

# People's China

人民中国

May 1, 1951

**People's China Greet May Day**  
(Editorial)

**NEW CHINA FORGES AHEAD**  
Soong Ching Ling

**Labour Insurance in China**  
Chu Hsueh-fan

**9**

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the Viet-Nam Lao Dong Party*

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# People's China

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## People's China Greet May Day

The working people of the Chinese People's Republic greet the second May Day since their liberation with boundless joy. They celebrate the great day of proletarian solidarity against a background of new victories in the work of peaceful New Democratic construction and in the struggle for lasting world peace against the American imperialist aggressors.

The past year has been one of rapid rehabilitation and reconstruction of agriculture, industry and transport. Production has swiftly increased; the national currency has been strengthened; prices stabilised; domestic and foreign trade has continued to increase. A sound basis has been laid for the development of the whole national economy. In Northeast China alone, the mighty smelting of the nation, the value of industrial production in 1950 was 117.3 per cent of 1949.

The land reform has been completed in the main in an area with a rural population of 275,000,000. The vast release of creative energy of the toilers of the countryside, freed from semi-feudal slavery, has resulted in astounding achievements. In the first year of its existence People's China has solved the problems of food and clothing for the people. Agriculture in 1950 gave the country 10 million tons of grain more than in 1949 as well as large amounts of cotton and other products. China not only did not import, but exported grain. That other age-old problem of preventing floods has also been fundamentally solved. These achievements are unparalleled in the history of the nation. They have produced transformations in the life of the people that a few years ago under the reactionary rule of the KMT would have seemed unbelievable. China's peasants are advancing to prosperity and steadily raising their cultural level and livelihood.

The working class led by its vanguard, the Communist Party, at the head of the State, is asserting its social-economic rights. Among the most important of them is the law on the free organisation of the Trade Unions. The Labour Insurance Regulations, which are being extended systematically to all the workers, assure them of fundamental social security in sickness, disablement and old age. The growth of the national economy is successfully liquidating unemployment.

The women of China, freed from an age-old yoke, are asserting their equal rights with men.

All the nationalities of the country have become free and equal members of the fraternal family of the Chinese people.

On this May Day the working people can look with pride not only on their political and economic successes, but on their cultural achievements, on their new medical and educational institutions, on the development of a people's literature and art.

In all these peaceful achievements the people of New China see the result of their own creative efforts and also the fruit of the generous help of the Soviet Union and of the People's Democracies.

They are a mighty expression of the talents of the masses, and of international friendship and co-operation.

These achievements are closely connected with the consolidation of the people's democratic dictatorship and steady growth in the political consciousness of the working people. The ideals of the New Democracy and of proletarian internationalism have spread deeper roots among all strata of the people.

In this spirit the Chinese people are conducting two new campaigns for the cause of world peace. They will carry to every factory, village and street the call for signatures in support of the Five-Power Peace Pact advocated by the World Peace Council. At the same time they will hold a national poll on the question of the rearmament of Japan. The people of China advocate an over-all peace treaty that will bring democracy to the Japanese people and strengthen the security of the peoples of Asia.

These great movements in defence of peace and against American aggression are impelled forward by a mighty upsurge of productive enthusiasm, by the unexampled achievements in the nation-wide patriotic emulation movement. They are inspired by the unshakeable resolve of the working people to defend their revolutionary gains, carry through the tasks of the New Democratic Revolution and thus create the conditions for the future Socialist transformation of their country.

The people of China have risen in their might on a scale unprecedented in the past, greater than in the war which defeated the Japanese invaders, greater than at any time in the Liberation War in which the glorious People's Army defeated the KMT reactionary forces and their imperialist backers. They are determined to protect their homes and their bright future from the aggressive American imperialism that is today menacing all the peoples of the world. That is why the American imperialist invasion of Korea and seizure of Taiwan have only increased the determination of the Chinese people to carry their struggle against the aggressors to a victorious conclusion. The crushing blows dealt the aggressors by the Chinese people's volunteers fighting alongside the heroic Korean People's Army have strengthened the confidence of the people that the final victory will be with them and the Korean people and all other peace-loving peoples.

In their struggle for these noble aims, the Chinese people, led by the Communist Party of China and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, and guided by the unfailing teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, advance confidently along the path of victory.

Hail May Day—day of militant unity of the working people of the world!

Hail the great victories won by the Chinese working people!

Long live the great unity of the Chinese people!

Long live the Communist Party of China!

Long live Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the great leader of the Chinese people!

## A U.S. War Treaty with Japan

Preposterous is the word for the American proposed peace treaty with Japan. It is a peace treaty that is at once insulting and provocative. It is a direct menace to the peoples of Asia, but first of all, it menaces the very existence of the Japanese people as an independent nation. A Japan geared to the American war machine—the continued enslavement and not the deliverance of the Japanese people, this is what the J.P. Morgans, the du Ponts and Rockefellers want to get by this treaty. It is no peace treaty, it is a treaty for war! The American imperialists' plot is to dominate, rearm and use Japan for their aggressive wars.

This so-called peace treaty that the U.S. Government is attempting to conclude separately with the Japanese ruling clique goes directly against the United Nations Declaration signed on New Year's day, 1942, by the late President Roosevelt which pledged all signatories not to make a separate peace with the enemy countries. But when Article 18 of the U.S. draft treaty is reduced to plain English, it means that a separate peace treaty with Japan will be valid even if it is signed by the United States alone.

China was the first country to take up arms against the Japanese fascists. She made the biggest sacrifices to encompass their defeat. Her right to a voice on the Japanese peace treaty is unchallengeable. In thus endeavouring to impose a peace treaty on Japan without the participation of China and the Soviet Union and at the same time ignoring the basic interests of other wartime Allies, the American government has unmasked itself before the world: to satisfy its ambitions of world domination, it will not hesitate to repudiate international agreements.

One of the cardinal aims of the Allied Powers in fighting against aggressive Japan was to destroy its war-making potential. The Potsdam Declaration of 1945 and the Far Eastern Commission's basic post-surrender policy for Japan enunciated on June 19, 1947, explicitly stipulate that Japan must be demilitarised. But in the cynically-contrived chapter entitled "Security" in the draft treaty, the word "armament" is not even mentioned once. Instead, every means is employed to legalise the rearmament programme which the United States as sole Occupation Power is now carrying out in Japan. This programme is designed to develop Japan further as a major base for continuing the American war of aggression in Korea and elsewhere and to force the Japanese people to become cannon fodder in the other adventures that the American war-makers are planning against the peoples of Asia.

The heroic struggle of the Japanese people against these American plots is a fight for the security of all Asian peoples as well as for their own freedom. Their success will knock the bottom out of Washington's aggressive plans. The Chinese people, whose volunteers together with the Korean people are already fighting against the American aggressors, fully sympathise with the just aspirations of the Japanese people.

With regard to the disposal of Japan's ill-gotten territories overseas, the American draft treats the relevant sections of the Cairo Declaration of 1943 and the Yalta Agreement of 1945 as so many scraps of paper. The Cairo Declaration clearly lays down that Taiwan and the Penghu Islands (Pescadores) must be restored to China. But the American draft peace treaty deliberately evades this by providing only for the renunciation by Japan of all rights, titles and claims to these Chinese islands, without stipulating their return to China. At present U.S. armed forces have seized Taiwan and the invaders are using it as a base to direct further aggressions against the Chinese people. American ambitions to seize and hold Taiwan and its adjacent islands permanently are writ large in this draft peace treaty.

The U.S. attempt in this treaty to lay claim to territories rightfully belonging to the Soviet Union is also cunningly devised, but these subterfuges will fool no one who cares to study the draft. The Yalta Agreement of 1945 declares that the southern part of Sakhalin Island must be returned and the Kurile Islands be transferred to the Soviet Union. So does Article 5 of the American draft treaty. But there the superficial similarity ends. An escape clause is provided in Article 19: "The present treaty shall not confer any rights, title or benefits to or upon any state unless and until it signs, ratifies or adheres to this treaty." In other words, if the Soviet Union refuses to sign on the dotted lines of this "robber peace" prepared by the United States, then it will lose its right and title to the southern part of Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands. In the opinion of the American State Department, the Soviet Union and China are not victorious Allies but states whose titles to their respective territories depend on the dictates of Washington.

But it is not only the interests of the victorious Allies—China and the Soviet Union—that are transgressed. The American draft treaty contemptuously ignores the legitimate interests and claims of all those who fought against imperialist Japan in the last war. A reading of the clauses on war reparations, of the political and economic provisions, etc. makes it clear that the American imperialists are aiming at nothing less than dominating Japan to the detriment of all other Allied Powers. Like the rearmament of Western Germany, which is aimed at enslaving the European peoples, the present American proposed peace treaty with Japan is directed against the Asian peoples as a whole. But the immediate victim will be Japan herself. If this sort of peace treaty were allowed to become a reality, Japan would become nothing but a geographical expression: she would be reduced to the status of a squalid colony of Wall Street.

This American draft peace treaty is a challenge to the Chinese, Soviet, and Japanese peoples and to all peace-loving peoples of the world. The Japanese people are fighting it with might and main. The Chinese people are resolved to struggle together with them and all other peoples of Asia to throw it back into the teeth of the U.S. imperialists.

## A Soviet Victory for Peace

The triumphant completion of the first post-war 5-Year Plan of the Soviet Union is an historic event of universal significance. The Chinese people, and all other peace-loving people in the world, rejoice with the Soviet people at this new victory of Socialist economic construction.

The announcement made on April 17 by the State Planning Committee of the U.S.S.R. and the Central Statistical Board of the U.S.S.R. states that not only was the Fourth 5-Year Plan fulfilled, but that all major assignments of the plan were exceeded by a big margin. As a result of the gigantic production achievements and the considerable price reductions which took place four times in the five-year period, the people's material standard of living was substantially raised. In 1950 the incomes of the Soviet workers, peasants and employees were 62 per cent above the 1940 level.

The majestic Socialist projects to utilise and re-make nature to serve the needs of mankind—such Herculean labours as the creation of the hydro-electric plants on the Volga and the Dnieper, for example—are further steps bringing the Soviet people nearer to the great goal of Communism.

Here is further testimony, if such were needed,

of the ever-growing might of the Soviet Union, which stands today as the unassailable bulwark of world peace. Here is further testimony of the superiority of the Soviet Socialist system over all other systems as the highest form of organisation of human society.

These achievements stand in vivid contrast with the rapidly worsening conditions in capitalist countries. They will help all the oppressed and exploited in those countries to realise into what an abyss the warmongers are driving them. The knowledge of these mighty achievements will break through all the lies and slanders of the imperialists.

This new victory of Socialism is a tremendous inspiration to the whole world. It will especially encourage all the oppressed peoples to intensify their struggle for liberation and for a life of plenty and prosperity. It is a victory for all peace-loving people. The successful completion of this 5-Year Plan is a heavy blow to the warmongers. It is a tremendous accretion of strength to the forces of peace.

Saluting the great Socialist successes of the Soviet working people, the Chinese people, inspired and immeasurably encouraged, go forward, confident that the Soviet Union of today is the China of tomorrow.

## Shipments of Friendship

The recent offer of the Central People's Government to supply India with one million tons of rice once again demonstrates the profound concern felt by the Chinese people for a neighbour in distress. It is also an expression of the growing friendship between these two great Asian peoples. They are closely linked not only by geographical proximity but also by similar sufferings and aspirations during the long decades since the Western imperialists assumed their "White Man's Burden" in Asia.

On January 26 this year, Chairman Mao Tse-tung at the Indian national day reception in Peking recalled that "for thousands of years, excellent friendship has existed between these two nations, China and India, and between the people of these two countries." It was in this spirit of traditional goodwill that China put forth a ready helping hand as soon as the food shortage made itself felt in India this year.

At the time of writing, 22,300 tons of Chinese rice have already arrived in India and more will soon be despatched in fulfilment of an earlier barter agreement apart from the recent offer. The surplus grain grown by China's once poverty-stricken, but now prosperous, peasants emancipated by the land reform is already aiding thousands of toilers in Bihar, Assam and Madras, and is being rationed to the working people of Delhi at about half of the price of rice six months ago.

Meanwhile, across the Pacific, the Wall Street money-bags and their Washington stooges are also "concerned" with the food situation in India. As early as in February, President Truman gave the cue to the U.S. Congress by saying that timely grain

shipments to India "must begin by April" since the situation in parts of India was assuming famine proportions. "Human lives depend on our taking prompt action" were his words. Acheson, too, shed crocodile tears. But these inveterate Scrooges, already noted for their Hoover "relief," Marshall "aid" and other "philanthropic" undertakings, are not ashamed to bare their real intentions. In February, Representative Charles Eaton declared: "I agree we must send the food, but I would like to get something in return... The attitude of these Asians toward us has been very ungenerous." Last month, John M. Vorys and other members of the American House of Representatives proposed that advantage be taken of India's distress to force her to provide America with war resources—chiefly uranium and other essential strategic materials. The plots of Washington blackmailers are exposed.

The Indian press has been quick to notice this stark contrast between genuine aid from China and the baited "gift" held out by imperialist America. The *Navbharat Times* declared in an editorial entitled "Sympathetic Neighbour": "China has neither talked of a gift or present like the millionaires nor has she demanded supervision by her officials over the distribution of food grains." The masses of the Indian people are well aware of this difference. That is precisely why their feeling is rising against the American imperialists. And that is also why they are leaning daily closer to the liberated Chinese people whom they have felt, even before the recent rice offer, to have an innate sympathy with them as one of the fraternal Asian peoples still struggling against imperialism.

# Labour Insurance in New China

Chu Hsueh-fan

March 1, 1951 is a day to be remembered by the Chinese working class. On this day the Labour Insurance Regulations of the People's Republic of China came into effect. Millions of workers covered by these Regulations are protected from the insecurity that once came from old age, disease, death, disabilities and permanent injuries. Even security for dependents is safeguarded. The registration of workers and employees qualifying for benefits under this programme is now in progress.

A draft of the Regulations was made public as early as October, 1950, so that people throughout the country could express their opinions on them. The trade union organisations, workers, managements of factories and enterprises, business and industrial circles enthusiastically greeted these provisions, thoroughly discussed them and, as a result, put forward many new suggestions.

\* \* \*

The Regulations, revised to incorporate many of these suggestions, were passed by the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government on February 23, 1951 and went into effect on March 1, 1951. There was naturally great mass support for the new Regulations from the workers. A middle-aged worker in a vehicle building works gave the following typical comment on the new Regulations: "Factories always used to hire the young ones instead of the old. When you were young and energetic, they wanted you. When you were old and worn, they sacked you. There's never been such a thing as old-age pensions before."

"I've been working for five years," said a woman worker in a Shanghai textile mill. "I was fired and hired four times. Every time I had a child, I was fired. But now, under the Labour Insurance Regulations, every working mother gets eight weeks paid maternity leave. There are special subsidies for childbirth besides. Could I have ever dreamed of such things in the old days?"

## Benefits of Programme

The main benefits which the new Regulations give to workers are:

(1) Workers and employees injured as a result of their work are to be provided with all necessary medical expenses, hospital fees and the costs for food during hospitalisation, all these expenses to be borne by the state factory management or owners of private enterprises. Full wages are to be paid for the whole period of convalescence.

(2) Workers and employees injured as a result of their work and so disabled that they are unable to work are to receive disability pensions

from the labour insurance fund according to the degree of disability. The amount of the pension ranges from 60 to 75 per cent of their regular wages. This pension is to continue until the worker recovers, or, if the worker or employee is totally disabled, for the rest of the worker's or employee's life.

(3) Workers and employees who become sick or suffer from non-occupational injuries are to have part of their necessary medical expenses paid by the factory management or owners. Besides this, they will receive all or part of their regular wages during the period of convalescence. Such wage payments shall continue for a period of no more than three months. If workers or employees are sick for longer than a three-month period, or are so disabled that they can no longer work, they are to receive disability pensions from the labour insurance fund, the amount to be equivalent to between 20 to 30 per cent of their regular wages. Payments of such pensions also are to continue for the rest of the worker's or employee's life or until recovery.

(4) The state factory management or owners of private enterprises are to bear all funeral expenses for workers and employees whose death is due to their occupation. In addition to this, the trade unions concerned will issue monthly pensions from the labour insurance fund to the direct dependents of the deceased worker or employee as long as necessary, the amount to be equivalent to between 25 to 50 per cent of his or her regular wages.

(5) For workers and employees who die of disease or non-occupational injuries, subsidies shall be paid out from the labour insurance funds to cover part of their funeral expenses, and their dependents are entitled to varying sums of relief payments.

(6) Retirement pensions of between 35 to 60 per cent of their regular wages are paid to male workers over the age of 60 and women workers over the age of 50 from the labour insurance fund. To qualify for a retirement pension, a worker must have worked for 25 years and have a ten-year record in the enterprise or factory from which he retires. In the case of a woman worker, the qualifying periods are 20 years and ten years respectively.

(7) A paid maternity leave of 56 days is to be given to women workers and employees and a maternity allowance is to be paid from the labour insurance fund.

(8) Apart from individual benefits, workers and employees are entitled to admission to institutions financed by the labour insurance funds, such as rest homes, sanatoria, homes for disabled and old-age homes. In the event of a worker's or employee's death, his or her children have the right to enter orphanages.

The Regulations provide for the division of labour insurance expenditures into two categories. The

first category includes the benefits paid directly to the workers and employees by the state factory management or owners of private enterprises, such as wages paid during maternity leave and medical expenses for sick and injured workers. The total amount for this category must necessarily be flexible.

There is a second category called the labour insurance fund, which is paid monthly into the trade union organisations by the state factory management or owners of private enterprises. This amount is equivalent to 3 per cent of the total payroll. Seventy per cent of this fund is allocated to the various factory trade union organisations for payments such as retirement pensions, disability pensions and pensions to dependents of deceased workers. The remaining 30 per cent is allocated to, and put under the centralised control of, the All-China Federation of Labour for the purpose of financing collective labour insurance institutions.

As of March 1 of this year, all factories and enterprises covered by the Labour Insurance Regulations were required to register. From this date they also paid labour insurance funds to the trade union organisations. As from May 1, workers and employees covered by this new programme will begin to receive benefits.

#### Struggles of the Past

Under the KMT regime there was nothing like the present nation-wide labour insurance programme. The overwhelming majority of workers received very meagre wages. Commodity prices were ever rising. As a result, workers and employees were left starved. They had no relief from the added distress of disease, injury and disability, the insecurity of old age or the financial burden of childbirth. Even the miners, who led a life harder than any other workers and who were most liable to meet with accidents, never enjoyed the protection of labour insurance.



Workers In A Foundry

Woodcut by Su Kwang

As a result of the incessant struggles of the workers, the capitalists in a handful of enterprises were forced to adopt some labour insurance measures as practised in capitalist countries. Though forced to adopt such measures, the capitalists used them in such a way as to attempt to disrupt the unity of the working class. Greater benefits, for example, were granted to office employees and technicians than to workers. Male workers were entitled to greater benefits than female workers. Most unreasonable of all was that labour insurance funds were deducted from the workers' wages, and furthermore, the total amount paid out was much less than that deducted. Labour insurance was thus another means by which capitalists robbed the workers. These heavy deductions from the workers' wages and the deliberate discriminatory practices of the capitalists explain why when the Shanghai workers in some textile mills struck as far back as 1925, they demanded the abolition of the labour insurance programme as one of the conditions for resumption of work.

#### Based on Soviet Experience

The Labour Insurance Regulations of New China are different in their very essence from those of capitalist countries. They are based on the same principles of labour insurance as in the Soviet Union. The following points make this clear.

(1) All the expenses of the labour insurance programme are borne by the state factory management or owners of private enterprises. Not one penny is deducted from the workers' wages. In capitalist countries, on the other hand, workers and employees themselves for the most part bear the expenses of labour insurance. In these countries the insurance programme is, in fact, another form of tax on the workers and employees, and an instrument of exploitation. In the United States, for example, from 1937 to 1944, a total of US\$6,528,000,000 was taken from the workers, while the insurance benefits paid out amounted to only a little more than US\$688,000,000\*. Thus vast sums belonging to the workers were put into the banks and went to enrich the exploiters still. In New China's Labour Insurance Regulations there is a clear-cut stipulation that "Labour insurance funds shall be used for the sole purpose of benefits and undertakings in connection with labour insurance, and shall not be used otherwise."

(2) The Labour Insurance Regulations of New China are intended to meet the practical needs of the working class. Therefore, the programme covers maternity, disability, permanent injury, disease, old age and death. In capitalist countries, however, the coverage is not so complete.

\* Report of the Social Security Board: *Social Insurance Financing in Relation to Consumer Income and Expenditures*. June, 1946, Washington, D.C.

Before the outbreak of the Second World War, there were no old-age pensions in 41 countries, no sickness benefits in 49 countries, and no disability insurance in 53 countries.

(3) The labour insurance programme of New China is operated from the very outset by the working class itself. Trade unions, the workers' own organisations, are entrusted with the handling of labour insurance. The trade unions know exactly what the workers need. This programme can be fair and reasonable only when it is under the control of the trade unions. In capitalist countries, however, organisations in charge of labour insurance are specially set up for the purpose, thus consuming a considerable proportion of the labour insurance funds. These organisations make a point of hiring "scabs" to control and exploit the workers through the manipulation of labour insurance benefits.

(4) The labour insurance programme of New China guarantees the workers' security in their jobs and the most basic requisites for a secure life. At the same time, the programme takes into consideration the fact that higher production resulting from better work will be followed by a better life for the workers. Certain provisions are therefore made in order to encourage the workers and employees to remain at their jobs, and thereby accumulate the experience and skill needed to improve their technique in production. In the provisions for sickness benefits, for example, payments are made in accordance with the length of time workers and employees have worked in a particular factory. Retirement pensions are made only to workers and employees who have worked in a particular enterprise for ten years.

Moreover, preferential treatment is accorded to disabled soldiers who have become workers in productive enterprises, labour models and combat heroes. This is to show the new society's respect for those people who have distinguished themselves by extraordinary service in the cause of the people's revolution or for the nation's economic construction.

#### Goal—Coverage for All

There is a long way to go yet before the present Labour Insurance Regulations reach the stage of full coverage now enjoyed by the Soviet workers. But we are now striving towards this goal. According to the present Regulations, funds appropriated for the insurance programme are the equivalent of 3 per cent of the total payroll, but in the Soviet Union—where the workers, of course, receive much higher wages—the percentage is 3.7 per cent. Besides, New China's programme does not yet cover all workers and employees.

It is stipulated that the Labour Insurance Regulations apply to workers and employees in all factories and mines employing more than 100 workers and employees, whether state or privately-owned, jointly owned by state and private interests or run on a co-operative basis. In addition, railway, navigation, postal and tele-communication enterprises are also covered. This is because in factories and mines employing more than 100 workers and employees, both the administration and the trade unions are, generally speaking, well organised, making it easier to institute such a programme. (Fac-

tories and mines employing less than 100 may, however, also institute labour insurance in accordance with the present Regulations after consultations between the management and the trade union, or between the factory owners and the trade union concerned.)

The government administrative organs and schools, and other institutions not directly engaged in production are not yet covered. This is because the nation's finances must still be concentrated on economic construction. Labour insurance will be extended to such institutions later.

Only one year and seven months after the founding of the People's Republic, at a time when the nation's financial and economic situation has only taken an initial turn for the better, when the People's Liberation War is yet to be concluded, Taiwan and Tibet are yet to be liberated, and people throughout the country are aiding Korea in the struggle against the American imperialists—it is at such a time that labour insurance is extended to the working class. This emphasises the fact that only a government led by the working class itself is genuinely interested in the workers' welfare, and helps and protects the workers. It also proves that only when the working class has seized state power can their livelihood be raised and guaranteed in spite of all difficulties.

As early as 1922, Chinese workers put forward a demand for labour insurance. In that year, the workers at the Kailan Mines struck and demanded that "the mine administration pay the medical expenses of workers who are injured and cannot work." This demand, however, was turned down. More than 50 workers were beaten to death or injured during this strike. After this there were many similar strikes which put forward this demand but failed to secure it.

What a contrast with the present time when, under the leadership of the Communist Party and the Central People's Government, Labour Insurance Regulations have been introduced so quickly. In November, 1948, the whole of Northeast China had been liberated, and in the very next month, labour insurance was instituted throughout the area. Up to July, 1950, more than 600,000 workers and employees in Northeast China had received benefits under this programme. This figure represented 42 per cent of the total number of workers and employees in the Northeast.

Later, such cities in North China as Tientsin, Shihchiachuang and Taiyuan, and such enterprises as railways and the postal and tele-communication systems introduced labour insurance on the pattern of the Northeast. These programmes, which were very successful, brought benefits to an additional approximately 800,000 workers and employees.

Now the Labour Insurance Regulations covering the whole nation have been promulgated. As they are extended to cover all workers, they put an end to age-old worries about security. Freed from such worries, the workers can devote themselves more fully than ever to the patriotic production emulation drive and struggle for the construction of our great Motherland.



# Viet-Nam on the Road to Victory

Sun Wu-ling

The people of Viet-Nam are consolidating their ranks in preparation for their general counter-offensive against the French imperialist aggressors and the American interventionists. In mid-February this year, the party of the working class and the working people—the Viet-Nam Lao Dong Party—was founded. In March, the Viet-Minh League and the Lien-Viet League were merged into a single united revolutionary front—the Lien Viet Front (the Viet-Nam League of National Union). And now, delegates of the national united fronts of Viet-Nam, Laos and Cambodia—the three states on the Indo-China Peninsula—are completing the organisation of the Joint United Front of the three peoples.

These political victories are of special significance at the present time, as the Viet-Nam liberation movement is entering a new and decisive phase of the struggle to expel the imperialist aggressors.

The road to these victories has been a difficult one. Since the French colonialists started their treacherous attack against the young Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam more than five years ago, the people of Viet-Nam have had to fight hard and heroically under the leadership of President Ho Chi Minh and the Viet-Minh and Lien-Viet Leagues. Beginning as a small guerrilla group, the Viet-Nam People's Army grew in battle. It gradually developed into a regular, well-armed force and finally wrested the military initiative from the French invaders, commanded by some of the most experienced and ruthless French officers. Today, about 90 per cent of all Viet-Nam territory and more than 80 per cent of the population have been freed from French domination. The liberated areas are making rapid political, economic and cultural advances. Revolutionary, democratic reforms have been carried out. The people's governments of various levels have been formed and are being consolidated. Industrial and agricultural production has been greatly increased. Illiteracy is being rapidly reduced. And now under the slogan of "All for the front, all for victory!" the people of Viet-Nam are making every effort to prepare for the launching of the general counter-offensive, which is aimed at driving out the French colonialists and their American masters from the soil of Viet-Nam.

The French imperialists, though smarting under their defeats, do not seem, however, to have learnt the lessons of history. They are preparing to throw in more cannon fodder in an effort to retain their greedy hold on this rich and important peninsula. They have abjectly appealed for fresh aid from their American masters who, on their part, as the head of the imperialist clique, wish to exploit Viet-Nam and turn it into a springboard for their projected attack against the People's Republic of China. In a fresh effort to turn back the wheels of history, the American warmongers are aiding their French vassals with military missions and large quantities of arms and supplies.

In this situation, where the people are preparing a decisive blow and their enemies are desperately calling in their reserves and intensifying their political intrigues, the emergence of a fully organised revolutionary vanguard party is of the utmost importance. It will further consolidate the united front of the people for the tasks ahead.

The revolutionary working class has played a magnificent role in the liberation struggle of Viet-Nam during the past 21 years. The founding of the Communist Party of Indo-China in 1930 gave, for the first time, to the oppressed people of that land a revolutionary vanguard that could and did lead them along the correct path of national liberation. Ever since 1930, the liberation struggle of the people of Viet-Nam has been conducted under the banner of anti-imperialism, anti-feudalism and international working class solidarity. During the Second World War, the Communist Party of Indo-China led by Ho Chi Minh, united the patriots of the country and carried out a successful guerrilla war against the Japanese occupationists. In 1945, the August Uprising was staged. Three months later the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam was established under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh and the Communist Party. For the first time the people of Viet-Nam had a national government of their own.

Under the new conditions existing in Viet-Nam after these events, the Communists of Viet-Nam continued to carry out the tasks of the revolutionary vanguard. The correctness of their leadership and faithfulness to the people have been tested during the past five years in hard and protracted struggles. Now, in order to strengthen this leadership, the Viet-Nam Lao Dong Party has been founded.

## The Lao Dong Party

The new Party thus emerges full-fledged as a Party of great political maturity. Its members, veteran revolutionists, bring to the Party the fullest support and confidence of the people, who know them well as their staunchest champions. The name of that veteran revolutionary, Truong Chinh, the Party's General Secretary, is known to every friend and enemy of freedom in Viet-Nam. President Ho Chi Minh, leader of the Party, is hailed throughout the world as the venerated leader of the people of Viet-Nam in their fight for independence.

The Lao Dong Party declares in its platform that it is founded on the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, that its organisational principle is that of democratic centralism, and that the law governing its development is criticism and self-criticism. Scientifically analysing Viet-Nam's society, the Manifesto of the Party points out that the national liberation movement in Viet-Nam is in the nature of a people's democratic revolution. The People's Rule relies on the National United Front, based on the alliance of the workers, peasants and intellectual workers, and is under the leadership of the working class. The

present central task of the revolution, the Party platform stresses, is to push the liberation struggle forward to complete victory over its enemies. Without this complete victory, it warns, real large-scale democratic construction of the country cannot be carried out.

### The Lien Viet Front

The influence of the Party has quickly made itself felt. Led by President Ho Chi Minh, the Lien Viet Front has been formed by merging the Viet-Minh League and the Lien-Viet League whose membership in December 1950, included over 8,500,000 people, more than 35 per cent of Viet-Nam's population. This new united front organisation now includes the Lao Dong Party, the Socialist Party, the Democratic Party and various people's organisations such as those of the workers, peasants, youth, women, national minorities and various religious groups. It also includes the petty and national bourgeoisie, patriotic landlords and individual democratic personages. The Lao Dong Party is the leading party of the Front.

Thus the Lao Dong Party carries to a new stage the policy of the united front enunciated by the Communist Party of Indo-China from the very first day of its foundation—a policy aimed at uniting the entire people for the common goal of national liberation.

During the past 21 years, following the Party's principle of consolidating the front through both unity and criticism, the national united front has grown through various forms created to suit the changing conditions of the revolutionary struggle. In 1930, it first appeared as the Anti-imperialist League; in 1936, it developed into the Democratic Front; and in 1941, it grew into the Viet-Minh League. The League was the broadest united front organisation hitherto created. It included workers, peasants, urban petty bourgeoisie, intellectuals, rich peasants and patriotic landlords, but it was not yet broadly enough based to comprise all the elements who could be rallied against the French colonialists. Thus, in order to broaden the ranks of the united front of the Viet-Nam people still further, the Lien-Viet League was organised in 1946, with the Viet-Minh League as a leading participant. As early as 1949, the Viet-Minh League and the Lien-Viet League began a process of merging their organisations gradually from the village up to area levels. The leaderships of the two organisations have always co-operated closely.

The platform of the Lao Dong Party characterises the united front as one of the pillars of the people's state. The completion of the merger of the two Leagues thus constitutes an important step in the further consolidation and broadening of the united front of the people of Viet-Nam in preparation for new decisive battles in the struggle for national liberation.

### The Joint United Front

In this context of events, the greatest political significance attaches therefore to the organizational work now underway for the formation of the Joint United Front of the peoples of Viet-Nam, Laos and Cambodia. For nearly a century, these three peoples have lived under the iron heel of the French colonialists. True to the tradition of imperialism, the French colonialists have consistently applied the

tactic of "divide and rule" among them. They have always intrigued to set the three peoples against each other. Moreover, during the last five years, the French invaders have repeatedly used their strongholds in the three states as military bases for operations against the liberation movement. Since suffering their latest stunning defeats at the hands of the people of Viet-Nam, the French colonialists have resorted to the setting up of puppet regimes and the offering of a series of ill-concealed political bribes to split the ranks of the peoples of Indo-China. The creation of a Joint United Front of Viet-Nam, Laos and Cambodia will therefore be a telling blow against the French imperialists and the American interventionists. It means a new and mighty accession of strength to the national liberation struggle.

These recent events in Viet-Nam—the formation of the Viet-Nam Lao Dong Party and the Lien Viet Front and the preparation of the establishment of the Joint United Front of Viet-Nam, Laos and Cambodia, show that the people of Viet-Nam have drawn with great wisdom from the rich experiences gained in their struggle against the French colonialists and the American interventionists. They have now in their possession the three fundamental weapons—a Marxist-Leninist Party, armed struggle and a national united front. The effectiveness of these three weapons has been proved by the victorious course of the Chinese people's revolution. With these assets, and the fraternal sympathy and friendship of the world revolutionary camp, the people of Viet-Nam will certainly attain final victory over the French imperialists and the American interventionists.

Fighting Viet-Nam stands today on the forefront of the democratic peace camp in Southeast Asia. Dealing heavy blows against the aggressors, the people of Viet-Nam have prevented the American warmongers from realising their malignant plots to use Viet-Nam as a base for aggression against continental Asia. They are fighting for the same cause as the heroic Korean people and the Chinese people's volunteers. This is an invaluable contribution to the defence of world peace and to the national liberation movements in Asia.

Just as the great achievements of the Chinese people have become a source of inspiration for all the colonial and semi-colonial peoples in their fight for freedom, so will these new political victories of the people of Viet-Nam give a further great impetus to their national liberation movements. For colonialism in Asia, the day of doom is not far distant.

## On Practice

by

## MAO TSE-TUNG

A translation of the full text of Chairman Mao's philosophical treatise, *On Practice*, will be carried in a special supplement in the coming issue of *People's China*.

# NEW CHINA FORGES AHEAD

— Some Impressions from a Trip to the Northeast —

Soong Ching Ling

Along with Comrade Lin Po-chu and others, I have recently completed an investigation of New China's Northeast (Manchuria). We travelled its length and breadth, penetrating deeply into the changes which have come about in the people's lives. What we experienced so inspired me, that I want to report my impressions to the nation and the world, to report that New China's future is in the making and our Northeast is leading the way.

This will not be an attempt at an overall and detailed analysis of the Northeast. Rather it will be a brief summary of those sights and subjects which impressed me most as we covered over 4,260 kilometres of Northeast territory. A total of 54 different places and projects were visited, including seven main cities of the Northeast, as well as four villages where land reform had been completed. We inspected 11 industrial plants and one mine and innumerable welfare and cultural establishments. In each place we either heard or were handed reports. In addition, we conducted personal inspections, talking with the ordinary farmers and workers as well as the heads of industrial and governmental administrations.

Thus, we were able to make an intense, factual and comprehensive study of the gigantic strides being made by the Northeast. We saw the tremendous improvement in the economic life, the elevation of cultural activities and the improvement of hygienic conditions in the lives of the peasants after land reform. We saw how these advances favourably affected the lives of the city working class and with what enthusiasm they have set out to revive and reconstruct industry. We also witnessed how thoroughly our government and the Chinese Communist Party work, how they attack each mistake in search of the truth, how they fully understand the strength of the workers and peasants and how they mobilise this strength to move on to even greater accomplishments.

## The Villages and Land Reform

Even while the fighting of the Liberation War was at its most furious stage in the Northeast, the land reform was begun. In fact, it was at the very time of the KMT's peak strength and the people's forces were strategically withdrawing, from July to December 1946, that 12,000 cadres were assigned to this duty and sent to the countryside. Their mission was to start the struggle against the feudal and bandit elements, to establish the fundamental territory from which the revolution would be consolidated over the entire land.

It was not an easy task, since the reactionary elements were strong. But gradually the peasant

masses understood the significance of the land reform movement and by the end of 1947, the enemy was routed in the social and economic sectors of rural life, just as he had begun to suffer devastating defeats on the battle-fronts. By the end of 1948, the KMT military remnants had been cleared from the Northeast, liberating all ~~six~~ provinces. Thus, the way was paved for the consolidation of the land reform and the new life which was to follow. 10

The farmers of the Northeast showed their enthusiasm for the new life by reaching in 1949 a total volume of agricultural production equal to 14,500,000,000 tons of grain (not including two million tons from sideline production.) In 1950 approximately 18,000,000 tons were produced. The 1950 production was 93 per cent of the 1943 figure, the best year of production under the Japanese imperialists. However, the average yield per hectare was much greater than in 1943, and in some sections, Paicheng County of Heilungkiang Province, for example, production reached the 1943 figure.

From my observations, the reasons for this unprecedented upsurge in agricultural output are as follows:

- (a) The farmers are now the masters of the land.
- (b) Improved farming methods.
- (c) Good organisation of labour on the farm.
- (d) The examples set by the model workers, the members of the Communist Party and the New Democratic Youth League.
- (e) Government aid to the people in time of adversity.
- (f) The funds and grain left over after taxes and expenses, encouraging the farmers to produce more.

I would like to deal more or less with each of these reasons.

## Peasants Are Masters of the Land

When you first enter a village where the land reform has been a long accepted fact, you can tell this immediately by the looks of self-confidence on the faces of the people, by their proud, erect bearing. Their new approach to life shows all over. The whole atmosphere is one of purposefulness. The villages are busy places, with the peasants and the family members either at work or studying. The homes and village streets are clean and neat. It all stems from the fact that the farmer can point out to the fields and say in his measured way, "It's mine." It seems such a simple way of expressing such an important piece of information!

A more graphic way of expressing the same information is by using a chart. One of the villages we visited is called Yungkwei. It is located in Hulan hsien of Sungkiang Province and you can tell its history in recent years from the figures below:

## List of Possessions of Various Classes Before and After the Land Reform

Before the Land Reform:		Population	Land (in shang)		Houses		Horses		Carts	
Hired peasants	283	41.9%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Poor peasants	117	17.3%	0.4	0.06%	14	6.1%	10	7.2%	2	10.5%
Middle peasants	82	12.1%	45.3	6.90%	20	8.8%	29	21.0%	4	21.1%
Rich peasants	131	19.4%	315.7	47.84%	92	40.4%	55	39.9%	9	47.3%
Landlords	63	9.3%	208.4	45.20%	102	44.7%	44	31.9%	4	21.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>676</b>		<b>569.8</b>		<b>228</b>		<b>138</b>		<b>19</b>	
Immediately After the Land Reform:										
Hired peasants	285	37%	189.26	36.9%	95	41.7%	47	44.4%	13	62.0%
Poor peasants	166	22%	110.22	21.4%	52	22.8%	21	19.9%	3	14.2%
Middle peasants	93	12%	62.93	12.3%	36	15.8%	17	16.0%	5	23.8%
Rich peasants	146	19%	96.94	18.8%	32	14.0%	16	15.0%		
Landlords	82	10%	54.45	10.6%	13	5.7%	5	4.7%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>772*</b>		<b>513.80</b>		<b>228</b>		<b>106</b>		<b>21</b>	

By this you can see that in the village of Yung-kwei the land has certainly gone to the tiller. The result has been that in 1949, production was increased on the average of one picul† for every *shang*‡ over the production before the land reform. Similar conditions and similar results were found everywhere we went in the Northeast.

## Improved Farming Methods

With the basic step of land reform completed, the next step was to improve the method of production. This means that in addition to reclaiming unused land and irrigating the fields, long-term and seasonal planning and the day-to-day work had to be elevated to a scientific level. This has already assumed the proportions of a wide-spread movement in the Northeast. Deep ploughing, generous use of fertiliser, frequent cultivations and harrowing, level planting and many other new methods have now become standard farming procedure. There is also a healthy appreciation among the peasants of the Northeast for modern implements, seed selection and protection and scientific care for farm animals. Some examples from one of the villages we visited will make clear the reasons for this mass movement to apply science to agriculture.

Paoantun is a village in the Chiaoho *hsien* of Kirin Province. Before the liberation of the Northeast it was known for its poverty. Now it is renowned throughout the territory, not only for its wealth, but also for its advanced farming techniques. Here are some statistics concerning Paoantun Village:

In 1947 it had 30 animals  
In 1950 it had 42 animals

In 1947 it used 10 implements  
In 1950 it used 27 (including foreign-style ploughs and one combine-cultivator given as a prize by the Department of Agriculture)

In 1947 it cultivated 38.8 *shang*  
In 1950 it cultivated 53.06 *shang*

\* Many new families moved into the village during and after land reform.

† A picul is roughly equivalent to 133 lbs.

‡ *Shang*, as used here refers to a "small" *shang*, which is equal to 10 *mow*. A *mow* is equal to approximately one-sixth of an acre.

In 1947 it applied fertiliser to 66 per cent of the land

In 1950 it applied fertiliser to 90.5 per cent of the land

In 1947 its total production was 240 piculs

In 1950 its total production was 700 piculs

The application of new farming methods and new implements has proved to the peasants of the Northeast that they provide greater yields by far, as we see by the above. We were also given a practical example of this fact by the villagers of Paoantun.

Farmer Chang compared his millet crop with that of his neighbour Yeh King. Much to his chagrin he found he was only getting 1.5 piculs per crop, whereas Yeh was obtaining 4 piculs and 50 per cent more stalks for feeding the animals. Upon exchanging work experiences, it was discovered that Farmer Yeh had prepared his land with the foreign-style plough and Chang had relied on his old rakes. When Yeh could go into his field and be completely lost from sight due to the tall, rich millet crop, this became too much for Chang. In a fit of anger he burned his rakes, swearing never to use such outmoded tools again.

The farmers of Paoantun have also learned another valuable lesson. The new methods mean less man-labour and more animal-labour. For example, from spring ploughing through summer cultivation, for every ten *mow* of land, using old-styled implements, they would require 24½ man-workers and 10 animals. However, using the new tools, 10 man-workers and the same number of animals can do the job. Thus the new implements gave them a net saving of 10.75 units of labour. By introducing the use of new implements into all of their work, the farmers of Paoantun were able to save 372 units of labour last spring and summer. This released

many of the villagers for other jobs. As a result, they increased their earnings by about ¥5,580,000 for the season.



This does not mean that all of the problems regarding new farming methods have been solved in the Northeast. Far from it. There is still a great need and demand for technical knowledge and experience. The important fact is that the farmers realise the great strides that can be made with science as an ally. This is also constantly demonstrated to them by the activities of the Department of Agriculture. For example, in a recent wheat harvest, with the help of the Department's technicians, one village was able to thrash 4,000 bundles a day. The very best record the farmers had been able to accomplish previous to this was 300 a day, and that was only with the greatest of effort. Such practical proofs have had a telling effect on the peasants' thinking and they are willing to incorporate into their planning and daily work the results of such exhibits.

There is another important effect that this advanced thinking has. I am referring to its influence on the people's livelihood.

The head of Yungkwei Village, King Chen-ling, told my party, "Before the land reform, there were only 11 middle peasants and 72 homes of poor and hired peasants. Now almost 90 per cent of the village is in the middle peasant class. Some farmers, though they cannot afford to own a horse, yet have plenty to eat and wear. Their living conditions vary very little from those of the others. They are called poor peasants only because they have no horses."

The figures on Yungkwei Village, as seen in the chart, prove King Chen-ling to be correct. Furthermore, we found that the resources of the village have increased 40 per cent since land reform and the use of new techniques, and the peasants' incomes from auxiliary occupations have increased by approximately 45 per cent.

When you multiply the progress made by Paoantun and Yungkwei by the thousands of villages in the Northeast, you can be rightfully impressed with what liberation means to our nation's farmers, what prosperity new ways and new tools bring to them.

#### Good Organisation of Farm Labour

The organisation of labour on the Northeast farms we found to be an application of both science and democracy according to the principle as expressed by Vice-Chairman Kao Kang in March 1950. At that time he said in a speech, "While nothing should be done to frustrate the initiative of individual economy, attention would need be paid to the development of co-operation and mutual aid, in order to develop village economy."

This means that there is an emphasis on the formation of co-operative work groups based on voluntary participation and mutual help. They are founded and operate according to the conditions prevailing in each particular district. But also taken into consideration are the planned regional requirements of agriculture and supplementary production, the demands of the peasant masses and the ability of the organising cadres. Since this organisational work is rather complicated, the greatest attention is paid to the actual working of these mutual aid groups rather than how they appear superficially. What is more, they are promoted with the idea of long-term functioning and linked with such vital segments of

rural economy as the ever-extending use of new implements and consumer co-operatives. The central aims of these groups are to increase production and to prove to the peasants that working together is always better than working alone.

Every village that we visited had these co-operative work groups. We found them operating with a scientific division of the labour to be done on the farms and with a rational allocation of labour power. The cadres are most careful in calculating just how much work can be done by the various implements, by the animals and by the peasants themselves. Everything is reduced to work units and the number of hours required to complete a definite task.

The job assignments are made in a most democratic manner. The small group system is used, with each group responsible for certain work and each group having a leader. Every person in the co-operative is paid for his work according to labour units and according to the labour appraisal made each day in the group. Their principle is "More work, more reward." This whole set-up seems to satisfy everybody and raises the morale of the peasants, giving them confidence to tackle all sorts of difficult jobs.

The mutual aid teams enable efficient use of labour and thus the land is more intensely cultivated. An example of this is shown in the following table which traces the production in Paoantun Village in recent years.

#### A Comparison of the Rate of Production (in Piculs) Since 1947

	Total Production	Average Production per Shang	Remarks
1947	240	6.5	
1948	380	8.0	
1949	490	8.4	The increase was not significant due to drought in 1949
1950	700	11.5	

We also found that while the small type of work group is prevalent at this time throughout the Northeast, there are also those activists who want to leap further ahead into the future. These leaders have organised larger work co-operatives and brigades. It is worthwhile to briefly recount the story of one of these to show the advancement some Northeast farmers are making.

The spring of 1947 saw the preliminary conclusions of the land reform of Paoantun Village, and out of this struggle came an outstanding cadre named Han En. He took the lead, with several others of his comrades, in the production emulation which followed. Therefore, it was like planting an especially selected seed in the most fertile soil to suggest to such a man that co-operative work groups be formed. This idea had been put forth by the Communist Party District Committee. Immediately after, Han En called a mass meeting of Paoantun to explain to the farmers how they could get rich through organising themselves.

At first this idea did not go over too well, for all of Han En's enthusiasm and eloquence. One peasant said that he had two cows and could manage

all alone, without mutual help. Others voiced their fears about the land really belonging to them and the recriminations they could expect for participating in such groups if the landlords should ever return to power. Others merely shrugged their shoulders at the idea of co-operation, saying, "The heavens will never let a blind sparrow starve," or in other words, "I'll get help if I ever need it."

Despite these objections, Han En went from house to house and gradually convinced some of the peasants to try the idea. He finally got three small groups functioning. Naturally, their production results soon had everybody else's eyes popping out. After that, practically all of the farmers joined the work co-operative movement.

At the beginning of Han En's drive to make the co-operatives succeed, the form of each small co-operating unit was fixed. There was no exchange of labour between groups. All sorts of work was done within each group, whether they had enough talent and numbers to handle the job or more than enough of each. This turned out to be more efficient than individual farming, but it by no means reached the top efficiency. For example, not every job required all of the labour power contained in each group. In some cases, though perhaps only five units of labour were required, yet just because there were seven members in the group, all seven would do the work. This was an obvious waste of labour. It was also a disruptive influence at times since among the villagers the same type of work received different labour credits, depending on the number of group members, the time spent and the individual amount of work accomplished. This caused dissatisfaction.

Han En studied the whole problem and thought out a new way of allocating labour. He suggested the assignment of labour power according to the actual needs of the job. In order to do this it was necessary to break the rigidity of the group form, making it possible to exchange labour between groups. The villagers of Paoantun tried this new method and it worked out quite satisfactorily. Based on their experience, they decided to continue the practice of what they call the "Joint Group" system. In effect, it is a small labour collective which allows for even more scientific planning and direction of the village work. The results? You will recall I have already mentioned that Paoantun received a combine-cultivator as a prize from the Department of Agriculture, that the villagers have risen from poverty to wealth.

Thus, the farmers of the Northeast have learned the importance and the science of co-operation and good labour organisation. They have seen how it makes for the most effective use of the latest farming methods, how it allows the individual farmer to exercise the full extent of his creativeness as the member of a group, what a great part it plays in giving them a better life.

#### Model Farmers, Communist Party and Youth League Members

It is difficult to emphasise enough the importance of model farmers, Communist Party and New Democratic Youth League members when analysing the successes of the rural areas in the Northeast. They

have had a most profound influence on every sphere of village life. All of the factors mentioned previously—the land reform, use of new implements, co-operation, the rise in production and the standard of living—all have been possible because there were those villagers who could mobilise the masses for action, who could set the example for the others to study and follow. Such people, through the guidance of the Communist Party and our People's Government, have been nurtured into self-sacrificing cadres, men and women who put the revolution above all else, who look past their present successes to the future task of building an agricultural base for industrialising China and giving its people the joys of Socialism.

There are certain marks of distinction which I found among the cadres of the Northeast. It is best perhaps to express these in the words of one of these advanced people, someone of whom you already know something, Comrade Han En. As he put it, "A good cadre first should not be feared by the villagers. Second, the villagers should believe in his words. Third, he must actually work for the villagers. In order to lead the production work well, he must go into the small co-operative groups personally and show others that he can work better than anybody else."

Han En is someone from whom we can learn and the words he expresses about what a cadre should be are worth thinking over. The reason I say this is not only that he has successfully started co-operative work groups and was elected a delegate to the National Conference of Labour Models. I say this on the basis of what his fellow-villagers think of him.



One said, "Han En is the kind of man who won't let you walk on a bridge which does not have supports." Another said, "Everybody is willing to become wealthy under his leadership." Still another spoke up with, "Han En knows how to run meetings democratically. He discusses everything with the masses and never makes a long speech beforehand. He is apt to express himself last, summarising all of the villagers' opinions, picking out the correct ones, explaining what is wrong with the incorrect ones. Finally he lays out the plan for action. Since Han En's ideas contain all the best ones in the village, they are usually the decisions of our meetings."

These are the most valuable appraisals of a cadre's work, the words of the people. In this case there is no question of the people's appreciation of Han En's service. But then generally speaking, he typified the kind of model farm workers, Communist Party and Youth League members we met in the Northeast. They were wide-awake people, capable of accepting new ideas and methods of work easily, taking into consideration all details and working them into their plans, carefully and patiently explaining everything to their co-workers, taking the lead in learning as well as in working. It is no

wonder one villager remarked, "We know in advance that our plans will never turn out to be failures."

The people are thankful for such leadership. I recall a speech made by an old farmer of Yungkwei Village. His name is Feng Wan-shan. First he told of his hardships in the greater part of his life and what the liberation meant to him and his family. Then he concluded with, "I have lived to such an old age, but I have never seen such a day of blessing as this. I am determined that I will exert every ounce of my strength to make the next crop a good one so I can collect all of the grain possible. This will be my share to the economic reconstruction of New China. This will be my repayment to Chairman Mao and the People's Republic of China."

Such a statement is a tribute to the leadership of the Northeast, to the model farmers, the Communist Party and New Democratic Youth League and the government cadre members who labour for the people.

#### Government Aid in Time of Adversity

Another reason the peasants of the Northeast throw their full hearts into the production work is because they know the government will come to their aid in time of adversity. It has been at these times in the past that the People's Government has demonstrated it is one with the people.

My party found several examples of this fact in the Northeast. For one, there is the history of the rehabilitation of Huchiatientse, a village on the outskirts of Changchun.

This village was virtually wiped off the map by the puppet and KMT regimes. Over 500 houses were destroyed. At the time of liberation, the only assets were seven lean cows and other animals plus one broken cart. The peasants themselves were naked and on the verge of starvation.

Immediately upon liberation, the People's Government rushed 30,000 catties\* of relief food to the villagers and extended them a loan of 65 animals. Later the land reform took place in this village.

How has Huchiatientse fared since? Although in 1949 towards harvest time there was a shortage of food, yet every villager was able to afford a new padded winter coat. By 1950 we found all of the houses rebuilt and now their animals consist of the following: 141 donkeys and asses, 20 cows, 600 pigs. In addition, there are 61 carts in the village. The food supply improves constantly and by 1951 every person in the village had a new suit of clothes.

There is another example. Since our national development has not yet reached the point where measures to control nature are advanced, on occasion calamity strikes at our farmers. This was the case with Mingho, a village in the fifth district of Double City *hsien* in Sungkiang Province.

When we saw it, the village streets were a colourful sight, with golden ears of corn and brilliant red peppers dangling from the eaves of the houses and the cords of firewood neatly stacked alongside the walks. It made a happy scene. Only recently, however, the mood of the Mingho villagers was not so happy. In 1947 their land had been hit by drought. They were just about recovering from this when

last year they suffered a hailstorm which seriously damaged the crops. The yield was only 30 per cent of the average. Consequently, when the summer cultivation of 1950 approached, the village was short of food both for the people and the animals. But the government was watching the situation closely and came to the aid of the Mingho people. Through the consumer co-operative in the village, it placed 66,540 catties of foodstuffs at their disposal. A rural credit committee was set up by the peasants for investigation and allocation of the grant. It was through this help that Mingho was able to pass through a most anxious period and concentrate on its production, so that the fields would produce their normal quotas.

We found that similar concern is exercised by the government of the Northeast districts for the families of soldiers and revolutionary martyrs. These people have their own houses, plenty of food, new clothes and animals. As the economic level of the villages rises, so does the status of these families. For example, in Yungkwei Village there are 25 soldiers' families. Of these, 21 families were hired peasants before land reform. After land reform, one family reached the rich peasant class and the remaining 20 have become middle peasants. The others retained their previous status of middle peasants, or they have moved up into the rich peasant group. In all cases where sending members of the family into the armed forces causes a shortage of labour or hardship of any kind, the government and Communist Party are ready to step in and ease the burdens.

Thus, the peasants of the Northeast realise that they have support from every side, in normal times and in times of trouble. This has a direct and invigorating effect upon the level of production.

#### Funds Left Over After Taxes and Expenses

It is a most pleasant fact that nowhere in the rural Northeast are there to be found hungry, frozen or sad-faced people. On the contrary, it is the normal situation to find beaming farmers and their families with three-layer new clothing—new surface material, new padding and new lining. It also is normal to have peasants tell you that for the first time in their lives, they have surplus grain and other supplies on hand and cash in the bank. This means that the elevation of the standard of living is practically taking place right before our eyes, that the peasants have their own wealth after paying taxes and providing for their daily living and that of their animals. It proves that by working for the new China, the peasants also are working for themselves.

After the bumper autumn harvest of 1950 and due to their fair sales and purchasing policies of the co-operatives and state trading organs, the estimates place the grain surplus in the hands of the peasants at 4 million tons. This is double their 1949 surplus. In addition, it is reported that the savings deposits in the Northeast increased 7.5 times in 1950 over 1949, these including the deposits of the farmers. All of this indicates the progressively increasing purchasing power of the peasants and their families. According to preliminary estimates of the Northeast General Co-operative Office, the

\* One catty is equivalent to  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilogram.

prospects for 1951 are that this will increase 60 per cent above the 1950 mark.

The record of how the peasants use their rising purchasing power in regard to cloth is interesting. In 1949 they bought 4,000,000 bolts. But in 1950 the sales jumped 125 per cent as they purchased a total of 9,020,000 bolts. Not only that, but the peasants' buying habits changed.

The time has come in the Northeast when the demand is not merely for cloth. Before, either blue or black would satisfy, just as long as it was cloth. But now the farmers feel prosperous. They want to dress up, so they demand cloth with designs and colour.

One of them said, "Colour is life and we have just begun to learn what life is."

It is obvious that the increased purchasing power is a vital stimulant for further advances in farm production. It is also obvious that this situation is responsible for stimulating industrial production. The demands of the peasants extend beyond their personal needs. For example, government economic organs in the Northeast have placed orders for tens of thousands of farm implement sets to satisfy the peasants' requirements. The demand for all sorts of goods is on the rise and this focuses attention on the consumer co-operatives. It is in these establishments that the peasants do the great share of their buying. Therefore, it is necessary to understand the role of consumer co-operatives in the rural economy.

#### The Role of Consumer Co-operatives

Liu Yin-lan, manager of the Mingho Village Co-operative Society, said, "The Co-operative Society must rely upon the demands and will of the people, these being linked with production."

This is a lesson derived from experience. Liu Yin-lan and many other co-operative managers had to learn it the hard way, since previous to the liberation, they had had practically no contact with such organisations. When many of the co-operatives started, they operated merely for quick turn-over of goods, for short duration and for profit only. They handled commodities such as superstitious goods, cosmetic and other luxury merchandise. Some co-operative societies did not even have shares. The village people merely pooled their money obtained as the fruits of their struggle with the landlords. They felt this was money above what they would ordinarily expect, therefore, it could be used as a sort of "gamble" on the co-operative. This shows they had no correct conception of co-operatives and therefore no attachment to them. They were thought of as mere passing fancies. In some cases the peasants had the idea that since they were members of the co-operative, they did not have to pay their bills on time, that it was something like a family debt that could wait a bit longer.

It was only after much education and help from the Communist Party and district co-operative bureaux that these misunderstandings were eliminated. District leaders had to start from the very beginning of the co-operative lesson, teaching what the responsibilities of a board of directors are, how to hold meetings, what to discuss and decide in

those meetings, how to investigate accounts and so forth.

After such help, the co-operatives began to stock the basic necessities of the peasants. This aroused interest in them and the farmers began to join in great numbers. Then the managements began to understand that their societies were not only stores, but also centres for solving problems of production and livelihood. When this took place, the people really moved to become associated so that hardly a person in the village was outside of the co-operative.

An example of how this actually works out can be seen in the experience of the Mingho Village Co-operative Society.

This co-operative was completely rebuilt. After they learned the correct principles of operation, they sold shares, allowing the poor peasants to pay for theirs in installments. Then responsible officials were elected and regular meetings, examination and auditing systems established. The staff was paid by loaning them labour to work their land while they attended to the co-operative business, and by providing them with clothing and food according to a definite monthly budget. All of this was teaching the peasants modern business methods. As well, it provided another lesson in democratic administration since practically the whole village participated in the decisions of the co-operative.

After these reforms, the Mingho Co-operative prospered and developed. It eventually became strong enough to buy and sell the farmers' produce. This saved the farmers so much trouble and the results were so satisfactory, that it solidified their faith in the co-operative. In addition, the co-operative made a profit and in June 1950, when the accounts were closed and settled, the shareholders received dividends equal to 25 per cent of the total capital.

Under Liu Yin-lan's able direction, the Mingho Co-operative Society began to thoroughly integrate itself into the life and economy of the village. To illustrate, in the spring of 1950 there were not enough seeds for the planting. Liu called a meeting of the executive committee immediately. They calculated the amount of seeds required. They then sold some of their stock to purchase seeds and these they distributed on a short-term loan basis, on the very easiest of terms. This saved the whole planting schedule.

Still other ways in which the co-operative society helped the Mingho peasants was by anticipating their needs and stocking the correct farm implements ahead of time, or by providing food on loan against a harvest, to protect the harvest when the farmers ran short of food and were faced with the prospect of having to eat the unripe crop.

With the absolute backing of the people, now the Mingho Co-operative Society has taken an advanced step. In addition to its other services, it has





begun to participate in the rural economy as a financial organisation. It has set up a deposit and loan section. On the one hand, the society will supply the needs of the peasants. On the other hand, through this new section, it will help the peasants to loan out their surplus funds and grain at interest. This will promote production, which in turn will stimulate trade, thus solving many of the village's economic difficulties with its own resources.

This is a new trend, a mass credit organisation which will move otherwise stagnant capital under the auspices and protection of the larger financial organisations, such as the Northeast People's Bank. To date it has had initial success, with the Communist Party members once again taking the lead by depositing their grain and funds with the society, and the deposit and loan section solving all sorts of problems, including personal ones, which would otherwise impede production.

Thus, the consumer co-operatives by adding banking to their other duties have further cemented their relationship with the people. They have enhanced their contribution to the reconstruction of the rural economy and New China.

Co-operatives have become a great power in the life of the Northeast peasants. In 1950 their membership increased by 127 per cent. Their retail trade increased by 494 per cent, exceeding their plan by 25.8 per cent. Their purchases increased by 394 per cent over 1949, exceeding their plan by 7.4 per cent. We can see by these figures that consumer co-operatives not only aid the peasants, but they also are a momentous factor in urban-rural trade exchange, an essential factor in the reconstruction of our country.

### The Villages and Political Advancement

With the basic economic situation changed by land reform, the way was opened for the peasants of the Northeast villages to change the entire political environment and structure. In place of the oppression of former times, there is freedom for the masses. In the place of tyranny centralised in the hands of the landlords and their bullies, there is power in the hands of the masses. These changes are no less impressive than the advances made in production and are, of course, inseparably linked with them.

Perhaps the single most outstanding fact in this connection is the broadness of participation in the village political life, the fact that all segments, with the exception of the former landlords, are actively engaged in running the government. Most villages were divided into sections, with a definite number of families in each section. These nominated candidates for the election to the village people's representative conference. After the elections, the representative conference elected a smaller committee.

The village committee is the operational level of the government. Within it, the division of labour is clearly defined, with each member in charge of one section. While it varies from village to village, these are usually the sections: Office of the Village Head; Office of the Village Deputy Head; Civil

Affairs; People's Court or Mediation Office; Production Office; Militia; Public Security; Education and Culture; Public Health; Finance and Food. Usually the Village Committee also has a secretary attached to it.

The village people's representative conference usually meets three times a year, but more frequently if it is necessary. Often special meetings are called to mobilise the farmers to attack certain problems. For example, in September 1950 many of the village people's representative conferences were expanded into general meetings to plan an efficient wheat harvest. From these mass meetings, a Wheat-Harvesting Committee was elected and charged with responsibility for the harvest, inspection of the work, keeping of the accounts, storage, delivery and other work.

People's delegate conferences are also called to make concrete plans for the seasons' and the year's work. These conferences inspect the progress of the plans decided upon and they report directly to the villagers on the results. Still other meetings are called to exchange experiences of production and government as well as to make awards of honour or to criticise and issue penalties in connection with the production effort.

The most valuable weapon of criticism and self-criticism is greatly developed in village government. It is responsible for uncovering many defects and deviations from the government's policies. For example, in some villages it was found that certain farmers had been deprived of their citizenship on the basis of misjudgements as to their class background. In other instances it was found that the policy of protecting the middle peasants was abused and landlords escaped the people's judgement. Both of these mistakes, and many others, have been vigorously attacked and corrected through criticism and self-criticism.

The convention of the village government representatives elects district representatives, while these elect the *hsien* governments. The process is continued up to and including provincial government. On each level the main characteristic of the government is consultation with the masses. This has most gratifying results, not only where it concerns domestic and local issues, but also where international problems are concerned. For example, the villagers have a clear conception of the world struggle for peace and they demand to be declared as part of that struggle. Eighty per cent of Yung-kwei Village signed the Stockholm Peace Appeal, and out of 1,470 people in Mingho Village, 1,101 put their names down for peace, just to indicate the results in two villages.

Each village has its own armed force, organised by the peasants themselves and controlled by them through the Village Committee. Both men and women participate. The duties of this militia are to protect the harvests and the fields, to guard against fires and the intrigues of landlords, or the sabotage of imperialist agents and KMT remnants.

Another indication of the political development of the Northeast peasants is their record of voluntary enlistments in the People's Liberation Army. Thousands upon thousands have entered its ranks. There

is probably not a village in the Northeast which is not represented in the PLA.

Since production and politics cannot be separated, neither can you separate the participation of the members of the Communist Party and the Youth League in them. It is these progressive elements who on every occasion in both spheres exert the greatest effort, make the biggest sacrifice and deliver the severest self-criticism. Their proportion to the village population is small, but their influence is great.

I have already illustrated how the Northeast peasant masses follow and are thankful for their leadership. Now I would like to relate a story which demonstrates that they also treasure this leadership.

Before the liberation, it was the practice to name villages after the biggest and most powerful landlord. Now that practice has been changed. Today villages are named after people's heroes.

All through this report I have been mentioning the name of Yungkwei Village. There once was a man by that name, Man Yung-kwei. He was a hired labourer from the time he was 12 years old, but from his earliest days, he knew there must be a better life than the one he was leading. Yung-kwei was an inquisitive person and he found that way, with the guidance of the Communist Party. Before the liberation of his village he organised the farmers, and after, he was elected the head of the liberated Peasants' Association. In that position he led the struggle against the landlords and to put the fallow fields to cultivation so the poor could eat.

Yung-kwei laboured tirelessly for his village, encouraging the peasants to produce more, associating this with their fight to uproot feudalism from every aspect of their lives. He became one of the leaders of his village and then he became the head of the whole district. At that time he also became a member of the Communist Party.

This most selfless man lived as frugally when he was district head as when he was chairman of his local peasants' association. And he worked just as hard. When the harvest time came, he was taken ill, but Yung-kwei refused to accept sick leave. He worked on and on, fighting off his tiredness and the pain which racked him. His disease went from bad to worse until finally his spirit could keep him going no longer. He died after having given his all for the people.

Later at a mass meeting, peasants Liu King-shan, Yang Kun and others made a proposal. It is recorded that they said, "Our village is known as Hwangyu. Before the landlords could exercise their might and authority over us. But with the arrival of the Communist Party, our late district head, Man Yung-kwei, led us to destroy feudalism and he provided us with a foundation, a foundation of "how to become rich." It is he who has led us to the road of liberation. He was of our class and we must do something to remember him. We suggest, therefore, that the name of Hwangyu be changed to Yungkwei Village in honour of our beloved Comrade Man Yung-kwei." This resolution met with the unanimous approval of all the villagers, who valued Man Yung-kwei for himself and for the Party he represented.

Another indication of the advancement of the Northeast peasants politically is the way the women of the villages have risen in status. They now take an active part in every walk of life. For their labour in production, they receive the same credit and equal pay with the men. Their representation on the village councils ranges as high as 45 per cent of the total members, as we found it in Yungkwei Village. They hold responsible positions in economic circles, culture and health. Generally we found the Northeast peasant women developing into the new type of Chinese person, ridding themselves of all feudal hold-overs, and helping their menfolk and the older people to do the same.

#### Advances in Welfare and Culture

We thus see that the land reform has transformed the rural life of the Northeast economically and politically. This has, of course, had its reflections on the welfare and cultural activities in the villages.

In the field of health, great progress has been made. Most of the villages have three inoculation campaigns each year, against typhus, cholera and bubonic plague, and one vaccination drive against smallpox. Not only are all of these services free, but in most villages they in themselves represent a 100 per cent increase in medical service for the people. Previously, under the Japanese imperialists and the KMT, the villagers had no contact whatsoever with modern medicine.

All of the medical work is carried out from the clinics in the district centres. The clinics themselves give free medical service or charge nominal fees in special cases. In addition, many places have medical co-operatives set up by the peasants. These supply medicines at low prices and help promote the rural medical work generally. Sungkiang Province already has 100 of these co-operatives in operation.

The question of village midwives has been dealt with excellently. In order for them to practise, they have to undergo training in modern methods at the district centres. In this way, the old-fashioned midwives are retrained and the new ones are trained in the correct procedure from the very beginning.

The policy in most villages is to allow mothers one month's rest after the delivery of their babies. During this period they are given special provisions of rice, white flour, eggs and sugar.

The result of the training and retraining of midwives and the special treatment for mothers is a most heartening drop in the infant mortality rate. In Yungkwei Village, for instance, within 1950, 44 babies were born. Three of these infants died, yet in looking back to the past for comparison, this death rate is negligible. Now the health authorities in Yungkwei and its district are striving to reduce infant deaths to the minimum. This they propose to do by exercising even greater care for infants and continuing to insist that all midwives adhere to the policy of not making deliveries without the basic equipment of umbilical scissors, alcohol and sterilised raw cotton.

As for other medical practitioners, the health authorities in the Northeast allow old-style Chinese doctors to continue practising, but they are constantly encouraging them to obtain more medical

knowledge and training. In the meantime, as more qualified personnel become available, they are assigned to work for the peasants.

We found that the peasants as a whole are taking up the advice given to them regarding sanitation and are applying it to their daily lives, and to their cooking methods. Also, due to their improved livelihood, they can afford better food, clothing and shelter. Consequently, the whole standard of health has noticeably risen. The people of the Northeast have become a robust people, flushed with the looks of good health and bursting with energy.

The same progress has been registered in cultural and educational activities. In the past, practically all villagers were illiterate. Mail was either unheard of or the cause of a great occasion. To get a letter read or written was a major task. Now, almost every village in the Northeast has its own primary school, serving the children of the farmers and the farmers themselves. Last year, 2,673 more of these schools were established.

The peasants of Huchiatientse, at the same time they rebuilt their village from the ruins, also built the first school-house they had ever had. Seventy per cent of the school-age children attend, and this figure is increasing every year. The fact is that in all of the Northeast, practically all of the children of school-age can obtain proper education at this time.



As in every village, the adults of Huchiatientse also make extensive use of the school. During winter sessions, over 700 adult pupils are registered and of these, 300 are women. Several of the adults who before did not know how to write their names, at present recognise as many as 1,000 characters. Most of the people in the village can also do simple sums and simple writing. The progress of the youngsters is marked by the fact that some of them have begun to advance to senior primary and middle school.

The village of Yungkwei has a similar story to tell. They have 100 per cent of their youngsters in school. Just as important, upon the demand of the peasant masses, they have raised the school age to 17 years, so as to spread the benefit of the school further. As for those over 17, they attend the winter literacy sessions.

From these illustrations, we can see that the peasants of the Northeast have been liberated mentally and are thirsting for knowledge and culture. This has become an era of enlightenment and advancement. As it proceeds, sharp inroads are made against the old, retarding customs of life and thinking. A prime example of this is the fact that the old superstitions have lost their hold on the people. In Yungkwei Village we found that the custom of worshipping the various gods had been completely

abolished. What is more, there is no longer the waste of money on buying incense and other superstitious goods, nor the waste of time worshipping idols during the New Year festival. The peasants of the Northeast have put these things where they belong, in the history books and museums. They realise there is only one power, and that is the power of the people. Such is the progress of the peasants of our Northeast.

### The Cities and Reconstruction

Founded on the increasing agricultural production of the countryside, the cities of the Northeast are being developed as the base of New China. For it is in these cities, located in the midst of the country's richest resources, that we find a comparatively modern industrial concentration. It is from this foundation of heavy industry—the iron and steel mills, the power plants and the factories which make machines to build other machines—that you derive the real importance of the Northeast. It is when you see the new masters of China, the aroused industrial working class, on the job, overcoming difficulties and utilising the Northeast plant capacity, that you understand nothing will prevent the Chinese people from realising our cherished dream of industrialisation.

The recent history of Northeast China's industrial plant is one of remodelling and rebuilding. It had to be remodelled from its colonial character under Japanese and puppet rule to one that served first the Liberation War and then to improve the people's livelihood, to make the cities aid in the economic reconstruction of the villages.

It had to be rebuilt from the destruction wrought by the Japanese and the KMT as each saw the mark of defeat on their vile plans. According to Kao Chung-min, Vice-Chairman of the Northeast People's Government, during the KMT control alone, from 50 to 70 per cent of the machinery and equipment was destroyed and there were attacks upon and killings of skilled technical personnel to intimidate and scatter them. Furthermore, not a single major railway bridge was left intact.

It is due to the increased productivity resulting from land reform, and the reliance upon the working class in the cities that the industrial capacity of the Northeast has been gradually restored and put on the road to complete rehabilitation and further development. Northeast China's industry has not only fulfilled its duties towards our People's Liberation Army and the peasants, but it has also accumulated both funds for economic construction and experience in large-scale production. Since 1949, it has developed in a series of great leaps. In 1950 alone, the total investment of the Northeast People's Government in industrial construction amounted to 40 per cent of its budget, 3.6 per cent above the plan. This investment resulted in equipment expansion which ranged from 10 to 60 per cent, and in some individual plants reached as high as 800 per cent. The total floor space of new factory buildings and warehouses constructed or repaired in 1950 amounted to 870,000 square metres. At the same time, workers' dwellings, hospitals, sanatoria, nur-

series, clubs and other institutions increased by 1,560,000 square metres.

The total value of 1950 industrial output by the state-owned factories was 117.3 per cent of the 1949 figure, while the number of workers on the job over the entire Northeast increased by 35.2 per cent. In the meantime, the purchasing power of the city people increased 20.5 per cent last year over 1949, giving further impetus to both trade and industrial expansion.

### The People's Plants

In this report I will comment only on several of the state-owned plants of the Northeast and give a few of my impressions as my party inspected them.

The Harbin Railroad Repair Factory is a huge sprawling enterprise with over 30 factory sheds. It has a history of 47 years and now consists of 19 branch factories in addition to the main headquarters. There are almost 5,000 workers in its system. Its regular work is to repair and inspect trains. Not only have the workers carried out their appointed tasks, always overfulfilling their plan, but they have retrieved many locomotives from the junk pile, some of which have become famous for their endurance. One of these was named after Vice-Chairman Chu Teh.

The Harbin Factory in addition had been called upon by our country to do work over and above its regular duties. In fact, these extra duties exceed the ordinary work by one-third. For instance, when the bridges over the Chiamusze, Sungari and Laling Rivers were being replaced, the factory was given the task of making the bridge frames. This required the re-installation of a three-ton electric furnace for making steel. After five nights and days of intense work, the workers, technicians and engineers completed the job, several days ahead of schedule. Later the Harbin Factory completed an 80-ton double-armed bridge-layer, which will be a great help to the future bridge-building and repairing in China.

\* \* \*

It can be truthfully said that the Hsiaofungman Power Plant was built with the blood of the Chinese people. Its construction was begun in 1934 by the Japanese. They forced thousands of workers to do this job and mercilessly oppressed them. The result was that by 1945 only 29 per cent of the work was finished. However, the cost in lives to complete even that much was tremendous. Some estimates place the death rate as high as 10,000 Chinese workers.

Just before the liberation, the KMT sent a group of soldiers to destroy the power plant. However, due to the dexterity of the workers, the marauders were fooled into destroying only some minor parts, leaving the main equipment intact.

After the liberation, the workers adopted the slogan, "No Stoppage of the Electricity Supply." To make a fact out of the words, the workers and cadres have been labouring without a let-up, repairing machinery, rebuilding dykes and maintaining a "no major accident" record. Now Hsiaofungman produces electricity for the people, for the new China.

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Perhaps the industrial enterprise with the longest history and the best known in the Northeast is the Anshan Iron and Steel Corporation. We learn-

ed that as early as 1,300 years ago, the Koreans smelted iron at Anshan. At that time the Kuogoli Nation of Koreans occupied what is today the Liaotung Peninsula.

In 1933, the Japanese invaders took over the works that had grown up in Anshan and expanded the equipment and production for their imperialist purposes. However, they used manpower instead of machinery because it was cheaper to exploit the Chinese workers. Therefore, they had a labouring force as large as 170,000.

When the KMT took the plant over in 1945, it had been seriously damaged. They did manage to get one furnace producing steel, however, and had about 10,000 workers on the job. At the time of liberation, though, in February 1948, most of the workers were scattered.

The People's Government set about reviving this wounded giant. The cadres called the workers back, using as a basic force those activists who had previously withdrawn with the people's army, or those who were organised and left behind to try to protect the plant. From this group was born a great labour enthusiasm which resulted in many sensational accomplishments, including the raising of steel production to over 136 per cent of the scheduled output.

There are now thousands of workers at the plant and many of the most complicated jobs are in the hands of Chinese technicians and engineers, positions they were once forbidden to hold by the Japanese.

While going through the giant steelworks, the unending thrills of organised, social production made me speechless. I could only keep in my mind the future of the Chinese people, as represented by the making of that iron and steel.

I saw the immense open hearths where the hard-working steelmen were tapping the furnaces. Peering through special glasses, I witnessed steel being made. Cranes rumbled overhead, shrill whistles shut out all other sound, and engines thundered past. The steel furnace door was opened and its one brilliant light reminded me of the story of Cyclops, the one-eyed demon. The steel was poured from huge buckets and this caused mammoth fireworks which lit the whole sky. "There goes China's sinews," passed through my mind.

Inspecting Anshan gave me other thoughts. Many times I have heard that China needed outside technicians and could not do anything for herself. Of course, in our undeveloped condition, we do need technical help. But as this problem came to mind, the solution also came. It was spoken quietly and with firm confidence. Comrade Wen Liang-hsien, head of the iron-smelting plant and formerly an iron-worker in the old liberated areas, said, "If only we fully rely upon the workers and learn

(Continued on page 25)



# Mme. Sun Yat-sen in Northeast China



Mme. Sun visits Huchiatientse. "This village was wiped off the map by the puppet and KMT regimes," writes Mme. Sun. "... At the time of liberation ... the peasants were naked and on the verge of starvation. ... By 1950 we found all the houses rebuilt. ... The food supply improves constantly and by 1951 every person in the village had a new suit of clothes."



A village cadre (centre) talks with Mme. Sun and Lin Po-chu, Secretary-General of the Central Peoples Government Council.



Peasants of Huchiatientse proudly show their new farm implements to Mme. Sun, Lin Po-chu and the other members of their party.

# Fushun Coal Emu

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emulation movement  
state collieries fulfill  
Compared with 1949  
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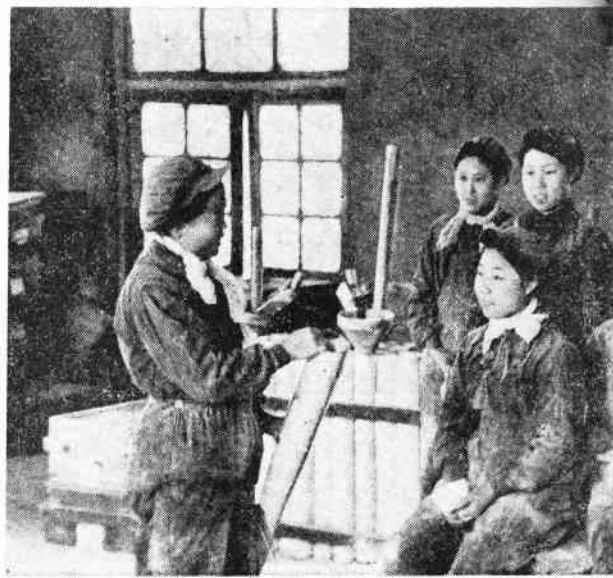
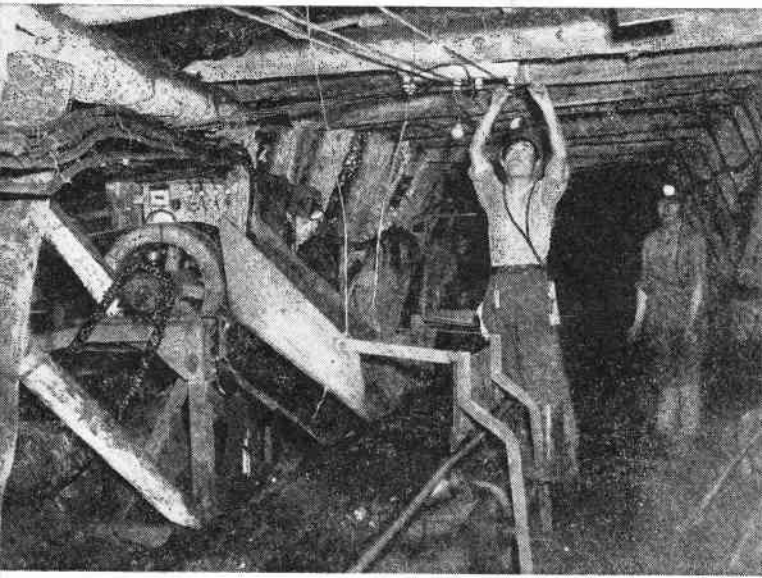
Efficient Soviet pneumatic drills are widely used for coal-cutting.



One of the ho

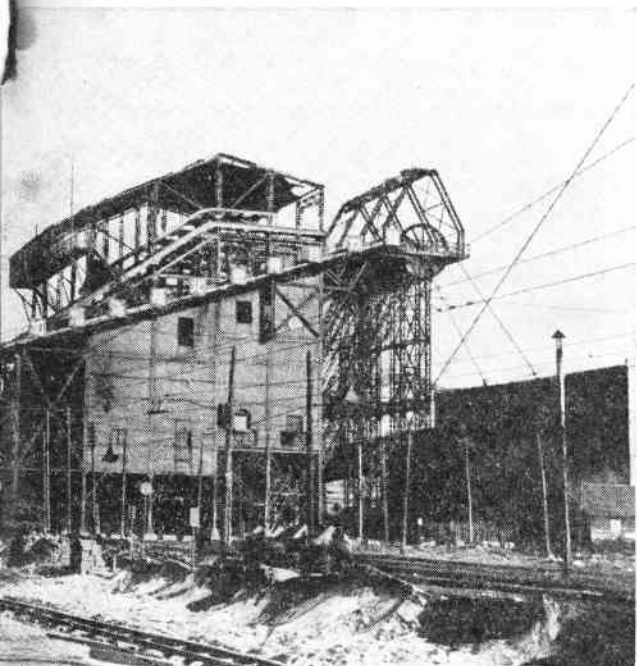
New pits are made safe by modern methods and installations.

Makers of explosive charges plan their emu



# Miners in the Patriotic Lation Movement

workers' endeavours in the nation-wide patriotic  
and the assistance of Soviet experts, China's  
ed their 1950 production target by 100.2 per cent.  
labour productivity increased by 23 per cent.  
ne of Northeast China, one of the nation's largest,  
d its 1950 plan as early as Nov. 25.



ests which haul coal from pit-head to train.

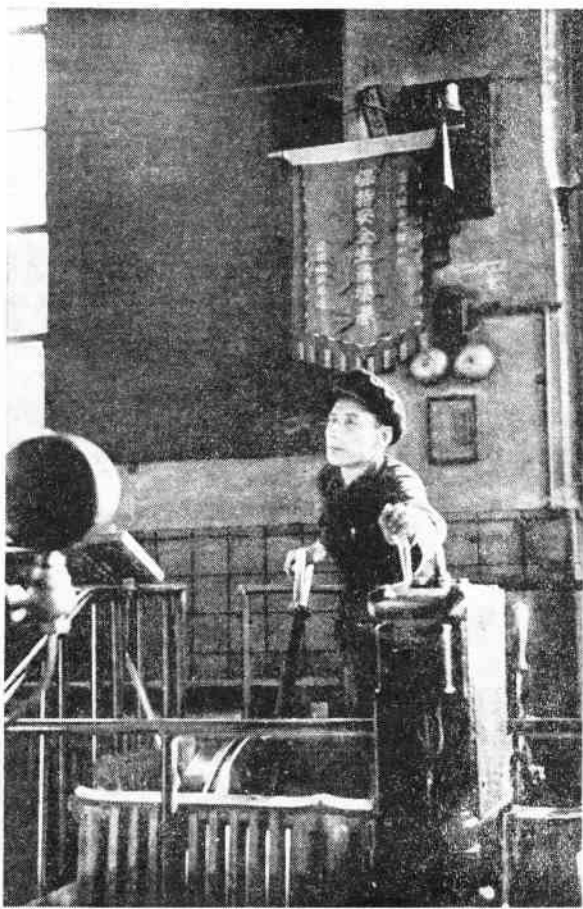
ton drive.

Open-face miners also adopt new tools.



A powerful electric crane at work.

A hoist operator who has been honoured for his record of safe running during the past year.



# Mme. Sun at Anshan



At a school for the children of the workers of the Anshan Iron and Steel Corporation.



"One of the developments of the Northeast which impressed me most," writes Mme. Sun, "was the great strides that have been made in the fields of welfare, culture and education for the city working class."



Free medical treatment for the workers.



New spacious homes for Anshan workers.

Steel workers crowd the local bookshops.



Mme. Sun visits the giant steelworks.





modestly, I am certain that we can properly operate modern plants."

As I left the Anshan Iron and Steel Corporation, there was no doubt in my mind at all that Chinese workers will one day run that plant completely and the many others like it that New China will erect. If I needed further proof, I had but to consult the production figures. Although the present equipment of Anshan only equals one-third of that which the Japanese installed, already the production exceeds the best Japanese output. That in itself is answer enough.

I could go on giving the history and descriptions of the Kirin Paper Mill, the Dairen Dockyards and of the other industrial projects which we saw, but these examples should prove sufficient to demonstrate that our Northeast is a budding industrial power, and that the workers have taken control in a manner which befits the masters of the land.

### The Importance of Soviet Help

Until now, in recording the industrial progress of the Northeast, I have not made mention of the part which was played in this advancement by the technicians and workers of the Soviet Union. This was done with a purpose. In the first place, our Soviet friends have so generously given us the benefit of their experience, this display of internationalism deserves a special section. In the second place, their role in our reconstruction has been so great and vital on all levels of production, that it should be set down in some detail.

The Soviet technicians and workers have brought to China a treasure of know-how in solving practical problems of all sizes. They have brought with them a great knowledge in the application of the highest science. They have brought with them a rich experience of working in behalf of the people. Many of them participated in the



early days of reconstruction after the October Socialist Revolution. All of them have done valiant work in the building of Socialism and the preparation for Communism in the U.S.S.R. Therefore, the conditions we meet in China and the obstacles we have to face, they have met and overcome before. Their assignment and greatest joy is to help the Chinese people use this experience to build the new China.

Everywhere in the Northeast where Soviet technicians and workers are on the job, we found the work progressing in close harmony between them and the Chinese workers. Our people call them their "Big Brothers." I recall when inspecting the Harbin Factory, the Director of the plant, Comrade Chang Hung-shu, earnestly remarked that he wanted to be a primary school student in learning from the Soviet comrades. Vice Director of the factory, Khilgevich, pleasantly smiled and spoke glowingly of the progress that his co-worker was making.

This mutual respect is a universal characteristic of Sino-Soviet co-operation.

There is no question that a great deal of the desire to learn from the Soviet workers is due to their attitude towards work. In the Harbin Factory, we were introduced to a Soviet worker who had been elected a labour model. His name is Polokin, a 75-year old man who is head of the Steam-Hammer Department. What he told us can best express this attitude. He said, "Everybody has his good friend. Mine is the steam-hammer. The most important thing for a worker is to love and take care of his tools. Because if the tools don't work, we have to stop work too. This would be a loss to our country. All these years, therefore, I have loved my steam-hammer as my best friend."

This love of labour and the tools which create wealth for the people is accompanied by a passion for accuracy and science in both management and operation. "Every little detail is important to our Soviet comrades," the Chinese workers commented. "Nothing is done unless it is accurately calculated first," they added.

An example was cited in the Anshan plant. Plans were drawn up in September 1949 to completely restore a large furnace by August 1950. However, upon meticulously inspecting both the plans and the conditions of the furnace, the Soviet technicians recommended that repairs be begun immediately and predicted that it would be ready for use within the year. This was met with skepticism by the old engineers, but the Soviet technicians countered with their experience of making repairs in the far worse weather conditions of Siberia. With this assurance to back them, the workers pitched in and completed the job a few days before 1949 ran out on them.

The way the Soviet workers make every possible use of science was illustrated in connection with an incident which occurred at the Hsiao-fungman Power Plant.

One of the important pieces of work in connection with the rehabilitation of the plant was the reconstruction of the dykes, which form a lake and from which the electricity is eventually derived. This work was scheduled to last well into 1951. However, the Soviet technicians assigned to the plant recommended that the work be completed by July 15, 1950. The reason given was that the meteorological observations showed in the autumn of 1950 there would be an increase of rainfall. If the dykes were not prepared for the extra load, they would most likely sustain heavy damage and render all previous work useless.

This advice was accepted. The Sungari River rose higher last autumn than in previous years, but the dykes were ready and the work of the power plant continued in its normal course.

The examples of the help rendered by these international friends could be endlessly enumerated.

\* The Harbin Factory is connected with the Chinese Chungchun Railway, now jointly operated by China and the Soviet Union. According to the Sino-Soviet Agreement of February 14, 1950, the Railway together with all the property belonging to it will be transferred, without compensation, by the Soviet Union to China "immediately on the conclusion of the peace treaty with Japan, but not later than the end of 1952."

So could their warm-hearted regard for the livelihood of the workers, their living quarters, their medical and sanitation conditions and their study.

Even as this is being written, I think back on the genuineness of those Soviet friends, of the self-sacrifice of people like Port Master Novikov of Dairen, who was head of the Leningrad port during the last war and whose only son was killed liberating Berlin. We visited several of these comrades in their simple but neat quarters and learned their life stories. After getting to know them, I could see why production records are constantly being broken. When I read that efficiency for steel refining was upped 35 per cent, that the time for coke refining was reduced from 21 to 16.5 hours, that in all Northeast coal mines production went up from 20 to 30 per cent after Soviet methods were introduced, I have a good idea of the efforts the Soviet technicians put into their work, side by side with their Chinese comrades.

### The New Chinese Worker

The same application of Soviet science to industrial operation has been made to management systems in the Northeast. This has made it possible to institute reasonable wage systems based on "piece work." Along with the guidance of the labour unions and the Communist Party, the new system has stimulated a most vital innovation movement among the workers. This movement has produced a new type of Chinese worker, a working class vanguard who thinks only in terms of our country's advancement. In the cities they parallel the labour heroes in the villages. Together they forge our New China.

Just to take one industrial project as an example, I will cite some figures concerning the Harbin Factory. On its honour rolls you will find the name Peng Mi-shen. This worker invented an iron mould that not only increased production from 350 to 1,500 units daily, but lifted the quality from 50 per cent perfects to 90 per cent.

Take a look a little further along the list and you will come to the name of Tuan San-chien. He invented two new methods, one connected with the rolling of metals which increased efficiency six times, and the other was an iron-pressing machine which released 15 workers for other labour and increased production in the shop by 280 per cent.

In the whole Harbin Factory, 1950 saw the adoption of 320 innovations suggested by workers. Through these, ¥368,400,000 was saved from January to September 1950 alone. By utilising waste materials, ¥5,260,000,000 more was saved. In addition, waste steel is being used to build 1,000 square metres of office space, a small hospital, a nursery and 2,000 square metres of new workshops. In the first six months of 1950, production was increased throughout the entire factory by 30 per cent while the management staff was greatly reduced through using Soviet management systems and a more scientific division of labour.

These are all explanations why the Harbin Factory had 387 model workers, 64 honoured heroes of labour, 658 superior workers and 398 advanced workers, all elected by the workers themselves. These are all explanations why 28 first-class cadres were selected from among section heads or chiefs of branch factories and sent to other more important

jobs and that the present section heads and branch chiefs have risen from the workers' ranks.

This is emancipated labour, following and learning from the Soviet example. This is an atmosphere which produces workers like Chao Kuo-yu and his record-breaking movement, which spreads into every segment of industry until 21,740 new records have been established and workers by the tens of thousands have participated, individually and collectively.

### The Effect on Private Industry

The land reform, the great revival of Northeast state industry and workers' enthusiasm have been a great stimulant for the entire Northeast economy. This includes private industry. During the time of the Japanese invaders and the KMT marauders, private industry was either allowed to decline or purposely pushed out of the market. The People's Government has reversed this condition. Private industry is now encouraged to revive itself by facing towards the rural areas and thereby aid the economic reconstruction of village economy. Industrialists are helped in the following ways:

- (a) Solving the problem of finding a market for their goods. The government organs place orders for manufactured goods, or give the private factories semi-finished goods to process.
- (b) Solving the problems of both labour and capital. The government encourages the signing of labour-capital contracts which take into consideration the interests of both, and also encourages the establishment of labour-capital consultation committees on production. The experience to date has been that this policy has increased production and motivated "cut-down waste" movements among the workers of Northeast China's private industry.
- (c) The government has systematically aided in obtaining raw materials, power and capital.
- (d) The government has constantly improved the taxation system of appraisal and levy.
- (e) The government has strengthened the work of the industrial-commercial associations in the Northeast.

The result of these policies has been that private industry has begun to move ahead in its development, especially those plants which are directly connected with the state economy, such as machine building, iron and steel works and so forth. In Shenyang (Mukden), for instance, in January 1950 there were only 596 iron workshops. But by the middle of the year, they had increased to 1,014 shops and the number of workers had doubled. In this same period, Shenyang's private industry saw its capital investment increase from ¥94.6 billion to ¥171.4 billion. The value of its output during the third quarter of 1950 rose by 232 per cent compared to the first quarter. To grasp the complete picture, according to Vice-Chairman Kao Kang's recent report, Shenyang's private industrial enterprises, between December 1949 and November 1950, increased by 30.2 per cent and the number of workers increased by 32.4 per cent. Since this is the situation in the key industrial city of the Northeast, we can see that private industry over the entire territory has revived

in step with the reconstruction of state industry, as fostered by the government's policies of linking both the rural and the city economies.

### The Cities and Political Advancement

After the liberation of the Northeast cities, they had to be entirely reorganised politically. The basic government before had been the vicious "pao chia" system\* which hung like a yoke on the necks of the people. This burden was lifted for all time with the institution of the district government system. This method puts the responsibility of governing into the hands of the people. They participate directly in the selection of their representatives through their lane and street associations, or as members of organisations. For the first time in the history of Northeast cities, they are receiving direction which guides their development in favour of the masses.

The district governments elect representatives who then attend the city people's representative conference. The city governments are elected by these meetings. They forward the opinions of the masses, discuss and pass the laws and elect the officials.

In studying the history of these conferences, the interesting fact to note is that as they meet more and more frequently, they become more and more representatives of the people. The number of delegates increase and the proportion of delegates from the various circles are gradually adjusted so that representation accurately reflects the composition of the city's population. In Changchun, for instance, the first city-wide conference had seventy delegates in attendance. By the time the fifth session was held, the number had grown to 310 representatives.

The role of the Communist Party and the New Democratic Youth League members in the cities has been as important as it has been in the villages. In production, the Party and League members have constantly been in the forefront, fearing no sacrifice. There is the example of Chao Kwei-lan, the woman Communist who lost her arm protecting a Dairen factory from an explosion.

The actions of the Party and League members have been guided by the directives issued by Chairman Mao, the Communist Party and the Central People's Government. These have been: to preserve the means of production when taking them over, to revive them by overcoming difficulties, to make every possible  *yuan* available for production, to train cadres, and finally, to struggle for the realisation of China's economic rehabilitation and industrial construction.

The Communist Party and the New Democratic Youth League have also taken the lead in awakening



the people politically. The result: the Northeast masses have stood at the head of the nation in expressing our wrath at the American aggressors for bombing our cities. They have the gains of their new life in their hands. The future advances are within their grasp. Therefore, they have been the first to let the Americans know our determination to resist and defeat their imperialist attack on Korea, China and world peace.

This unequivocal stand of the Northeast city masses in the lead of the nation attests to their rapid political development.

### Welfare and Culture in the Cities

One of the developments of the Northeast which impressed me most was the great strides that have been made in the fields of welfare, culture and education for the city working class.

Closest to the workers' lives are the measures which have been taken relative to the safety and sanitary conditions in the factories, mines and mills. These have recently been very much extended and improved. The Shenyang factories can be used as an illustration of these advances.

Although there are in Shenyang 204 factories under government and public ownership alone, with over 140,000 staff and labourers, safety and sanitation had not been very satisfactorily developed in preceding years. When the time came for the People's Government to take action in this connection, two factories were first singled out for experimentation. The results from these were gradually expanded to the other plants and eventually, in 1950, the Factory Security and Health Committee was formed. With the support of the city administration, and in conjunction with the Bureaux of Labour and Health, the trade unions, the police and medical specialists, the work was made to penetrate deeply into the entire industrial structure of Shenyang, both public and private. As the work progressed, the interest of the working masses of the city was aroused and the struggle for safety and sanitation on the job became a regular movement.

The chief mission of the Security and Health Committee was to study and improve the machinery, and to delve into all the problems related to security and sanitation installations. It was also to make statistical studies, promote education within the plants, and to take preventive measures to avoid industrial accidents.

Based on this, the committee began a thorough inspection of the factories and plants so as to understand them completely. At the same time, a medical examination of the workers and a health card system was started. Simultaneously with this, the establishment of clinics began in those plants which did not have them. While this was underway, the most important questions were attacked. These dealt with poor ventilation in most of the plants, improper lighting, high temperature and high humidity, dust and other occupational hazards injurious to the workers. Suggestions have been forwarded and tried out in many of the plants and as the solutions to the problems are found to be reliable, they will be applied on an extended scale. Additionally, work is advancing in taking sanitary conditions to factory kitchens and dining halls, to the dormitories, bath-

\* Pao Chia system was used by the Japanese and the KMT. It made families in a certain street or district responsible for each other's actions and all responsible to the local Japanese and KMT officials.

rooms and latrines. In those places where these welfare facilities do not exist, steps are being taken to install them as early as possible.

As far as safety measures are concerned, these have been enhanced through a new system of responsibility. Under this system groups of workers have specific responsibilities for their machines. Such responsibility may even extend to entire sections of a factory, mine or mill, depending on the industry and the layout of the plant. It is the duty of the workers to eliminate defects that might lead to accidents. The management, in turn, is responsible for ensuring that the defective machine parts are replaced or repaired or other action taken to remove the danger. Contracts are signed between labour and management specifying in detail the responsibility of each party. In addition, safety committees are set up and regular campaigns are held in safety education. Every new safety measure is usually submitted to the workers for discussion before being implemented. This system has been a great success in the plants which have used it.

Safety and sanitation work is complicated in a big industrial city and it must proceed carefully. The Factory Security and Health Committee of Shenyang is, therefore, progressing according to a definite programme, first concentrating on the bigger factories where they will obtain experience, and then gradually pushing the work into the smaller plants. The greatest gains are still before them, but in any event, this entire programme is an indication that the People's Government recognises the necessity for such efforts.

In other Northeast cities, there have been advances which extend health measures for workers much beyond the plant. In Dairen, our party visited the sanatorium for the workers of the Far East Electricity Company, one of the industrial installations just completely turned over by the Soviet Union. The sanatorium is a modern construction, nestling at the foot of a mountain and facing the sea. It makes a beautiful picture, surrounded by green pines, red maples and cherry trees. Before, it was a villa for Japanese militarists, but now it belongs to China's working people.

This sanatorium draws its expenses from the labour insurance fund of the company. Each worker who rests there continues to draw his salary but he also gets a regular daily allowance. Model workers, those with good production records and factory cadres rest here in the soothing surroundings, enjoying the good food and the recreational facilities. Every two weeks 100 new workers arrive to take advantage of this opportunity to build up their health. After the two-week stay, they generally register gains in weight.

Taking the Northeast as a whole, such health measures in behalf of workers have spread to the point where at present there are several hundred hospitals, clinics and sanatoria for their use in the territory. This is a sign of the times, the time when the workers are the masters of our land and the new society enables them to make every possible advance on the road to a good life.

In order to accomplish the production tasks set for the Northeast, and to elevate the health of the people generally, the same care and attention is

given to the public health programmes. Despite the shortage of health personnel and lack of material facilities, the Northeast health workers have succeeded in carrying out the policy of "Prevention First, Treatment Second." This success is due to the method of fostering co-operation between the government and individuals, organising the medical workers in the cities and mobilising the masses to join the campaign for health.

Great reliance is placed on the rank and file people of the cities. In Shenyang, for example, over 11,000 health activists were cultivated. They led the campaigns to clean up garbage dumps, kill flies and to do other cleaning jobs in the city.

Also important was the work done to activate the medical workers upon the principles of "Take the Medicine to the People," and making each medical worker responsible for certain health activities in his district.

Another vital measure was to set up women and children's health centres to bring down the infant mortality rate and improve the well-being of both women and the youngsters. When I saw this work, it reminded me of the projects my own organisation, the China Welfare Institute, has undertaken among the women workers of Shanghai, conducting health publicity and education, giving training in the care of children, ante- and post-natal examinations and deliveries.

When the health work in the Northeast was summarised as to the lessons learned, this was what was presented:

- (a) To start mass-scale health work, the co-operation of the city administration, the Communist Party and the public security organisations are indispensable.
- (b) In setting up basic health organisations, training beforehand is effective and mobilising the rank and file is essential.
- (c) The doctors who participate are the pillars of the health structure as they serve as the bridge between the health institutions and the activated rank and file.
- (d) Once the people see the significance of health work, they will demand more and carry on some of it themselves. However, guidance from all levels and constant encouragement are necessary.

We found the city people in the Northeast with the same interest as in other parts of China when it came to child-care work. They, too, understand the necessity for nurturing the future of China by training our youngsters from early in life. There are many nurseries in operation and their number is increasing constantly. Many of these obtain their support directly from the People's Government as well as from the labour unions and the women's organisations.

As a result of conferences on nursery work, the child-care cadres in the Northeast aim at the following goals:

- (a) To help the children obtain a correct conception of labour, that labour is the creation of all wealth and that they should love labour;
- (b) To cultivate the children's wisdom through

- an interesting educational programme;
- (c) To help the children develop new morals, which consist of love for our country, for our leaders, for our people, for labour and for the property of the people;
  - (d) To help the children obtain and maintain the best of health through education in good habits and good preventive work.

\* \* \*

The advances made by the Northeast in cultural and educational work demonstrate how these fields can develop when the people come to power.

Primary schools have now grown to 34,000 and they have a student body of 4,576,111. This figure includes village youngsters. Middle schools increased 21 per cent in 1950 over 1949, and the number of students increased 38 per cent to reach 155,748 in that same period. In addition, there are 61 technical schools and there are many of what are known as "short-term" schools which especially cater to cadres from the peasant and worker class. In the Northeast there are also 16 new-style higher educational institutions for training technical workers and including departments or courses in finance and economics. At present there are 17,978 students in these universities and colleges.

Coinciding with the formal schooling is the massive campaign to wipe out illiteracy among the working people of the Northeast. Hundreds of thousands of workers study in the night schools, adding their numbers to the 4,500,000 peasants who attended winter schools.

Naturally, all this educational activity creates a demand for printed materials. In 1950, more than 40 million volumes of books were printed by the Hsinhua (New China) Book Store. In addition, there operates in the Northeast a far-reaching network of distributing centres for books, magazines, newspapers and other publications.

What are the results of such a promotion of knowledge and education? Take Dairen-Port Arthur as an example. Before the liberation, one-third of the population was illiterate. By 1949, at the start of the programme to erase illiteracy, there were 200,000 people enrolled in the courses. Already over 50,000 have been graduated. The standard for workers is to know 1,200 characters, 1,000 for ordinary citizens and for the peasants, 800 characters.

Among the children, middle school students increased 266.5 per cent over Japanese times; primary school students, 217.9 per cent. In addition, these cities now have a university with a complete course of subjects. There are also technical schools which function right in the factories and plants. The workers have a cultural palace, nine cultural institutes, 92 cultural clubs and 332 cultural centres.



A typical cultural installation is the one we visited in Dairen known as "The Workers' Home." This was in reality the home, school and cultural palace of the workers of the Dairen Transportation Company, half of whom are women.

The slogan of the company is "The Factory Is the School" and this spirit of constantly-promoting the work is carried into "The Workers' Home." As the work in the factory is split into three shifts, the Home is full of people all of the time. There they have their spare-time study and their technical school. They proudly tell you that both the manager of the Dairen Transportation Company and the headmaster of the school are graduates of the Workers' Home and from the workers' ranks.

The Workers' Home was set up out of the profits of their co-operative. They bought an old, dilapidated school and with their own voluntary labour, turned it into a palace. There are club rooms and recreation rooms, a playground, library, classrooms, bathrooms and a dining room. They also have a fine auditorium which can seat 800 people.

We saw many of these installations throughout our visit to the Northeast, in addition to such cultural institutes as the Oriental Culture Museum and War Historical Museum in Port Arthur. In each place the workers had taken an active part in actually constructing some section or all of the building, or were running the organisation. In each place, we saw the people of New China learning and enjoying a life that just a few short years ago they could not even dream about. It made them eager to contribute more to our country's growth and prosperity. It made them determined to protect it with all the valour and love they possess.

### Conclusions

To sum up the substance of the impressions I gathered from the Northeast:

The state power of imperialism, bureaucratic capital, warlordism and KMT corruption has been thoroughly smashed. This has been replaced with a power that is in every respect a people's state.

This has enabled the land reform to be accomplished and consolidated. Never again will the peasants of the Northeast return to the oppressive, feudal, poverty-ridden past. They have strode out onto the road of collective effort, onto the road of New Democracy which leads to the Socialist epoch.

This has enabled the working class in the cities to release all of their creative genius. Together with the Soviet technicians, who help us in the true spirit of internationalism, they are rapidly reconstructing industry and providing a base for its future growth in the era of New Democracy, the preparatory period for the completely organised, ultra-efficient industry of the Socialist epoch.

This has enabled both peasants and workers to enjoy a constantly rising standard of living, gaining materially and in the realm of culture with giant strides. This is remoulding our alert, inventive people into the citizens of New Democracy, on their way to becoming the advanced type of person of the Socialist epoch.

As evidenced by the Northeast, New China is truly forging ahead to its glorious future.

## Battle with Coal

Chow Hsueh-sheng

The spring wind, coming off the Hopei plains and driving the dust before it, gathered the smoke from the Fengfeng Mine's smoke-stacks and blew on towards the Taihang Range. The hoist clattered and rattled. Coal poured from the bins into the waiting railway wagons with a deafening rumble.

Lu Tse-chung, the Fengfeng Mine's Vice-Director, watched a trainload slowly pull away along the Hankow-Peking line, coal piled high in every wagon. Hard coal, coal good for a nation's industry, good for coking, for making steel. ... But not enough of it.

Since May, 1950, Soviet mining experience had been introduced at Fengfeng, and the Soviet specialists had made many valuable suggestions which the mine had carried out. The working face, for example, had been concentrated to facilitate mechanisation. Pneumatic drills were introduced to replace the old coal-cutting picks. Still, in the past six months there hadn't been the improvement in production that there should have been.

The pneumatic drills seemed just a difficult new-fangled device to the workers. When they heard that Soviet miners using the method of Stakhanov cut 360 tons of coal in every 8-hour shift, they said, "We're no match for them. We work hard with the drill, but all we get are 18 tons a shift per team, and we can do that with the old picks." They objected that the drills were too heavy and often went out of order. They vibrated so much that the roof shook. They were scared they might be hit by falling lumps of coal.

"Throw the damned things out," some even said. "We'll go back to using the old picks and compete with the pneumatic drillers."

"If only they realised the real advantages of the drill, they could certainly cut more," thought Vice-Director Lu to himself. "We'd better call a meeting."

Fifteen pneumatic drillers, Vice-Director Lu, the trade union chair-

man, the Communist Party branch secretary, and a leading technician met on March 8, this year.

Chao Wen-hsin, a heavily-built young worker of 28, the healthy colour of his cheeks showing through the coal dust on his face, squatted on the ground quietly. He was thinking. "The trade union has called on us pneumatic drillers to create new records. The Communist Party wants us Party members to lead the drive... I must do something."

The Communist Party secretary spoke. "The entire nation is aiding Korea and resisting American aggression. What can we workers do to help? There's only one answer—produce more coal. More coal means more steel, and more steel means more cannon shells to take care of the American devils. The pneumatic drills are our machine guns."

### A Communist Party Member

Chao Wen-hsin nodded, still keeping quiet... Yes, what the secretary says is true. The Communist Party has been good to me and to the others. If it hadn't been for the Party and its leadership, I'd still be eating beancake fertiliser instead of white flour and meat every meal, to say nothing of the special ration of extra meat for pneumatic drillers. I'd still be living in a cave six feet long and three feet high, the same damned cave that gave me the stooped shoulders I have. I wouldn't have my three spacious rooms in the brick dormitory which the administration's built. Yes, the Communist Party really liberated us workers. That's why I joined the Party in 1949... Once we had the Japs on our backs, and now the Americans are trying. When I wanted to go to Korea, they said it's just as important to remain at your post and increase production. But damn it, production hasn't increased. What should we do?

Suddenly what Vice-Director Lu was saying cut across his thoughts. "The pneumatic drillers in the Huainan Mines have set a record of 215 tons per 8-hour shift..." For

a minute Chao, like the others, was stunned. Then he jumped to his feet.

"The Stakhanov record's 360 tons. That seems incredible here. That's happening far away, in the Soviet Union," he spoke excitedly. "But the Huainan Mines are right here—in China. What they can do at Huainan, why, we can do here."

"You can cut that much easily," broke in the technician. "But you must master the technique of the drill. It's no good using up all your energy on the thing as I've seen you do in the mines day after day without using the drill in the right way... Eh, look here," and saying this, he dismantled a pneumatic drill and explained once again the structure of the tool.

"Sure the drill's heavy, but it's powerful. The drill head vibrates 2,000 times a minute. With the greatest effort you can only hit 30 to 40 times a minute with a pick." Then he went on to explain how to push the drill into the cracks in the seam so that big lumps of coal could be cut easily. "And don't hold the drill head pointing above your body as some of you do. Point it down. Then it won't be so heavy and the coal dust won't bother you nearly as much."

Chao and the other workers listened carefully and went away, each of them thinking of new ways to create records.

\* \* \*

On March 9, the wall newspapers at the pit head carried extras. "Li Kwang-chen's team sets a record of 37 tons! The trade union sets a new goal—Keep pace with the Shantung miners who cut 60 tons!"

On March 15, there was another extra. "Chao Wen-hsin's team cut 75 tons!" Another goal was set—"Beat the first Stakhanov record of 102 tons!"

That very night Chang Kwang-wei's team cut 104 tons! The new goal was—"Beat the second Stakhanov record of 225 tons!"

No news on the 16th... No news on the 17th...

"We'd better have a meeting and talk it all over," thought Chao Wen-hsin. "We can't beat this record without the very best teamwork."

There were 15 workers in his team including timberers, loaders and repair men. Chao was well-liked and the workers looked up to him. He was one of the first to realise the importance of the pneumatic drill and to learn its use. Though not the leader of the team, he always took it upon himself to inspect the face of the mine and check the supports every time the shift started work.

With the bonus the trade union had given him for the March 15 record, Chao invited all the workers to wine and peanuts. Sitting and talking in the playground outside his dormitory, a quiet spot during the day when the children were all in school, they talked of their work.

"How about a new record tonight when our shift's on?" asked the team leader. "Think we could make it?"

Bald-headed Yang, white towel round his neck, a timberer and the oldest worker in the team, slapped his knee and said, "If we're worth our salt, and really have the spirit to resist America and aid Korea, we must break the record!"

Chao followed up: "Lao Yang's right. You young fellows who've only been working here a few years, ask the old ones how it was under the Japs. They'll tell you how after every shift four or five workers would go home exhausted and die, and how the Japs would simply throw their corpses into the small disused pits around. You can still see their bones lying in them... Our volunteers shed blood in Korea to protect us workers. Can't we make a greater effort?"

The workers looked grave and nodded.

#### Technique Important

Lao Yang spoke up again. "We've got to master the skill though. Last time when we broke the record with 75 tons, we ended up exhausted. Let's go into this matter right now and find out what our defects are and discuss them."

Everyone had something to say. Some said, "We've got only one drill. If it fails, as it often does, our repair men aren't quick enough." Others said, "The drillers

are always worried that the roof'll cave in and don't concentrate on the drilling, always looking round to see if everything is all right. That's the job of our timberers." One suggested, "We must have one timberer who constantly looks after the driller and make sure he's safe."

"Who's to be our driller tonight?" asked the team leader. "There are five in the team who can use the drill."

Chao Wen-hsin was the unanimous choice.

"If you people back me up, I'll try my best," said Chao. "There's one condition. We work as a team!" They all agreed and the timberers guaranteed the driller's safety.

At ten that night when the team went into the mine, the cables and supporting timbers were carefully inspected. Suddenly Chao thought, "One drill's not enough. If something goes wrong, we have to stop for repairs." He asked for five drills and when they came, he set them along the 22-metre mine face at even intervals. Then he began.

He drilled hard for a quarter of an hour with the first drill and moved on to the second, leaving the first for the repair man to check. And now the loaders had more space. In this way he rotated among the five drills, pointing the head of the drill right into the joint, cutting huge lumps of coal which fell to the floor. The loaders kept up with him. The timberers who were busy looking after the supports called out once when he looked around out of habit, "Don't worry. Everything's okay!"

It was early in the morning when the loaders shouted, "Lao Chao! Lao Chao! Come on! Come on! Harder! Harder! We've already loaded 150 bins!"

Lao Chao paused a moment, wiped the sweat off his face, calculated quickly and said to himself, almost in a whisper, "Wha-a-at! That's almost 200 tons!" And with



Chao Wen-hsin, the record-breaker

a roar he lunged the head of the drill, hard and exact, into the seam. A ton of coal fell! And again he lunged. And again a ton of coal!...

They worked till six in the morning—243.6 tons, the highest record in China, 18.6 higher than the second Stakhanov record.

As they came up from the mine, they found a large crowd waiting to congratulate them—more than 500 miners, the Vice-Director of the mine, the trade union chairman, and the Communist Party secretary. There was a great pumping of hands, and a little girl ran up to Chao Wen-hsin and pinned a huge red flower on him. People beat drums and cymbals, and shouted slogans. Chao was pushed to a waiting car, but the crowd that had gathered round yelled to the driver, "Hey, don't start up the engine! We'll push the car to the meeting place ourselves!"

More than 1,500 miners took part in the celebration. The team was awarded a bonus of ¥900,000 and Chao a special bonus of ¥3,000,000. He immediately contributed ¥1,000,000 to the volunteers in Korea.

"I'm a worker, a miner since I was 16," Chao said, "the son of a peasant. My brother's in the forces. In the old days soldiers and workers were enemies. Today we're the two sides of a coin. We have one aim—to crush the American imperialists!"

Vice-Director Lu spoke too, with the optimism and confidence they all felt. "With the experience of our Soviet specialists to help us, with class-conscious progressive workers like Chao Wen-hsin, we'll make higher and higher records!"

How the Tillers Win Back Their Land—II

# On the Threshold to Action

Hsiao Ch'ien

Though the Peng household's ancestral temple had only been built 90 years ago in the second year of *Tung Chih*, some of the yew trees which grew in a half circle in front of it were said to have a history of over 500 years. Yet it is certain that neither trees nor temple had ever witnessed a more significant event than that which took place on November 26, 1950.

It was an event that shattered the traditions enshrined in this fortress of feudal superstition. The people gathered in their hundreds on the open space in front of the stone temple steps for the first mass meeting of Huilung *hsiang's* land reform.

On the order of the *hsiang* government on the day before the Work Team's arrival, a platform had been built on the terrace of the temple and two national flags were draped over the imposing entrance. They hid completely the wide-eyed door gods, Chun Chung and Ching Teh, whose images decorated the two leaves of the gate, but incongruously, as if reminding the peasants of the past. There could be seen behind the platform the cruelly spiked railing that had been used by the landlords to prevent imprisoned peasants from escaping.

Framed by the flags was a picture of Chairman Mao Tse-tung. His thoughtful, kindly face smiled down at the peasants gathered on the ground below.

Two carved walls flanked the temple. One bore the inscription: "The Gate of Propitious Ceremony," the other "The Road to Righteousness." Now they bore signs indicating the seats of the Peasants' Association officers and the representatives of the Handicraft Workers' Union and the Chamber of Commerce.

On the jutting eaves of the temple roof, rows of gargoyles that appeared unconcerned, gazing with

*This is the second instalment of a seven-part reportage-novellette dealing with agrarian reform in Hunan Province. The first instalment, describing the countryside on the eve of the Land Reform Work Team's arrival, appeared in our previous issue. The third instalment will describe the awakening of the peasants, the organization of grievance-meetings, and the arrest of the escaped landlord, Peng Erh-hu.*

lifted heads at the wandering autumn clouds. The two stone lions guarding the temple entrance were less stoic. Their gaping mouths and bared teeth betrayed emotion, but it was hard to say whether a frown or a smile was intended.

The meeting was scheduled to start at ten. From early in the morning the representatives, one from every household of all the nine Huilung *hsiang* villages, had started for the *hsiang* government in Hsinlu village along fieldpaths spread almost as bewilderingly and intricately as the nervous system of a human body. Some carried small paper flags bearing the characters "Welcome, Comrades of the Land Reform Work Team!" Representatives of the street near the Seven Star Slope arrived. Some of them had their heads stuffed full of doubts and problems. They engaged in whispered tête-a-tête or stood wordlessly by, their hands tucked in their sleeves.

A cheerful note was struck by the handicraft workers and pedlars from the street, who entered the meeting place in great jubilation beating side-drums. But, in general, there was an atmosphere of tension. It was, of course, natural that a person like Li Chao-chu from the Li Garden, a notorious landlord, should keep his hands in his sleeves and stand trembling in

a corner by himself, like a prisoner awaiting the final verdict. But there was a section of the peasants who had been confused by the landlords' rumours and who, although they owned only a *sheng* or a half *tou* of land, were apprehensive at the thought of "redistribution on the spot" which, they had been whispered, might be the decision of the day's meeting. Hu Pin-tsan, who owned a department store on the street, ostentatiously put on a jacket that was almost in rags. Ever since the arrival of the Work Team, he had refused to show up behind the counter of his own store.

The "Scholar" Chu Yao-hsien was assailed by the most painful and complex emotions. This was a big event, and, to live up to it, he once more pinned on his gown the ever-faithful red silk insignia which had been given him when he once attended a meeting of peasant delegates. Now he jostled his way back and forth through the crowd with an air of solemn importance, as if he were presiding over the whole affair. Still, he could not get away from the fact that only a year ago he was known to have hired two farmhands and lent out money at usurious interest. He was dimly aware of the fact that this was not going to be anything like the "rent reduction and deposit refund" campaign. His uneasiness was not lessened when he learnt that the night before the Work Team had gathered together a number of peasants for a consultation which lasted till far into the night and he had not been invited. Outwardly he assumed an appropriately joyful expression. But deep down within him he was afraid and an unaccountable feeling of jealousy kept gnawing at his heart.

At a quarter past ten, *hsiang* Chairman Ku Yu-chang, clad in a new blue-cloth jacket, took his place on the platform. Already there, were the Secretary of the



Communist Party, District Branch, Hsiung Peng, the chairman of the Handicraft Workers' Union, the Peasants' Association and the Chambers of Commerce, Headmaster Hsu Tzu-chiang of the primary school at the Seven Star Slope and some of the comrades of the Work Team. Ku Yu-chang called the meeting to order and the hum of discussion and gossip died down. He announced the three-fold purpose of the meeting: To welcome the Work Team comrades who had just arrived after half a month of anxious waiting on the part of all the peasants of Huilung *hsiang*; to hear the report on current affairs by Hsiung Peng, the District Party Secretary, so that a final end could be put to rumours and scandals; and to ask Comrade Chao Chieh-min of the Work Team to explain the People's Government's policy on agrarian reform.

Hsiung Peng rose to his feet. A native of Hsiangyin and short in stature, he was ordinarily soft-spoken, but a booming voice seemed to come to him naturally when he spoke at a mass meeting.

"Peasant Comrades: We're going to carry out the land reform! All reforms bring something new and I know that it is only natural that we should have some distrust for new things with which we are at first not very familiar. In this case, however, distrust is neither necessary nor justified. But none should blame a peasant for such an attitude. For thousands of years a cruel and greedy feudal land ownership system has robbed you of your livelihood and of a chance to get an education. Now taking advantage of your inability to read the newspapers and get to know the people's government policy better, the landlords are trying to deceive you, to disturb your peace of mind by spreading the most outrageous rumours, in order to prevent you from carrying out the land reform properly.

"I know that they are spreading the story that Chiang Kai-shek is coming back. But what a foolish thing to imagine! Comrades! The

Kuomintang that sucked our blood and stole our children for over 20 years was kicked into the sea by our People's Army over a year ago. We have wiped out that bandit army of eight million men. Now there is not one single Kuomintang soldier left anywhere on our mainland from the Northeast to Hainan, from Shanghai to Sinkiang. Chiang Kai-shek with some of his henchmen are still on Taiwan, but who can doubt that their days are numbered? Would they dare come back on the mainland again? Then we will have the pleasure of finishing them off even more quickly!" The peasants laughed. They remembered the sorry sight of the KMT army in retreat.

Hsiung Peng dealt in forthright terms with all the rumours that had spread around the countryside like a rash. He mentioned the one about the Americans rushing help to Chiang. But hadn't the Americans helped Chiang before? And the Americans themselves? Our people's volunteers and the Korean People's Army who had given the American imperialists a thorough beating in Korea could say exactly how much American aid to Chiang was worth!

"The landlords say that Chiang Kai-shek has returned to Hankow," continued Hsiung Peng, "but if he couldn't hold Nanking with eight million men how could he get to Hankow with his remnants now while his American friends are taking a beating in Korea?"



A Mass Meeting on Land Reform.  
Sketch by Chiang Chao-ho

The peasants laughed again, for the logic was unassailable.

"Therefore, when we carry through this land reform, let us do it with a perfectly clear mind. The landlords, too, had better give up their idle dreams. Your Chiang Kai-shek has been kicked out never to return. Lay down your weapons and surrender to the people. It will be better for you. And you peasant comrades! Now that you are masters of the situation, what do you have to fear?"

The peasants thundered out their applause as Hsiung Peng sat down. Hsin-wu thrust his arm up and springing to his feet shouted vigorously: "Down with the feudal landlord class!" and the peasants in unison echoed his shout.

The few landlords in the crowds already felt isolated. These thoughts were hard to take. But they tried to clap their hands too. Only somehow their palms just would not meet together.

Next came Comrade Chao of the Work Team. He sprang up with the litheness of a panther, a mature down-to-earth peasant cadre. He travelled much and travelled light. A fountain pen and a toothbrush showed above the breast pocket of his worn gray cadre's uniform. His face was deeply tanned and he had a scar on his forehead—a souvenir of the days of Japanese aggression. He had been wounded in a battle while serving as vice-magistrate in Wutai, the Shansi guerrilla area, when he was only 23 years old.

"Comrades! I am a native of Shansi. So, perhaps you will not understand everything I say. I'll try to say each word slowly and clearly. If you still cannot understand, well then, don't hesitate to ask questions later. My comrades of the Work Team and I are going to be around here to work for your full liberation with you everyday until the land reform in Huilung *hsiang* is completed. We'll try to make plain all the things that perhaps you cannot understand now.

"Peasant comrades! You have cultivated the land all your lives. It is clearer to you than to anyone else how necessary it is to give the land to the tiller. The feudal land system is cruel and outrageous beyond description. Those who tilled the land got nothing in

return. Everything went to the landlord sitting idly and in luxury at home. Is it any wonder then that production was low? And prices high?

"Take cotton for instance, a thing very much needed in industry. Since we did not produce sufficient cotton, industry was not able to develop. And so cloth was expensive and we have always had to go in rags. The business of merchants and makers of cloth was not good because it had to depend only on a very small number of rich customers. After land reform, with the peasants producing much more cotton, industry will prosper; so will traders because they will have the prosperous peasant masses as their customers."

Many a head in the crowd nodded assent.

"When one is struggling day and night to get just enough to eat, there is little time left to think about getting educated. Eighty per cent of our people are peasants and most of them are illiterate. They can never become truly and fully masters of the country if they still live under feudal exploitation. If we do not rid ourselves of the feudal land system, how could we think of building a really free, strong and prosperous country?"

"This feudal land ownership lies at the root of our nation's troubles. It made us poor, backward and weak, an easy prey for the imperialists. Now that must all be ended forever.

"Ever since 1927 land reform has gone on in the liberated areas north and south of the Yangtze River. All the experience we gained during those twenty three years as to what is the right way and what the wrong way is written down in the Agrarian Reform Law\* which our Central People's Government adopted this year. This is why we must follow the Agrarian Reform Law in our work of liberation. Land reform can justly be called an earth-shaking event. Those who formerly ruled in the countryside, the landlord class who have sat on the people's back for thousands of years, now must submit to the people's democratic dictatorship—the people's

will. Those who were formerly ruled, the farmhands, the poor and middle peasants, the most exploited groups, will now move up to the places of power. Land reform is aimed at bettering their life and raising their authority. That is what we mean by liberation.

"Everyone who supports land reform must, therefore, first learn to respect the peasants' opinions and consider their interests. The unity among farmhands, the poor and middle peasants, during and after the period of the land reform, is the best protection to the people's democratic dictatorship in the countryside. The farmhands and the poor peasants especially must be the backbone of the whole revolution in the countryside. They must stand up!

"Advance boldly! Mighty forces are backing you up—the workers, the Communist Party, the People's Army, the People's Government. All are ready to fight for you, ready to aid you! And Chairman Mao Tse-tung is leading you."

This much made clear, Chao Chieh-min went on to describe various aspects of the land reform work on the basis of opinions that he and the village chairman and Peasants' Association officers had exchanged on the night before. He pointed out with special emphasis that People's Army men, dependents of revolutionary martyrs, workers, employees, professional people, pedlars and others who do not work in the fields but have other occupations, or those who lack labour power, shall not be classified as landlords if they rent out only small portions of land. He also explained from the point of view of the poor peasants why it is till necessary to preserve the rich peasant economy. This, he showed, would give a better start to the work of increasing production, protect better the interests of the middle peasants, isolate the landlord class, the main enemy, and thereby the land reform would proceed more smoothly.

He explained simply the nature of the new democratic revolution. Touching on how the free flow of goods between the city and the countryside would be advantageous to the peasants, he explained why industry and trade must be protected.

To those industrialists and merchants who were concurrently

landlords he had this to say: Concentrate on developing your business in the city, and do not go on exploiting the peasants by monopolising land, houses or farm implements. He reminded them again: "In the past, landlords and rich peasants were your only customers. The landlord class occupies less than 10 per cent of the entire population. When the peasants really start buying you'll see which proves the bigger customer."

To the landlords he spoke up again in a cold, determined voice. First he made it clear that landlords would be deprived of their feudal land holdings and abolished as a social class, but they would not be physically molested. However, he gave the following warning:

"Two ways are open to you. One leads to a bright future and that is: repent and reform. Guard well your land, draught animals, farm implements, surplus foodstuffs and houses and hand over everything according to regulations when the moment for confiscation comes. Then the peasants will certainly treat you leniently. You'll be given a similar share of land and housing so that you too will have a chance to reform through actually taking part in labour.

"The other way is one which can only end badly for you. That is the way of Peng Yin-ting and Lo Pei-jung. They plotted and created disturbances. Now they are awaiting trial. Landlords of this type can never escape from the people's long arm of justice...."

Before he stood up to speak, Chao Chieh-min had been somewhat uneasy about his Shansi accent. But he had been in Hunan ever since the summer of 1949 when he arrived together with the Liberation Army. His northern brogue had mellowed. Judging from the smiles on the faces of the peasants and the relief on the faces of the businessmen from the Seven Star Slope, undoubtedly the audience had grasped the essence of his speech. Even landlords felt their tenseness slightly lessened. For them it was just like falling from a high building and finally hitting solid ground. The fall was naturally not a pleasant experience, but at least they knew where they were falling to!

The next to speak was Pan Chih-chao, Chairman of the Huiling

\* See Vol. II, No. 2 of *People's China*.

*hsiang* Handicraft Workers' Union. The gist of his speech was that workers and peasants are comrades working for the same cause. The workers would lend whole-hearted support to the peasants in their struggle for freedom. Only when the peasants have been fully emancipated can a new China based on the union between workers and peasants be firmly established.

By profession, Pan Chih-chao was a blacksmith. He offered, by way of concrete help, to speed up the making of weapons for the militia during the land reform, and make more improved farm tools for the emancipated peasants.

Next came the turn of Yen Shu-cheng, Chairman of the Hui lung *hsiang* Peasants' Association, who spoke on behalf of all the peasants. He called to them all to rise up in good order and in accordance with the policy and regulations laid down by the Central People's Government, take back from the feudal landlords the land they had tilled for so many centuries. Then he too stressed that the industrial and commercial enterprises run by the landlords and the land and other properties used directly by landlords for the operation of industries and trades should not be touched.

At noon the meeting came to an end. All along the fieldpath people went talking and debating, quite unlike the silent manner in which they had come.

Because he had not been allowed to get up and speak, the "Scholar" Chu Yao-hsien was feeling very much piqued. Mixing with the home-going crowd, he tried to crack jokes.

"One can see Comrade Chao is resourceful," he said. "Look at the way he extolled the people's long arm of justice by mentioning only Peng Yin-ting and Lo Pei-jung. But did he say anything about the one that had already wriggled out of legal punishment, namely, Peng the Second Tiger?"

This was overheard by Hsin-wu, who threw a scornful glance at him and said, "Don't you worry. We'll catch him sometime and then you'll see."

Comrade Chao Chieh-min, the leader of the Work Team, insisted on the Team finishing up all the meetings devoted to investigating the *hsiang* as a whole, within two days, so that the cadres could go out quickly to the individual villages and begin the actual work of land reform. These meetings would also serve to give the various circles in Hui lung *hsiang* a clearer conception of the government's policy.

First came the meeting of cadres. Ten Work Team members sat in a row on a long bench underneath an ancient memorial tablet which said "The Roots Go Deep" and scribbled hurriedly in their notebooks while listening to *hsiang* Chairman Ku Yu-chang explaining the local set-up. They wrote:

"Human geography: Hui lung *hsiang* has altogether 2,127 households, a population of 6,989. Nine villages. 1,527 *tan* of irrigated rice fields. 470 *tan* of dry land, largely planted with cotton. Land ownership quite concentrated, e.g., Lo Pei-jung of Big House Lo alone owns 90 *tan* of land.

"Hemmed in on three sides by rivers. Pigeon River to the north. Lienchiang to the west. Shaho to the south. All three empty into Lake Tungting. Frequent floods between spring and summer. Land near the rivers suffers most.

"History: This *hsiang* was under Japanese occupation during the war of resistance and suffered a lot of damage. The whole street near the Seven Star Slope was burnt down. Many peasants killed.

"Political analysis: This *hsiang* was on the outskirts of the old Soviet zone during the Great Revolution. Hence the older peasants had considerable experience in organising. For this reason, during the 22 years of the KMT regime, the landlords were particularly cruel. The *hsiang* has seven or eight despotic landlords. Worst of the lot are the two Pengs in Hsialu village.

"The Circle"—a reactionary, superstitious society, has a good deal of influence locally. Membership in this *hsiang* reached around 560 at the time the Liberation Army crossed the Yangtse. About 80 per cent are deluded farmhands and poor peasants. But most of them had left the organisation when the 'rent reduction and deposit refund' campaign went into force. 'Master' of the Circle, Tan Ching-wu, of Shuangfeng village, plotted insurrection at beginning of year and was shot. The organisation itself still going on underground. Needs close watching.

"The current *hsiang* government was elected during the 'rent reduction and deposit refund' period and has four *hsiang* cadres. Among them, three are poor peasants or farmhands. One is a middle peasant. Among the nine village cadres, six are poor peasants or farmhands. Three are middle peasants.

"The whole *hsiang* has 46 Communist Party and New Democratic



A Meeting of Village Cadres

Sketch by Ping-hsing

Youth League members. Party headquarters kept underground successfully after 1927. Since liberation, Party and League members have been very influential in all kinds of work—aiding the front, campaigning for the rent reduction etc. etc...e.g. Peng Hsin-wu of Hsinlu village has been consistently ahead of the others in struggling against reactionary elements ever since he was first won over."

When the Chairman finished reporting, the members of the Work Team raised several questions. Among them was Comrade Lu Yang, who was assigned to go to Hsinlu village. A native of Liuyang county and originally a schoolmaster, Comrade Lu came from a tenant-middle-peasant family and had four months of training after the liberation of Hunan in the Construction Academy, a school in Hsiangtan for cadres. He had taken part in the rent reduction campaign and was considered competent. However, the prospect of having to tackle such a complex set-up as Hsinlu village disturbed him. Seven Star Slope with its shops and workshop was a complicating factor, and then "the most reactionary landlords" were Hsinlu village inhabitants. Hence he kept asking about this and that until finally Chao Chieh-min sensibly suggested: "Suppose we three, you and old Peng, the Village Chairman, and myself go into the problems connected with Hsinlu village some time later."

After supper the meeting went on under a brilliant gas lamp hung from the main beam of the temple. Chairman Yen of the Peasants' Association was reporting.

"The Huilung *hsiang* Peasants' Association," he said, "was first organised during the 'rent reduction and deposit refund' campaign. Therefore there is a relatively high percentage of middle peasants in it. However, no definite figures can be given until a final differentiation of class status has been made. The Association has three branches, each comprising three villages, Hsinlu, Shihchiao and Yunhu, for instance, form the First Branch. Total membership—957. But this is not a completely

reliable guide to the degree of class consciousness of the peasants since many of the members only enrolled when Association officers went to their homes to canvass. 534 of the members are men; 423 are women. At present the Association has 15 officers working. Eight of them are farmhands or poor peasants. Seven are middle peasants. You cadres must know our Association well because it is the mass organisation which enables the peasants to protect their own interests both during and after the land reform. We on our part will work in close contact with the Peasants' Representative Conference, the people's local government authority. It is through our Association that the peasants heighten their own class-consciousness, develop the tradition of collective work and pooling of knowledge, so as to cope with the various kinds of constructive work. It is through the Conference that the peasants organise mutual help activities and co-operation to develop agriculture and improve their living standards. This is especially important work.

"Since the present Huilung *hsiang* Peasants' Association is the product of the 'rent reduction and deposit refund' campaign, a campaign carried out on a narrower mass basis, it cannot yet shoulder the responsibility of starting such a gigantic task as land reform. Therefore we must learn how to strengthen and expand it in the process of struggling, rid it of landlords and rich peasants or their agents who might have infiltrated into it, educate the politically backward elements and promote new active members from among the peasants."

Next morning even before the cadres had had time to wash their faces, people began to arrive. The meeting was a joint one held by the Work Team and local intellectuals. Chao Chieh-min explained the proper attitude which the intellectuals should have towards land reform and the government's policy towards the intellectuals as laid down in the Agrarian Reform Law. Then they began discussing how the Huilung *hsiang* intellectuals could best co-operate with the Work Team in helping the peasants to liberate themselves.

All the schoolmasters spoke. Some admitted that they had a landlord background but that in the course of political studies they had come to realise the justness and absolute necessity of land reform. Hence they were prepared to side resolutely with the peasants in abolishing the class to which they themselves had belonged. Some promised to take on the job of writing "blackboard newspapers" and making posters. Some said they would do propaganda work on current affairs. Others agreed to help publicise what the Work Team was doing and its policies. Personnel from the Seven Star Slope Primary School offered to get up a dramatic group and use plays to educate the peasants. All promised to study the Agrarian Reform Law and the Documents on Rural Class Status Differentiation\* promulgated by the Central People's Government. Preparations were also made to open night schools in which the peasants would be taught how to distinguish between the different classes and the various groups of peasants, how to assess the various degrees of exploitation.

Lu Yang listened to the opinions which these schoolmasters expressed and then started putting in order the notes he had taken the night before. The report made by the Village Chairman seemed to him especially significant. In his notebook he listed the names of the peasants as nearly as could be judged according to their status, then the landlords. He starred the names of all those who were concurrently industrialists or merchants, and queried those who might be rich peasants or small land lessors. Constantly in his mind was the instruction given by the Secretary of the County Committee of the Communist Party at a cadre meeting: "In searching activists, pick the ones who have always been the poorest, the most exploited and worked the hardest, and watch the landlords vigilantly."

And he knew the two tasks were closely inter-linked. You cannot watch the landlords effectively unless the peasants have been awakened.

\* See Vol. II, No. 8, of *People's China*.

## Gate No. 6 — A Workers' Play



In *Gate No. 6*, hailed by the public and critics as the best workers' play of 1950, you see how the Chinese transport workers lived and toiled in hell and how they won their way to freedom. It is a story of real life—but life artistically concentrated—that has taken its place on the stage. The actors have in truth “lived the part.” And for this reason the audience impact has that special quality of urgency and poignancy that we saw earlier in the “River of Ice Has Thawed,” the play by the liberated prostitutes of Peking.

The action of these 17 scenes is set in Tientsin's Eastern Goods Station. The sweated transport workers at Gate No. 6 are all in the grip of a brute of a gangmaster Ma, who pockets 90 per cent of their earnings. Ma needs lots of money. He lives in style and bribes for the bigger Kuomintang sharks are heavy. Hu Erh, an honest and hard-working labourer, is only one of those reduced to utter destitution by the gangmaster's extortions. His mother is dying, his wife ailing, his child starving. But when he appeals to Ma for some of his wages, Ma gets him fired and black-listed. Hu Erh, who has sold every saleable thing in the house, in desperation sells his child to buy medicine for his mother. This is sanctioned by Confucian ethics, but it breaks his wife's heart. And when he returns home with the medicine, his mother is already dead.

### The Workers Revolt

The tragedy stirs the smouldering anger of the workers. But when one of them, impetuous young Wu, speaks up, he is immediately denounced by the gangmaster as a Communist and is beaten to death by Ma's thugs as an example to the workers.

This savagery, however, has the opposite effect from that intended. The workers revolt. Helped by a real Communist underground worker, they organise a strike, that spreads to all Tientsin transport workers. Gangmaster Ma is faced for the first time with a solid working class unity that cannot be broken and he is forced to give way.

The play originally ended on this first victory for the workers, but there were insistent demands for the post-liberation sequel. In this way Act Two was written. Hu Erh tries to organise a free workers' transport team. But it is not so simple. Some of the workers are still controlled by the gangster. Hu, however, again gets the help of his Communist friend Yang; the team is organised and is a success. More workers join it. But gang boss Ma is not one to take reverses lying down. He sets out to smash the team. He blackmails its weaker members. Still believing that money can buy everything, he sends one of his henchmen to Peking with gold for bribery. When his creature returns and reports failure, Ma, enraged, immediately decides to carry out the order of the KMT secret service to murder Comrade Yang. In a surprise ending, however, the workers discover and frustrate the plot, capture Ma himself and turn him over to the law.

This is the story of *Gate No. 6*—a true story. In July, 1950, the transport workers of Tientsin, led by the people's authorities, were among the first to overthrow their labour bosses and assert their rights. A vigorous movement to end the gang labour system was thus initiated throughout the transport industry. The better to pass on their experiences to others, the workers of Gate No. 6 decided to write them down. Five professional writers assisted them. On three afternoons “accusation meetings” were held at which the workers described the crimes of the gangmasters. The raw material for the play took shape. In 24 afternoons of discussions they went over this material and decided what should go into the play. After each discussion, they immediately rehearsed the scene discussed. Each worker spoke his own part. In this way they recorded the very language of the workers.

This authenticity undoubtedly is the secret of the play's success. The writers are themselves identified completely with the struggles they describe. The players themselves are transport workers. They are hardly acting in the ordinary sense;

they are re-enacting the tale of their own lives, expressing their own loves and hatreds.

### An Immediate Success

In August, 1950, the play was first presented to the public in Tientsin's Cultural Palace for Workers. Its success was immediate. The audience was extraordinarily moved. Transport workers after seeing it commented: “Not one note is false. These words are taken from our own hearts.” The audience lived through every moment of the action. The death of young Wu invariably evoked cries of “Down with the labour bosses!” More than 120,000 people attended the 60 shows given in Tientsin.

What is the value of a play? It is the extent to which it helps to move forward the wheels of history, the extent to which at this moment it helps to lead the mighty work of New Democratic revolution. *Gate No. 6* is by all counts a successful play. It has already helped thousands of workers to break their shackles. After the showing of this play, many “accusation meetings” were held to expose the remaining labour bosses. In Tangku, the gangmasters were still able for a time after liberation to oppress the transport workers there. Tientsin's workers took *Gate No. 6* to Tangku and, three days later, ten gang bosses were turned over to the police by the local workers.

In February, 1951, audiences at the capital received the play with equal excitement and enthusiasm. The two 3-hour acts were shown on consecutive nights for a total of 40 performances.

Outside the Peking Theatre there is a poster announcing *Gate No. 6*. An old transport worker coming out from the play stopped for a moment in front of it. Meditatively, he read its lines and then with a stump of pencil added: “We were beasts of burden! Now we are real men!”

**CORRECTION:** On page 7, col. 2, line 32 of Vol. III, No. 7 of this magazine, the sentence should read: “With regard to imports the situation was thus: state companies—70.52 per cent; private firms, 29.48 per cent.”

Report from the Korean Front

# Korean Notebook

Hsia Kuo

## People's Heroes

"You can't sleep well in the hills," said Company Commander Tung Yu-lai as I observed his men sprawled out in heavy sleep in the small Korean houses in a village on the western front. "It's cold there and you must keep a lookout all the time."

He began washing the grime off his face, the mud from the same hill they had been stubbornly defending for the past fortnight. His movements were neat and deliberate as of a man accustomed to doing things methodically. The lads awoke one by one as we spoke and soon they were all sitting up, joining in eagerly in the conversation.

What do they talk about, these young heroes? Are they alive to the turmoil they have, by their courage, caused in the war-makers' camp? Do they think about the fresh strength they have given to all oppressed people in the world by once again exposing with their bayonet thrusts the ugly feet of clay of dollar imperialism?

But it was they who did the questioning first. "What's it like back home?" "How's the spring planting going?" "Are prices keeping steady?" "What progress is the anti-U.S. aggression camp making?" "What are the reactions in the world to the war?" Their questions came so fast I could hardly keep pace with them.

Their up-to-date American-made carbines and automatic weapons taken from the enemy were stacked around. They were mainly young men in their early twenties, from almost every province in China. Li Wei, the cook, was an exception. He is 48 years old. Once an army cook with the PLA, he had been demobilised and had settled into civilian life. But, right at the start, he had volunteered for Korea.

The men affectionately told how he had time and again asked to be allowed to get right into the fighting and how they had had to refuse him. "He's too good a cook," they said jokingly. "He looks after

his knives and cooking utensils as carefully as we look after our weapons."

A lively youthful machine-gunner from Shantung, Wang Suting, with an expressive face and his eyes sparkling, lived over his experiences as he vividly re-enacted battle scenes, gesturing to illustrate his points. "The Americans are getting a real beating from us," he said. "The American troops are easy to deal with. There is not a single case of our men being routed, of running away and abandoning positions."

"That is our tradition," the company commander put in, not without pride. "The enemy can never take our positions if we do not retire from them ourselves by order of the higher command."

"Our men are not content just to hold their positions. They want to attack," he went on. "We feel there is no point in the American lines which we cannot attack and pierce."

It seemed they could never tire of recounting their battle stories. Each man capped his comrade's yarn with another. They told of the occasion when in crossing the

which was all the English he knew. He walked towards them to capture them alive. But they ran off. Sun fired his tommy gun and killed more than half. As he pursued the rest, he encountered an enemy tank, threw his hand-grenades at the treads, and brought it to a stop.

They grew angry as they told how in the more recent fighting at a critical moment, in a battle early one morning, they noticed a group of Korean people in the distance coming from the direction of the American positions. The look-outs reported that the enemy was using Korean refugees to screen a cautious advance of considerable force. The company commander ordered the 1st Platoon to send one squad to work its way round to the rear of the enemy. He then placed heavy machine guns in carefully-selected positions. The Korean civilians were allowed to pass unharmed. "Seeing them go forward, the enemy followed, thinking themselves safe. But when they approached within 30 metres, the machine guns opened up, the well-placed squads attacked and soon the enemy was cut up by fire coming from several directions.

"America is indeed only a 'paper tiger!'" said Tung, the company commander, contemptuously. "On that occasion the enemy troops showed themselves as cowardly rats, using women and children and old men as a screen!"

"This is no 'spit and polish' army," I reflected as I looked around and saw their matter-of-fact comradeship, commanders and men together, sharing the same life. In fact, time and again at the front, I found it hard to tell at first glance who was an officer among any group of volunteers, except perhaps by his greater poise and more mature appearance.



38th Parallel the 2nd Platoon took the enemy unawares at the foot of a hill, and in panic the enemy, thinking the whole hill was taken, fired at the hilltop where their own men were still located.

Fighter Sun Hsieh-teh told simply of his accidental encounter one day with 20 American GIs who lay down and tried to hide as soon as they spotted him, apparently not realising he was on his own. He shouted to them "Hello! Stop!"

And to hear the lads talking about their officers brought home to me what a people's army really is made of. Many were the stories told of the outstanding bravery of 35-year old Tsung Teh-sun, their political instructor. "He's always in the thick of it wherever we are," said one man. "At one critical point, he shouted, 'Comrades, here's another test for us. Throw the enemy out of their position!' and saying this, he led the attack himself."

Another told how on one occasion the enemy, guessing the low food situation during a fierce battle which had been going on for days, dropped leaflets saying, "You've nothing to eat. Come over, there's plenty of food waiting for you."

"What do they think we are? Americans?" was the men's scornful reaction and they cursed them heartily.

"We're Chinese people's volunteers," they said, "We know why we're here. We're fighting for the finest cause on earth."

Wang Su-ting, the machine-gunner, added, "We've taken all the Americans can dish out—planes, artillery, fire bombs. If you want to know how we're taking it, listen right now!" And we all stopped talking for a few moments to listen to the vigorous chorus from the neighbouring houses that rang out into the night as the fighters sang "Unity Is Strength" and other popular tunes.

It was not easy to find time for a really long talk. Soon they were on their way again. "So that's what people's heroes are like," I thought to myself. I watched them get their things together with speed, yet calmly and efficiently, and I stood by as they went off, my heart bursting with an emotion that was both love and pride.

\* \* \*

### Frontline Performance

"Come to our show tonight," said Wu Tai, a man who obviously commanded great respect among the Chinese volunteers. "Come as my guest," he added, his eyes twinkling. He said this with as much courtesy as though we were in Peking and he was making up a party for the opera.

The explosion of artillery shells shook the thin walls of the cottages. From time to time a plane buzzed overhead. Yet in an improvised courtyard the new show went on—its final rehearsal before its "general release" to the frontline fighters.

We sat bunched together on straw spread on the floor. Every inch of room was taken. A huge tarpaulin had been secured overhead as our ceiling and the low platform that stretches between the rooms of many Korean houses made a natural stage. There were no spotlights, but the dim carbide lamps added their own gleam to the exciting drama of staging a full show within a few miles of the front.

The choir that came first was excellent. Perhaps I was prejudiced. Everything seemed excellent to me that night when the human spirit showed such gay triumph over great odds. In the front row of the choir were five young women—nurses with the Chinese people's volunteers—whose rich voices added to the warmth of the singing.

Both the tunes and the words were new, and so spirited, so fitting to the circumstances, that I was sure they would be taken up and sung by thousands, on the march or as they went into action. "I am a Chinese volunteer," "Dodge the Yankee planes," "How to deal with a tank"—these were the songs' themes—no airy-fairy romance, but good-humoured, lively advice. The songs ended with a rendering of the famous Kim Il Sen song which almost every Chinese volunteer knows by heart.

The five sketches that followed were similarly a dramatic product of the actual conditions of life there in the scattered villages near the front. Most of them were built up on true-life incidents. They portrayed the warm hospitality of the Korean country folk, showed exciting moments of a battle, brought out the importance of digging trenches, lampooned a clumsy fellow who did not know how to behave in a Korean

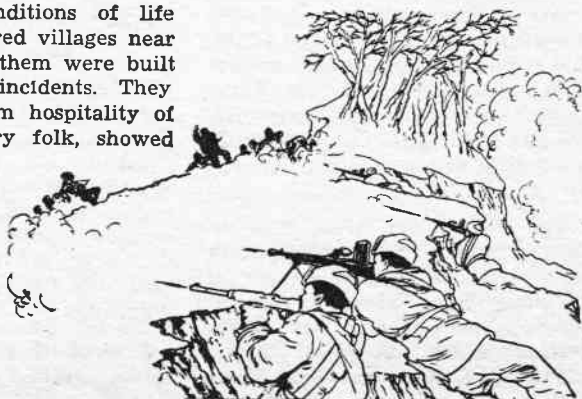
home, and poked fun at the poor fighting morale of the American soldiers. What was occasionally lacking in artistic finish was amply made up for by the good spirit of the actors and the infectious humour of the audience.

"What did you think of it?" asked the drama group after the show. "None of your polite stuff, now. We want some hard criticism." And there developed an interesting discussion on such things as whether the cowardice of the Americans had been exaggerated (which it wasn't, they decided), whether certain scenes were too long, how changes could be made in the casting of certain parts.

"Our fighters like good strong stuff that fits into our own experience," a young company commander said. And the writers told me how they get some of their best ideas on the march or in discussion with the men and, during the day, find odd moments to write their ideas down.

"Under the emotion of their experiences in Korea, writers and composers are turning out songs and plays of high dramatic and artistic quality," said Wu Tai. The show that night fully confirmed his remarks.

Mu Ying, a 20-year old girl member of the dramatic team, told me, "When we perform near the front, we often put on our sketches in a field by the light of the moon. The soldiers last time got up and cheered after our performance. They said they would show their appreciation for the show by fighting harder than ever. Could there be a better reward to actors than that?"



# A Woman Train Crew

Su Ming

By the time the passengers boarded the train it shone. The windows gleamed and the floor was spotless. The crew had been readying the train in the Peking railway station for more than an hour.

They had gone about their work with a will, with brooms and mops and dust cloths. They stacked the latest magazines in the train's free library. The technicians, hammers and screw-drivers in hand, checked bolts and screws to make for a smooth trip.

Travelling can be a pleasure these days. What a contrast with those days not so long ago when trains overflowed with three times their seating capacity and more, when the smell and dirt were so bad that you travelled only when absolutely necessary, when your clothes might be torn in the crush and your luggage stolen!

As the train pulled out of the station, there was a notice over the cars' loud-speaker. "All passengers please keep their seats until the Chief Conductor inspects the tickets. Please don't spit on the floor or drop peanut shells. Use the spittoons. This is your train. Help us keep it clean!"

"Conductor" is a misnomer. For the person in the neat navy-blue uniform who came to punch the tickets was a woman—the Chief Conductress. So was the guard who followed her, and so were the ones whose armbands read "attendant" and "technician." In fact, except for the driver and the stoker, the train's crew was wholly composed of women.

Woman train crews are already a common sight in Northeast China. Yet, the Peking-Tientsin's woman train crew was still something of a surprise to many passengers, though an all-woman crew had been operating the run for a year.

The Chief Conductress, Sun Yi-chih, a comely young woman of 21, showed a poise which few of 21 possess. Sun Yi-chih's parents were both teachers, her father teaching in a middle school and her mother in a primary school. There

were three children in the family, including a younger brother and sister. Sun Yi-chih's mother lost her job during her last pregnancy years ago. Times were hard for the family then and Sun Yi-chih was unable to finish her course in junior middle school. She was then 14 years old.

She found work as a waitress in a restaurant in Tientsin's East Station. This was under the Japanese occupation. Then and in the following years she saw a great deal for a young girl, how women were insulted and forced to become concubines first by the Japanese and later by Kuomintang officials. In spite of her youthful age which protected her, Sun Yi-chih was sickened at the way women were despised and insulted.

Gradually working herself into a job in the ticket-selling office, Sun Yi-chih had no opportunity to resume her studies until after liberation when she was able to attend a revolutionary school. When the announcement for new women train workers was made, she applied, and was accepted. She found that in her new work women were treated equally with men, politically as well as socially.

"Why," she smiled, "just recently I was elected a delegate to the Peking People's All-Circles Representative Conference. Young as I am, I, too, can take part in the nation's political affairs. I'm thrilled not only for myself but I know how much it means to all the women here, to all the women of China, you might say, to be on really equal terms with men."

## Enjoy New Work

Seeing the women at work, it is not difficult to realise how much they enjoy their new work. On April 5, 1950, when the Tientsin Railway Bureau advertised for applicants for the new course, more than 50 applied. Only 11 were accepted in the first course though many more have been trained subsequently.

Most of the original 11 had been office workers in the railway

station, clerks and typists. They had all heard about Tien Kwei-ying, China's famous first woman locomotive driver in the Northeast, and they wanted to join in the practical work on the railway. Then too, some of the girls favoured the idea of learning something new, for there never would have been such an opportunity for women under the reactionary KMT. There was still another reason. With railway lines restored and even expanded, there was a need for more people to operate trains. The women responded to the call.

## Welcome Criticism

At first the men in the railway yard were inclined to tease the girls saying that they had no idea how much better off they were working in comfortable offices, but the women were determined. The training class lasted 19 days, even for the signal readers who had been expected to study three months. On April 25, 1950, they made their first run on their own. They were all somewhat tense that day, they later confessed, but once the initial nervousness wore off, they found their new work very satisfactory.

At first they held short criticism meetings each evening at the end of the day's operation and invited criticism from the men as well. In the beginning, by their own account, they were shy about sweeping floors in front of passengers, and even felt embarrassed at having to answer questions. But this soon wore off too. The girls are all young, in their late teens and twenties. All can read the newspapers and are at least primary school graduates while some are middle school graduates. They have all been given first-aid training and know how to use the train's medical kit in an emergency.

The women work on a three-day shift, three days on and then a day off. After reporting in the morning for any special instructions, they have a short discussion on work and then go to the train to clean it up and make preparations to receive the passengers.



On arrival in Tientsin, they have lunch and are free for almost two hours. At two they return to the train for study classes. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, they study technical subjects. This gives all the women a chance to advance either to the technical jobs or the post of conductress. Some would like to be locomotive drivers and are looking forward to an opportunity for such training.

On Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays, there are political studies. These have become especially important since railway staffs recently began providing the passengers in each car with news and explanations of important government policies such as the Land Reform Law, the New Marriage Law, and news of the Chinese people's volunteers. The women study for two hours and then begin preparations for the trip back to Peking. There they make any special reports they may have, check out and go home for dinner. About half of the women are married and live with their families. Most of the others, and those whose families are in Tientsin, live in the comfortable dormitory provided by the railway administration.

#### New Way of Life

Liberation has brought great changes in the lives of all these women workers. Lung Po-ju, the young railway guard, tall and robust, with a round face and lively eyes, described the changes in her own life excitedly.

Originally she came from North-east China, from a very small merchant's family. She went to school for several years, as far as junior middle school, and was later kept fully occupied with household chores until she was 18 when she was married to a man she had never seen before. Lung Po-ju went to live with her in-laws, and except for the fact that she now had a son to look after, her duties were much the same as before. She was always expected to do just what she was told.

When her mother-in-law told her to "fetch some water," she fetched water. When she was told, "It's time to prepare the meal," she prepared the meal.

Lung Po-ju's husband went away to study in Peking. There he became interested in politics and joined the Communist Party as a

member of the underground. In the meantime conditions became more and more difficult for the family. One brother-in-law, a street-pedlar, had to become the main support of the family.

After her home district was liberated, land reform was carried out in the vicinity of Lung Po-ju's home, and she had a first taste of the new life opening up for women. She worked part-time in the women's association as a clerk doing copying. She saw many of her old friends going away to study or work for the new society that was springing up. But she herself was unable to enter any of the new courses available for women like herself, for her mother-in-law didn't look with favour on the idea of a daughter-in-law taking up studies and later working.

When Tientsin was liberated in 1949, Lung Po-ju's husband got in touch with the family, the first news they had had from him in more than four years, and Lung Po-ju, her mother-in-law and young son went to Tientsin. It was through her husband who was working in the Tientsin Railway Works that Lung Po-ju learned of the training class opening up for women. Her mother-in-law at first was not at all receptive to the idea of Lung Po-ju joining the class, and she kept pointing out that Lung Po-ju had a responsibility to be with her son, now six years old, night and day. But when the old lady saw how much Lung Po-ju wanted to join the class, that her own son was in favour of the idea, and looked around at the great number of women who were setting out to study and take part in the great revolutionary tide which had swept the country, she relented. She finally offered to help her daughter-in-law look after the young boy.

Lung Po-ju's application was accepted and she was given special training to become a railway guard. The Railway Bureau taught her how to handle arms, and within two months she was an expert.

"I never knew the

meaning of the word 'independence' before," said Lung Po-ju with a smile. "But I do now. I earn a salary myself. I have the opportunity to study and do useful work. You might say that my life has changed completely!"

#### People Appreciate Service

The women are constantly trying to improve the service on the train. Recently they, too, have joined the nation-wide patriotic emulation campaign and the train crews, men and women, on the Peking-Tientsin run, are competing to see which crew provides the best service. The work the all-woman train crew does is very much appreciated by the passengers. Entries in a notebook which hangs in a conspicuous place in each car for the criticisms of passengers show this.

"When I felt dizzy and became train-sick, the conductress brought me water and pills. It's as good as being at home to travel on this train," wrote one.

"I couldn't make my child stop crying and worried that she annoyed the other passengers. A young attendant picked her up, jollied her a bit and found a window seat for us so that she could look out. I've never met such kindness before," wrote another.

There were many more. "You truly serve the people," was the tribute written over and over again by travellers. This is the comment which the members of the woman train crew value most, and the one they try to live up to hardest.



Lung Po-ju spends her free time studying.

## CURRENT CHINA

April 11—25

**For May Day**

**Emulation Drive:** To greet the international workers' day, China's workers are stepping up the nation-wide emulation campaign initiated by the Ma Heng-chang machine-building brigade in North-east China. Over 2,230,000 workers and employees in 2,811 factories and mines are already participating in the movement.

Many records have been broken. In the Taiyuan Steel Works, for example, eight new records were set up in seven days.

The emancipated peasants of China are making an extra special effort in honour of this May Day. By mid-April, nearly 2,000 mutual-aid teams and 1,600 model peasants had publicly accepted the nation-wide challenge of Li Shun-ta's mutual-aid team in Shansi Province to increase production.

**Slogans:** Fifty-seven May Day slogans have been issued by the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. The slogans particularly emphasise opposition to imperialist aggression and support for world peace. They hail the working people's achievements in national construction, the close unity between China and the Soviet Union, and salute the peoples of Asian countries, particularly those of Korea and Viet-Nam, who are opposing imperialist aggression. Workers in all fields of creative labour are called to redouble efforts in national construction and defence.

**Delegation:** China's delegation to the May Day celebrations in Moscow left Peking on April 16. It is headed by Lin Po-chu, Secretary-General of the Central People's Government Council, and Shen Chun-ju, President of the Supreme People's Court.

**Customs Law Issued**

A Provisional Customs Law of the People's Republic of China was promulgated on April 18. It becomes effective on May 1, and includes measures for supervising foreign trade, regulating tariffs and combating smuggling.

**Tibetan Delegation Arrives**

In answer to the call of the Central People's Government, the local Tibetan authorities in Lhasa have sent a delegation to negotiate the peaceful liberation of Tibet. The first party of 15, headed by Ngapo, arrived via Sian in Peking on April 22 and was welcomed at the station by Premier Chou En-lai and others.

Another party of six Tibetans has arrived in Canton en route to Peking.

**Christian Leaders Meet**

Over 150 Christian leaders from all parts of China attended a national conference of Christian bodies, hitherto receiving American subsidies, which opened in Peking on April 16. The conference worked out measures to enable China's churches to sever all relations with the American imperialists and to become self-governing, self-supporting and able to promote their own development. This is in accordance with the government decision of December 29, 1950, regarding American-subsidised institutions in China.

**Soong Ching Ling Greeted**

Congratulations on her award of the International Stalin Peace Prize have been received by Soong Ching Ling, Chairman of the People's Relief Administration of China, from all over the country and from abroad. Premier Chou En-lai and Mme. E. Cotton, President of the WIDF, are among those who sent messages.

**Governments for Minorities**

An All-Nationalities Joint Governmental Committee has been created for the 42 national minorities in south Yunnan on the decision of the recent People's Representative Conference of All-Nationalities of Yunnan. It was also resolved to set up regional autonomous governments.

In the Tibetan autonomous area of Sikang Province, local people's governments have been established in 12 of the 20 counties.

**IUS Meets in Peking**

The executive members of the International Union of Students arrived in Peking on April 24 from Prague via Moscow. The party headed by J. Grohman includes 35 members representing 23 countries. They have come to Peking to hold the IUS Executive Meeting at the invitation of the All-China Students' Federation.

After the meeting, the members will participate in the celebrations both for May Day and the May 4 Chinese Youth Day.

**BCFA Meets**

A 4-point resolution calling for the promotion of close and friendly relations and trade between the British and Chinese peoples was adopted by the Britain-China Friendship Association at its annual general meeting on April 7 in London.

A Chinese people's delegation, headed by Li Yi-mang, invited to the meeting, was unable to attend as the British government refused visas to some of the delegates.

**Delegation from Britain**

A British people's delegation of nine men and two women, headed by Doncaster miner Jock Kane, is arriving to attend the May Day celebrations in Peking.

**Credentials Presented**

Chang Wen-tien, the newly-appointed Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the U.S.S.R., presented his credentials to President N.M. Shvernik of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet on April 18.

**Chinese Scientists Elected**

World-renowned geologist Li Sze-kuang and two other Chinese scientists have been elected Vice-Chairman and members respectively of the Council of the World Federation of Scientific Workers at the recent Prague and Paris sessions.

## Poll on Rearming Japan

Since April 5, the voting campaign on the issue of rearming Japan has spread all over China. Workers, peasants, students, democratic parties, etc. are participating. In Peking alone, up to April 22, some 642,000 people or 30 per cent of the capital's population cast their votes. The campaign continues.

America's draft peace treaty with Japan was reproduced in full in the April 22 issue of *Peking People's Daily*. The paper editorially describes the draft treaty as "absurd and preposterous."

## Ban on Peace Denounced

The Chinese People's Committee for World Peace and against U.S. Aggression together with other people's organisations have protested against the French government's ban on the activities of the World Peace Council in French territory.

## Korean Front

Enemy troops suffered over 6,000 losses on the Korean front both south and north of the 38th Parallel in the ten days of fighting ending April 10. Of these casualties, 4,771 were Americans.

Latest statistics reveal that the Americans killed 72,400 civilians in Seoul before fleeing at the beginning of Jan. They also murdered over 10,000 civilians in Inchun.

## MacArthur's Removal

The *Peking People's Daily*, commenting on the removal of Douglas MacArthur, stated: "MacArthur's downfall results from the iron blows dealt by the Chinese and Korean peoples." The paper also warned the people against the U.S. attempts to expand the war.

## Imperialist Aggressions

**"Manoeuvres":** The 7th Fleet of the U.S. Navy held a 4-day "manoeuvres" in China's Taiwan Straits beginning on April 10.

**Bombing:** Over 200 U.S. planes invaded Fukien Province on April 11 and strafed the western suburbs of Foochow. Two days later, over 30 U.S. jet fighter planes again invaded Fukien.

On April 12, 31 U.S. B-29s escorted by some 40 fighter planes again

invaded Northeast China, dropping over 100 bombs on Antung.

**Vessel Seized:** The oil tanker *Yung Hao* of the China Oil Tanker Corporation of the Central People's Government was seized on April 12 by the Hongkong government. Vice-Foreign Minister Chang Han-fu, in a public statement, accused the British government of provocation and held it

responsible for the consequences. The incident has aroused widespread protests all over China.

**Invasion:** The invading French troops in Viet-Nam have repeatedly violated Chinese territory since last October. The most recent instance occurred in March when the enemy crossed the Yunnan border and attacked units of the Chinese People's Army in Chinping County.

## Statement on Stalin Peace Prize Award

It is a most profound honour of my life to be named among the winners of the Stalin Peace Prize. It is a privilege to be associated in the fight for peace, with the name of Stalin. For peace is what the people of the world want most. And Stalin is the name which most personifies peace.

In accepting this most valued honour, I do so as a representative of the Chinese people. It has been their unrelenting revolutionary struggle which has placed the might of our nation on the side of peace. It has been their victory, in conjunction with the Socialist strides of the Soviet people and the courageous advances and stands of all other progressive elements, which has re-aligned the world for all time in favour of peace and people's rule.

The united front of all people today continues at a most intensified pace the fight to maintain the peace. The moneyed moguls of the United States and its satellites, befouling the word "Peace" by claiming to act in its behalf, are sustaining serious defeats. As a result they have become mad. They would mercilessly destroy all peaceful construction, as they have trampled into dust the achievements of the valiant Korean people. They would fiendishly tear child from mother or destroy both, as they are doing in Korea, Malaya and other parts of the world. They would strap all mankind to their exploitive service, to be reduced to slaves and cannon fodder, as they are attempting to do at home, in Western Germany and Japan. But they will never succeed in accomplishing their wicked ends, for the people's united front has its own special strength. Our hundreds of millions are pitted against their few, and as the World Peace Council demonstrates, there is not one sector of this earth where there is not representation and struggle for the aim of "consolidating peace among the nations."

Therefore, let us use this occasion of the awarding of the Stalin Peace Prizes to re-dedicate ourselves in the cause of world peace. Let us gather new power and inspiration to defeat the enemies of man, to open the unparalleled vistas of peaceful work and joyful play that are man's due. Let us join in one voice to shout:

**Long live Stalin, leader of the peoples for peace!**

**Long live the world peace forces!**

**Long live world peace!**

April 10, 1951

Signed: *Soong Ching Ling*  
(Soong Ching Ling)

# LONG LIVE MAY DAY!



Support the 5-Power Peace Pact!  
Oppose the Rearmament of Japan!

## ERRATA

<i>Page</i>	<i>Column</i>	<i>Line</i>	<i>Misprint</i>	<i>Correct Reading</i>
11	2	7	six provinces	ten provinces
11	2	13	14,500,000,000	14,500,000
15	1	59	nearly	neatly
20	1	43	1934	1943