

People's China

人民中国

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Workers Restore Manchuria's Industry

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The End of Gang Rule In Transport

— Wang Ke-ho

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The First May Day in A People's China

On May First of every year — the day dedicated to international working-class solidarity — workers of all lands review what they have achieved and prepare for further action “in the struggle against all tyranny, and all oppression of man by man, in the struggle for the emancipation of the toiling millions from hunger, poverty and humiliation.” (Lenin) This year they celebrate their festival day with still greater joy, militancy and confidence, for it also marks the first May Day of the great People's Republic of China.

The very existence of a people's state in China stands as a mighty achievement for all progressive mankind. It signifies the eradication of imperialist influence from a land bigger than continental Europe. With this enormous reinforcement of 475,000,000 people, the world camp for peace becomes ever stronger. This is the result of the Chinese people's thirty years of bitter struggle against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism under the leadership of the working class and its vanguard, the Communist Party of China.

The Chinese working class, once among the most ruthlessly oppressed and enslaved, has now become the leading class in the Chinese People's Republic. The Communist Party, the party of the working class, plays a leading role in government administration at all levels and in other spheres of national life as well. Comrade Mao Tse-tung, leader of the Party and the people, has been elected Chairman of the Central People's Government. This highest government body also contains five of the leading members of the All-China Federation of Labour, in addition to other representatives of the working class. These are: Liu Shao-chi, Honorary President of ACFL; as one of the Government's six Vice-Chairmen; Chen Yun, ACFL President, as Vice-Premier; Li Li-san, a Vice-President of ACFL, as Minister of Labour; Chu Hsueh-fan, another Vice-President, as Minister of Posts, Telegraph and Telephone; and Chen Yu, a former seaman who is now a member of the Executive Committee of ACFL, as Minister of the Fuel Industry. The workers' delegates are also playing a leading role in the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the supreme organ

of state power pending the convocation of the All-China People's Congress, as well as in the people's representative conferences at all the various administrative levels.

The leading position of the workers is also demonstrated in the factories, especially in state-owned or publicly-operated enterprises. State industries are administered by democratic management committees, half of whose members are the elected representatives of the workers. In other words, the workers take an active part in considering and solving all major problems that arise in the enterprise where they work.

Even in private industry, which is allowed to exist and develop under certain limitations during the New Democratic stage of China's revolutionary development, the workers are no longer subject to any oppression or to unrestricted exploitation. A policy of “benefits for both labour and capital” is being carried out. All of this proves that the workers are no longer slaves of machines, but their masters.

China's workers are rapidly training themselves to take over administrative responsibility in industry. Many workers, particularly in state enterprises, have been promoted to leading positions as directors, managers and other responsible officials. In Northeast China alone, over 5,000 rank-and-file miners in the state collieries have become administrative personnel and trade union officials during the past three years.

In the course of their political progress, the Chinese workers have been simultaneously raising their economic position. Workers' wages are now computed on the basis of essential commodity prices, which ensures that they suffer no losses due to market fluctuations. Since the 12-year period of inflation resulting from KMT misrule is now ending and since the people's government will soon balance its budget, the workers' standard of living can show further marked improvements in the near future. In areas where the rehabilitation program is further advanced, such as Northeast China, workers and staff members of state enterprises have received a 75 per cent wage increase since 1947, while the salaries of technicians have been doubled.

Workers in the state enterprises under the Northeast government have also reaped great benefits from the introduction of a comprehensive labour insurance program and other new provisions for their welfare. Each state enterprise lays aside a sum equivalent to 3 per cent of its total payroll for the labour insurance fund, plus another 1.5 per cent for cultural and educational projects. In addition, such enterprises cover the workers' medical expenses, pay full wages to women workers during confinement and provide educational facilities. The workers of these enterprises are also provided with hospitals, rest homes, clubs and furnished dormitories. The management's expenditures for these purposes amount to a sum ranging from 10 to 50 per cent of its total payroll. In other words, the workers receive an extra grant of from 10 to 50 per cent of their regular wages. Similar welfare measures for workers are being introduced in all state enterprises in newly liberated areas as well.

These remarkable improvements in the workers' lives, both political and economic, are all the more impressive when viewed against the background of hunger, poverty, oppression and slavery which existed under the KMT regime.

As they build their new nation, the Chinese workers and people still face a number of difficulties resulting from long years of feudal and imperialist rule in China. The War of Liberation is not quite concluded yet. The American imperialists and the KMT remnant forces are still desperately putting up a last-ditch stand from their base in Taiwan by bombing and blockading the coastal cities. Land reform has still to be carried through in a vast war-torn area, and, as a result, the purchasing power of the peasant masses remains on the whole very low.

As they celebrate their May Day, the Chinese workers are pledging themselves to carry out six major tasks in order to overcome their present difficulties and to speed up the industrialization of their country.

First, they pledge to continue their support for the PLA in its task of liberating Hainan, Taiwan and Tibet, thus making China a unified and completely liberated nation.

Second, they pledge their continued support for the peasants in their various efforts to reduce oppressive rent and interest, to carry out land

reform, to eliminate feudalism completely and to raise the level of agricultural production.

Third, they pledge to support the government's program for putting the nation on a sound and healthy economic basis.

Fourth, they pledge to redouble their efforts to expand production. The workers in state industry will direct their efforts to learning factory management, while those in private industry will take the initiative in overcoming all production difficulties through consultation with the management.

Fifth, they pledge to demonstrate their solidarity with some of their fellow-workers in Shanghai who have become temporarily unemployed due to the transition from a colonial type of economy to a healthy and productive economy.

Finally, they pledge to put forth still greater efforts to strengthen the inseparable fraternal bonds between the working class of China and those of all other countries. They place particular emphasis on establishing the very closest co-operation with the workers of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. At the same time, they pledge to render all possible assistance to the people in other Asian countries who are fighting so heroically for national liberation and for the overthrow of the imperialist system. This international working-class solidarity will deal a mortal blow to the war intrigues of the imperialists and it guarantees future peace in the Far East and throughout the world.

China's workers are fully confident of their collective ability to achieve all these targets they have set for themselves this May Day. This confidence stems from their thirty years of experience in revolutionary struggle, during which period they faced and overcame far greater difficulties under conditions of far greater hardship than those of today. This confidence also stems from the great assistance they have received and are continuing to receive from the workers of the Soviet Union, whose experiences in building a highly-industrialized Socialist state are invaluable to China's working class. And finally, this confidence stems from the knowledge that the entire international proletariat stands behind the efforts of China's workers to build a New Democratic nation, ready to give encouragement and assistance along each step of the way.

China's Workers Build a New Nation

Liu Ning-I

Basically, the people of China have won the nation-wide War of Liberation. After clearing out their enemies from China's mainland, the liberated masses of rural and urban people have stood up and become their own masters. Now they are faced with the great task of constructing a new China, that is, of transforming a backward China into a progressive China, an agricultural China into an industrial China, a weak, poverty-stricken China into an independent, democratic, peaceful, unified, strong and prosperous China.

The working class — the class that has assumed leadership in the new China — has stood up with full consciousness of being the master of its future. It is carrying out the economic and labour policies laid down by the Communist Party of China and Chairman Mao Tse-tung to ensure the rapid rehabilitation, reorganization and development of China's industries. In order to implement these policies with the greatest efficiency, the working class of New China must first of all consolidate and broaden its ranks.

Hence, in August, 1949, the National Trade Union Work Conference of the All-China Federation of Labour laid down the task of organizing all workers throughout the nation. The Federation called upon all its cadres to direct the mass labour movement along lines that would further trade union organizations, at the same time taking full advantage of all assistance to be derived from the existence of a New Democratic government. By now, little more than six months later, the major industrial unions in China's leading cities have enrolled more than 50 per cent of all eligible workers as members. In certain places, enrolment is as high as 80 or 90 per cent. Handicraft workers and shop employees are also being widely organized.

The All-China Federation of Labour now has a sound, unified nation-wide organization with a membership of 4,000,000. National trade unions have been established covering railway workers, seamen, postal workers, telegraphic workers and transport workers. Similar industrial unions for metal-workers, coal-miners, food-processing workers, textile workers, munition workers, machine-tool workers and shop employees will be set up in the near future. These unions are open to all workers in the given industry who wish to join, regardless of sex, age, birthplace, nationality, religion and creed. They have completely wiped out the chaos and disunity that prevailed among the craft guilds under KMT rule. They constitute a powerful body that can provide correct leadership by employing the principles of democratic centralism.

LIU NING-I, Vice-President of the ACFL, is also alternate member of the Executive Committee of the WFTU.

The role of leaders of the nation is truly an honourable one, but it is a most responsible one as well. Our working class, therefore, is confronted with the pressing task of learning to be masters and learning to manage and raise production.

Due to the prolonged oppression and exploitation of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism, China's rural areas have been severely devastated. The factories in the cities run by the bureaucratic capitalists had been turned into the tools by which the owners, combining with foreign imperialists, oppressed and exploited the working class.

Today, almost all of China has been liberated. However, land reform has not yet been carried out in the newly liberated areas and the broad masses of peasants still remain in an impoverished state. Factories are suffering from inadequate equipment, shortage of raw materials and lack of capital. The methods of management and production and the system of wages inherited from the bureaucratic capitalists are extremely corrupt, inefficient and unjust. These factors, plus the blockade and air attacks being carried out jointly by the American imperialists and Chiang's remaining forces, account for our present difficulties in production. The working class, therefore, must uphold its glorious revolutionary traditions by demonstrating its capacity for endurance, steadfastness, initiative and responsibility, thus enabling us to surmount all our major difficulties this year.

Immediately after liberation, the workers assisted the government in protecting their factories and in making detailed inventories of all factory property and equipment. With the workers' help, the factories belonging to bureaucratic capitalism have been turned over to the people's state so that they may, from now on, produce in the people's interests. Thus, the foundation for the development of a socialist economy has been laid down.

Our trade unions have also assisted various industries in changing their old systems of operation into new and democratic ones.

With the enthusiastic support of the broad masses of workers, communications are being rehabilitated with particular success. Our railway workers responded whole-heartedly to the call: "Where the People's Liberation Army goes, the railways must go too!" Within a single year, they repaired 8,200 kilometres of railway, more than double the original plan. By the end of 1949, service had been resumed along 21,046 kilometres of the total 24,794 kilometres of liberated railway lines.

Under trade union leadership, a movement was launched to locate hidden or lost industrial equipment and supplies and return these to the people's state. This has led to the restoration of great quantities of valuable materials. For instance, the workers of the Shihchingshan Iron and Steel Works, in the suburbs of Peking, have turned in to the authorities some 5,000 tons of steel and iron, more than 10,000,000 pieces of machine parts and more than 540 types of fire-clay products, comprising more than 3,500,000 pieces. The workers of the Anshan Iron and Steel Works, in Manchuria, have turned in 212,400 pieces of machinery, worth \$2,483,000,000 (Northeast China People's Currency). Fushun coalminers, in Manchuria, delivered \$7,000,000,000 (NCPC) worth of industrial materials. Such contributions have had an important effect on speeding the recovery of China's factories and mines.

In order to reform industrial management and production processes, trade unions have mobilized the broad working masses to help democratize factory management. Workers' Representative Committees have been widely organized. Factory administrative committees, headed by the director of the factory and composed of representatives of the workers and managerial staff, have been set up in 987 leading factories and mines throughout the country. This has also heightened the workers' sense of becoming their own masters and has directly led to the increase of labour enthusiasm and initiative, while strengthening the workers' voluntary labour discipline. As a result, production efficiency has been raised, the cost of production reduced, and the quality of products improved.

In Northeast China, which was completely liberated before the rest of China, land reform has been fully carried out; industry has been largely rehabilitated and, to some extent, further expanded. In the autumn of 1949, the New Record Movement, a mass campaign to raise production efficiency, began to gain momentum under the joint leadership of the Communist Party, the government and the trade unions. Within the five-month period ending this March, 19,940 new records were set up by 50,000 workers, either individually or collectively. The main emphasis of the movement has now been shifted from individual new records to collective new records, from new records in simply increasing labour intensity to new records in improving tools, elevating labour technique and increasing safety measures. This campaign has given rise to tremendous jumps in labour productivity. Statistics for the period from October to December, 1949, show that the average rate of labour productivity during this quarter exceeded that of September by 13 per cent. The average for December was 32.83 per cent higher than that of June.

Largely due to this campaign, 1949 industrial production in Northeast China topped the year's plan by 4.2 per cent. During the same period, 240,000 additional workers and staff members were hired by the publicly-run enterprises.

The workers in Northeast China are now tackling the job of fulfilling or surpassing the 1950 plan. This plan envisages a further 193 per cent increase above last year's level in the total value of Northeast China's industrial production. This will raise the area's ratio of industrial production to total production from 35 per cent in 1949 to 43 per cent in 1950.

North China has also made tremendous progress in production, and new production records are piling up constantly. For instance, with the help of Soviet advisers, the workers of the Northwest Steel Mill, in Taiyuan, have raised their output one-fourth above the highest level achieved under the Japanese or KMT regime.

The workers in Shanghai and throughout East China have placed themselves in the front ranks of the drive to prepare for the liberation of Taiwan. These workers are also bearing the brunt of the blockade and constant aerial bombings. But they are shouldering their responsibilities and facing their difficulties in a manner that provides inspiration to the whole country. Nor are the workers of the newly-liberated areas of Central-South, Southwest and Northwest China lagging behind them.

In privately-owned enterprises, the trade unions are helping the workers acquire a correct understanding of the government's policy of ensuring "benefits for both labour and capital"—a policy which has destroyed capital's former monopoly over such benefits. The workers are encouraged to make full use of their new rights and to utilize the methods provided for defending their interests, such as consultation, negotiation, mediation and legal processes. At the same time, however, they have been shown the need for paying due attention to the management's legitimate interests in order to ensure full-capacity production and economic prosperity for the nation.

One cannot deny that we still face difficulties and that we still lack experience in many lines. As Chairman Mao said so correctly: "We have taken only the first step in a long march of ten thousand li." Nevertheless, we have adequate conditions for overcoming these difficulties. We have a unified nation, vast in area, rich in resources and large in population. We have the brilliant leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung of the Chinese Communist Party. We have the rich experiences of the workers, who have overcome various difficulties in past years. We have solidarity and political consciousness among the workers and the rest of the Chinese people. In addition, we have the assistance of the Soviet working class as well as their advanced technological experiences. Thus, we can in the nearest future change our conditions for the better. We have the possibility before us of completely rehabilitating our national industry within three or five years, and of constructing a well-organized and modern industry in eight or ten years. Once our industry has become sufficiently developed, we can then advance from the New Democratic stage to Socialism.

Workers Restore Manchuria's Industry

Chang Wei-chen

Manchuria occupies an especially important place in the national economy of China. According to statistics compiled in 1943, coal production in Manchuria constituted 40 per cent of the nation's output; pig iron, 87 per cent; finished steel products, 93 per cent; and electric power, 78 per cent. Railway mileage accounted for 42 per cent of the nation's total mileage. Production figures in many other branches of heavy industry were similarly high.

Because of Manchuria's economic importance, even before the American-backed KMT army had been driven from the area, Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party told us to concentrate on the restoration and development of Manchuria's economy, and particularly its industry. Manchuria, it was pointed out, must be turned into a base for industrializing the whole of China.

Manchuria's industry, built by the sweat and labour of the Chinese working people, had formerly attained impressive proportions. But it was seriously damaged by both the Japanese invaders and by the KMT hordes before their final defeat. When the whole of Manchuria was finally liberated in August, 1948, a great section of its industry lay in ruins. Not one single railway bridge remained intact. Coal pits were filled with water. There was an acute shortage of electric power. Many factory buildings had been levelled to the ground. Of the 170,000 workers formerly in Anshan, one of the industrial centres in Manchuria, only a few thousands remained to look after the factories. All the rest had either been forced by hunger to flee the city or press-ganged into the KMT army. Steel and iron production was virtually at a standstill. Light industry was also largely destroyed. The paper industry, for instance, needed an almost complete overhauling. This was the chaotic state of the industry which we took back from the hands of the imperialists and domestic reactionaries.

It is upon such ruins that the workers and the people in Manchuria have been rebuilding their industry. The Northeast Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party and the Northeast People's Government have set the goal of restoring production to the 1943 level by 1952. At the same time, they have called on the people to remould Manchuria's

colonial economy into one that serves the Chinese people. The difficulties that this huge task involves should not be minimized. But our politically awakened workers have courageously accepted this gigantic task, and they have already made substantial progress.

Even before the KMT reactionaries were swept from Manchuria, the politically advanced workers there had secretly organized themselves to protect industrial equipment. During the transitional period after the enemy's collapse, workers everywhere guarded their factories against the subversive activities of straggling KMT soldiers, secret agents and saboteurs. At the risk of their own lives, Anshan's 1,200 remaining workers rescued 1,800 carloads of machinery under enemy fire.

As factories and mines resumed operation, a shortage developed in spare parts and raw materials, some of which could not yet be obtained on the local market. The workers took the initiative in overcoming this problem by volunteering to salvage useful articles from scrap heaps and half-forgotten corners of warehouses. Many workers turned over to their factories what they had previously taken away and hidden from the KMT authorities. Some even placed their own tools at the disposal of the factory management. In this way, our workers overcame the production difficulties that had threatened to slow down the rehabilitation program.

On May Day last year, the Manchurian workers launched a huge-scale emulation campaign to increase production. In addition to raising output, this campaign elevated the workers' political consciousness still further. As the workers gained a clearer conception of their new role as masters, the old hostility towards management evaporated and the workers came to regard the factories as their own. Now they vied with each other in taking good care of tools and worked with heightened enthusiasm. As a result, both the quantity and quality of output were raised.

Two months later, in July and August, a campaign against waste and inefficiency was carried out by the workers. They freely criticized anyone who was wasteful or incompetent in his job. Poor management came under fierce attack because it hindered production.

Then in September, the now-famous New Record Movement began. It was touched off by Labour Heroes Chao Kuo-yu and Chang Shang-chu, both of the No. 3 Machine Tools Plant in Mukden, who raised the rate of labour productivity in their factory by 3.2 and 6.2 times respectively. Under

the encouragement of the Party and the government, the movement spread rapidly throughout Manchuria.

As a direct result of the success of these emulation drives, Manchuria's industry is being restored at a highly satisfactory rate. The railways completed their 1949 plan well ahead of schedule. State-operated enterprises exceeded last year's production plans by 4.2 per cent. During the first quarter of this year, almost all major industries exceeded their production goals. With the exception of a very few seriously damaged enterprises, all factories and mines taken over by the government are now in operation.

The rate of the restoration of production is more remarkable viewed against our continuing shortage of equipment. For instance, although our iron smelting works are operating with only 25 per cent of the equipment available at the time of the Japanese occupation, production has reached 42.2 per cent of its highest previous level. Similarly, production in the textile industry has surpassed the peak figures attained under the Japanese by 43 per cent, even though the mills are operating with only 66 per cent of their former number of spindles. This fact proves that in a New Democratic society, the workers can fully develop their initiative and talents.

By far the greatest share of the credit for these impressive achievements must go to the workers, and behind the workers stand the trade unions they have formed, giving guidance, co-operation and support to their efforts. Throughout the past year, our trade unions have been growing at an extremely rapid rate and membership is now approaching 1,500,000. Under the leadership of the Trade Union Council of Northeast China, eight industrial trade union councils have already been formed, as well as six provincial trade union councils, four municipal trade union councils and two district trade union councils. At the moment, we are in the process of establishing another four large industrial unions for workers in mechanical engineering, chemicals, shipping and transport.

Among the current tasks of the trade unions, one of the most important is training workers to participate in factory management. Large numbers of workers have already taken over responsible administrative posts. Nearly all the junior officials in state-run enterprises have been promoted from the ranks of the workers. Today all levels of people's representative conferences contain a large proportion of workers' delegates. A prominent Labour Hero, Liu Ying-yuan, has been elected to the Administrative Council of the Northeast People's Government.

* One point is equivalent to the value of 1.63 catties of assorted grains, 5.5 catties of coal, 0.035 catties of vegetable oil, 0.045 catties of salt and 0.2 square feet of cloth.

The trade unions also provide leadership in the movement to raise the workers' material and cultural living standards. Twice in the last year, the workers and staff members of state-run enterprises have received substantial wage increases, despite the financial problem confronting the government. The average monthly wage for workers was raised to 110 points* last May. In December, it rose to 140 points—an increase of 27 per cent. Salaries for technicians are now in the vicinity of 1,100 points. Another wage readjustment is being worked out which will add 8 per cent to workers' earnings. Meanwhile, the general price stability brought about by the government has meant further steady improvement in the workers' livelihood.

A comprehensive labour insurance program was introduced in Manchuria's publicly-owned enterprises in February, 1949. The government has laid aside a sum equivalent to 3 per cent of the total payroll of these enterprises for the labour insurance funds. The insurance plan provides the workers with generous assistance covering childbirth, illness, disability and old age. Six large convalescent homes have already been set up for workers, plus a home for the aged and five homes for disabled workers. In addition to the insurance plan, the government has allocated large sums to cover medical treatment for the workers it employs—an amount equivalent to 4.5 per cent of the total payroll in light industry, and 6.5 per cent in heavy industry.

Since skilled workers now feel greater security in their jobs due to the various government measures, they no longer fear to teach their techniques to young apprentices. As one master craftsman said: "In the past, we were afraid of unemployment when we grew old. Therefore we were reluctant to pass our skills on to apprentices. Since we have the labour insurance program to protect us, such fears have vanished." A campaign started spontaneously in the railways and spread to the factories in which veteran workers compete among themselves in teaching their apprentices. This would have been an unheard of phenomenon in pre-liberation days.

Because of the improvement in the workers' living standards, they are more anxious than ever to raise their cultural level. To help them in this respect, the government has appropriated a sum equivalent to 1.5 per cent of the area's total payroll for educational and cultural purposes.

Imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism consolidated their rule over the people by fostering the latter's backwardness. At the time of liberation, 60 per cent of the Manchurian workers were illiterate. This situation greatly hindered our reconstruction work. Therefore it became a major task to wipe out illiteracy and raise our workers'

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Democratic Management in Public Enterprises

Chen Yung-wen

One of the characteristic features of the Chinese Revolution is the fact that it was the People's Liberation Army led by the vanguard of the working class, the Chinese Communist Party, that stormed into the cities from its bases in the countryside and thus made possible the victory of the revolution in the great industrial centres. Because of this circumstance, special problems have arisen for the industrial working class. These problems are particularly great in bringing about the revolutionary transformation of enterprises formerly owned and operated by reactionary KMT bureaucratic capital.

These enterprises were, in fact, on liberation, initially taken over by the Military Control Commissions of the PLA, and their administration was entrusted to veteran cadres appointed by the people's government. These cadres sent to the factories, however, were unfamiliar with the running of industry, since they had long engaged in rural and army work in old Liberated Areas. A few did have some experience in this type of work, but their long stay in the rural areas had rendered their past experiences out-of-date. At the same time, with the exception of a relatively small number of advanced workers who had engaged in underground revolutionary activities and whose level of class consciousness was high, the long period of savagely oppressive and reactionary KMT rule had dulled the spirit of the great masses of the urban working people. Thus, at the time of liberation, these masses of industrial workers did not at once realize that the revolution had made them the real masters of state-owned enterprises. They were not prepared to assume their great new responsibilities.

Because of the revolution's special conditions in urban centres, the foremost task of the trade unions has been to educate the workers in order to raise their class consciousness, and to instruct them in the revolutionary policies of New Democracy. One of the trade unions' main tasks has been to assist in organizing Staff and Workers Representative Councils, which elect delegates to participate in taking over former bureaucratic capitalist enterprises, together with the government's administrative personnel.

In order to offset the lack of organizational experience among the workers, to make them fully conscious of their role as masters, and to increase their initiative and productive power, the system of democratic management must be introduced in all publicly-owned enterprises. The main policy is to rely on all workers and staff members of a given factory to play an active role in production and management.

Soon after the October Revolution, Lenin said: "The prime task was to revive industry. . . but this could not be done without enlisting the support of the working class and its trade unions. . . ." The system of democratic factory management employed in people's enterprises in New Democratic China is based on Lenin's principles, with adaptations necessitated by the concrete conditions existing in China.

Democratic management in publicly-owned factories is carried out in two forms, namely, Factory (or Enterprise) Administrative Committees and Factory Staff and Workers' Representative Councils.

Subject to the direction of a superior government body, the Factory Administrative Committee serves as the co-ordinating administrative body. It is both a policy-making and executive organ in matters relating to production and factory operations; and thus is different from the "parliamentary" type of industrial consultative councils such as exist in bourgeois countries. This committee acts under the advice of the superior government industrial administrative bureau, which hands down production plans and other directives. However, it is at all times in close contact with the actual conditions in the factory, and it considers and decides all matters concerning production and management in the light of these conditions. Production plans, business operations, methods of management, output organization, personnel problems, workers' welfare, wages, etc., all come within the scope of the Factory Administrative Committee.

This committee holds meetings at regular intervals and is composed of the manager of the enterprise or factory director, his deputy, the chief engineer and other responsible staff members directly concerned with production. It also includes a corresponding number of representatives democratically elected from among the staff members and workers. Elections of representatives to the committee are held once or twice a year. The staff members and workers have the right to recall unsatisfactory committee members and elect new members to replace them. The size of the Committee varies according to the factory, but generally there are from 5 to 17 members. The manager or director acts as chairman of the committee meetings, which are held once a week or every fortnight. He is empowered to call additional meetings as the need arises. Decisions reached at committee meetings are carried out in the name of the manager or director. Should the chairman dissent from a majority decision on the grounds that it runs counter to the interests of the factory or violates a government directive, he may suspend the execution of such a decision. The leader of the trade union and the manager will then report to their respective superiors for advice. Pending a decision

from higher levels, the instructions of the manager must be carried out.

In large factories or enterprises, the Factory Administrative Committee sets up a standing committee to deal with all relatively important routine questions regarding production, management, personnel, wages, welfare, etc. This supplementary organization is composed of the manager, the head of the trade union, and a member co-opted by the Factory Administrative Committee. The manager serves as *ex officio* Chairman.

All relatively important matters concerning production, management, personnel, wages, welfare and other routine matters are negotiated and settled in the spirit of the resolutions passed by the administrative committee. This type of the Factory Administrative Committee, headed by the manager and composed of delegates elected by the staff members and workers, is the best organizational form of running an enterprise for two reasons: (1) It absorbs workers into production and management while at the same time it gives them training in this field; (2) It also implements the principle of having "one responsible head." Thus, this committee both relies on the entire personnel of the enterprise and is responsible to the state and the people.

The Factory Administrative Committee relies directly upon the factory trade union and the Staff and Workers' Representative Council, which is convened once or twice monthly by the head of the trade union. This Representative Council has the right to hear and discuss reports of the Factory Administrative Committee, to review factory operations and leadership in the factory, and to offer criticisms and suggestions to the Factory Administrative Committee. It, therefore, not only encourages the workers to suggest improvements in the factory's operations but has proved itself the best type of organization to link the management with the whole working staff. Where the number of workers in a factory does not exceed two hundred persons, a mass meeting of the whole factory is usually called instead of organizing a Staff and Workers' Representative Council.

In all public enterprises throughout the country, the main task for union and administrative personnel at the moment is to put this system of democratic management into effect, and to learn factory management. By this means, they are succeeding in gradually turning enterprises once operated by bureaucratic capital into enterprises belonging to the people. Under the leadership of the trade unions, the workers are making full use of the democratic right to participate in factory management which has been accorded them by the people's state.

In their new status as masters, the workers are taking up this task enthusiastically and are rapidly improving their efficiency in production. For instance, the output of the 3rd Factory of the China Textiles Corporation in Tientsin has been greatly improved in all respects since the introduction of

the system of democratic factory management last September. Since its inception, the Factory Administrative Committee has held twelve meetings. The question of rationalizing production and management was among the foremost problems taken under consideration. The Committee received 130 rationalization proposals from the workers, and after being approved by the engineers and technicians, almost all were adopted. Under KMT management, each loom at the 3rd Factory had an average output of 43 yards of cloth per day, of which the highest percentage of first grade cloth was 88.83. The present average output per loom per day is now 45 yards (the record is 48.9 yards), and the percentage of first grade cloth is now 98.52.

Similar results were achieved by democratic management at the Antung Paper Mill in Manchuria. Under the direction of its Factory Administrative Committee, this plant started an extensive movement to establish new production records. In 1949, this mill exceeded its production plan by 14 per cent, while at the same time, production costs were reduced by \$12,500,000,000 (Northeast China People's Currency).

Workers today in practically every publicly-owned enterprise in the country are being rapidly elevated to responsible positions. In 1949, 41 of the 2,000 workers of the Antung Paper Mill were promoted to administrative posts. One worker has become the director of a branch factory, one has become a department head and another a section chief. Now this mill is sending out cadres to other industrial areas where experienced men are needed. When the Chinchow Paper Mill was established, for instance, the Antung Paper Mill supplied most of the administrative staff.

The workers, who were little better than slaves in the enterprises operated by the KMT bureaucratic capitalists, have undergone a tremendous change after liberation. Under the New Democratic state, they have become masters of these same enterprises. From being the exploited slaves of their machines, they have become the masters of these same machines, using them for the good of society as a whole. Here, indeed, is a real revolution. In this fact lies the fundamental difference between the methods of managing enterprises in New Democratic countries and in capitalist countries.

However, this correct system of democratic factory management is only just being introduced in all the publicly-owned enterprises of China. Since we have so recently won our liberation, we still lack sufficient experience in this field. We are particularly in need of assistance, advice and criticism from the Socialist Soviet Union and the People's Democracies of East Europe, so that we may rapidly absorb the experiences of these advanced nations. After mastering the technique of running our people's enterprises, we can then transform China from an agricultural into an industrial nation and advance steadily from New Democracy to the great future of Socialism.

The End of Gang Rule in Transport

Wang Ke-ho

The day of the gang labour barons is over in China. Early in April, the Central People's Government struck another mortal blow at their feudal hold over the workers by outlawing the gang labour system in transport. Earlier the government had taken similar action in the mining industry.

Gang labour, which can be traced back 300 years in China, has been one of the most vicious forms of feudal oppression and exploitation surviving in the cities. It first came into existence in Tientsin, the biggest seaport in North China. However, it was not long before the brutal labour system had spread to all major cities and towns in the country. By the time of the KMT era, such gangs had thoroughly entrenched themselves in urban society, becoming an inseparable part of the vast underworld and tightly interlinked with the whole sinister structure of superstitious associations, religious societies and other feudal organizations in China.

These gangs operated as secret societies, headed by despots who ruled their respective "sphere of influence" by terrorism and held life-and-death power over the members of their bands. Top positions in the gang were rarely distributed outside the leader's clan.

Gang law could be summed up in an old Chinese saying: "The big fish eat the little fish, the little fish eat the shrimps — and the shrimps eat mud." Transport workers were, of course, the shrimps. They could only obtain jobs through gang connections, and on condition that they give up the bulk of their pay to the gang boss and his vast hierarchy of subordinates. In Swatow, for instance, where the Li Clan controlled the chief transport gang, the top leaders appropriated 55 per cent of the workers' earnings, the subordinates took 33 per cent, and the remaining 12 per cent was divided out among the labourers who did all the work.

In addition, it was customary for gang bosses to extract innumerable special levies from the workers whose jobs they controlled. The workers were often forced to contribute to a fund for entertaining or bribing KMT officials. But even a gangster's birthday was reason enough to extort gifts, and the size of such gifts was generally considered a yardstick for measuring loyalty to the leader. In Pengpu, a communication junction north of Nanking, transport workers had to hand over their entire earnings for several days to their gang bosses at every Chinese lunar New Year's time. And what little money remained in the workers' hands was usually filched from them in the brothels, opium

dens and gambling halls which the gangsters set up in order to keep their workers in perpetual debt.

Quite naturally, this highly profitable system of extorting money from the workers led to endless feuds and even pitched battles between rival gangs. At the time of Pengpu's liberation, there were 18 different transport gangs existing side by side in the city, and truce among them was rarely more than nominal. One of the biggest gang wars in China's history broke out in Tientsin 60 years ago. Before peace was restored in the transport business, 500 people were involved and the casualties had run to 200.

Should any transport worker try to break away from the gang's stronghold and earn a living on his own, gang vengeance was swift and certain. Every gang leader had a squad of armed men to handle just such eventualities. This squad was often made up of ordinary workers chosen by lot who knew that they must submit to the gang code of "kill or be killed." Some of the bigger gangsters, like Chang Yun-shan of Pengpu, had private court-



On the Kialing River

by Jen Feng

rooms and prisons in their homes where those who violated gang law were tried, tortured, flogged and even executed.

Under this gang system, transport charges throughout the country rose to exorbitant levels. In Shanghai, the cost of unloading cargo from a freighter and transporting it to a warehouse often exceeded shipping charges across the Pacific Ocean. And in Pengpu, one of the worst strongholds of the labour gangs, a merchant had to pay 13 assorted fees to four different gangs in order to move cargo from a river barge to a warehouse.

After the liberation of China's big cities, the people's government found it was no easy thing to stamp out such deeply embedded labour practices and to break the power of gangsterism. The very biggest labour racketeers naturally fled with their gold bars to Taiwan or America, but these were the relative few. The rest stayed in business as usual, at most making a few adjustments in line with the times. They relied on their time-tested methods of intimidation to keep their workers cowed and submissive. The workers were also assured that the KMT would soon be back in power, when any defections to the revolutionary camp would be suitably punished. Some of the gang bosses even posed as elected spokesmen for their workers in all dealings with government and trade union officials. Chen Hao-chu, one of Shanghai's leading underworld figures, transformed his gang into a fake dockers' union two days after the city's liberation. He had so terrorized his 3,000 dockers over the years that it was a considerable time before anyone dared to reveal the true situation to the people's government.

The story of how the racketeers' hold on their workers was broken in Pengpu illustrates the manner in which this problem was handled throughout the country.

At first, the trade union officials made a number of mistakes because of their inexperience in dealing with such matters. They began by creating a new trade union for the city's 4,500 transport workers. But the organizers were not vigilant enough and the gang bosses and their underlings managed to infiltrate into the union's ranks. So great was the workers' fear of their gang leaders that they voted them into the top union posts. Therefore, conditions among the transport workers remained virtually unchanged. Despite all the new laws safeguarding the workers' rights, the men secretly handed over a part of their pay to the bosses and continued to observe gang traditions. Meanwhile, the gangsters seized every opportunity to discredit the new union and people's government in the eyes of their workers. They even sent thugs to attack the cadres in an effort to make them leave town.

By the time the cadres understood their mistakes, they were already extremely isolated from

the workers, who in many cases distrusted them even more than the gang bosses. It was a slow, patient task to regain the ground that had been lost. However, by visiting the workers in their homes and helping them to solve some of their personal problems, the cadres gradually won the confidence of a nucleus of workers.

The trade union also organized evening literacy classes for the rank and file of the workers. For greater convenience and efficiency, classes were broken up into small mutual aid groups of five persons, which studied as a team and held inter-group competitions. These courses offered additional opportunity for political education.

Workers' clubs were set up in various parts of the city to provide recreational facilities and entertainment. Before many months elapsed, the workers had their own choral group and had staged their first play.

Meanwhile the mounting victories of the People's Liberation Army in southern and western China convinced the workers that the Chiang Kai-shek's corrupt KMT regime was gone for good. This fact, plus the gradually heightened political level of the workers, led to a general realization that labouring people now had a powerful government of their own which would back them up in all efforts to overthrow their oppressors.

About this time news came from Shanghai that the notorious Chen Hao-chu, the biggest transport boss in that gang-ridden city, had been arrested by the people's municipal government and placed on trial. A huge Accusation Meeting was held at which the 3,000 workers of Chen's gang had a chance to tell of their long, bitter sufferings. The story also came out of how Chen had been directing an underground KMT spy ring. In the end, Chen was sentenced to death and his fortune was used to recompense the workers he had robbed and to pay for a new union club house.

This example was all the Pengpu workers needed to launch into a fierce struggle against their own gang bosses. Their first target was Chang Hsiao-yun, the most ruthless and powerful of all Pengpu's gang leaders.

Chang had inherited his labour kingdom from his father. Together with his right-hand man, Tsui Kan-chin, he controlled 800 workers. Forty-one per cent of their earnings went into his personal treasury, but he also imposed many sundry levies on his workers.

In 1945, a gang war broke out in Pengpu and Chang ordered his men into the fight. Several of his workers were arrested in the course of the disturbance, Chang then levied 100 sacks of flour and five tons of wheat from gang members on the pre-

(Continued on page 27)



The Oppressed Have Now Become Masters

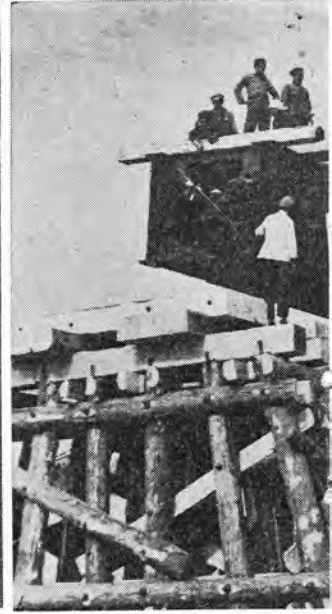


No longer are Chinese workers marched through the streets and publicly executed for defending their rights — like Wang Hsiao-ho, one of the trade union leaders of the Shanghai Power Company, who cursed the KMT butchers as he faced the firing squad. No longer do workers have to take up arms to defend their installations from marauding KMT armies — like the woman arsenal worker in Shansi province or the coal miners of Shantung province.





The Huai River bridge, which Chiang's vandals destroyed, was repaired in two months.



Even the steel could not be repaired.

Workers Assume Leadership in Building



Chang Tse-fu is a famous shock worker at the Fushun mines.

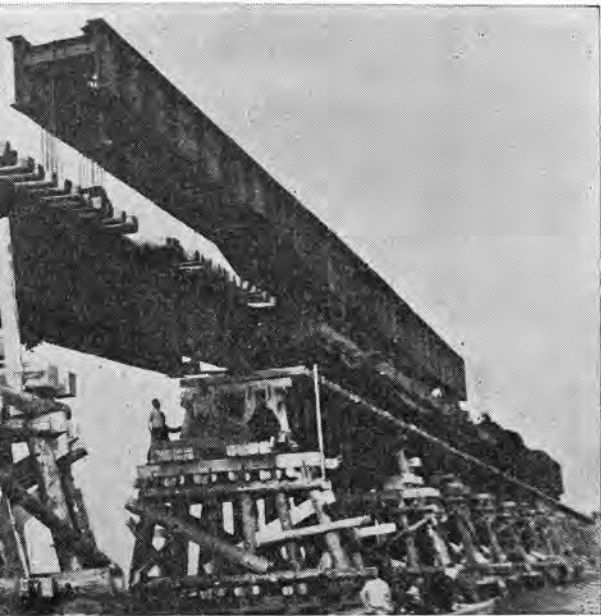
The liberated workers of China can now direct all industrial, prosperous new China. Since they know their own interests, their enthusiasm runs high. The exploits of new heroes are being reported most daily. As a result, the nation's industry is being



Telegraph workers return equipment they hid from the KMT.



Workers learn new production methods at an industrial exhibition in Dairen.



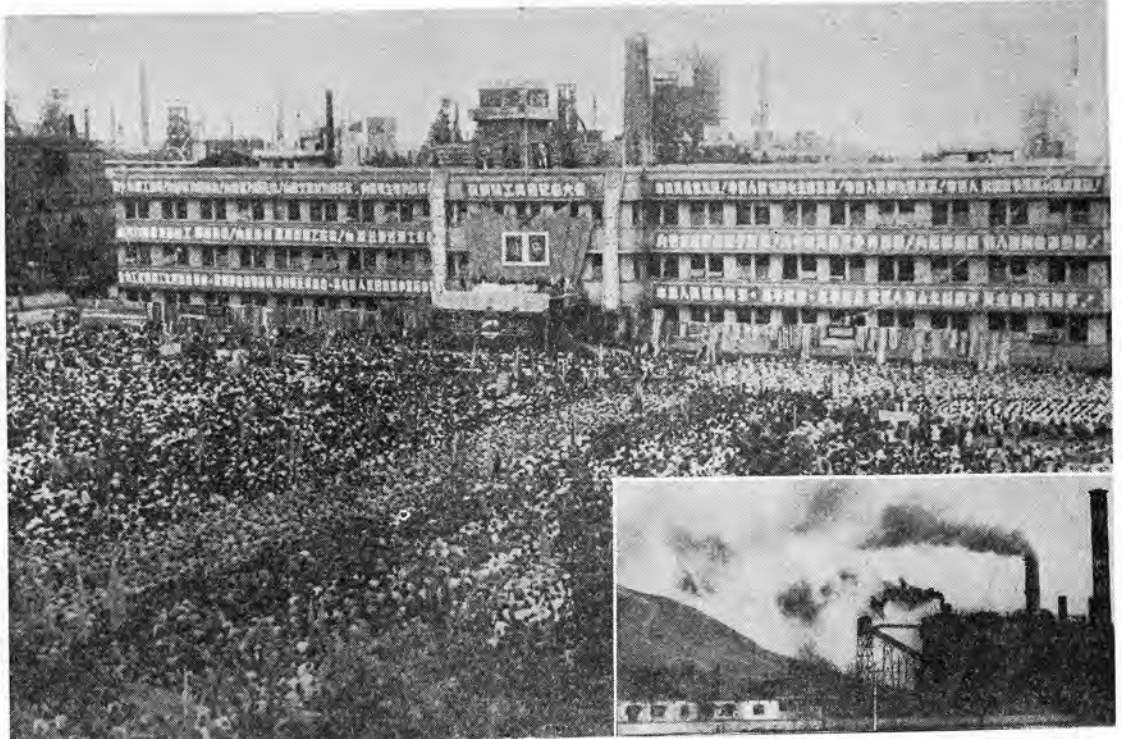
Shortage of mechanized equipment slow down the repair work.

Building a New China

...and their energy toward creating a modern, ... now that future belongs to them, labour ... and heroines of labour make headlines al- ... along restored at a phenomenally rapid rate.



Shanghai textile workers help take over the mill of a bureaucratic capitalist.



Anshan steel workers hold a rally to celebrate the reopening of their mills.

Freedom, Democracy and Better Lives



Kalgan railway workers cast their ballots in a trade union election.



A reading room in the Dairen Transport Workers' Club.



The chorus formed by the Peking Clothing Factory.



A home has been set up for aged workers in Fushun, a mining centre in Northeast China. The placard says: "Only with the Communist Party can we have a retired workers' home."



Among delegates to the Chinese People's PCC, supreme organ of the People's Republic, were Labour Heroes Chao Chan-kwei (left), Cheng Yung-tien (right) & Labour Heroine Li Feng-lien.

The Defence of Kunming's Factories

Cheng Lien-tuan

Only four months after its liberation, Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province, is turning out 20 per cent more industrial goods than it produced under KMT rule. Behind this remarkable achievement lies a story of the valiant struggle of Kunming's 35,000 industrial workers, some of whom gave their lives to defend their factories from KMT destruction.

Kunming, which has a population of 350,000, is one of the major industrial centres in Southwest China. There were formerly about 140 big factories in and around the city. Among the larger ones were the Central Machine Works, the Yunnan and Yutien textile mills, the 53rd Arsenal and the Tacheng Chemical Works — each employing more than 1,000 workers.

Before liberation, Kunming's workers had a wretched life at best. By the spring of 1949, the ruinous inflation and the corrupt KMT rule had forced 40 per cent of the factories out of business. Workers were laid off almost daily. A few of the unemployed managed to eke out a living by street-hawking and other makeshift devices. The rest pawned or sold whatever they still owned and lived on the verge of starvation.

Employed workers were not much better off. A skilled worker at the Tacheng Chemical Works, for instance, received 42 catties of grain per month. This was not enough to cover the bare food requirements of one person and did not begin to meet the needs of a family.

Recalling those dark days, a railway mechanic named Li Tsō-yu said: "My starving mother and son both contracted malaria. I knew that a few pills of quinine would save them. But where could I get the money? They died in a few days, and my grief-stricken wife committed suicide. On the day of my wife's death, I went to work as usual for otherwise I would have lost my job."

It was under such circumstances that the Kunming workers secretly organized themselves for a life-and-death struggle against the reactionary KMT rulers.

During the summer months of 1949, when Chiang Kai-shek was sustaining successive defeats in eastern and southern China, the factories in Kunming began to take on an air of unusual liveliness and gaiety. Many singing and dramatic groups sprang up, as well as reading classes and a wide variety of other non-political sounding organizations. But all these activities were, in fact, mere disguises for underground trade unions led by Communists and other progressive workers. An underground "New Democratic Workers' League" was formed to provide centralized leadership for the Kunming workers' struggles to prevent any destruction or removal of industrial equipment before liberation.

Frequent strikes broke out in the next few months. Some were for better working conditions, but an increasing proportion were political demonstrations of the workers' strength and solidarity in opposing the destruction of the city's industry. There were numerous protest strikes against KMT plans to evacuate equipment from the city. Strikes were also called to prevent corrupt officials from selling publicly-owned factories and machinery to private businessmen.

A typical instance occurred when the management of the 53rd Arsenal announced its decision to move the factory to Taiwan. All of the 2,000 workers walked out of the plant, carrying away with them the key parts of important machines. The KMT authorities then offered top pay to anyone willing to help dismantle the factory. But although Kunming was full of unemployed and starving workers, not one worker applied for this job even though local newspapers carried "help wanted" advertisements for weeks. In the end, as a face-saving device, the management was

forced to announce that the arsenal would not move since the workers had full confidence in the KMT government's ability to defend Kunming and wanted to remain in the city. The workers then went back and the arsenal resumed operations.

The KMT officials managing the Central Machine Works grabbed at the last chance to line their pockets by offering part of the factory's equipment for sale. The workers immediately sent out anonymous letters warning all prospective purchasers that the installations would be dynamited if anyone bought them. Not a single bid came in for the equipment.

By the end of August, the workers had mobilized a broad "peace front" which included almost all strata of Kunming's population. This popular movement centred around the demand that the provincial authorities sever relations with the KMT and declare allegiance to the Central People's Government. Under the leadership of the workers and students, Kunming's residents held mass meetings to demand that Lu Han, then Governor of Yunnan, (1) prevent Chiang's fleeing troops from entering the province, (2) expel Chen-nault's Civil Air Transport from its huge base in Kunming, and (3) stop the KMT Central Bank of China from shipping gold and silver out of Yunnan to Taiwan.

This display of popular strength so alarmed Chiang Kai-shek that he flew from Taiwan to Chungking early in September. There he personally mapped out tactics for crushing the peace movement. Chiang entrusted the carrying out of this plan to his elder son, Chiang Ching-kuo, and his first wife's brother, Mao Jen-feng, who headed the KMT dictator's personal gestapo. Soon after this infamous pair reached Kunming, 2,000 secret service agents arrived by air.

Chiang's strategy consisted of launching a reign of terror directed primarily against the workers, who

were arrested by the hundreds. All local newspapers were suspended, and all schools were closed pending "reorganization" to bring them back in line. For two weeks, armoured cars raced through the streets with screaming sirens at all hours of the day and night. At the end of this period, 2,000 persons had disappeared. Then, apparently, Chiang decided that all organized opposition had been wiped out and conditions were allowed to grow more normal.

But in actual fact, Chiang Kai-shek's terrorism had only intensified the Kunming workers' determination to fight back. During these two terrible weeks alone, more than 1,300 young men — of whom half were workers — slipped out of the city and joined the guerrillas fighting in the surrounding countryside. Thus Chiang's brutal assault on the Kunming population resulted in sending fresh reinforcements to the armed peasant units that were constantly harassing his troops. By November, these guerrilla bands had liberated the major part of 13 counties to the south of Kunming.

The workers who remained in the city intensified their efforts to protect their factories. It was now clear that in order to carry out this task, the workers must arm themselves.

Workers at the 53rd Arsenal tried to smuggle out guns and ammunition, but they failed because the KMT agents were on guard against just such action. However, a plan was drawn up to seize the arsenal by force as soon as the KMT began to evacuate the city. The workers organized a volunteer "dare-to-die" squad for the purpose of carrying out this task when the time came.

The workers at the Tacheng Chemical Works stole chemicals with which they made explosives in their homes at night. Some of the gunpowder they made was distributed to workers of an ink factory, who turned ink bottles into hand grenades. Workers in another factory used the explosives to make mines from dry battery cases that their plant turned out.

The textile workers of the Yunnan and Yutien mills also wanted to arm themselves, but there were

no facilities for making weapons in their factory. Undeterred, the workers decided to pool their resources and buy weapons from the local police and gendarmes, who customarily sold their arms on the black market. Representatives were elected to handle the negotiations, but the deal ultimately fell through when the workers found they could not afford the high prices asked.

As the PLA approached the provincial border, the atmosphere in Kunming grew still more tense. All workers armed themselves in one way or another, if only with iron bars or heavy clubs and spears. The armed squads in the different factories were amalgamated into a city-wide Self-Defence Corps. Various workers were secretly assigned responsibility for guarding vitally important equipment with their lives if necessary.

On December 9, Governor Lu Han suddenly broke off relations with the KMT regime and announced his support for the Central People's Government. Assisted by the workers, his provincial troops quickly disarmed all of Chiang's demolition squads before they had time to act.

But two of Chiang's armies that were stationed in southern and eastern Yunnan marched at once on Kunming. To bolster the fighting spirit of his troops, Chiang announced through his generals that the soldiers would be granted "freedom of activity" for three days if they captured the city. This, of course, meant freedom to loot, rape, kill and burn without fear of reprisal. The soldiers were also told to blow up all industrial installations in Kunming.

Fighting began in the southern suburbs of the city on December 18. The forces attacking Kunming were twice the size of those defending it. Moreover, the KMT had an American-trained air force to back its assault, as well as a small army of secret agents inside the city.

As soon as the fighting began, the Self-Defence Corps composed of some 1,000 workers went into action. It was immediately joined by 5,000 students, government employees, merchants and other private citizens. This unit re-

leased most of the police force for front-line action by taking over their duties. Under the leadership of the workers, the Corps rounded up KMT saboteurs, built defence works and transported supplies to the front. With its rear consolidated in this manner, General Lu's army was able to turn its full attention to the enemy and the KMT advance was temporarily checked.

The workers, meanwhile, were also carrying out their long-prepared plans to defend their equipment. Many of them moved into their factories and lived beside their machines throughout the battle. The most valuable machine parts were dismantled and hidden for greater safety.

While the battle for Kunming was in progress, the PLA was rapidly advancing across the high mountains to the east. The peasant-worker guerrilla forces were also closing in on the city. Faced with the danger of being surrounded and unable to smash through the city's defences, the KMT troops broke off the battle on December 23 and fled towards the Indo-China border.

Even before peace and order had been fully restored in Kunming, most workers were back on their jobs. Ninety-eight factories resumed operations within a few days. Led by their unions which could now function openly, the workers compiled detailed factory inventories and prepared reports on ways to increase production. Everything was in readiness by February 20 when the long-awaited PLA reached Kunming.

The local population formed a welcoming procession five kilometres long that paraded out of the city to greet the people's army. The workers' delegates marched proudly at the head, many still swathed in bandages.

When the procession met the advance PLA unit, the workers and soldiers first shook hands somewhat shyly, but two seconds later they had flung their arms about each other's necks. Cheers went up all along the highway, though some workers stood speechless with emotion as tears of joy flowed down their cheeks.

(Continued on page 21)

Hsieh Shih-shan, Dairen's Study Model

Fei Liang

When Hsieh Shih-shan was accepted as a candidate member of the Communist Party on Dec. 1, 1949, a comrade from the District Committee of the Port Arthur-Dairen Area told the meeting:

"We have before us in Comrade Hsieh a vivid example of the creative capacity of workers, and of what workers can achieve in a People's Democracy once the yoke of imperialism and feudalism is broken. Until the liberation, Hsieh Shih-shan was a mere coolie at the Dairen Fishing Corporation. His job then consisted principally of carrying logs and tinplates and cleaning the refrigerators. He could neither read nor write. Now he knows 1,400 characters and has been chosen as First Class Study Model in our district. A month ago, Comrade Hsieh was elected by his fellow-workers as the manager of his department. Why has Hsieh Shih-shan been so honoured? Once he had been liberated from his sufferings under the feudal system and Japanese imperialism, he devoted himself to raising both his cultural level and his labour technique so that he could serve the new society better. His fellow-workers chose him for their manager because they had confidence in a person who was always ready to learn and who had demonstrated the utmost tenacity, determination and selflessness. For the same reasons, the Party now proudly welcomes such a comrade into its ranks."

Hsieh Shih-shan's acceptance into the Communist Party climaxed a long and bitter struggle to rid himself of the poverty, illiteracy and other backward features imposed by the old society.

Until he was awakened politically, Hsieh used to blame all his misfortunes on his inability to read and write. This is not difficult to understand. He started his life as a cowherd, first in his native Shantung province where he was born 35 years ago and later in

Manchuria where his family migrated. In those days, his lack of education never bothered him. He would be beaten by the landlord for losing a cow but he was never beaten because he could not read and write.

But when his family moved to the city, illiteracy became a great problem for the first time in Hsieh's life. When he applied for a job in a Japanese chemical factory in Dairen, he was told curtly: "Fill out the application form in the usual way." Hsieh had to go from door to door until he found a good-hearted butcher willing to help him make out his application. Watching the greasy hand swiftly move the brush up and down the application blank, Hsieh was filled with gratitude and envy.

Since Hsieh had no mechanical skill and could not read, he could only hope for a job as a coolie. For 35 cents a day, he worked from dawn to dusk as a beast of burden. But Hsieh did not have a strong physique because he had always lived on the verge of starvation. Often when carrying a heavy load, his legs collapsed under him. Whenever this happened, the Japanese foreman would beat him with a hemp whip. At night, as Hsieh washed blood from his back, he would curse the fate that had kept him illiterate so that he was unable to get a better job.

When World War II started and the Allies threw a tight blockade around Japan and Manchuria, Hsieh's factory found itself running short of raw materials. One morning all the workers were told to assemble in the factory yard. As their names were called out, each received a chalk-mark on his back, either a circle or a cross. Hsieh received a cross. When the procedure was completed, the management announced that all those with cross-marks were fired. Throughout the ensuing months when Hsieh and his family begged

in the streets of Dairen, he cherished the belief that had he only been literate, he would not have been dismissed from his job.

Eventually Hsieh managed to get taken on as a coolie by the Dairen Fishing Corporation. This was a large enterprise employing 2,800 workers with various departments for making fishing equipment and for processing fish products. Hsieh was assigned to the refrigerating department.

Here he was still plagued by his inability to read. At the factory gate stood a huge board with small bamboo tablets bearing the names of each worker. To check in, a worker turned his tablet face down. There were always many workers jostling about the board and Hsieh still had great difficulty in recognizing his name. Sometimes he had so much trouble in finding his tablet that he was late to work and his pay was docked. In the end, he tied a small red string on his tablet to help him locate it. This led to his acquiring the nickname of "the man who does not recognize himself."

In August, 1945, an event occurred that affected not only the life of Hsieh Shih-shan but all the oppressed and down-trodden people of Manchuria. Northeast China was liberated, and on the 22nd, the Soviet Army marched into Dairen. When a group of Soviet army men inspected the Dairen Fishing Corporation, an officer made a brief speech to the workers through an interpreter:

"The people of China and of the Soviet Union are eternal friends. We have come here to liberate you—that is, to make you master of your society instead of its slave. But it is up to you to work hard and prepare yourselves to assume the role of master. We will help you in this task by placing every necessary facility at your disposal."

Hsieh was deeply impressed by the friendliness and sincerity of

these brief remarks. When a trade union branch was formed in his factory, he was among the first to join. Now in addition to his regular wages, he received a monthly grain allowance to cover price fluctuations and two suits of clothing per year. His family could learn what it was like to have full stomachs, and he even could afford to take a wife. As far as material things went, he had never been better off. But still Hsieh was not entirely satisfied.

The Japanese technicians and administrators continued to work at the factory, though they were no longer free to beat or discharge workers at will. Hsieh brought up this question that bothered him at a trade union meeting, asking why the Japanese should still "sit on our necks." The subject was subsequently discussed at some length. Hsieh and the other workers finally realized that the Japanese remained because as yet no Chinese workers had the technical qualifications needed to replace them in their jobs. They lacked these qualifications, the workers learned, not because of intrinsic stupidity or "ill fate," but because they had been so heavily oppressed under the double exploitation of feudalism and imperialism that their lives were hardly better than those of animals. Thinking these things over, Hsieh realized more clearly what the Soviet comrade had meant when he said: "It is up to you to work hard and prepare yourselves to assume the role of master."

Hsieh had always been very curious about the 500 h.p. compressor which he was assigned to keep clean and polished. Once before liberation, he had secretly switched off the current and taken the machine to pieces in order to see how it worked.

Now at last he had a chance to learn all the things he had wanted to know. The trade union opened literacy classes and the factory offered courses in technical training.

"It was like riding two horses at once," Hsieh once said in discussing his studies. He threw himself into the task of gaining an education with such diligence that his wife finally complained of his indiffer-

A Biographical Note:

LIU SHAO-CHI

Liu Shao-chi, Honorary President of the All-China Federation of Labour, is one of the early leaders of the modern Chinese revolutionary movement and of the trade union movement.

Liu Shao-chi was born in 1900 in Ningsiang county, Hunan province. As a student in 1920, he joined the Socialist Youth League. The following year he became one of the foundation members of the Chinese Communist Party. In the spring of 1922, he was appointed to the Secretariat of the Chinese Labour Organization, the predecessor of the ACFL.

In the autumn of the same year, he became the first president of the Anyuan Trade Union in the famous Pinghsiang Mining Area of Kiangsi province. This union developed into one of the strongest and most militant units in the early trade union movement.

Comrade Liu helped to prepare the ground work for the Second All-China Labour Congress in Canton on May 1, 1925. The ACFL was founded by this Congress, and Liu Shao-chi was elected Vice-Chairman of the new Federation.

Later in the year he went to Shanghai, where the revolutionary movement was developing rapidly, and worked for a time in the Shanghai Trade Union Council. That winter he returned to the Federation Headquarters in Canton.

In 1926, he went with the ACFL Headquarters to Wuhan.

When the 1927 Northern Expedition swept to Central China, he worked also in the Trade Union Council of Hupeh province in the same city. After the failure of the great revolution in 1927, Liu went underground and continued to direct the revolutionary trade union movement. In the autumn of 1932, he went to the Kiangsi revolutionary base from where he still carried on his trade union work.

Between 1936 and 1942, Comrade Liu was secretary successively of the Northern Bureau, Central Plains Bureau and Central China Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Since 1932 he has been a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. From 1943 onwards, he has been a member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Party and Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Revolutionary Military Committee.

In September, 1949, the Chinese People's PCC elected Liu Shao-chi one of the six Vice-Chairmen of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China.

ence to family matters. He was often late for dinner, and immediately after eating, he would turn to the crude blackboard he had made and hung on the end of his bed. Once he tried to persuade his wife to study as well, but she

replied by throwing his black-board out of the window. However, not even his wife's constant nagging could pry him from his studies.

Despite his eagerness to learn as quickly as possible, Hsieh generous-
(Continued on page 26)

The All-China Federation of Labour

Brief History

The All-China Federation of Labour (ACFL) was formed at the Second All-China Labour Congress convened on May 1, 1925, in Canton. Comrade Liu Wei-ming was elected President and Comrade Liu Shao-chi, Vice-President.

The ACFL headquarters were moved to Wuhan in the autumn of 1926, and carried out large-scale organizational work in support of the Great Revolution. It had 2,800,000 members.

After the failure of the Great Revolution, it was forced underground, but continued to organize the workers.

During the Anti-Japanese War, the personnel of the ACFL had to divide into three groups: the first took part in guerrilla warfare behind the enemy lines, the second carried on underground work in enemy-occupied areas while the third went to KMT-controlled areas and combined with the Chinese Labour Association in development of legal activities. These diversified activities played an important role in the defeat of the Japanese fascist invaders.

At the Sixth All-China Labour Congress held in Harbin, August, 1948, it was unanimously resolved that the ACFL be restored to function as the supreme leading organ of the trade union movement in China.

Aims

The ACFL aims "to unite the workers of the whole country; to protect their interests; to fight for the liberation of the working class of China; to fight for the liberation of the people of China in alliance with the oppressed people of the whole country; to safeguard world peace and democracy in alliance with the workers of the whole world." (Article 2, Constitution of the ACFL.)

Organization

The Honorary President is Liu Shao-chi; the President is Chen

Yun. Li Li-san, Chu Hsueh-fan and Liu Ning-I are the Vice-Presidents.

The Executive Committee is composed of 53 members and 20 alternate members.

The ACFL has a Secretariat and eight departments. The Secretariat is in charge of general affairs, clerical work and accounts.

1. The Organizational Department is in charge of the organizational affairs of the affiliated trade unions and assists organized workers to form their trade unions.

2. The Department of Education and Culture is in charge of the development of the cultural and educational activities of the workers.

3. The Production Department directs the affiliated trade unions in their participation in the administration of factories and enterprises, promotes the labour emulation and labour hero movements, considers production plans, studies and exchanges technical experience and undertakes other work concerning production.

4. The Wages Department studies the question of wages and aids measures to bring about a unified wage system in China in accordance with the principles of "pay according to work done" and "equal pay for equal work."

5. Labour Protection Department administers and directs labour insurance affairs, examines labour contracts, assists in the welfare work of the affiliated trade unions and aids the government in inspecting hygiene and safety measures in factories.

6. The Young Workers' Department administers and directs affairs concerning the juvenile workers of the trade unions.

7. The Women Workers' Department administers and directs affairs concerning the women workers of the trade unions.

8. The International Liaison Department is in charge of the foreign publicity work of the ACFL and of liaison work with inter-

national and foreign national trade union organizations.

Finance

The ACFL receives, every three months, 30% of the membership dues paid into its affiliated trade unions.

Membership

The ACFL had 2,830,000 members in August, 1948, and according to incomplete data, its membership increased to approximately 4,000,000 by March, 1950.

Present Tasks

1. To organize and lead the workers in rehabilitating and developing production.

2. To organize and educate the working masses in support of the Central People's Government, to implement every order issued by the Government and promote the best cadres of the workers to participate in the work of government organs at all levels.

3. To protect the interests of the working class and improve the livelihood of the workers.

4. To intensify political, cultural and technical education among the working masses.

5. To organize, expand and consolidate the organizations of the trade unions in order to fulfil the above-mentioned tasks.

(Continued from page 18)

The head of the trade union delegation went up to the PLA commander and presented him with a large basket filled with flowers, towels and shoes.

"Comrades, welcome, welcome..."

He had to stop and regain his composure before continuing:

"Here are a few small gifts for you and your men. They are not much. But we have something more to offer—our factories and our machines. We have kept everything intact, and not a single screw is missing."

CURRENT CHINA

April 11—25, 1950.



Hainan Landing

The PLA's Fourth Army, famed as the liberator of Manchuria and southern China, landed in force on Hainan Island during the early hours of April 17. After quickly consolidating a broad beach-head along the northwestern coast, the people's forces fanned out in three columns, crashing through one long-prepared KMT defence line after another with the help of veteran local guerrilla units and the people of Hainan. Six days later, on the 23rd, General Lin Piao's troops liberated Hoihow, the island's capital, lying 40 or 50 kilometres from the original landing points. This strongly fortified city had previously been the headquarters of Gen. Hsueh Yueh, top KMT commander on the island, as well as the seat of the KMT South China administration. Within the first week of its full-scale offensive, the PLA routed six KMT divisions and liberated numerous strategic towns and villages, including the county seats of Kiungshan and Linkao.

The Hainan Campaign had been preceded by four small experimental landings in March. All of these amphibious operations came

under heavy KMT attack, nevertheless they managed to carry out their task of reinforcing the Hainan people's armed forces, under Gen. Feng Pai-chu, and of preparing the groundwork for the major offensive.

The people of Hainan have been steadfastly resisting their oppressors since 1927, when, under Communist leadership, they created the Independent Division of the Workers and Peasants' Red Army. After the Japanese Itagaki Division invaded Hainan in February, 1939, this armed unit was expanded into the Hainan People's Anti-Japanese Self-Defence Corps. Fighting under tremendous handicaps and sometimes reduced to using stones as weapons, the Hainan column put up heroic resistance and kept strong Japanese forces immobilized on the island to the end of World War II. The Hainan people's forces again took up arms when Chiang launched his civil war, and they had succeeded in liberating three quarters of the island by the time of the PLA landing.

Hainan, with an area of 13,974 square miles and a population of three million, is China's second largest island after Taiwan. It is the southernmost region of China facing Viet-Nam across the Gulf of Tonkin. The area's mountainous sectors are rich in mineral resources, including high grade iron ore and wolfram, and its fertile fields produce three crops a year. With its three excellent harbours, it forms an important defence post guarding the air and sea approaches to South China.

The Hainan landings, — which involved cutting diagonally across the twenty-odd kilometres of the Hainan Straits with junks and small launches in the face of desperate KMT naval and aerial

opposition — proves that the PLA is as invincible on sea as on land and paves the way for the liberation of Taiwan, Chiang Kai-shek's last remaining foot-hold on Chinese soil. The PLA's Kwangtung Military Headquarters might well have been addressing all the scattered remnants of Chiang's troops when it issued a proclamation to the KMT Hainan forces which said, in part:

"This unprecedented and heroic action of the PLA has broken the illusion that Chiang's gang can maintain its last-ditch existence by relying on the ocean. . . . You hope that Chiang will counter-attack on the mainland! Have you forgotten his 7,500,000 troops that were almost completely annihilated on the mainland? You dream of a third world war! Have you forgotten the history of the past two world wars? How many troops did the Americans use; how many battles did they fight or win? . . . Did they not rely on others to make the sacrifices while they enjoyed the fruits? Wake up from your dreams! Two roads lie open to you: — either die for Chiang Kai-shek or live for yourselves!"

May Day

Workers throughout the nation plan to celebrate May Day by presenting the nation with new production records and labour achievements. Many of the Sino-Soviet factories in Dairen aim to complete their half-year's production plan by May Day. The Shanghai Steel Company has already topped its highest record for steel ingots production in honour of the occasion. Workers of the Linkow railway factory near Harbin intend to surpass the recent record they made when 17 locomotives completed 1,000,000 kilometres of perfect running.



by Jack Chen

Workers all over China will also take the occasion of this day commemorating international labour solidarity to demonstrate their strong class support for those temporarily unemployed in Shanghai due to the transition from a colonial type of economy to a healthy, independent, New Democratic economy. Most workers have pledged to work overtime on either April 30 or May 1 in order to send a day's pay to their unemployed fellow-workers. This fund, swelled by generous donations from the workers of grain, clothing and money, will be used to supplement the government's grain allocation for the relief of Shanghai's unemployed.

New Marriage Law

The Central People's Government Council passed a new marriage law on April 13 which ends the age-old feudal oppression and exploitation of women in China. The new measure implements the principle of equality for women which was laid in the Common Program of the Chinese People's PCC as follows: "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."

The new law provides that men of twenty and women of eighteen are free to marry whom they please, and that no third person may interfere with a marriage based on mutual consent. Thus the old custom by which the parents arranged marriages for their children without consulting the wishes of the couple involved has been legally abolished. The new law also outlaws all forms of polygamy and child betrothal or marriage.

This law stipulates that husbands and wives have equal rights and obligations in the home. Both parties have the right to retain the use of their own names, to choose their own professions and to take part in social activities.

Divorce is permitted under the new law if both parties desire it. If only one party wants a divorce,

it will only be granted after efforts to effect a conciliation have failed. After divorce, both parties remain equally responsible for their children, no matter with whom the children are living. Children born out of wedlock have the same rights as all children and no discrimination is permitted. A divorced wife may retain property belonging to her before marriage, and the division of other household property is subject to negotiation between the two parties.

The sweeping significance of this new marriage law can only be fully realized when viewed against the unjust traditions of China's old society, under which women were completely subjugated to their fathers, husbands or sons throughout their lives.

As Shih Liang, China's first woman Minister of Justice, commented: "Women need special support if they are to attain real equality. After land reform, women who had been victims of unreasonable marriage arrangements in the past now have land in their own right. Their economic status has been raised and they are no longer subject to their husband's economic bondage."

The Peking *People's Daily* hailed the new measure as "the crystallization of the long experiences of the labouring people's struggle against feudalism."

Sino-Soviet Pacts

A trade agreement and an agreement covering goods to be exchanged in 1950 were signed in Moscow on April 19 by Chinese Minister of Trade, Yeh Chi-chuang, and Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade, M. A. Menshikov. A protocol was signed at the same time concerning Soviet delivery to China in the next two years of equipment and materials obtained with the credit extended to China in the agreement of Feb. 14.

The Sino-Soviet treaty and agreements signed in Moscow on Feb. 14 were ratified by the Central People's Government Council at its sixth meeting on April 11. On April 21, the Government Administration Council ratified the Sino-

Soviet agreements regarding the establishment of a joint civil aviation company and two joint stock companies to develop the petroleum and non-ferrous metal industries in Sinkiang. These agreements had been signed on March 27.

Peace Front

The first anniversary of the founding of the World Peace Congress was widely celebrated throughout China. Peking observed the occasion with a large meeting on April 20 addressed by Kuo Mo-jo, chairman of the China Committee of the W.P.C., and Emi Siao, Chinese delegate to the third session of the Permanent Committee of the W.P.C. who reported on the recent Stockholm meeting.

On April 18, a joint declaration supporting the Permanent Committee's call for the abolishment of atomic weapons was issued by the Chinese national federations of labour, women, youth and students. The Chinese Committee of the W.P.C. has announced a drive to collect signatures of those who endorse the Permanent Committee's statement on atomic warfare. On May Day, the China Committee will establish branches in many leading cities, including Shanghai and Nanking.

CORRECTION

The title on page 24 of this issue should read: "A New Life for Anshan Steel Workers."

In *Ke Ta*—"A Furnace of Revolution" which appeared in our last issue, the second half of the last paragraph on Page 17 should read thus: "Of the 6,000 students in the second term, for instance, excluding those in the First Section, 2,100 were fresh from bourgeois schools; 640 were former KMT government employees; over 400 were school teachers and lawyers; 500 had been members of the KMT police and armed forces; 140 were workers; 60 were wealthy capitalists; 50 were landlords; and 40 were merchants. According to the family background of part of the students, roughly 800 came from feudal land-owning families, . . ."

A New Life for Anshan Steel Works

Our Special Correspondent

Old Tsao started work at the Anshan Iron and Steel Works twenty years ago as an apprentice welder. Life in this Manchurian steel centre was grim enough under the Japanese imperialists, but according to old Tsao, conditions became ten times worse when the KMT scoundrels returned and took over his mill. In those days, no matter how hard you worked, you still had to make regular trips to the pawn shop and even then, your children steadily grew thinner and sickened right before your eyes.

Today, less than two years after liberation, old Tsao is earning enough to feed and clothe his family well, and for the first time in his life, he has a savings account in the bank. Perhaps even more remarkable, Tsao's family no longer lives in slum district of Anshan where he was born and reared. They have moved to a two-room flat in a large three-storey concrete building, equipped with central heating, running water and other modern conveniences. This is one of many such dwellings which the government-run Anshan Iron and Steel Works is building to house its employees. Until enough houses go up to cope with the need, workers with the longest record of service like Tsao are being given priority.

Tsao's wife took me out to the back of their apartment building to see her vegetable plot and her pigsty.

"Just look what those pigs have to eat," she said, drawing my attention to the mash in the trough. "Only a few years ago, my children hardly ever ate as good a meal as that. We used to consume every edible scrap in the house, and still we went hungry. I could never have dreamed of fattening up some pigs."

You might have heard the same story in any worker's home that you entered. Leng Yueh-lin, for instance, who is a stoker in the steel mill, would have told you that within the last seven months, he has earned enough money to buy his family two new quilts, two suits of cotton-padded clothes, two long gowns, four sets of woolen underwear, four sets of cotton underclothing, a pair of shoes and a fur cap. This was the first winter since 1931, when the Japanese came, that his family had not suffered from cold during the bitter Manchurian winter.

Between February and August, 1949, the workers' wages at the Anshan Iron and Steel Works rose 68 per cent. In February, the average wage was boosted from 260 catties of *kaoliang* (sorghum) per month to 370 catties. In August, average wages rose to 435 catties. Pay checks have steadily increased since then, while price levels have remained fairly stable and even, in some instances, declined considerably.

The cafeterias set up by the mill for its workers also tell the story of greater prosperity among the workers. Last summer the management set up restaurants in every plant and in all the large dormitories for single workers. Even though food was served at cost prices, many workers still could not afford to eat a full meal

or have meat dishes with their dinner. Today these mess halls are crowded at the end of each shift, and the workers freely order large nourishing meals to satisfy their hunger and to give themselves greater energy for raising production.

Six thousand of the steel mill's unmarried workers have moved into eight modern concrete dormitories. The men live five to a large room, and their living quarters are tastefully furnished with beds, writing tables, chairs and lamps. Each building is centrally heated and contains facilities for hot baths. Several more dormitories are under construction, as well as large dwelling units for families.

The mill has also set up several co-operative stores to save the workers both time and money. Prices are cheaper than elsewhere, and the workers, if they wish, may pay for their purchases by instalments. Last autumn before the weather turned cold, the co-operative stores put 30,000 padded winter garments on sale at prices one third less than standard retail shops were asking. In order that every worker could outfit his family warmly, the co-operatives offered long-term instalment plans to their customers. In addition to these co-operatives, there are also small shops in the dormitories which sell stationary and tobacco or do tailoring, shoe-repairing and such odd jobs. The Anshan Iron and Steel Works provides a picture of new living conditions for workers that is being duplicated in all state-run mines and mills. Naturally, in industrial centres liberated more recently, facilities for workers still lag behind those established at Anshan. However, one may confidently predict that before very long, industrial workers in all parts of China will be enjoying the new life that Anshan steel workers have attained.



A Cooperative Store

Workers' Cultural Club



On May Day, the workers of China's new national capital will celebrate the founding of their first Palace of Culture. It will be a real palace in every sense of the word, for it is located in one of the yellow-tiled imperial buildings of the ancient Forbidden City. Generations of the Manchu royal family paid homage to the memory of their ancestors in *Tai Miao*, which later housed part of the Palace Museum. Now this majestic ancestral temple has been redecorated and equipped for the use of the true masters of society — the working people.

Tai Miao is surrounded by a famous grove of cypress trees that date back several centuries. These regal trees now form the backdrop for an open-air theatre with a seating capacity of 3,000. Nearby, a large athletic field is being laid out for the city's workers. An adjacent building that formerly contained the Museum Library is to be remodelled as a reading room for workers. Other sections of this ancient building will be turned into recreation rooms and conference halls for workers.

The Peking Workers' Cultural Club will launch its activities on opening day by presenting an exhibition of drawings and paintings by local workers. The Workers' Club has already organized training courses in music and dancing for the city's labouring population. Members of the Central Dramatic Academy and the People's Art Theatre of Peking have agreed to help with the instruction.

Peking is the third city in North China to establish a city-wide cultural centre for workers. Both Shihchiachuang and Tientsin have already set up such facilities.

The Tientsin Workers' Cultural Club will climax its May Day activities with a drama competition. This club opened on New Year's Day in the former Hai-Alai Auditorium on Min Tsu Road. The huge four-storey building, which formerly catered to the wealthy leisure class and professional gamblers, is now crowded with thousands of workers even on week-days. The Hai-Alai court has become a gymnasium where factory teams hold basket-ball and volley-ball competitions. Additional athletic fields will soon be built in the grounds surrounding the former gambling den.

An art gallery has been opened on the ground floor which is currently displaying drawings and posters created by workers. There are also photographs of labour heroes and labour models, together with accounts of their record production efforts. The former bar-room has been turned into a recreation room with ping-pong tables and chess sets placed at the workers' disposal. The first floor now contains a library and reading room. The ball-room on the third floor has been transformed into a small theatre seating 500 which is used for conferences, amateur theatricals and motion pictures. The spacious roof garden has also been placed at the workers' disposal.

During its first three months, the Tientsin Workers' Cultural Club has presented 174 dramatic and musical performances, 20 lectures on cultural subjects and 60 scheduled athletic matches. In addition, the Club has arranged for the presentation of motion pictures and plays in various factories and mills throughout the city.

El Popola Cinio

In May, a new magazine for foreign readers will start publication in Peking. This will be a monthly published in Esperanto, entitled *El Popola Cinio* (From People's China).

The periodical will devote itself to the task of explaining the new life and struggles of the Chinese people as they join hands to build a new nation and safeguard world peace. *El Popola Cinio* will also become an instrument through which the Esperantists throughout the world may exchange their experiences in fighting for peace and constructing a new world.

The first issue will carry the recent manifesto on the defence of world peace issued jointly by the national federations of labour, women, youth and students. Other articles will tell about the production movements sweeping China today, mass education among the peasants and workers, rural life in Northeast China, and the gigantic Yangtse River flood-control project. This issue will also contain a short story by Chao Shu-li, poems by Ai Ching and Tien Chien, and woodcuts by various prominent artists.

Ever since 1906, when the Esperanto movement began, Chinese progressives have been among the most active promoters of this international language. Esperanto societies and classes, libraries and bookshops, were established in most of China's leading cities. During the period of KMT terror, the Esperanto movement grew rapidly because it provided one of the few ways left to disseminate revolutionary literature. When the international workers' Esperanto movement split into two camps, the bulk of the Chinese Esperantists lined themselves up squarely behind the proletarian-led left-wing group.

Workers Restore Manchuria's Industry

(Continued from page 8)

cultural and technical level. To help solve this problem, the trade unions organized 3,624 part-time schools during 1949. (Data from one province is lacking, as well as from the trade union councils covering the electrical industry, postal and tele-communication industry, timber industry and textile industry.) There are 3,000 full-time teachers helping more than 200,000 workers to learn. The number of teachers is still insufficient. In many places, the more advanced students are therefore helping the less advanced ones. There is also a shortage of class rooms. Clubs, factory yards and parks, dormitories, mess halls and workshops are often used for holding classes. None of these unfavourable conditions has dampened the workers' enthusiasm for learning. Although Chinese characters are difficult for beginners to learn, an illiterate can acquire a stock of 700 to 800 characters after one year's study. Liu Mei-lan, a woman worker in Dairen, learned 2,000 words in one year. She is now the secretary of a branch office of the New Democratic Youth League and can prepare her written reports without difficulty.

The workers are also enthusiastically studying to raise their technical skills, especially since the New Record Movement commenced. The railway trade union and the Port Arthur-Dairen unions alone have set up 528 spare-time technological schools, with an enrolment of 16,000 workers. The workers in Manchuria will forever be grateful to the Soviet experts who have extended such invaluable help to them in this respect.

The Party and the trade unions have always paid great attention to the political education of the workers. Many regular political training classes have been established. In addition, every commemorative occasion is used to give further political education to the workers.

Workers throughout Manchuria have joined the Sino-Soviet Friend-

ship Association in great numbers. Like workers in the rest of China, the Manchurian workers are greatly interested in learning about reconstruction in the Soviet Union and the activities of their fellow workers there. The spirit of international friendship displayed by the Soviet people, and especially their unselfish help to the Chinese people, have impressed every worker in Manchuria. The Soviet people have provided us with examples of rising living standards and of increasing productive capacity that inspire us to march forward courageously along the route charted by Lenin and Stalin. We also find inspiration in the revolutionary struggles of the working class in capitalist and colonial countries, and we rejoice in their victories in the same way that we rejoice in our own victories.

HSIEH SHIH-SHAN

(Continued from page 20)

ly gave his time to others who found it more difficult to grasp all the new things they studied in class. His readiness to help anyone who approached him was one of the factors behind his widespread popularity among his fellow-workers. In time, he was elected to a trade union position, which took still more hours from his studies. In carrying out the job, however he displayed exceptional ability in organizing whatever work needed to be done.

Hsieh, who by now had been placed in charge of the compressor in the refrigerating department, also demonstrated outstanding ingenuity in repairing this old machine. Even during the Japanese occupation, the machine had gone out of order frequently. After Hsieh made a number of improvements, the compressor ran for six months without a break-down. As a direct result, ice production rose from 18,000 tons to 24,000 tons per month.

On the fourth anniversary of the factory's liberation, conditions warranted a trade union proposal that Chinese workers take over the jobs of the remaining Japanese technicians and administrators in the factory.

On October 15, factory-wide elections were held to select the workers who would replace the Japanese officials. Hsieh was chosen to be manager of the refrigerating department.

That day, however, Hsieh went home as if nothing had happened. As usual, he tried to read all the advertisements in the tram. After dinner, he practised writing characters on his blackboard. Later in the evening, a group of Hsieh's colleagues dropped in to congratulate him on his new position. Then for the first time his wife learned about her husband's unbelievable achievement of becoming a department manager. Finally, she turned to Hsieh and said:

"I never dreamed this ugly old blackboard that clutters up the room could make such a hero out of you."

A month later, Hsieh's studiousness brought him still more honours. The Port Arthur-Dairen government had launched a vast literacy campaign at the start of 1949. Elections were held in November to select the best students as Models in Study.

The results of the election were announced on November 25. Hsieh had been voted a First Class Model of the area. The announcement explained that Hsieh earned this honour for three reasons: (1) he had shown outstanding diligence and tenacity in mastering 1,400 characters in such a short time; (2) he had displayed equal diligence in helping his fellow-workers with their studies; and (3) he had correctly combined his studies to improve both his cultural and technical knowledge.

Asked to make a speech on this occasion, Hsieh said:

"I once felt that trying to study characters and technique at the same time was like riding two horses. But, comrades, I was wrong. The two together are only one horse. And as we gallop ahead, our sense of responsibility as workers increases. We must learn more and more, until we have equipped ourselves to carry out our task of building a new China."

The End of Gang Rule in Transport

(Continued from page 12)

text of raising a fund to bribe the KMT courts into releasing his men. Even in this instance he cheated his followers, for the grain went into his pocket and the imprisoned workers remained behind bars.

Chang's workers had endless stories like this to tell. They also told how he had appropriated their wives at will. His record of crimes included working for both the Japanese and the KMT secret police, and he was proved directly responsible for the execution of at least ten patriotic workers.

On the basis of the transport workers' testimony in court, both Chang and Tsui were convicted and sentenced to death. Their fortunes were handed over to the Transport Union to be democratically distributed among the workers whose labour had created this wealth. Their houses were confiscated and turned into schools for workers' children.

After this initial success, Pengpu's transport workers quickly dealt with the remaining 17 big gang bosses in the city. A few met the same fate as Chang Hsiao-yun; others received lighter punishments. Some made full confessions and threw themselves on the mercy of their former victims, knowing that the government favoured giving all truly repentant criminals another chance to become useful members of society, earning an honest living through their own labours.

Today it is the Pengpu workers themselves who dictate conditions in transport work. They have voluntarily reduced transportation charges by 20 per cent, unified the system of payment, and abolished the humiliating tipping system. In spite of lowered transport fees, the workers' wages are higher than ever before because now all earnings go to those who do the work. Since transport workers now make a great point of offering efficient and courteous service, travellers and merchants no longer need fear that their goods will be pilfered or lost en route.

The Transport Trade Union has been completely reorganized. Hooligans have been ousted from membership, and new elections ensured that all union posts are filled with the most active and competent workers. Eighty per cent of the eligible workers have joined the union. One of the most imposing buildings in Pengpu—a former bank owned by bureaucratic capital—has been taken over for the union's headquarters.

The transport union has set up many facilities for its members. In addition to running several schools, it has established a co-operative store that supplies daily necessities below market price. There is a union restaurant serving hot meals at 20 or 30 per cent below street prices. The union has also established a bath house and a barber shop, where members receive a 50 per cent discount. It is even running a flour mill, which not only serves the mem-

bership but helps defray union expenses. All the jobs in these various enterprises are filled by former transport workers.

In Pengpu, like many other cities, there have always been too many people trying to earn a living in transport work, with the result that cut-throat competition undermined the living standards of all. It was therefore necessary after liberation to pare the transport labour force down to more realistic proportions. The trade union helped resettle many workers on government-provided land by supplying travelling expenses and loans. The union also offered vocational training to members who wanted to learn new trades and granted loans enabling groups of workers to go into business on their own. Workers have also been directed to jobs on government irrigation projects, highway construction, etc.

This pattern for overthrowing the feudal gang system and improving the workers' conditions has been duplicated with minor variations throughout the country. According to a survey made this January, 313,768 of some half-million transport workers had already been organized in 50 leading cities (not including the newly-liberated southwestern areas of China).

In February, the First All-China Congress of Transport Workers met in Peking and elected the national trade union leadership.

Less than two months later, acting upon a proposal submitted by this Congress, the Government Administration Council decreed the abolition of the gang labour system in transport. The Council simultaneously ordered all major transport centres to set up state transport companies. These are to be operated by municipal bodies in close co-operation with the trade unions. A union delegate is to serve as vice-chairman of the board of directors. A proportion of the company's income will be handed over to the local union for its educational and welfare programs. The transport companies will also set aside funds to repair or construct local transport facilities, such as wharves and warehouses.

The government regulation specified that private transport companies are allowed to continue operations. However, they must abide by a unified schedule of rates drawn up jointly by the public and private companies.

As a result of these measures, which are being rapidly implemented throughout the country, a free and unrestricted flow of commodities is ensured at cheap, standardized rates. This in itself will have a tremendously stimulating effect upon production and new construction in all corners of China. But such developments would only have been possible in a strong people's republic where the workers are powerful enough to overthrow the gang labour system and free themselves from centuries of oppression.

北京市軍事管制委員會報紙雜誌通訊社臨時登記證新字第七七號
 經華北郵政總局登記認爲第一類新聞紙類登記證第一〇一號

RADIO PEKING

Radio Peking, the New China Broadcasting Station's International Broadcasting Service, transmits daily the following programmes of news and commentaries:

	10:00 — 10:30	GMT	18:00 — 18:30	Peking Time
Japanese	10:00 — 10:30	GMT	18:00 — 18:30	Peking Time
Indonesian	10:30 — 11:00	„	18:30 — 19:00	„ „
Amoy dialect	11:00 — 11:30	„	19:00 — 19:30	„ „
Ke Chia dialect	11:30 — 12:00	„	19:30 — 20:00	„ „
Viet-Nameese	12:00 — 12:30	„	20:00 — 20:30	„ „
Cantonese dialect	12:30 — 13:00	„	20:30 — 21:00	„ „
Standard Chinese	13:00 — 13:30	„	21:00 — 21:30	„ „
English	13:30 — 14:00	„	21:30 — 22:00	„ „
Siamese	14:00 — 14:30	„	22:00 — 22:30	„ „
Chao Chou dialect	14:30 — 15:00	„	22:30 — 23:00	„ „
Burmese	15:00 — 15:30	„	23:00 — 23:30	„ „

News in Chinese at dictation speed for Overseas listeners is broadcast daily at 08:30 GMT

Broadcasts are on the following wave lengths and frequencies:
 428.57 metres: 700 kilocycles
 29.24 „ : 10.26 megacycles
 19.92 „ : 15.06 „

Programmes in Korean, Mongolian and Tibetan will be added in May

PUBLICATIONS ON CHINA

- IN ENGLISH :**
- Women in New China US\$0.30
 - Three Years of the Chinese People's Liberation War US\$0.30
 - Important Documents of the First Plenary Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference US\$0.20
 - Mao Tse-tung: On the People's Democratic Dictatorship US\$0.20
- IN FRENCH :**
- Documents importants de la Première Session Plénière de la Conférence Consultative Politique du Peuple Chinois US\$0.20
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To Our Readers

Now that *People's China* is entering its fifth month of publication, we feel that you will have had some opportunity to form an opinion about our publication. We sincerely welcome all your comments and suggestions for improvement so that we can better satisfy your desire for information about the new China.

For your greater convenience, we have drawn up the following questionnaire, which we hope you will be good enough to fill out and return to us.

1. *Which of our articles you have found most interesting?*
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3. *What do you think of our regular sections:—Current China, Cultural World and the Pictorial Section?*
4. *What are some of the topics you would like to know more about?*
5. *What kind of opinion about this magazine have your friends expressed?*
6. *Would you prefer the magazine to publish more theoretical or informative articles?*
7. *Would you prefer to have our magazine devote part of its space to translations of literary works now being produced in New Democratic China?*
8. *What other suggestions can you give us for improving this magazine?*
9. *How long does it generally take for you to receive your copy? Have you any difficulty in obtaining the magazine?*
10. *Please list the names and addresses of your friends to whom you would like us to send introductory gift copies.*