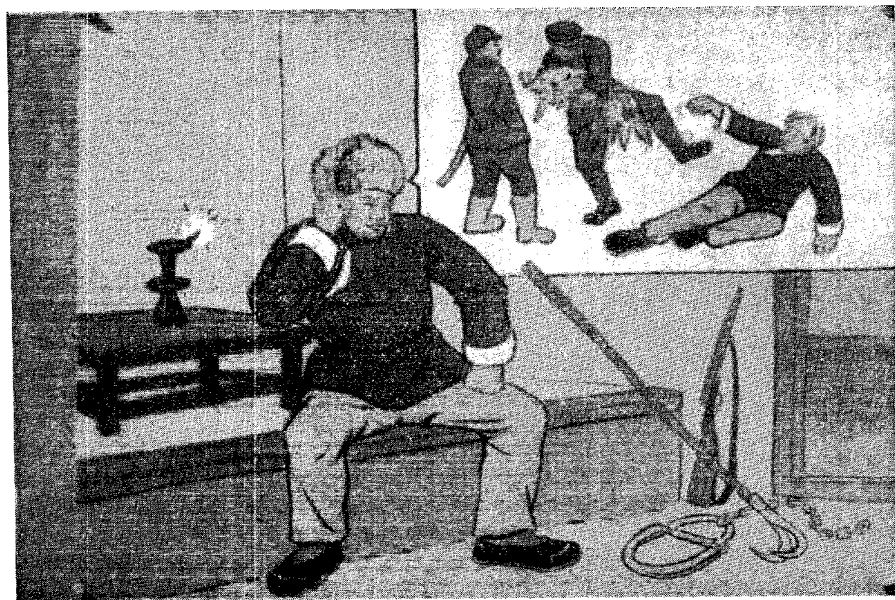
reached the town police, they ordered his arrest. He was dragged from his home to jail. His frantic wife was kicked when she went to beg for mercy. Some time later, Yu Chang was released, with black eyes and a back half-broken from beatings. The rich fur of the wolf he had slain, taken from him as "evidence," ended up as a rug on the bed of the police chief's wife, who liked such things.

THIS TIME, Yu Chang vowed never to touch his gun again as long as he lived. Even liberation, which came to Huaian after the war, did not change his fixed resolve. The Communist party overthrew the old rulers. Yu Chang received seven acres of prime land in the land reform and began to cultivate them with his family, hard workers all. Freedom and a better life came to him and to all the Huaian people. Why hunt again and court misfortune, risk the loss of all this happiness? That was how things looked to the old man, scarred to the depths of his soul by the oppression of the old order.

But the wolves did not leave the people alone. In 1949 they descended on the district again—killing and mauling over a hundred persons. The marauding beasts became so daring that they entered the county town, and

children were kept home from school. The District People's Government, unlike the authorities of the past, called on the peasants to organize themselves for a large-scale hunt. Yu Chang, however, was not among those who responded. He let his weapons lie and farmed his land. When the people, remembering Yu Chang's skill, came and asked him to lead their effort, the veteran wolf hunter declined. He gave as an excuse his age and poor health, but the real reason was his deep, unreasoning fear. Only after repeated urging and long visits by the district chiefs, only after fine new arms were supplied that made his hunter's heart leap, did Yu Chang finally consent, still with deep foreboding.

ONCE ON THE TRAIL of his ancient enemy, however, Yu Chang's old instincts, courage and rich experience rushed to the surface. Within three days he had personally caught a wolf alive on top of the town wall and killed two others. The campaign was a success. The streets of Huaian became safe. Peasants who had stood in awe of the "godly" powers of the wolf began to see a talisman in the human skill of the famed Yu Chang. Delegates came from every place that was still infested. No sooner did Yu Chang clear one village of wolves than he was called to another.



Under Kuomintang and Japanese oppression, Yu Chang swore never to hunt again.



After liberation Yu Chang was persuaded to resume hunting for the sake of the people.

wolves are to be wiped out over large areas, I can't do it alone though I hunt day and night," he thought. "Only large numbers of skilled hunters can do it. And who can teach them better than I?" That was how Yu Chang learned what makes a true people's hero in our time.

TODAY Yu Chang is a public figure of the new type. Aided by the government, beloved by the people, he finds joy in teaching and organizing large numbers of hunters. He has trained over 120 apprentices and helped form some sixty teams in different villages. He has lent his most prized Soviet-made trap to village blacksmiths to be copied. When some of his apprentices encountered material difficulties, Yu Chang sold his own furs to help them out. Always on the lookout for men able to pit wits and daring against the wolves, he even undertook to turn two former opium smokers who had become village pests into hunters—and succeeded.

This is the man who appears throughout Chahar and Inner Mongolia, now in one district, now in another, telling what the new society has done for him, inspiring assurance that with its help men can conquer wolves as well as all other calamities.

As a speaker and propagandist, Yu Chang is in endless demand. Old men listen to him with respect, because his past was their own. Young men look up to him; he can teach the best of them skill and courage. Who can more appropriately speak of the power of our country than this simple peasant whose labour-trained brain and hands have outmatched the wolf in strength and cunning?

The illustrations in this story are from a coloured poster series used in peasant education—and displayed at the recent North China Trade Exhibition in Tientsin. Such posters have done much to introduce new methods of production and organization to both peasants and workers.

Self-confidence and self-respect returned to the old hunter. The admiration and love with which he was met everywhere made a new man of him. He took pleasure in travelling from place to place and saving the people. When rewards were offered, he refused, saying: "It is for my fellow-countrymen that I came out, not to seek profit." His renown grew to new heights after he tracked down a she-wolf long known for size, elusiveness and ferocity. Terrified villagers who had caught a glimpse of her said that she was "as big as a donkey, with bloodshot eyes." Even Yu Chang was puzzled at first by the beast's apparent ability to move about without leaving a trail. It was only after many long days that he discovered that she had an unusual habit of walking only in cart-ruts along the roads. When he set his best trap in a place based on this knowledge and hid to watch the capture, the she-wolf came up to it, calmly chewed the wire that secured it, sprang the trap and carried it off, bait and all, in her teeth.

Yu Chang had been so sure of snaring this wolf that he lay in ambush without firearms, carrying only a long iron hook for the finishing stroke. It was with this hook that he gave pursuit through the snow, stalking the beast from the East Mountain to Taiping valley, keeping after her for three days and nights, hungry, his boots

worn out, his feet half-frozen. Finally, the tired wolf's vigilance began to falter while the hunter's determination was still keen. Yu Chang was able to surprise her, and kill her with his hook. Even after skinning, the carcass weighed well over a hundred pounds.

ALONG WITH the honours piling on Yu Chang, came a problem, the new kind of problem which, instead of thwarting people, makes them grow and advances the common interest. Unstinting of his energy in helping others, the old wolf-hunter was still conservative on one point. He was ready to use his skill at any call, but not to divulge his techniques. When village cadres tried to persuade him to teach his experience to whole groups, so that the people themselves could handle the wolves, Yu Chang became stubborn. How could amateurs absorb quickly what it had taken him a lifetime to learn, he asked himself. Besides, why should he part with knowledge so hardly acquired?

It was only after Yu Chang had been invited, as an honoured participant, to provincial and national meetings of labour heroes, after he had heard the speeches of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and other leaders, that he began to realize that this attitude, "natural" in the old society, was a form of selfishness. Gradually, Yu Chang's ideas changed. "If

A PLACE THE CHILDREN LOVE

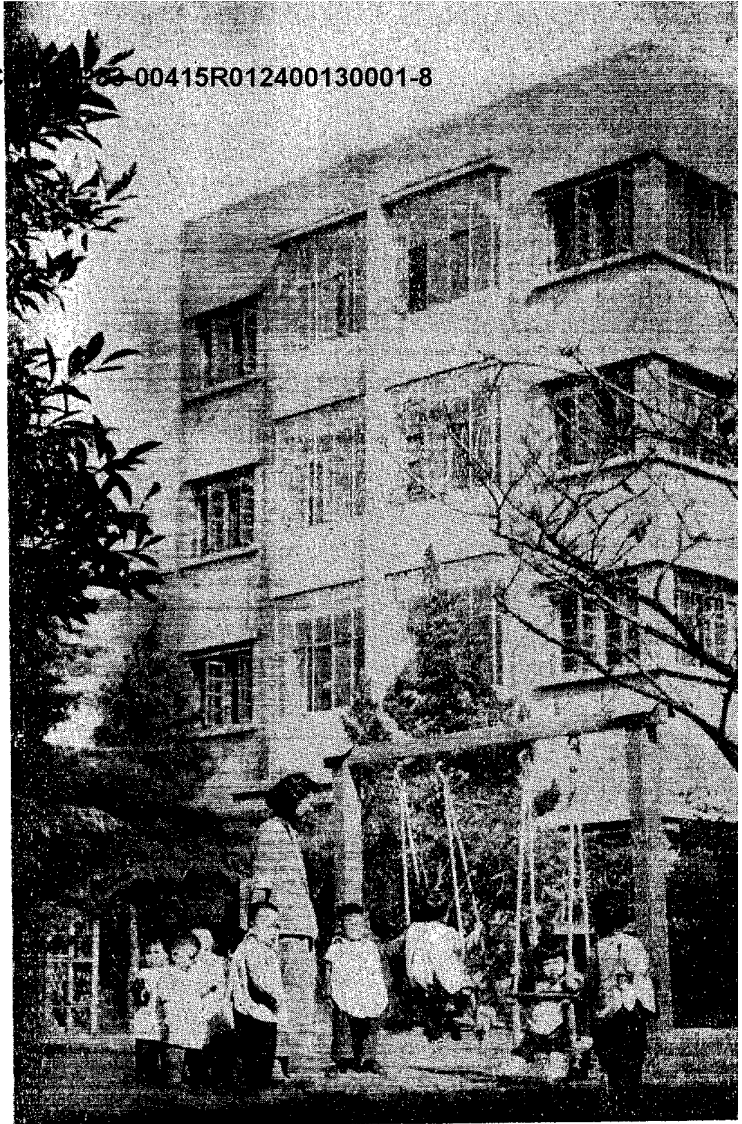
CHEN SHAN-MING

THE NURSERY of the China Welfare Institute is only ten minutes by car from the western edge of Shanghai. Entering the main gate, one is struck with the beauty of the compound, its numerous tall evergreen and maple trees and its wide, green lawns that give off a pleasant grassy fragrance. One feels that such a place must be a paradise for children, and the joyous shouts of the kiddies soon prove this to be so.

The CWI Nursery, which was started after the liberation of Shanghai, is a pilot project for the solving of several of China's main problems in child care. The first of these problems is connected with the position of women in the new society. Our liberated women are being drawn into the work of reconstructing the nation. Many find it difficult, however, to do so as long as there is no provision for the care of their children while they are at work.

The second problem concerns the many women who volunteer for temporary work in outlying areas where they cannot take their children. To meet their needs, we must have homes which give complete care, twenty-four hours a day. This is a transitional problem. As more facilities become available in or near every place of work, all our children will have both group and home life. Today, as a legacy from the pre-liberation period, the number

The CWI Shanghai nursery is in a modern, sunlit building.



of nurseries, though growing rapidly, is still inadequate to meet the expanding demand.

A Pilot Project

The CWI Nursery is an experimental one. It takes care of some 200 children of working mothers in industry, government and people's organizations. It operates around the clock and provides everything a child needs in medical care, food, play, education and companionship.

Since such work in China is comparatively new, the nursery constantly assesses its own experiences and makes changes necessary for the normal and healthy development of the children. Methods which have proved themselves are written up and made widely available to mothers, child care workers and other nursery institutions. A teaching centre for nursery education is now being planned.

The main emphasis in the CWI Nursery is on physical development. A resident pediatrician, of many year's experience, assisted by six graduate nurses, keeps an eye on the children from the moment they enter the institution. Before admission, every child is thoroughly examined and given a tuberculin test. If the reaction is positive, the child is X-rayed to make sure no active lesions exist. If it is negative, a BCG inoculation is given. After admission all children are vaccinated against smallpox and inoculated with pertussis vaccine, diphtheria toxoid, and other preventives according to a schedule set by the Shanghai Municipal Health Bureau.

Each morning, there is a health inspection. Suspected cases of illness are immediately isolated in an infirmary. After their noon nap, the temperature of all the children is taken. The health



The children seem a little dubious when Chen Shan-ming brings them their first puppy.

and defenders of new China. Here is a typical result. Once a group of 3½-year-olds went to visit a nearby vegetable garden. On the way home, they met three soldiers of the People's Liberation Army. They immediately began calling them "Uncle" and asked the soldiers to play with them. One bright-eyed little girl said, "You army uncles are brave. You love all children, help the peasants and protect us from our enemies. When we grow up we want to be like you." The children began to sing one of their songs called "The Good Liberation Army." The three soldiers picked the children up one by one and gave them tight fatherly hugs. They were reluctant to go on about their business and wanted to stop and play with their small friends. When the children came back to the nursery, they reported, "We saw some Liberation Army Uncles. We shook hands with them and they picked us up and said we were good children." The story was repeated over and over again to the envy of all who had not had the same good luck.

section keeps a constant check on minor ailments. Height and weight are measured every month and special attention is given to children who are underweight or do not increase regularly in weight. A complete physical examination is given each child every three months.

The nursery staff carries on constant health teaching. The children are taught about life in the infirmary through stories, songs and rhymes. Through posters and conversations, they have learned why preventative injections are good for them and will help them to grow strong. Now, during physical examinations, many help the doctor by handing her tongue depressors and a flash light. When the time comes to be weighed, they undress and stand on the balance, anxiously asking whether they have grown. In the infirmary, they chat and joke gaily with the nurses.

The life in the infirmary is patterned as much as possible after the regular life of healthy kiddies. Sick children have their own sets of toys and playthings and a definite daily schedule. After recovery they greet the nurses when they see them, with smiles and happy calls.

Last winter, a little boy in one class caught measles. The first step taken was to isolate him immediately. Then all parents who were in the vicinity were called to give blood transfusions to their children if they had been exposed. Children whose parents were not available or suffered from poor

health received blood donated by the doctor and nurses. As a result, the epidemic was controlled within one class. Due to good care, the infected children developed no complications. Some even gained weight during their stay in the infirmary.

The children's diet is carefully planned and supervised by a trained nutritionist. Each child gets one egg, two dishes of mixed protein, a dish of rice or noodles, fruit, milk, biscuits and dessert, soup and five cups of water daily. The food is eaten in three well-balanced meals supplemented by two light snacks of milk and biscuits or nuts in the afternoon.

Educational Programme

The main emphasis in the nursery's education programme is on love. Children are taught to love their country and people. They learn folk songs and dances and hear stories about the builders



Each child has its own wash basin and all are taught to look after themselves.

The children are taught to love and respect labour. Every opportunity is taken to show them how the things which they use are produced. They see how the chairs they sit on are made by the nursery carpenter, how the food they eat started with plowing and planting by the farmers, how the milk they drink is prepared by the cook.

Making Things Grow

The older children also plant vegetables in their own garden. The first day that a class gets an allotment is filled with great excitement and happiness. The children divide into groups. One picks up stones and wheels them to the garbage pile. A second pulls up the weeds. A third, aided by the teachers, digs and hoes. The fourth group plants the seeds. The garden is watered every day. When the first eagerly awaited sprouts appear, the youngsters' faces are radiant with proud happiness.

When the vegetables are ready to eat, the children take them to the cook and ask that they be prepared for the next meal. Many children who previously disliked vegetables now eat their whole portion and ask for more. Children who have worked in the garden take the initiative in protecting all plants and flowers in the nursery.

In the children's own activities, self-reliance and mutual help are stressed very early. The 1½-year-olds are encouraged to feed themselves with only occasional help from the teachers. Older kiddies learn to undress and later to dress themselves. They take turns undoing each other's back buttons, making beds and cleaning the classrooms and playrooms. All put their chairs back in place after meals, learn to use their handkerchiefs, wash their hands before eating and to line up in good order when going from place to place. In this way, the youngsters quickly become independent. Group encouragement together with individual help where it is needed is the principle employed.

Love of nature is also developed in the children. They are taken on trips to nearby farms and vegetable gardens, to the

The youngest children are housed in a separate building, the playroom of which is shown in the background of this picture.



park, the zoo and the dairy. They learn the life cycle and functions, common plants, animals and insects. Older classes help to plant vegetables and to feed the nursery pets. When the children first saw the cows in the dairy, many were frightened of these huge animals. But after watching the milking and feeding, all of them were willing to stroke the calves.

Public Spirit Taught

Love of the people's property is taught by emphasis on good care of toys, which are put back in their places after playtime and washed regularly in soap and water. The children are taught to take good care not only of the toys in their own class but also those of other classes and those shared by the whole nursery. Natural curiosity to see how things work is diverted from destructive into constructive chan-

nels. For example, young Lin-lin once gave the wall a taste of his wooden hammer. The teacher explained that all big boys keep their home in good condition and that hammers are used to make toys. After this, Lin-lin became a voluntary one-man guard for the walls of the playroom.

Finally, the children are inculcated with love and deep appreciation for their parents and the work they are doing for the country. Parents are urged to come and see their children once a week. If they have no time on Saturdays and Sundays, special arrangements are made. At the end of every month, the nursery provides transportation to the city where parents come and take their youngsters home for the week-end. In addition, parent's meetings are held every two months, at which time the Nursery



The nursery has many foreign visitors. These pictures show friends from England (left) and Pakistan (right) receiving a warm welcome.

staff reports on the health and progress of every one of their charges.

The Children's Holiday

International delegates and friends of China often come to see the CWI Nursery. The youngsters crowd around their "Indian Aunties," "Soviet Uncles" or "English Uncles." They want to shake hands and be picked up. They also sing and dance for the guests.

When the Indian peace delegate, Dr. M. Atal, came to visit the nursery, he was greeted by young Cheng-wei who bowed to him and presented him with a bouquet of flowers almost as big as himself. The doctor bowed, picked a red carnation and gave it back to the little boy. Cheng-wei was surprised but soon recovered, with a beaming smile and a quick "thank you." The doctor then found himself surrounded by expectant eyes and outstretched hands. He left with only one flower as a memento of his visit. This peace delegate brought happiness to the youngsters, and their joy and love gave him new strength in his own struggle.

There are many celebrations, in the nursery, of which International Children's Day is the most important. Early in the morning, last June 1, little Chen-sen stuck his head out of his mosquito

net and yelled, "Big demonstration today." This was followed from all sides by: "I shall carry Chairman Mao's portrait." "I shall be the Spirit of Peace." "The teacher says today is like our birthday." "Teacher says we have to behave on our birthday."

After breakfast the older classes marched in a demonstration while the younger ones acted as spectators. All the children were dressed in bright colours, there was much noise from the waist-drum and yangko dance teams. Then followed the Spirit of Peace and the portraits of China's great leaders. The marchers sang and danced, shouted slogans and pinned flowers on the teachers' dresses. They had heard so much about people's parades since liberation that they were overjoyed to have one of their own.

The nursery staff prepared the children's favourite dishes for the noon meal. In the afternoon, there was a meeting. Tse-ke, six years old, was chairman. He said, "Today is our birthday. We are very happy. We will be good boys and girls. Let's tell Chairman Mao and Vice-Chairman Soong Ching Ling that we will grow up to be good people like them." This was followed by the presentation of flowers to teachers, cooks and nursery attendants as an expression of thanks for their work. Then each class gave

a performance, even the two-year-olds going up to the platform and singing "Little, Little Mouse." The final part of the celebration was a cartoon film.

Staff Standards Are Raised

The responsibility of caring for the children is taken very seriously by the CWI Nursery staff. After an 8½ hour work-day, they devote a further hour to political and professional study. Two years of such study have produced most gratifying results. Staff members have been able to overcome most of their individualistic attitudes and developed a selfless revolutionary striving to better their work in every way.

Before the liberation, many nurseries had to disguise themselves as hospitals, orphanages or schools to get even an allotment of rice. Since liberation, the best houses have been allocated to them by the people's government, which gives them every attention and consideration. In Shanghai alone, the number of nurseries has increased several-fold. The China Welfare Institute is proud to be pioneering in this work.

It is proud to give their earliest training to children who are wanted, protected and respected in new China, who will grow up to love their people and help build a world of progress and peace.



A red ribbon joins the lower part of the flagstaff to an olive branch signifying peace and a large figure "1" in yellow. An inscription under the flag reads "Commemorating the First Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China." The value, a decorative leaf design and the words "October 1, 1949" and "1950" appear at the base. The inscription and base are differently coloured in each of the five stamps comprising the set, while the central design is the same.

Denominations are: ¥100, red, yellow and purple; ¥400, red, yellow and red-brown; ¥800, red, yellow and dark green; ¥1,000, red, yellow and olive; ¥2,000, red, yellow and blue. Four of the stamps are 27 x 31½ mm. The exception, an unusual one since it is not the highest value but the one used for ordinary domestic postage, is the ¥800, which is much larger, 38 x 45½ mm. Perf. 14.

For the Northeast, 東北貼用 is added beside the flagpole. Values are NE¥1,000; 2,500; 5,000; 10,000 and 20,000.

Like all contemporary Chinese stamps, each commemorative bears the words 中國人民郵政 (Chinese People's Postage) below all other elements of the design, in close proximity to the denomination. The commemoratives also carry minute identifying numbers and symbols on the bottom margin, according to the following system: 紀 1.4-3 means "First Commemorative Set, consisting of four stamps, third stamp." All stamps are printed on unwatermarked paper and are not gummed.

It is interesting to note that, in sets Nos. 4 and 5, traditional Chinese decorative elements were introduced to frame the stamp designs. This tendency was to become stronger in subsequent issues.

Readers wishing to order any of the commemorative issues described above may do so by sending an International Money Order for the face value of the stamps, plus return postage, to:

**The Philatelic Division
Peking Post Office
Peking, People's Republic of
China**

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Our Contributors

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*presents with each issue
Articles—Pictures—News
of life in China today*

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LI SHUN-TA, A PUBLIC FIGURE OF NEW CHINA

Not many years ago, Li Shun-ta was a poverty-stricken refugee. Today hundreds of millions of men, women and children in China know his name and admire his achievements. This simple, hardworking man has given an example to our entire peasantry of how to tread boldly forward to prosperity along the road opened by the liberation. His work methods and achievements have been publicized by the government the press and people's organizations.

Li Shun-ta's initiative in organizing mutual aid teams and introducing new methods of cultivation has brought higher productivity and a better life to his own village. In 1951, Li Shun-ta's mutual-aid team challenged teams all over the country to compete in raising agricultural output. Their response has already had a marked effect on Chinese agriculture as a whole.



LI SHUN-TA and his family, fleeing from famine in Honan province during the Anti-Japanese War, settled in a small village in the bare Shansi mountains.



HE WAS THE FIRST to respond when the Liberated Area Government called on the peasants to organize mutual-aid teams to increase production.



DURING THE ANTI-JAPANESE WAR, when there was a shortage of harvest labour, Li Shun-ta mobilized old men, women and children to help.



LI WAS NOT AFRAID to try a new variety of corn, "Golden Queen," introduced by the government. His once skeptical neighbours came to admire the resulting bumper crop.



WHEN THE GOVERNMENT urged the peasants to soak their seeds in warm water to combat disease, Li was the first to try. The good results again convinced his neighbours.



"IF THE MOTHER SEED IS STOUT, the offspring will be fat," says Li Shun-ta who is the first to introduce the practice of seed selection in his locality.



LI ALSO LED in investing in improved implements and propagandizing their merits far and wide.

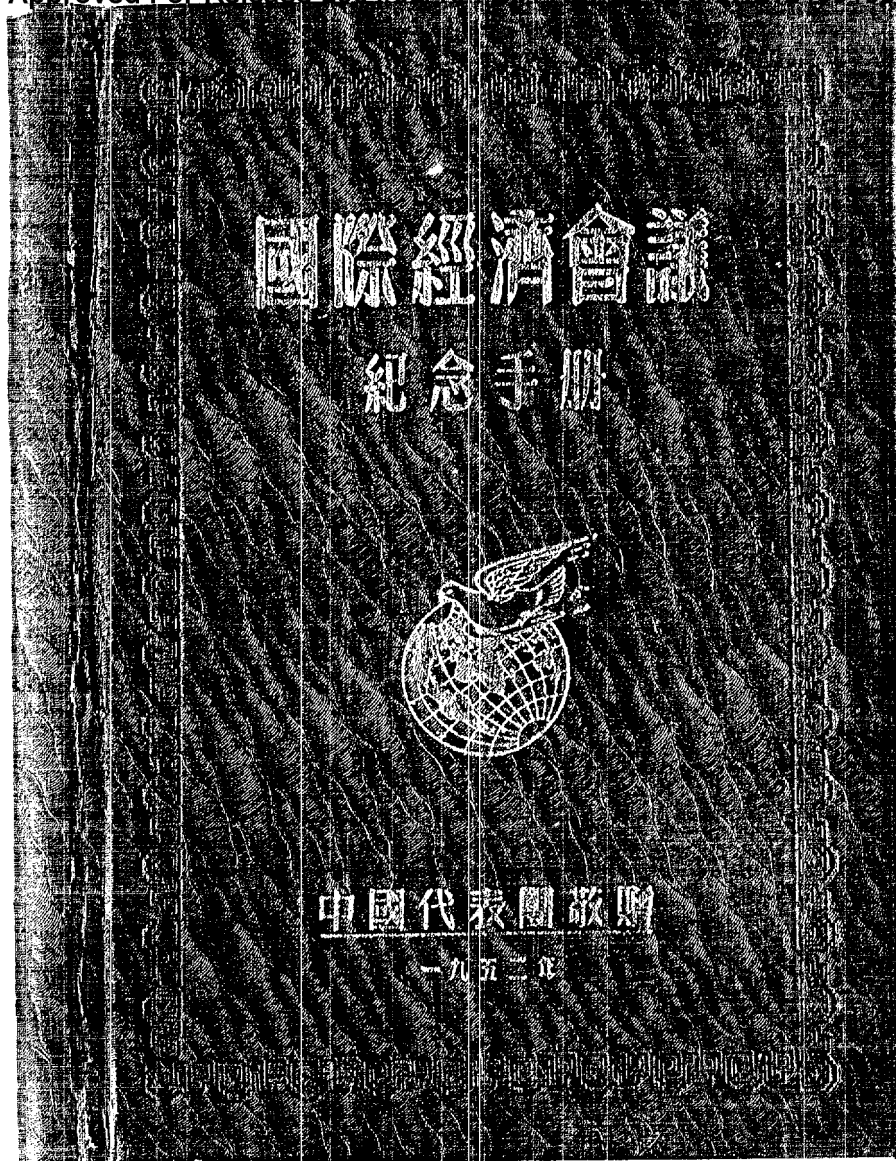


UNDER LI SHUN-TA'S LEADERSHIP the village grew prosperous. "Our wild mountain has become a treasure mountain," the villagers said.



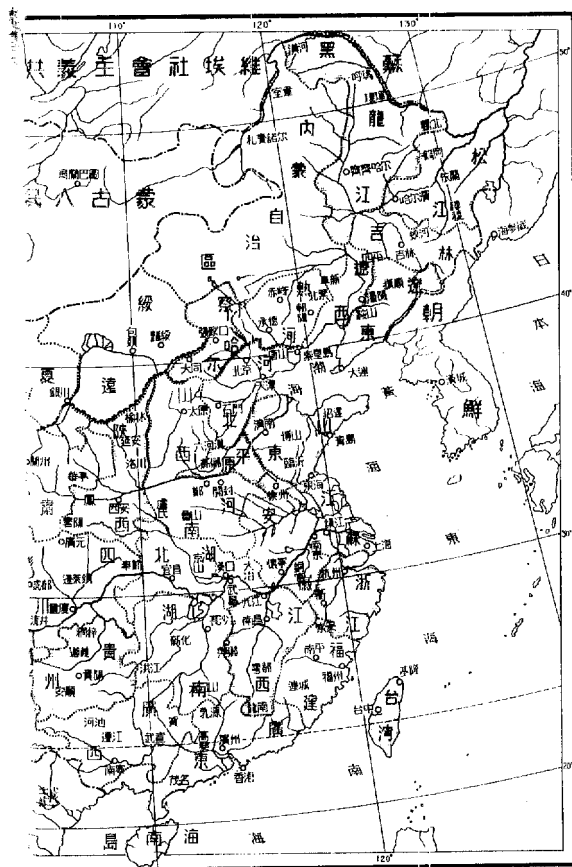
IN 1950 LI SHUN-TA WAS ELECTED model peasant of Shansi province and attended the National Conference of Labour Models in Peking where he was personally congratulated by Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

This picture story of Li Shun-ta is typical of the many presented in series of coloured posters at the great North China Trade Exhibition at Tientsin. Such posters have done much to educate peasants and workers in new methods of production and organization and to put an end to the old dependence on "fate." They are among the many ways by which the cultural level of the Chinese people is being raised.



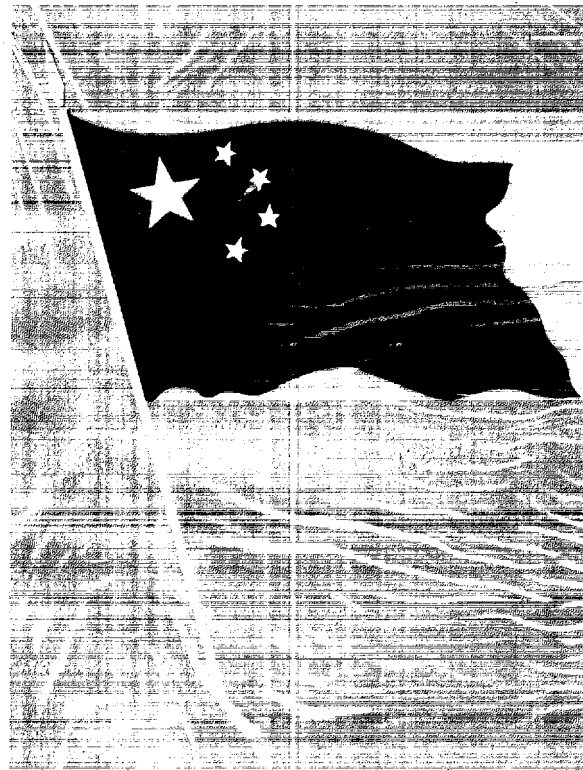


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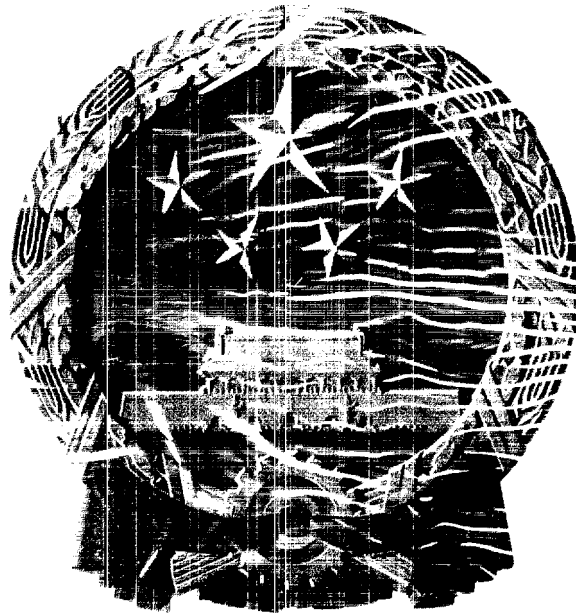
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中華人民共和國國歌

(義勇軍進行曲)

田漢 作詞
聶耳 作曲

G 四 3/4

(前奏)

起來! 不願做奴隸的人們! 把我們的血肉築成我們

新的長城! 中華民族到了最危險的時

候 每個人被追趕發出最後的吼聲。起來! 起

來! 起來! 我們萬眾一心, 冒着敵人的槍火

前進! 冒着敵人的槍火 前進! 前進! 前進! 進!

前進! 前進! 前進! 進!

前進! 前進! 前進! 進!

前進! 前進! 前進! 進!

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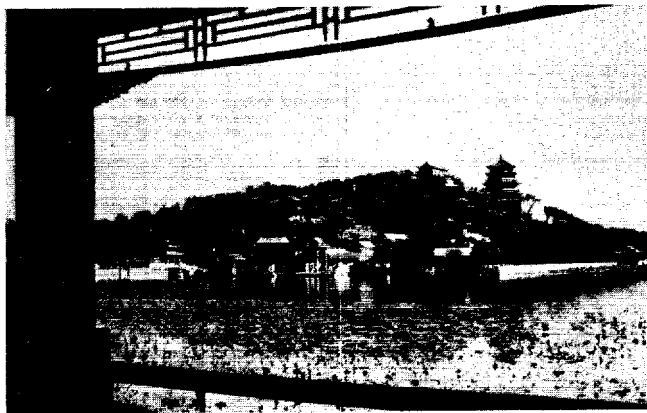
天 安 門



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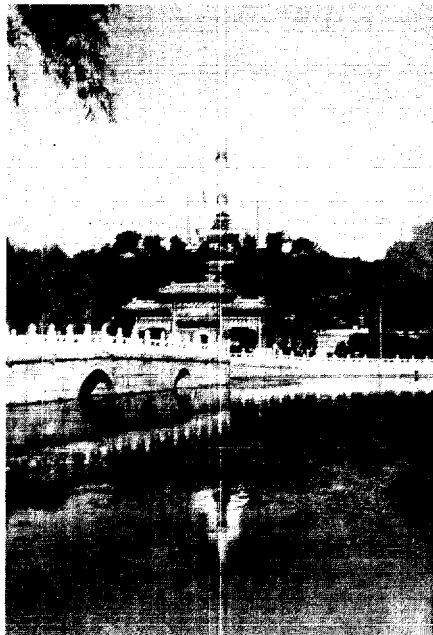
北京西郊萬壽山



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北京北海公園



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在我國西南邊疆上聳立着喜馬拉雅山，綿延約二千五百公里。這是它的主峯——珠穆朗瑪峯，高達八千八百八十公尺，為世界第一高峯。



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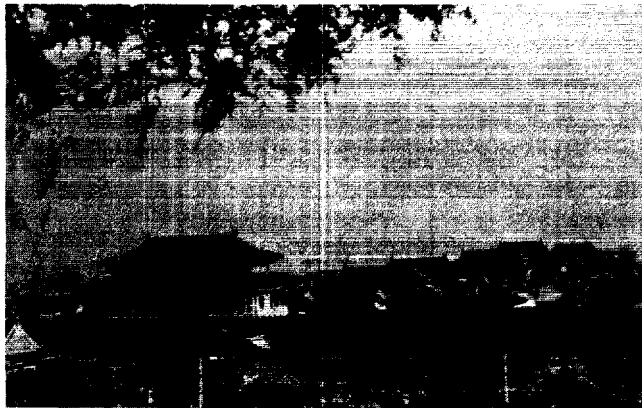
雄偉的天山，聳立在我國西北部。山上有湖泊，它就是著名的天池。



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這是北京紫禁城的一部。紫禁城以前是帝王的宮殿，現在是故宮博物館。在這裏，我們可以看到許多華美的建築，和許多封建統治者的遺物——都是我國勞動人民的天才創作。北京解放兩年來，到這裏遊覽的羣衆比解放前增加了一倍以上。



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我國著名的五嶽中的東嶽——泰山，在山東省泰安縣，拔海一千五百四十五公尺，周圍一百六十里。這是山中名勝之一——對松山的風景。這一株松樹叫做「獨立大夫松」，又叫「處士松」。相傳它已生長了二千多年，秦始皇遊泰山時封它為「大夫松」。



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這是雲南省會昆明西南郊的名勝——滇池，即昆明湖。滇池面積三百二十餘方里，是天然的大蓄水池，附近氣候溫暖，人們說是「四季皆春」。



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海南島位在雷州半島以南，碧海綠林，十分美麗。
海南島地處亞熱帶，產椰子、檳榔、橡膠等等。
該島的鐵礦，是世界著名的。這是海南島的濱海風光。



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中國人民解放軍執行毛主席、朱總司令的命令，橫渡長江，繼而迅速佔領南京，推翻國民黨的反動統治，解放江南和全中國。這是現在南京附近的長江江面。看這無數帆船，令人憶起當年解放軍勇士們千帆渡江的情景。



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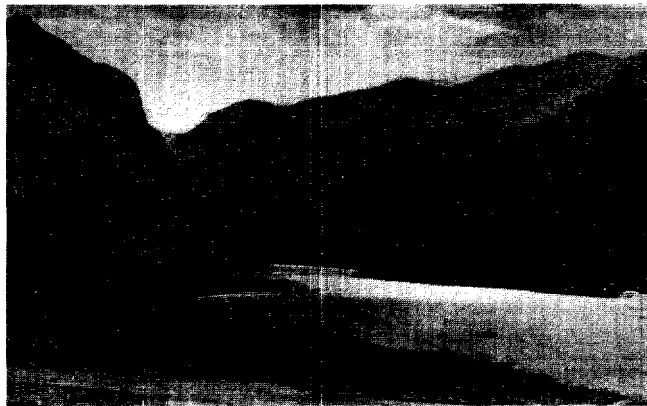
杭州城西的西湖是世界著名的勝地。這是杭州西湖斷橋的風景。



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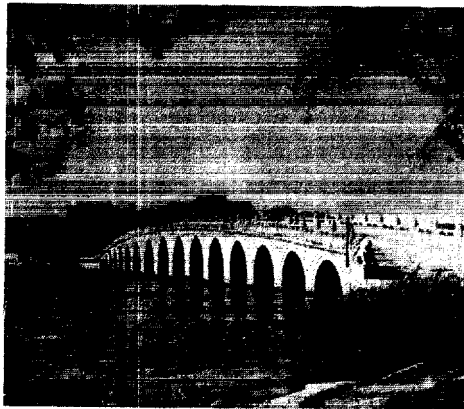
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這是四川巫山縣東著名的巫峽。巫山有十二峯，兩岸大山對峙，急湍奔流。唐朝詩人李白曾以『一跌無完舟』來形容巫峽的險要。



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北京頤和園十七孔橋，長一百五十公尺，欄杆俱為漢白玉所琢，每一柱頂塑有大石獅一尊；小石獅數尊。全橋共有大石獅一百二十四尊；小石獅四百二十尊，姿態不一，神情妙肖。橋之兩端另有巨獅四尊。勞動人民所創造的這個藝術品，過去為封建帝王所霸佔，現在已回到勞動人民自己的手裏來了。



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青島位於山東省東部膠州灣內，為我國有名的良港。青島市又為全國聞名的風景區。這是青島後枕山海邊的水族館，飼養着許多水產。



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上海百老匯



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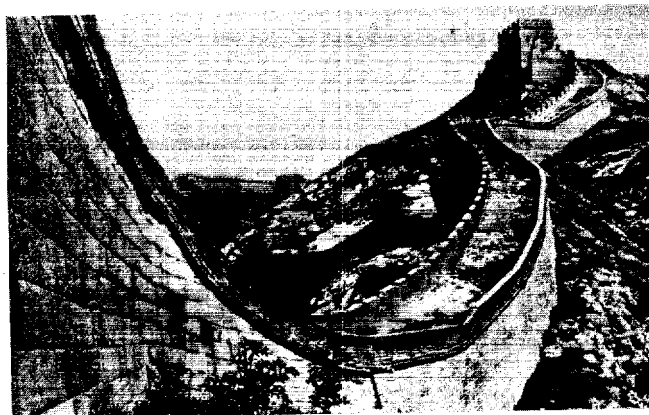
黃河發源於青海，流經甘肅、寧夏、綏遠、陝西、山西、河南、平原、山東八省，注入渤海，長達四千四百七十餘公里。黃河流域是我們偉大祖先的故鄉。這裏是黃河著名險要禹門口，相傳是四千年前的夏禹所鑿。



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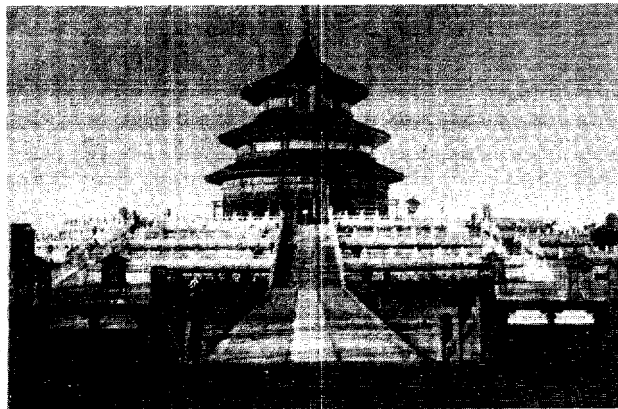
這是南口附近的「萬里長城」的一角。長城起於我國東北的山海關，止於西北甘肅的嘉峪關，蜿蜒在崇山峻嶺之上，長達五千餘里。它是從公曆紀元前三世紀就開始建築的世界最偉大的工程之一。



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北京的天壇建築於一四二〇年，封建帝王每年冬至節到這裏祈求五穀豐登。這個祈穀壇是天壇的主要部份，用白石砌成，雕琢精美。壇上祈年殿是圓形的三層高殿，上蓋青琉璃瓦，殿中大棟間，用方木交織，刻着花紋，施以彩色，和水藻一般，名叫「藻井」。這是非常精巧的建築藝術。



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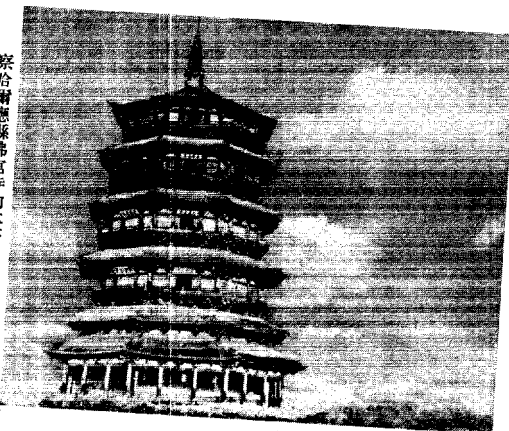
河北趙縣的安濟橋，長八十餘公尺，是隋朝有名的石匠李春所設計與建築的。至今已有一千三百餘年的歷史了。



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察哈爾應縣佛宮寺的木塔，建築於一〇五六年（宋嘉祐元年），至今近九百年。這座八角五層的塔，全部用木材骨架構成，高二十丈，上下內外共有五十七種不同的「斗拱」。這是我國古代建築上的光輝成就。



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這是唐代建築的五台山佛光寺的大殿，已有一千一百年的歷史，是我國現存的最古的木材建築物。這個歷久不壞的雄偉的大殿充分表現了我國古代的勞動人民在建築上的卓越的才能。殿內的三十幾尊佛像也是唐代的優秀的作品，此外殿內還留有唐朝的壁畫和題字，人們稱讚說：這是『一殿四絕』。



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這是南京近郊名勝鍾山(紫金山)的天堡城和著名的天文台。



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延安是抗日戰爭期間中國人民革命的聖地。這是延安南門外的竇塔山。



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這裏是西藏的政治、經濟和文化的中心——拉薩城西北的布達拉宮。
這座宮殿坐落在布達拉山上，是一個高到三百尺的十三層大建築。這是我
國藏族人民的一個重要創造。



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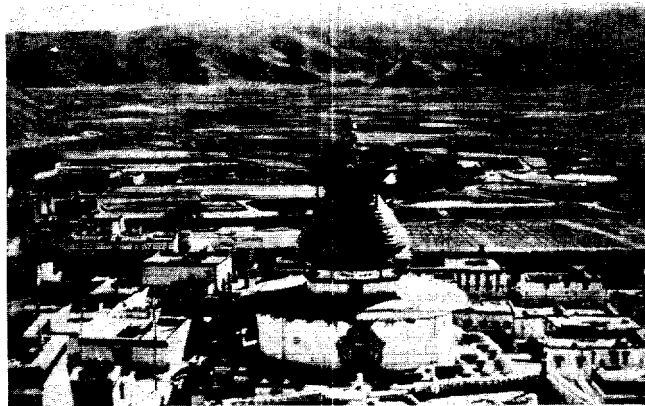
這是北京大學的「紅樓」。它在「五四」時期曾是北方反帝反封建的新文化運動的「司令台」。



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這是西藏著名的日喀則城，是後藏的政治經濟和文化中心。班禪額爾德尼所住的扎什倫布寺，就在這座城的西南面。



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打腰鼓是我國北方民間舞蹈的一種，人民藝術工作者吸取他的優點，經過加工，成了解放後全國普遍流行的羣衆性藝術。



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新中國的工人，生活一天比一天快樂了。這是東北撫順煤礦的青年礦工，他們在一天的勞動以後，就坐到美麗的渾河邊釣起魚來了。保衛這幸福的生活，不許敵人來破壞！



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大連工人休養所前面的「老虎灘」，是一個天然的海水浴場。在這裏休養的工人們，正在平靜的海面上，自由愉快地划着船。



新中國的少年兒童，在毛澤東的光輝照耀下，一天一天幸福地長大起來。這位北京少年兒童隊的代表，在「五一」節向毛主席獻花後，正在和毛主席談話。



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西藏的農民是勇敢而勤勞的勞動者。這是西藏農民駕着西藏特產的毛牛(犏牛)在耕種高原的土地。



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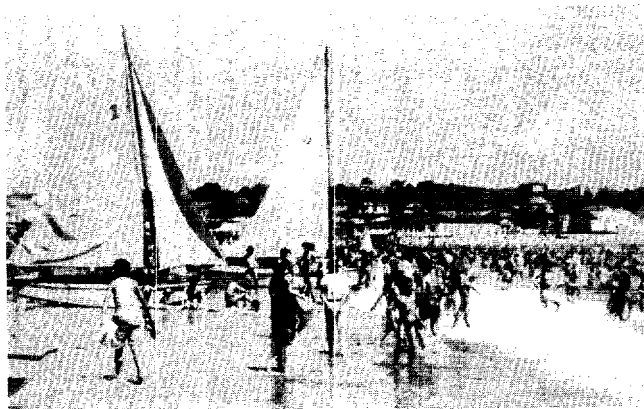
全國最大的北京市人民游泳場，是由過去殘破污濁的什刹海前海改建成功的。全場面積有三萬三千五百平方公尺，池水面積為四千二百九十五平方公尺。全場分淺水池，比賽池，深水池，兒童池，四池共可容納四千人。這裏的就是兒童池。



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青島的滄泉海水浴場是我國最著名的海水浴場，每年在七月和八月開放。這是一個假日，這一天來洗海水浴的約有五萬人。



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這是西康藏族人民的大牧場。在人民政府領導下，藏族人民再也不怕土匪的搶劫，可以在遼闊的牧場上搭起篷帳，毫無顧慮地牧羊了。



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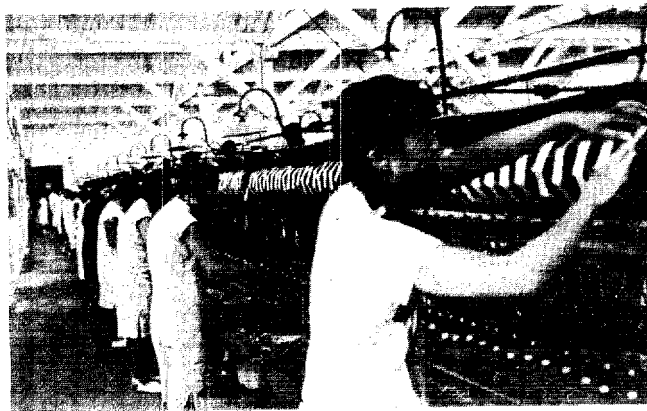
農民準備繅絲前，正在理繭工作。



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無錫蠶絲公司第三廠工人們正在
繅絲



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初步成品
腸衣——洒了青鹽後的



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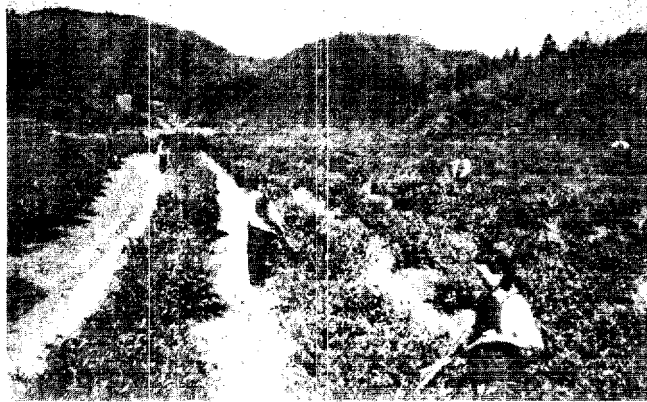
廣東豐收的甘蔗是製
糖的好原料每畝產量約一
四〇〇市斤



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茶是中國重要土產之一其味清香
大量出產在杭州六安等地



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西北多草原人民皆以畜牧爲生
羊毛與羊皮是主要生產



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正在整理的猪鬃捶淨後打包



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Approved For Release 2004/02/19 : CIA-RDP83-00457R012400130001-8

豐 收 的 柑 子 。



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木瓜是廣東農民所種的一種果樹。在我國廣東種植每畝木瓜的價值約等於三畝水稻。在這裏，廣州嶺南大學農學院的教授和同學正在研究改良木瓜品種的方法。



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在神聖的抗美援朝保家衛國的運動中，我國工人階級展開了愛國主義的生產競賽。這是在東北瀋陽機器廠中緊張勞動的情形。



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解放後的江西景德鎮瓷器廠的女工們正在愉快地製造土坯。景德鎮從宋朝以來就是我國馳名世界的瓷器的主要出產地，至今已有近一千年的歷史。



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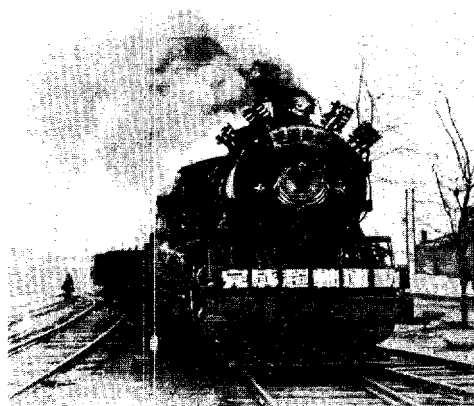
華北紡織工業管理局所屬天津國營第三棉紡織廠細紗車間的女工，在抗美援朝保家衛國的運動中，勞動熱情更加提高。她們最高的效率是一個人看管六百個紗錠，每錠產紗數量為一點一磅，遠遠的超過了日寇、漢奸國民黨匪幫統治時期生產的最高水平。



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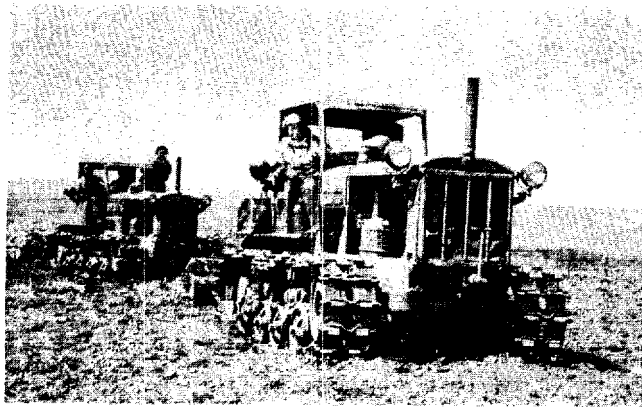
李永發起超軸運動
毛澤東號機車



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梁軍在開拖拉機耙地



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人民渴望的淮河工程修竣。



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紅雁池蓄水庫位於新疆省迪化西南六公里，是我國大陸第二個大蓄水庫(另一個在東北)。新疆和平解放以後，人民政府爲了擴大新疆耕地的面積和增產糧食，加緊進行了這項巨大的水利工程。這是通往水庫的和平渠水槽，所輸水量能灌溉新墾農田十萬畝，每年可增產食糧一千五百萬斤。



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織地毯是我國特種手工藝之一。地毯的種類很多。這位女工正在製作的是鉤針地毯。她把一幅畫了花草圖案的布，綁在架子上，用有色的絨線鉤織。這是異常細緻的手工。



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景德鎮瓷器是江西勞動人民的手工美術品，製成的用具及陳設華美無比

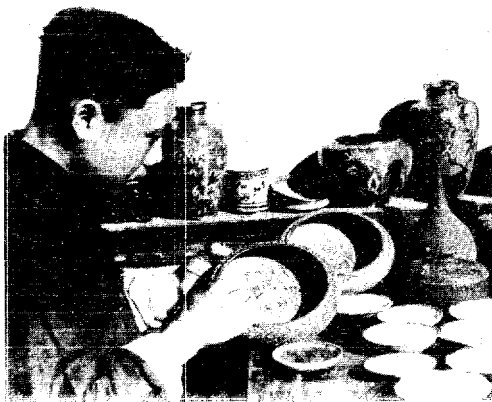


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這位青年手藝工人，正在將嵌着精細的銀絲的銅坯，擦上瓷瑯，它經過燒製之後，就成了「燒青」。

。這是我國著名的特種美術工藝品，在一四五〇年明朝崇禎年間開始盛行，宮廷中也大量製造，因此又叫做「景泰藍」。它的最著名的出產地就是北京。



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從公元前二千五百年至二
百五十年間，我國各
民族的祖先，曾先後創造了在世界史上光輝無比的
彩陶文化。這四個完整的彩色陶罐是一九二三年在
甘肅寧定縣半山出土的，約為公元前二千二百年至
一七〇〇年的器物。



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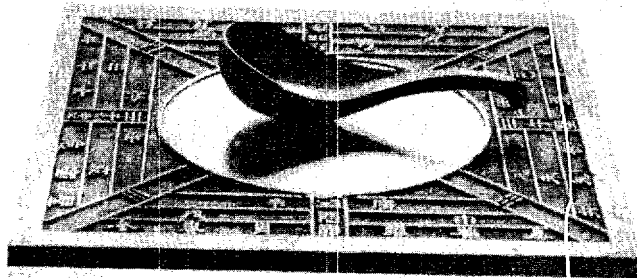
這些美麗的花瓶，都是江西景德鎮瓷器工廠的新出品。它們的形制、圖畫和彩色，表現了中國這種工藝的長期優秀傳統。



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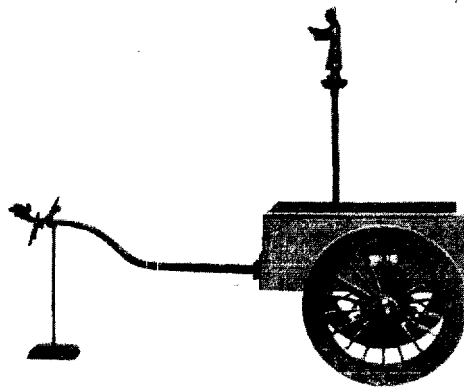
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我們的祖先，在很古的時候已經發明了指南針。這是唐代和漢代古書上所謂「司南」的模型。在一個刻有二十四方位的銅盤上，放一個用天然磁石琢成的勺子，它能在盤上旋轉，而靜止於順極向。



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我國古代在三國時發明家馬鈞創造了一種司南車，利用齒輪的差動作用，使車上木人永遠保持向南。它是用五個齒輪、兩個車輪、兩個滑輪組成的。這是根據宋朝的燕肅所傳製法而仿製的司南車模型。



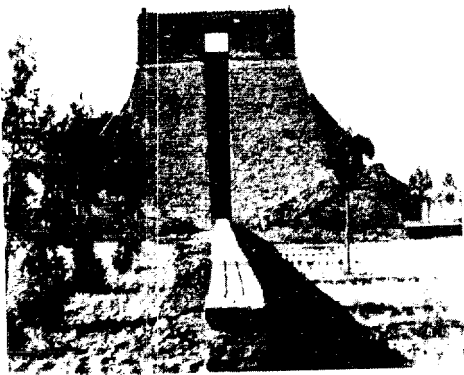
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這兩個火砲筒，是公元一千三百五十六年我國浙江一帶農民起義時期所鑄造的。這是至今尚存的最早的火砲。早在第九世紀，我國煉丹家在煉製丹藥的時候，偶然把硫磺、炭和硝混合在一起，以致發火，因此發現了『火藥』。至第十世紀，我國在軍事上已開始使用火藥，比歐洲早四百多年。



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我國現存最古的天文台是河南登封縣告成鎮「古稱陽城」的「觀星台」。它可以測北極。台前爲「量天尺」，長三〇·一七公尺，可以測定太陽年全長爲若干時日。這些都是六百餘年前我國元代大科學家郭守敬，根據周代和漢唐各代的經驗所建



這是河南安陽出土的殷代最大的銅鼎。現存南京博物院。它有一千四百多斤重，帶耳高一百二十七公分（缺一耳），長一百一十公分，寬七十七公分。鼎的四面週圍以雷紋爲地，上有龍紋盤繞，四角爲饗紋。鼎內有「司母戊」三字銘文。它是三千年前我國人民的偉大藝術品之一。

